

Cowichan Watershed Board Meeting

DRAFT Minutes



October 2, 2014
2:30 pm to 4:15 pm

Location: CVRD Boardroom, 2nd Floor, 175 Ingram, Duncan, BC

Participants: Chief Seymour, David Slade, Tim Kulchyski, Ian Morrison, Debra Toporowski, Jon Lefebure, Lorna Medd

Chair: Rob Hutchins

Regrets: Ross Forrest, Lori Iannidinardo, David Anderson, Matthew Louie, Andrew Thompson

Guests: Kate Miller CVRD, Willi Jansen DFO, Bruce Fraser CVRD

1) Welcome; Introductions, Invocation; Opening Remarks

Co-chair Rob Hutchins

2) Approval of Agenda

Amended:

- general update about the drought by the CVRD to be addressed first
- update on regional governance project presented by Bruce Fraser

3) Approval of Minutes of Sept. 4, 2014 meeting and Business Arising from Minutes

- Approved

4) 2014 Drought – general update

Kate Miller provided a thumbnail sketch of the CVRD actions that have been undertaken related to the 2014 Drought.

- Currently the technical information for a Section 8 Permit to pump water (emergency works) is being prepared. Kerr Wood Liedel have finished the technical work and will continue to provide projections of flow rates on a weekly basis for at least another 2 weeks.
- Assisting Cowichan Tribes with trucking fish if required by acting as a banker to ensure funding in place
- The application for 20 cm water conservation license has been put off to the side – the CVRD Board has directed staff to look at a long term strategy for water security. The Build Canada Fund is expected to be available at the end of October and the CVRD is looking at the kind of engineering work required to access that fund as well as the engineering work the province will require.
- Sport fishing closure on river would be based on a discussion among the partners; the CVRD is attempting to communicate that discussion through its website.
- A communications consultant has been engaged – Phase 1 of building awareness about drought in the late

	<p>summer is being completed and Phase 2 is beginning – bringing awareness about additional storage required to meet future needs. The CVRD is looking for additional funding to build communications over the longer term – staff have no resources to handle it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temperature monitoring to better understand water temperatures and refugia potential for fish is underway. The CVRD’s role is supporting coordinated data access and information sharing. • Funding for projects related to photography to monitor lake and river levels has not been forthcoming – most contributors wanted their funding used to truck fish. The CVRD will continue to look for resources for long term monitoring. • Good information about the docks and other infrastructure in Lake Cowichan is wanted for assessing the impacts of raising the weir and potentially drawing the lake down. The CVRD will be sending a letter to residents requesting them to provide information on a secure web site. Although the Province has been vague on information requirements related to an application for storage it will require that due diligence be done. • Finding funds for a longterm water security strategy is challenging. The CVRD does not have a budget line item for it but has reallocated some funding. The first step is to have a neutral party pull the existing information together into a summary and identify options for funding of infrastructure including public private partnerships and the need for ongoing maintenance.
5) CWB Progress Report	Coordinator - Rodger Hunter see attached
6) 2014 Drought a) Catalyst - Flows b) Fish Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rodger Hunter presented and update on lake levels and flows that was prepared by Brian Houle of Catalyst. <p>Willi Jansen provided an update on fish in the River:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • brood stock have started up - 350 fish up to today. (196 females). We are looking for about 250 of each sex which will provide 800,000 eggs which is the hatchery target. Next week meeting to decide how it looks. • 800 chinook are through the fence – flows are still low but fish are moving. • We may be able to raise the flow to 5.5 or 6 cms and KWL will project if we that would see us through to Nov. We do not think it will be possible to do a pulse that would make much difference; KWL are looking at it and we will decide next week. • Trap and truck – it is the legal traditional fishery we want to maintain so need to understand what that means if we trap and truck. We may do a small trap and truck to keep density of fish in lower pools down so reduce the risk to them. Marie canyon and Skutz

	<p>Falls are the pinch points. It will be a joint decision with partners.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water temps are good (14-15 degrees). The Lake temperatures are still high – 18 degrees - which is the top threshold. We need to keep on top of that if we truck. • Enforcement perspective – closed to all salmon – we are pressing the province to close river if we truck fish. Parker Jefferson has volunteered to video tape the brood stock and the trap and trucking. • Overall the fish seem to be not to bad shape.
<p>7) Regional Governance Update</p>	<p>Bruce Fraser - Expect the report to be up on the web tomorrow and a report to go to committee next Tuesday. The substance is well known to participants and the final conclusions are focused on what mechanisms regional governance would take especially regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • working relationship with First Nations and whether recommendations make sense • influencing regulations around new <i>Water Sustainability Act</i> • organized general public with interest in water all need to be spoken to see if the recommendations make sense
<p>8) CWB <i>Water Sustainability Act</i> Pilot Discussion prior to November meeting</p>	<p>Rodger Hunter introduced a related governance topic – the idea that the CWB is used as a pilot under the new <i>Water Sustainability Act</i>. The idea has been suggested to the Province and there is interest. To move forward the CWB needs to be clear about the powers an entity like the CWB would want to pull down. There is a spectrum of potential powers to consider Action – At next meeting begin to discuss potential powers for Board members to think about. This discussion should also be informed by the regional governance initiative. It is likely not a one size fits all situation but more watershed and First Nation specific. There is logic in using the CWB and nesting it within the regional picture though.</p>
<p>9) Other Issues including date/time of next meetings.</p>	<p>Rob Hutchins reported that Debra Curran, UVic Environmental Law, has invited the CWB to be an advisory body on a study to examine colonial water law. They want to look at how the law should be from a community and First Nations' perspective which is important given recent court cases –it appears to be a good opportunity for the CWB – Decision – CWB will participate.</p>

Coordinator's Report for September 2014

Target/Activity	Accomplishments
Board/TAC/Meetings	<p>Meetings related work for the CWB/CWS and its committees/working groups included the following.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final preparations for September 4th Board and Society meetings and minutes plus business arising including CWS executive meeting re contract, MOU, policies and procedures. Prep for October 2nd Board and Society meeting and CWS AGM. • Preparation for and notes arising from the Sept. 12th Expanded Flows Working Group meeting. • Preparation for the Sept. 26 Technical Advisory Committee meeting and follow up on related issues.
Shellfish/Water Quality	<p>MOE project now being administered by CVRD. Followed up with ARDcorp subsequent to funding for water quality program being turned down. ARDcorp has issued 12 Certificates of Plan Completion for farmers allowing them to proceed with Nutrient Management Plans and based on those subsequent initiatives but no monitoring or capacity building funding was approved. Conducted informal reconnaissance survey during rain event and identified two probable incidents of non compliance. Discussed bare minimum funding with Deb Epps.</p>
Summer Flows/Floods	<p><i>Heather Mtn Snow Pillow</i> –Discussed snow courses and possibility of CVRD using \$40,000 provided by MFLNRO via Minister's tour for that purpose. <i>LiDAR</i> – Now being administered by CVRD. <i>EAB Appeal</i> –Checked in on anticipated timing of decision. Registrar reports that EAB Panel is still working on decision. <i>Monitoring</i>–Ongoing discussions with Brian Houle (Catalyst) and others regarding lake levels and river flows. Continued to monitor progress on webcams –now at trial stage with on site graphs needing to be developed.</p>
Fish Sustainability	<p>Continuing discussions re fish salvage and flows, temperatures and harvest issues during this period and preliminary discussions with DFO re chinook strategy which could link to possible juvenile chinook target. Sent letter signed by CWB Co-Chairs requesting that the Province close the Cowichan River for angling until November 1 for conservation purposes.</p>
Riparian Habitat	<p>TAC learned of great progress by the Cowichan Lake and River Stewards at Cowichan Lake (restoration at 7 properties completed this summer) including survey of lakeshore property owners.</p>
Watershed IQ/Communications/ Water Conservation	<p>Supported Water Woman superhero and sidekick filming of last two videos and wrote draft scripts for final two. Attended Water Woman appearances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cowichan Exhibition –Sept 1 - CVRD Lunch and Learn -Sept 9 - <i>Quw'utsun</i> Smuneem Elementary School -Sept 19 - SunFM (JuiceFM), Pictorial, rainy day photoshoot – Sept 24 <p>Depending on funding considering the following for October:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capitals hockey game - Bench School with Donna (Cow Bay Water

	<p>Improvement District) – test all the school toilets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Other Schools subject to funding - Good news photo-op at Crofton Mill - Candidates debates <p>David Slade was very active with purveyors. He met with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mill Bay Waterworks – Sept 16 - Cowichan Bay Water – Sept 25 - Braithewaite Water – Sept 25 - Cobble Hill Water - is scheduled for Oct 8. <p>Coordinator met with John MacKay North Cowichan to discuss the 6 step program and follow up visits are required with the other purveyors.</p> <p>We participated in numerous media interviews flowing from two page article on the watershed in the Times Colonist and resulting from general interest in the drought, water conservation and the CVRD’s meeting regarding the weir.</p> <p>Tracked CVRD Flow Down initiative for opportunities to add value.</p> <p>Organized fall Speakers Series meeting now scheduled to commence on October 15 at VIU featuring Dave Polster.</p>
Governance	<p>Reviewed materials for/participated in September 11th regional water governance initiatives. Ongoing discussion flowing from the event related to Cowichan Watershed as a <i>Water Sustainability Act</i> pilot and prep for November CWB meeting with preview at October meeting.</p>
Other Meetings/initiatives	<p>Participated in organizing successful tour for Honourable Thomson (MFLNRO). Prepared for and attended a variety of meetings including Stewardship Roundtable, CLRSS meetings, CVRD Agriculture Committee and regular Flows conference calls. Also prepared for/attended numerous water conservation related meetings including visits to newspapers, planning sessions and watershed tour for the media. Followed up on Beaver Creek initiative which has stalled and is still not resolved. Discussion with CVRD staff re budget issues. Worked on CWS administrative issues and policies/procedures, contract etc. for consideration by the Society.</p>