

Cowichan Watershed Board Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

Draft Minutes



March 17, 2011

Location: Cowichan Tribes, Youth and Families Boardroom, 5760 Allenby Road, Duncan BC.

Participants: Tom Anderson, Alison Garnett, Brian Houle, Klaus Kuhn, Tim Kulchyski, Eric Marshall, Lynne Magee, Tom Rutherford, Craig Wightman

Regrets: Cheri Ayers, Paul Fletcher, Wayne Haddow, Brooke Hodson, Dave Lindsay, Kathy Lachman, Geneen Russo, , Mike Zemanek, Sean Wong

1. Welcome; Introductions, Opening Remarks

Rodger Hunter welcomed thanked members for attending and noted that a number of members were unable to attend due to vacation and end of year conflicts. Best wishes were expressed for Paul Fletcher.

2. Approval of Agenda

Decision: The agenda was approved as presented.

3. Approval of Minutes of February Meeting

Decision: The minutes of February 17, 2011 were approved as presented.

4. Land Use Application Issue Cowichan Lake follow up	<p>The committee that was looking into this issue was unable to meet due to timing conflicts. However Lynne Magee provided a summary noting that under the current policy framework VIHA did not carry out inspections or provide approvals. Instead decisions related to issues like the “stilt house proposal” were left to qualified professionals in the private sector. There was general agreement that in some cases this situation is unsatisfactory. It was also noted that shore zone mapping based on LiDAR could potentially identify key areas where protection was required. This tool could be beneficial to the CVRD in identifying areas where development/redevelopment might be ruled out completely unless there were extraordinary precautions that would support approval.</p> <p>Decision: Lynne Magee will follow up with VIHA on possible approaches for addressing this issue and report back at April meeting.</p>
5. Network on Ecological Sustainability and Health (NESH) Update	<p>Rodger Hunter reported out on the NESH meeting that took place in Winnipeg during the second week of March. He reported being struck by three things.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The sheer grandeur of the Cowichan watershed in comparison with some of the other watershed. 2. The uniqueness of the CWB in that Cowichan Tribes is a full partner in the Board, public health is built into the Board and Technical Advisory Committee’s (TAC) approach and culture and sustainable economic will be as well. 3. There is a very high level of communication and cooperation within the watershed among a wide variety of players e.g. the Stewardship Roundtable and various other stewardship groups.
6. Target Setting for the Watershed Progress re Proposed Recommendations	<p>It was noted that Geneen Russo, Craig Wightman, Tom Rutherford, and Rodger Hunter had been discussing possible targets. Shell fish and steelhead are complex and require further work. Watershed IQ and protected areas are still considered viable and require further work as do domestic water use and total suspended solids. Water quality indicator will be discussed at the May meeting of the CWB. Setting a target regarding aquifer decline will be difficult at this stage. The TAC has been requested to report progress to the CWB in April.</p> <p>Decision: The Committee will continue to work on targets over the next two or three weeks and report back to the Board in April.</p>
7. Funding Update	<p>It was noted that the Cowichan Watershed Board had now received written approval of \$150,000 in Gas Tax Funding and was waiting for the CVRD to finalize its budget in relation to the watershed. It was hoped that <u>the CWB funding</u> could be leveraged through cooperative projects with others. It was noted that the CVRD intends to make \$50,000 available to the CWB and Cowichan Tribes is contributing \$32,000. The Board also intends to approach the Province for additional funding.</p>
8. Other Update, Information Sharing	<p>Cowichan Tribes is hosting an estuary conference again this year. Numbers will have to be limited so attendance will be by invitation.</p>

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	<p>The CWB's April meeting will be held in Lake Cowichan tentatively at 5pm on April 7th 2011. Proposed agenda items include presentations on the Cowichan Lake erosion study, Summer Water Levels (Rule Curve-Rule Band), the LiDAR tool for water level mapping and progress on developing watershed targets.</p> <p>The CWB plans to officially launch its web site later this month and hope to feature a virtual open house.</p>
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The next meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee will be held on April 21, 2011.