

**Cowichan
Watershed
Board
Information Session**

Meeting Notes

**Mon. June 25th 2018
9:15-11:30 am
Location: CVRD Board Room**



Co-Chair - Jon Lefebure

Present: Ian Morrison, David Slade, Lori Iannidinaro, Klaus Kuhn, Tom Rutherford, David Anderson

Regrets: Debra Toporowski, Chief Seymour, Ross Forrest, David Froese, Laura Brown, Tim Kulchyski, Darin George.

Guests: Kevin Pellett, Sandy Foxall, TAC, Working Group members, public

Notes: Jill Thompson, Kim Lagimodiere

	Item	Discussion	Decision
1	Welcome	Call to order: (9:30). No quorum. This session will be for information only	Information/ Outcome
2	Approval of Agenda	Co-Chair Chief Seymour sends his regrets due to funeral	N/A
3	Approval of Minutes of May . Business arising from Minutes.	No discussion (no quorum).	N/A
4	Correspondence and announcements	<p>-Co-Chairs met with MLA Sonia Furstenau on June 14th RE water storage and governance. Senior staff from both MoE and MFLNRO, both political and management staff, attended.</p> <p>-Co-Chairs pressed the MLA and staff on the need for the province to take on a license for additional storage. Staff were not supportive of that idea. Indicated the CoChairs will need to meet with Ministers to change that and committed to arranging a meeting in August.</p> <p>-an option of CT holding the license with province holding the liability was also presented;</p> <p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - David A emphasized the need for our MLA to also champion this direction with the Ministers. <p>-Tom gave an update on his trip to present at the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance last week</p> <p>Correspondence – See agenda for correspondence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - additional (June 13) letter provided from Friends of Cowichan RE Research on sunscreen on benthic invertebrates -Lori asked whether this has been a conversation around this table previously. - an education campaign promoting alternate (safe) sunscreens was suggested, including postings beside the river; in store aisles; etc. 	<p>Tabled to the next meeting (no quorum)</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lamprey Action Plan notice was shared. - Letter from Friends of Cowichan calling for zones of fishing bans during low water times to protect stressed fish. LINK -David A added that trout is a tremendous fishery; very impacted by high temps and low waters; they need cool inflows so predators know where to get them; it's a world class fishery being managed in a way that doesn't recognize that. Encouraged Board to consider supporting the letter. -Jon thanked and complimented Joe for an excellent letter. Table to next meeting for decision at next meeting. 	<p>Tabled to next meeting to consider supporting this letter/position.</p>
5	Governance Project	<p>Governance Manual Revisions</p> <p>Tom presented the full Governance Manual revision LINK to Presentation, LINK to Guide] and clarified that In lieu of quorum, the plan is to go through the presentation with those present, and if agreement here, seek the input of others via email to hopefully move forward and approve this at the next meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Klaus sought clarity on “at large representation” -Tom clarified that it reflects what’s happening now. Both Lori and Ross are elected “at-large” members bringing the total elected reps to 8 out of 13 members. - Tom asked for input on whether there should be a limit on length of term <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jon responded that he is not in favour because geographic positions are elected. i.e. if the elected rep from Area I stays in office beyond the term, how could we change that? - Ian added that there is so much to learn and that maintaining the body of knowledge is important. There will be change but we should try to preserve and work with the body of knowledge that we have. -Klaus suggested we clarify 3.3 to co-chairs can <i>invite</i> people to present (changed from attend) – 2nd bullet from bottom. -Jon recommended sending a request for input to the Board members and bring final copy back for approval at next meeting. -Jon clarified that we are still operating under the old manual until it is passed by Board. 	<p>Proposed changes (highlighted in latest copy), will be emailed to members for final approval or chance to suggest changes before it is forwarded to CT and CVRD councils for ratification.</p> <p>Change section 3.3 to A Co-Chair may extend invitations to resource people or community representatives to present at meetings ...</p>
		<p>Pathways Framework report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tom asked Directors for any final issues/input on Framework document LINK before going to layout, including input on what type of document they want E.g. formal or informal? Image rich or more basic? <p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 23 pages is too long – won't be read; don't spend money on printing - Tom clarified that this document is intended to be the basis for brochure-like products targeted to different audiences/uses. This document would be an anchor for those. - suggestion of a limited number of printed copies along with a digital brochure form that brings the ideas to life. These could 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Staff will assume this content is approved to move forward with layout unless further input from Board members is received. - end products will be much

		<p>be rotated throughout the year in segments to share with the community on multiple platforms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tom will work with the Steering Committee to move forward but welcomed any last comments. 	<p>shorter; possibility for digital series that brings ideas to life more.</p>
6	2017 Cowichan Chinook Escapement Summary	<p>Presentation by Kevin Pellett, DFO Stock Assessment, South Coast [LINK]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chinook juveniles need over stream vegetation - goal is to have more habitat like that, new sites and augmentation of old; using cottonwood stakes, willow, and Red osier dogwood. - 2017 chinook escapement. DFO generates a weekly bulletin for anyone interested. - climate change impact –weather changeability, means harder to run the fence – must remove before river too high. - see presentation for details. <p>Discussion:</p> <p>Q: why not smolt enumeration (and smolt count targets) instead of adult escapement? A: not currently possible, but they are looking into it.</p> <p>Q: are benefits of the hatcheries are being looked at, relative to their high water use. A: most rivers on island are majority hatchery fish; Cowichan is an outlier – only about 10% is hatchery now. Tom added there was an effort to adjust hatchery fish to make sure we’re not replacing the wild fish. – facilitates research into wild stock.</p> <p>Kevin added that total fish count used extrapolations from pit tag counts -25,985. Haven’t seen this in 25 years, (No holes found in #'s so far).</p> <p>Q: is it fair to say we’ve come from less than 1000 to over 25,000? A: agreed - improvement from 1,000-1,200 to 25,000. Grand total 26,337 (By the old method – 22,498). 77% males, 46% age 2 jacks, 4,347 adult female natural spawners (target 3,250). This is above target but not as much as the grand total might indicate. We are in a rebuilding trend. Jacks; successfully spawning but 95% males – that’s the issue.</p> <p>Q: there was a weir where the counting fence is; could there be consideration of First Nation food fisheries there again? A: Chinook and Coho seem to be way up this year for sport fishing at sea; up for discussion.</p> <p>Kevin offered to provide link to Shaw creek hydrometer RE water levels. This winter – highest peak flow ever recorded in the Cowichan river.</p>	<p>Jill to connect Sandy to Rodger Hunter / Koksilah Watershed Group.</p>

Ian Morrison replaced Jon Lefebure as Chair of the meeting at 11:30am as Jon had another meeting to attend.			
7.	<p>Target working group updates:</p> <p>Riparian Health -CRF Riparian restoration program</p> <p>Estuary Health -Update on VORR channel -Progress on Clam Garden</p>	<p>Sandy Foxall, BC Conservation Foundation - see Presentation: [LINK]</p> <p>Discussion Q: would naturally regenerate themselves over time? A: Yes but the planting and gravel bar stabilization both speed up the process. Tom added that stabilizing the gravel bars helps to narrow the river and get it to excavate itself – very valuable work.</p> <p>Q: Is knotweed being removed and if not, will it not impact the success of the willow planting? A: It is unfortunately not a part of the agreement for the BCFF project, but knotweed locations are being mapped. Also the riparian working group is trying to plan for knotweed, as well as other small groups (i.e. Genevieve Singleton, CLRSS).</p> <p>Tom provided an update on the Estuary Health target. -3 buoys in place for Vehicle Operation Restriction Regulation zones, Graham from CVRD coordinating the rest; enforcers have asked for a brochure to support the enforcement; group has been working on this for 8 years Clam garden – Clam Garden project in planning phase. Kim attended a workshop with Skye Augustine this month; we have a blueprint for creating a clam garden here. Small working team will present to CT and Estuary working group</p>	Jill to connect sandy to Rodger and Koksilah watershed group to educate about riparian habitats
8.	Other	<p>-Ian provided an update that yesterday Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society held its AGM - new president of CLRSS is Ken Traynor. Great slate of directors.</p> <p>-Tom gave an update from the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance conference – Watershed groups in AB are interested in CWBs collaborative method. This is an example of the reputation this board has. - Province of AB funds 13 WPACs funded \$200-300,000/year. They are stakeholder councils: oil, ag, reps. Decisions by consensus. Managers, planners, outreach staff (3-6 staff each office). Planning, monitoring, outreach and education. Tom spoke about our collaborative model. 75 attendees; 2 First Nations reps. How do you build those relationships of trust? One of the challenges is scope – 300 x bigger than Cowichan watershed. -Cree speaker – 4 words – every place understands itself.</p> <p>Brian Houle, Catalyst provided an update on lake water levels. [LINK] Lake levels are low, early control was undertaken, looking like a “2016” type of year for water, which was the worst year on record, unless we get a different kind of summer. Snow pack is almost gone (Heather mountain), engineering projections are that there is not enough water in the lake to sustain 7cms @ 10th percentile inflows. If all gates open at 7cms we would hit zero supply as early as August 21st. If we ramp down to 5cms, that</p>	

		<p>extends the zero-supply date out to sept 6th. Went on control, May 1st, but it was the driest May on record. We are already down to 64% of lake level when we would like to be at 100% a month from now. Catalyst will meet with FLNRO to get permission to reduce flow to secure the lake water until Fall.</p> <p>Discussion</p> <p>Q: would it not be appropriate that CWB write a letter to suggest that the province does not allow trout fishing in the river between now and Oct 1 if we are going to have these levels?</p> <p>Q: clarification whether our previous request for this resulted in a “no”</p> <p>A: Rodger clarified that was true. Suggested it would it be appropriate to send a letter.</p> <p>A: Ian offered to speak to Jon about whether we can take action through email as time is of the essence.</p> <p>Tom- offered to draft the letter.</p> <p>Rodger acknowledged Brian for coming to bring us these updates</p> <p>Announcement that CLRSS will hold a lakeside BBQ fundraiser on July 29</p> <p>Announcement that Cowichan Stewardship Roundtable will host an outdoor meeting on Thursday July 19th at 9:30 in Stoltz Park. Encouraged CWB members to come to the roundtable as well.</p>	<p>Ian will speak with Jon about whether a letter can be expedited before the next meeting. Tom would draft the letter.</p>
Adjourn.		Next meeting – Mon. July 30; no August meeting.	