

**Cowichan Watershed  
Society Annual  
General Meeting**

**DRAFT Minutes**

October 2, 2014  
4:40-5:00 pm

Location: CVRD Boardroom, 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Floor, 175 Ingram, Duncan, BC



**Members:** Chief Chip Seymour, Debra Toporowski, David Slade, Tim Kulchyski,

**Chair:** Lorna Medd

**Support:** Alison Nicholson and Rodger Hunter

1) Welcome; Introductions, Invocation; Opening Remarks	Lorna Medd welcomed everyone to the first annual general meeting of the CWS.
2) Approval of Agenda	Approved
3) Presentation of Financial Statement	Approved – see below
4) Presentation of Annual Report	Rodger Hunter provided an annual report - See below
5) Appointment/election of Officers	Directors appointed the following Officers: Tim Kulchyski – Chair David Slade – Treasurer Lorna Medd - Secretary
6) Adjourn	The Meeting was adjourned at 5 pm



# Cowichan Watershed Society

Financial Statement – Cash Basis  
As At July 31, 2014  
Unaudited

## **ASSETS**

Current – Cash, Bank Accounts \$60,170.55

## **LIABILITIES and NET ASSETS**

### *Current Liabilities:*

Accounts payable \$ 1,660.26

### *Net Assets:*

Net Assets Restricted for Projects( Real Estate Foundation) \$ 58,173.71

Unrestricted Net Assets \$ 336.58

\$ 58,510.29

## **REVENUE**

Real Estate Foundation Grant \$60,000.00

Interest \$ 206.35

\$60,206.35

## **EXPENSES**

Bank charges and interest \$ 35.80

Real Estate Foundation – Communications Project \$ 1660.26

\$ 1696.06

## **NET INCOME**

\$ 58,510.29

## **Cowichan Watershed Society Directors Report to August 2014**

### **Governance**

The Cowichan Watershed Society (CWS) was established in August 2013 to advocate for the Cowichan watershed, implement the Cowichan Water Basin Management Plan (CWBMP), provide timely balanced and thoughtful advice to governments, secure funding, engage stakeholders, gather information and monitor the health of the watershed, provide and access specialized expertise and develop outreach and educational tools to enhance watershed thinking and increase understanding of water science, stewardship and management activities.

At that time the make up of Society directors was the same as that of the Cowichan Watershed Board (CWB) and the CWS essentially became the formal (legal) entity that had operated informally as the CWB with the same purposes since February 2010.

In March 2014 the CWS' by-laws were amended to remove CVRD directors from the its list of directors in order to ensure that there could be no conflict of interest or perceived conflict of interest associated with the CVRD's provision of funds to the Society.

As a result Dr. Lorna Medd was elected Co-Chair of the CWS replacing CVRD Chair Rob Hutchins in that position and joining other executive members, Chief William Seymour (Co-Chair), David Slade (Treasurer) and Tim Kulchyski (Secretary).

Throughout the past year the CWB/CWS have continued to implement the CWBMP supported by a Coordinator who was funded by contributions from the CVRD and Cowichan Tribes and using Gas Tax Funding.

### **Activities/Achievements**

With the support of its partners:

- Supported the second year of a comprehensive water quality sampling program including the Cowichan, lower Koksilah and Cowichan Bay tributaries and a one time groundwater quality sampling program, plus special sampling;
- Assisted in garnering funds for and worked with dairy farmers on a project which culminated in the development of the second Group Based Environmental Farm Plan completed in the province (plan recommendations addressed both water quality and water quantity);
- Established a new Heather Mountain snow course, took measurements, completed some maintenance and continued to explore opportunities to establish a Heather Mountain snow pillow;
- Assisted with the Cowichan Lake and Stewardship Society's (CLRSS) riparian restoration initiative (linked to joint CLRSS/CWB riparian target) and explored opportunities to acquire lands for protection of riparian habitat;
- Led numerous field trips to increase understanding of the watershed and encourage watershed thinking;
- Wrote and contributed to numerous articles and participated in numerous interviews to increase understanding of the watershed and encourage watershed thinking;
- Initiated successful CWB/VIU speakers series;
- Co-hosted Watershed 2014 a national watershed conference on Governance Conference;
- Supported webinars on watershed governance for other watershed groups;

- Garnered additional Westcoast Environmental Law support for and helped to gain participant status for the Environmental Appeal regarding the Cowichan Lake Rule Curve amendment. (Hearing was held in April and June 2014 –the CWB assisted in recruiting and briefing expert witnesses and supporting whole of watershed interests in the appeal);
- Worked cooperatively with Catalyst on establishment of webcams at the corporations weir and pump house (some work still to be completed);
- Initiated renewal of web-site with contractor;
- Reviewed the materials and coordinated comments to the Ministry of Environment as contribution to the development of the new Water Sustainability Act and upon its completion reviewed and commented on the new Act.
- Successfully sought applied for \$200,000 over 3 years from REFBC;
- Sought approval for the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations to assist it with implementation of the Cowichan Estuary Environmental Management Plan as part of a local governance pilot (unsuccessful to date);
- Participated in the making, editing and distributing watershed video 'Resilience';
- Supported watershed experiences for grades 4s/5s as part of the CWS' watershed IQ initiative with Cowichan Land Trust;
- Continued to support the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources/SFU efforts to develop a water budget for the watershed, increase understanding of the groundwater resource and the interaction between ground water and surface water in the watershed;
- Participated in various water governance surveys/initiatives;
- Implemented a water conservation initiative targeting both water purveyors and water users including development of a 6 step water conservation program for purveyors and a conservation pledge program including the creation of a water conservation super hero.

### **Sources and Uses of Funds**


In February 2014 \$60,000 was received form the Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia for:

1. Communication initiatives;
2. A governance pilot -asserting increased local (CWS) control over the Cowichan Estuary Environmental Management Plan; and,
3. Assisting with an application to obtain a license to store an additional 20 cm of water at Cowichan Lake.

As of August 1, 2014 approximately \$7,500 of the funding has been committed or spent on Communications.

Because the CVRD had significant staff turnover it continued to purchase arms length services to support coordination of the CWS and CWB from the Vis-à-vis Management Resources Inc. rather that contracting the CWS.

It is anticipated that in future the CVRD will make contributions in support of fulfilling the CWS' purposes directly to the CWS.

<p align="center"><b>Cowichan Watershed Society Meeting</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>DRAFT Minutes</b></p> <p>October 2, 2014 4:15- 4:50 pm</p> <p>Location: CVRD Boardroom, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 175 Ingram, Duncan, BC</p>	
<p><b>Participants:</b> Directors Chief Chip Seymour, Debra Toporowski, David Slade, Tim Kulchyski with Rodger Hunter, Alison Nicholson</p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Lorna Medd</p>		
<p>1) Welcome; Introductions, Invocation; Opening Remarks</p>	<p>Co-chair</p>	
<p>2) Approval of Agenda</p>	<p>Agenda Approved</p>	
<p>3) Approval of Minutes of September 4, 2014 meeting and Business Arising from Minutes</p>	<p>Minutes Approved</p>	
<p>4) Consideration of October 2, 2014 Recommendations of Cowichan Watershed Board Requiring Decision.</p>	<p>None</p>	
<p>5) Review of Society Administrative Issues: a) Contracting</p>	<p><b>Motion carried:</b> To sign the contract document between the CWS and Vis-à-vis Management Resources as approved by the lawyer Brian McDaniel.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Alison to circulate the contract document to all CWS Directors.</p> <p><b>Motion carried:</b> To contract Jill Thompson up to \$5000 to continue water conservation project work with water purveyors.</p>	
<p>6) Other Issues/ Adjourn</p>	<p>The meeting was adjourned.</p>	