Cowichan Watershed Board and Technical Advisory Board Meeting	**DRAFT Minutes** **June 29, 2015** **9:15 am- 12:00 pm** **Location: CVRD Boardroom, 2nd Floor, 175 Ingram, Duncan, BC**	

Participants: Cowichan Watershed Board and Technical Advisory Committee

Co-chair: Tim Kulchyski

Guests: Craig Sutherland, Kerr Wood Leidal Associates Ltd., Christine Brophy Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society, Deb Epps, Ministry of Environment

1. Welcome; Introductions, Invocation; Opening Remarks	Acting Co-Chair Kulchyski called the meeting to order. Chief Chip Seymour, David Anderson and Lori Iannidinardo offered their regrets.
2. Approval of Agenda February 16, 2015	The agenda was approved. It was noted that it would be more convenient for Brian Houle to make his presentation regarding current lake levels, flows and projected flows after Craig Sutherland.
3. Approval of Minutes of April 27, 2015 Watershed Board meeting and Business Arising	The minutes were approved as presented. It was noted that since the last meeting, the Board had written to and met with Minister Steve Thomson of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and received a polite but negative response regarding adopting a rule band approach to possibly help address the 2015 drought. [LINK]
4. Governance Survey Update	Rodger Hunter noted that all but one of the survey interviews is complete. The next steps involve completing the data analysis and writing up the governance pilot report.
5. Target Updates and Related Discussion • Flows Modelling Update • Flows Update –General	Craig Sutherland summarized preliminary results of a study directed at determine the weir height required for fish flows. It was noted achieving truly optimal flows for fish would require an unrealistic increase in weir height. As a result, reduced flows are being used for the modeling exercise. At this stage climate change has not been incorporated into the model. When it is, the results will be posted and appended to these minutes. Brian Houle noted that lake levels are now roughly 44 cm below the top of the weir stated that Catalyst had recommended reducing flows from 5.5 cms to 4.5 cms which would result in saving one day of river flow roughly every five days until early October. He also noted that Cowichan Tribes and DFO and Cowichan Tribes did not support such a reduction at this time

• Riparian • Conservation/Communications	because of concern over the spring Chinook salmon that are currently in the river. [LINK] Christine Brophy provided an update on CLRSS' riparian restoration initiative from its inception to work that is being undertaken this field season. That inspiring initiative is directed at achieving the riparian target shared by CLRSS and the Cowichan Watershed Board (CWB). [LINK] Jill Thompson briefly described the CWB's collaborative, two-tiered approach to water conservation/communications. The CWB continues to work with purveyors on the challenge to reduce use by 20% or meet of beat Ladysmith's domestic use while engaging the public to support education and reinforce commitment to conservation. Similar to last summer superheroes will engage people in the community. If funding permits the water conservation/knowledge survey will be conducted this summer.
6. Water Quality	Deb Epps summarized the results of the three year collaborative water quality study that was initiated with the support of the CWB and other collaborators utilizing Gas Tax funding acquired through the CVRD that was leveraged significantly by MOE. Deb noted that Lake Cowichan will be monitored annually as a provincial indicator lake commencing in 2015/16. Ongoing monitoring is recommended at a few specific sites in Cowichan Lake and Cowichan River and for most of the lower Koksilah River and tributaries to Cowichan Bay in order to address issues (largely related to high turbidity and bacterial results). [LINK]
7. Other Issues/ Adjourn	In response to a motion put forward by Co-Chair Lefebure, members agreed that a delegation from the CWB should meet with one or more of potential license holders in regard to taking out a license for additional water storage on Cowichan Lake. [DECISION GRID] Tim Kulchyski thanked Technical Advisory Committee and CWB members for taking the time to attend/participate. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for 9:15 am, July 27, 2015. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.