

Minutes of the Cowichan Estuary Environmental Management Committee Meeting held on Thursday, January 30, 2014, at 9:00 a.m. in the Board Room at the Cowichan Valley Regional District, 175 Ingram Street, Duncan, BC

PRESENT:

Chair Ron Diederichs, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
Mark Harvey, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
Tracy Fleming, Cowichan Tribes
Brigid Reynolds, District of North Cowichan
Mike Tippet, Cowichan Valley Regional District
Ann Kjerulf, Cowichan Valley Regional District
Lori Iannidinardo, Cowichan Valley Regional District, Cowichan Bay Director

OTHER:

Rob Conway, Cowichan Valley Regional District
Kate Miller, Cowichan Valley Regional District
Laura Robertson, Cowichan Valley Regional District, Recording Secretary

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Chair noted changes to the agenda which included adding three items of New Business.

It was moved and seconded that the agenda as amended be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES
M1**

It was moved and seconded that the Minutes of the Cowichan Estuary Environmental Management Committee Meeting of June 6, 2013, be adopted.

MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING

Status of Foreshore Leases

Mark Harvey had nothing to report on the status of Foreshore Leases at this time, he will report back to the Chair regarding the current lease situation.

Should the Committee get information to the public regarding what it does?

Action:

The Chair will draft the first newsletter/bulletin to circulate.
Ann Kjerulf can distribute information through the Area D email list.

Small Craft Harbours (SCH) should be reporting to the committee.

Small Craft Harbours (SCH) should be reporting to the Committee, either in person or through correspondence regarding the Fisherman's Wharf redevelopment.

Action:

The Chair to request an update from SCH, which will be forwarded to the Recording Secretary to distribute to the CEEMC members.

**DELEGATIONS
D1**

Cowichan Estuary Restoration and Conservation Association (G. Shuerholz)
Power Point presentation by CERCA, regarding Cowichan Estuary key issues of concern.

- Request to re-zone Lease 103103 for conservation Management.

- Breaching Causeway, two preferred options for proposed bridge construction input from DFO and CVRD is needed before getting started. Land status also needs clarification; if leased, CERCA will need to negotiate with leaseholder.
- Request for re-zoning of Lease 103107 for conservation management, the lease owner apparently open to suggestions for restoring.
- Licence of Occupation Grounding Log Booms.
- Research whether Western Forest Products uses mill pond for free.
- Rip Rap not removed on completion of dredging as required by DFO permit. Estimated 1000 logs decomposing on Mariners Island.
- Westcan Causeway needs to be cleaned up of invasive species; the most aggressive will slowly be removed by CERCA.
- Synchronization between North Cowichan and CVRD administrative boundaries is suggested. Two OCPs, un-synchronized policies and maps.

It was moved and Seconded that the Cowichan Estuary Environmental Management Plan Committee request CERCA to forward further details of their proposal for breaching the causeway and replacing with a bridge to maintain access so that CEEMC can review and decide whether to support it.

MOTION CARRIED

Action:

The Chair to follow up on post permits dredging, requesting DFO permit requirements.

REPORTS

**R1 – Unused
Industrial Tenures**

Tracy Fleming presented a Letter dated January 10, 2014, from Cowichan Tribes to MOE and MoFLNRO, regarding Lease 103103, Habitat Management (see letter). Information for Committee.

**R2 – Proposed
Cowichan Bay
Campground**

Staff Report from Rob Conway, Manager, Development Services Division, regarding proposed Cowichan Bay Campground, Rezoning of Lot 2, Plan 70020, Lochmanetz Road.

It was moved and seconded that the Cowichan Estuary Environmental Management Plan Committee is unable to support the proposed rezoning of Lot 2, Plan 70020, Lochmanetz Road (application 2-D-13RS) at this time due to concerns about the site ie; river floodplain, flooding due to sea level rise, impacts on potable water due to potential saltwater intrusion to wells, sewage disposal, and potential fish habitat loss.

MOTION CARRIED

**R3 - Proposed
Cowichan Bay Zoning
Bylaws**

Staff Report from Ann Kjerulf, Senior Planner, Community & Regional Planning Division, regarding proposed Area D – Cowichan Bay Zoning Bylaws.

It was moved and Seconded that due to CEEMP Committee concerns regarding shading and grounding impacts on the productive foreshore, that the CVRD be requested to explore the following regarding the proposed Cowichan Bay OCP and zoning amendments and bylaws, and report back to the Committee:

- **Exclusion for low tide zone**
- **Limiting footprints of individual float homes and/or water lot coverage**
- **Height restrictions**
- **Development Permit Area incorporated**
- **W3 Zone – restriction of a subzone to moorage where depth is insufficient to prevent grounding impacts.**

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

NB1 – Update by B. Reynolds

Report from Brigid Reynolds, Municipality of North Cowichan, regarding the North Cowichan Zoning Bylaw Update.

Report was received as information.

NB2 – Update by K. Miller

Report from Kate Miller, Cowichan Valley Regional District, regarding an update on a climate impacts analysis being pursued by CVRD, Environmental Initiatives Division.

Report was received as information.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 3, 2014, at the Cowichan Valley Regional District office.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Chairperson

Recording Secretary