

Cowichan Watershed Board Meeting

Draft Minutes



Wednesday, May 6, 2010
CVRD Boardroom
175 Ingram St., Duncan

Participants: Rob Hutchins, David Anderson, Ross Forrest, Bruce Fraser, Darin George, Lori Iannidinardo, Klaus Kuhn, Tim Kulchyski, Lorna Medd, Don Radford, David Slade

Coordinator: Rodger Hunter

Guests: Wenda Mason and Allan Chapman BC Ministry of Environment (MOE), Gerry Giles, CVRD, Kate Miller, CVRD Brian Dennison, CVRD, Tom Rutherford, Department of Fisheries and Oceans,

Regrets: Lydia Hwitsum, Bruce Fraser

Meeting called to order at 6:02 pm in the CVRD Boardroom, 175 Ingram St., Duncan
Mayor Rob Hutchins in the Chair

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks	Co-Chair Rob Hutchins welcomed guests and thanked members and staff for their ongoing commitment to the work of the Board.
2. Approval of Agenda	The agenda was approved with one addition. The Board agreed to discuss the Ministry of Environment's Water Act Modernization Initiative.
3. Approval of Minutes of February 3d meeting and Business Arising from Minutes	<p>Decision: The April 7, 2010 CWB minutes were to be circulated by email for approval.</p> <p>Edits to previous materials including Work Group Recommendations in Tables for Goals 1 and 2, Communications Strategy and Technical Advisory Committee Terms of Reference were distributed to Board members.</p> <p>It was noted that: Rodger Hunter has applied to make a delegation to the CVRD Board on behalf of the CWB on May 12th to update the CVRD Board on achievements to date and seek CVRD support for recommended CWB actions.</p> <p>Ted van der Gulik our Special Advisor on Agriculture is confirmed to attend our June 3d meeting.</p>

<p>4. Presentations MOE Staff</p>	<p>Wenda Mason of MOE provided an update on the Water Act Modernization initiative and findings to date. The Ministry has held 15 separate workshops in various locations within the province. It has received input from 980 individuals and organizations. It hopes to have revisions to the legislation ready for the Legislature in Spring 2011.</p> <p>Allan Chapman of MOE's River Forecast Centre reported on a recent study on Cowichan River Runoff Forecast Modelling. A noteworthy finding of the study is that there has been a significant (36%) reduction in average summer runoff since 1984. Part of the reduction involves reduced summer rainfall. Mr. Chapman is doing further analysis to explain the remainder of the reduction.</p>
<p>5. Working Group Recommendations Regarding Goals 3 and 4 of the Cowichan Basin Water Management Plan</p>	<p>Board Member Kuhn presented the Goal 4 working group's recommendations on flood management related issues.</p> <p><u>Decisions:</u> The Board endorsed the working groups recommended actions as presented subject to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • amendment of the recommended action regarding the proposed CVRD lead workshop Integrated Flood Management Plan implementation workshop to indicate that the workshop will be in partnership with the CWB; and, • amendment of the proposed CVRD lead coordinated local government plan regarding adoption of low impact development principles for storm water to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ a 2011 completion date with progress reported to the CWB in October 2010; and, ○ a recommendation that the CVRD Board explore opportunities for utilizing the gas tax to fund the initiative. <p><u>Actions:</u> Coordinator will prepare materials, letters, contact appropriate staff and encourage that necessary steps are taken to ensure implementation of the recommendations.</p> <p>Board Member Hon. David Anderson presented the Goal 3 working group's recommended actions on habitat and land use related issues.</p> <p><u>Decision:</u> The Board endorsed the working group's recommended actions subject to the recommended action regarding the proposed CVRD led workshop related to protection and enhancement of aquatic and riparian ecosystems being amended to indicate that the workshop would be done cooperation with the CWB.</p>

6. Communications Strategy	<p>The Board endorsed the priorities identified by the Communications Committee.</p> <p>Actions: Coordinator to report back to Board regarding options for a web-site including exploring the Christina Lake stewardship groups web site.</p> <p>Communication Committee to plan for Celebration in September 2010.</p> <p>Coordinator to explore feasibility of a web cam at Lake Cowichan that shows lake levels.</p> <p>In future draft minutes and copies of presentations made at meetings would be made available to the public.</p>
7. Water Act Modernization Initiative	<p>Action: The Coordinator will prepare a Cowichan Watershed Board submission to the Ministry on WAM.</p>
8. Closing Comments/Questions	
9. Finance	<p>The Board convened an in camera session regarding contractual matters.</p>