

# Cowichan Watershed Board Meeting

## DRAFT Minutes

Mon. Mar. 27 2017

9:15-11:30 am

**Location:** Cowichan Tribes Temporary Chief and Council Chambers, old VIU library, Cowichan Way.



**Co-Chair:** Mayor Jon Lefebure **Minutes:** Jill Thompson

**Present:** Tim Kulchyski, David Slade, Ian Morrison, Debra Toporowski, Darin George, Klaus Kuhn, Ross Forrest, David Froese, David Anderson, Laura Brown, Tom Rutherford. **Regrets:** Chief Seymour, Lori Iannidardo, Oliver Brandes

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| 1) Welcome   |  | Information  |
| 2) Approval of Agenda  |  | Approved   |
| 3) Approval of Minutes of Feb 27, 2017. Business arising from Minutes. |  | Approved   |
| 4) Correspondence* and announcements.                                  | <p>Email from Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society RE Lakeview Park area logging proposal. For information. No action requested.</p> <p>Request from Western Stevedoring (WS) to present to CWB meeting. Discussion RE importance of being open to any information if it is about the watershed but both sides should always be heard.</p> <p>Co-chair Lefebure clarified that this would be for community information only and CWB does not adjudicate on land use decisions. We don't receive all the information needed for that and risk our reputation by taking positions without full information or knowing the implication of decisions. Our role is to give input on ecological values (e.g. eel grass) that need consideration by decision makers. If CWB was to take a position, CVRD directors must declare conflict of interest.</p> <p>Opinions expressed (David Slade, David Froes) that CWB should be able to take a position when appropriate and elected representatives would step aside if necessary. Role to provide informed opinions and guidance. Speak for the health of the watershed.</p> <p>Decision to invite both WS and Cowichan Estuary Restoration and Conservation Association (CERCA) to present their information.</p> | Tom to invite WS and CERCA to speak at next CWB meeting. |

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| <p>5) Shaw Creek – CWB input to process.</p>   | <p>Draft letter by Tom Rutherford discussed. David Slade requests that we add specifics about the CWB’s riparian targets (50% lakeshore permanently protected).</p> <p>Tim Kulchyski appreciates that we can bring forward issues to this table that don’t get covered at any other table; where we can have open discussion.”It’s why we are here.”</p> <p>Tom Rutherford – this table is unique because of the respect between members. Decisions made here carry no weight but much suasion.</p>   | <p>Tom to make edit and forward to co-chairs for signature.</p> |
| <p>6) Building Knowledge Presentation Series: Understanding Roles and Responsibilities. #1 – FOC Fisheries Officer</p>   | <p>Willi Jansen. See presentation on website. <a href="http://cowichanwatershedboard.ca/document/fishery-officers-dfo">http://cowichanwatershedboard.ca/document/fishery-officers-dfo</a></p> <p>Best # to call to report issues: 1-800-465-4336 (DFO Radio Room – will redirect as needed)</p> <p>Laura Brown added that FOC is undergoing a review of the Fisheries Act so there will be changes.</p>   | <p>Information</p>  |
| <p>7) Cowichan Watershed Health and Chinook Initiative<br/>[Background info <a href="http://www.pacfish.ca/Cowichan/">http://www.pacfish.ca/Cowichan/</a>]</p> | <p>Cheri Ayers, FOC and Cowichan Tribes, presented on this project. Information only – will be seeking the support of CWB to expand opportunities to work together, in keeping with desire to expand Fish Target to include Chinook and not just a Steelhead target.</p> <p>Four watershed health goals: hydrology; habitat; water quality; biological communities. Recommending partnering in principal. Cheri will take this forward to TAC and Working Groups and then back to CWB.</p> <p>Tom added that CWB has mandate to address targets, FOC has mandate to implement Wild Salmon Policy. Lots of overlap.</p> <p>Klaus Kuhn questioned the significance of increasing survival in river. Cheri indicated a 5% increase in freshwater survival would be very significant to help buffer against climate change and ocean conditions exerting pressures. Like the Stoltz for Chum – we have done this before.</p> <p>Darin George question about seals in estuary. Cheri confirmed need for risk assessment.</p> <p>Parker Jefferson spoke about the work of Kevin Pellett</p> | <p>Information</p>  |

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|  | and BC Conservation Foundation with PIT tagging – found 1/5-2% mortality per km of river when river level is at 4.5cms. Concerning, and a sign that high spring flows are critical to chinook out migration.   |             |  |
| 8 a) Lake level update<br><br>b) Building Knowledge Presentation Series: Understanding Roles and Responsibilities. #2 – Cowichan Lake weir operator. | Brian Houle, Catalyst. See presentation on website. <a href="http://cowichanwatershedboard.ca/document/cowichan-lake-river-2016-review-2017-forecast">http://cowichanwatershedboard.ca/document/cowichan-lake-river-2016-review-2017-forecast</a><br><br>Last 3 weeks snowfall has left us in better shape than last year – don't need to go on control early.<br><br>Pumps in place as backup for this year.<br><br>Catalyst pumps are 80% downriver, so effect is to the lower 20% of river.   | Information |  |
| 9) 2017 staff workplan   | Tom Rutherford presented the draft staff workplan. <a href="http://cowichanwatershedboard.ca/sites/default/files/Draft-2017-CWS-workplan-March27.pdf">http://cowichanwatershedboard.ca/sites/default/files/Draft-2017-CWS-workplan-March27.pdf</a>   | Approved.   |  |
| 10) Working Group Updates<br><br>a) Water Conservation – 2016 Water challenge results  | David Slade updated us on the Cowichan Water Conservation challenge.<br>- started in 2014<br><br>- brought awareness – media attention<br>- transitioning to a culture of conservation<br>- See World Water Day 2017 media release <a href="#">here</a> .  | Information |  |
| 11) Other  | Brian Carruthers brought great news from CVRD. \$166,000 of \$200,000 budget has been raised from the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund to support a structured decision making process for Cowichan river flows analysis. The analysis will not only look at what is needed today but for future. Lobbied hard – was outside scope of grant but govt' supported it. Next stage after this will be the detailed engineering for a new structure to meet future demands.<br><br>Tom offered to meet with any Board members who missed his Strategic Plan presentation last month. | Information |  |
| Next meeting – April 24 <sup>th</sup> CVRD Boardroom   |  | Information |  |
| Adjourn  | 11:35  |             |  |

\*Shaw Creek draft letter – see agenda item 5; Briefing Note for CWB provided by Tom Rutherford RE Minister's Meeting of Feb 14; CERCA Climate Change Symposium announcement; World Water Day Media Release