

# Cowichan Watershed Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 3, 2010



**Attendees:** Rob Hutchins & Lydia Hwitsum, - David Anderson, Ross Forrest, Bruce Fraser, Darin George, Lori Iannidinaro, Klaus Kuhn, Tim Kulchyski, Lorna Medd, Don Radford, David Slade

**Coordinator:** Rodger Hunter

**Guests:** Gerry Giles, Chair CVRD; Kate Miller, Environmental Manager, CVRD; Larry George, Manager Lands and Governance, Cowichan Tribes

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm in the CVRD Boardroom, 175 Ingram St., Duncan  
Chief Lydia Hwitsum in the Chair

1. Introductions and Opening Remarks	Lydia Hwitsum welcomed everyone and members introduced themselves. The Chair thanked everyone for agreeing to be members and noted the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The purpose and mandate of the Board emphasizing the importance of representing the whole watershed</li><li>• How members were appointed</li><li>• How interest groups could make representation to the Board –e.g. by joining the Technical Advisory Committee</li></ul> She also noted that the Board has no regulatory authority. <b>Decision: to adopt the agenda as presented.</b>
2. Virtual Watershed Tour	Rodger Hunter presented an overview of the geographical and biological features of the Cowichan watershed and summarized a number of issues affecting the watershed. A number of Board and gallery members helped to describe issues and particular aspects of the watershed.

<p>3. The Cowichan Watershed First Nations Perspective</p>	<p>Larry George outlined the importance of the watershed to the Cowichan people, particularly noting the watershed’s cultural and spiritual importance. Larry emphasized that the watershed is a shared resource. He also pointed out that certain developments can have unintended negative impacts on traditional uses and values.</p>
<p>4. The Cowichan Water Basin Management Plan (the Plan): How did we get here?</p>	<p>Kate Miller summarized the history of the Plan noting that although it arose out of a water shortage crisis, the plan covers a broad array of issues. Kate outlined the planning process and provided an overview of the Plan’s recommendations noting that the CVRD’s 2007 endorsement of the Plan included only 87 of its 89 recommendations. Recommendations to raise the weir by one foot and to amend the rule curve under which the weir is operated were not endorsed. Kate reported that there have been some significant accomplishments e.g. completion of integrated flood management mapping and in particular establishment of the Cowichan Watershed Board. Implementation of other recommendations has been somewhat limited.</p>
<p>5. Board Governance and Operations</p>	<p>Rodger Hunter summarized the Board’s draft governance manual acknowledging the funding partners and noting that key aspects of it had been unanimously approved by both the CVRD Board and Cowichan Tribes Council.</p> <p><b>Decision: to adopt the Cowichan Watershed Board governance manual as per the presentation and with specific reference to the preparation and presentation of minutes.</b></p> <p><b>Action: Coordinator to amend and distribute prior to next meeting.</b></p>
<p>6. Next Steps/Closing Remarks and Questions</p> <p><b>At 8:45 it was agreed that the meeting be adjourned.</b></p>	<p><b>Actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>At the suggestion of Lydia Hwitsum, Board meetings will include an invocation to guide and inspire discussions and decisions.</b></li> <li>• <b>The Coordinator will canvas members to determine the best day for Board meetings to be scheduled for April, June, August, October and December and report back to members.</b></li> <li>• <b>A workshop will be organized for March 6<sup>th</sup> for the following purposes: Board team building, discussion and learning about the watershed and the Plan and developing draft priorities.</b></li> <li>• <b>A brief presentation on governance activities in other jurisdictions including Washington and Oregon will be presented at the workshop.</b></li> </ul>