

● COWICHAN WATERSHED BOARD

PROPOSED CHANGES TO GOVERNANCE MANUAL

ACCOUNTABILITY



PROPOSED REVISIONS TO GOVERNANCE MANUAL

1. ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES

2. STRATEGIC CHANGES

- AUTHORITY – ROBUST RECOGNITION STATEMENT
- PRINCIPLES - NUTSATMAT
- INTERNAL DECISION MAKING
- ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES (NEW SECTION)

NEXT STEPS



ACCOUNTABILITY...





A FEW INITIAL THOUGHTS

- IMPORTANT TO NOTE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY
- GOVERNANCE MANUAL IS NOT AN ESSAY – SHOULD BE BRIEF, SIMPLE AND CLEAR
- GOVERNANCE MANUAL APPLIES TO CURRENT ROLE OF CWB – ANY FUTURE AGREEMENTS WITH PROVINCE (OR OTHER PARTNERS) WILL COME WITH ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISMS....

A SIMPLE FRAMEWORK...

- Overarching statement
- Identification of 4 mechanisms to demonstrate accountability:
 - Transparency
 - Reporting and Evaluation
 - Fiscal Management
 - Public Representation






OVERARCHING STATEMENT

The Board is accountable to its mandate and evaluates its success by how well it serves the Cowichan watershed, its citizens and the CWB partners in regards to that mandate.

The ways the Board seeks to do that are outlined throughout the governance manual, particularly under Roles and Responsibilities



TRANSPARENCY

- BOARD MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND HELD ON A REGULAR SCHEDULE TO ENCOURAGE PUBLIC ATTENDANCE.
- BOARD AGENDAS, MINUTES AND PRESENTATIONS ARE POSTED ON THE WEBSITE
- STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION IS PROVIDED ON THE WEBSITE FOR ANY QUESTIONS, AND THESE ARE ANSWERED PROMPTLY.
- EFFORTS ARE MADE TO INFORM THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE ACTIVITIES OF THE BOARD AND CONCERNS ABOUT THE HEALTH OF THE WATERSHED THROUGH MEDIA AND SOCIAL MEDIA.
- THE BOARD ACTIVELY ENGAGES IN PUBLIC OUTREACH, ENGAGEMENT AND EDUCATION, AS DESCRIBED IN THE COMMUNICATIONS PLAN, AND REPORTS ON THESE ACTIVITIES THROUGH THE ANNUAL PLAN.

REPORTING AND EVALUATION

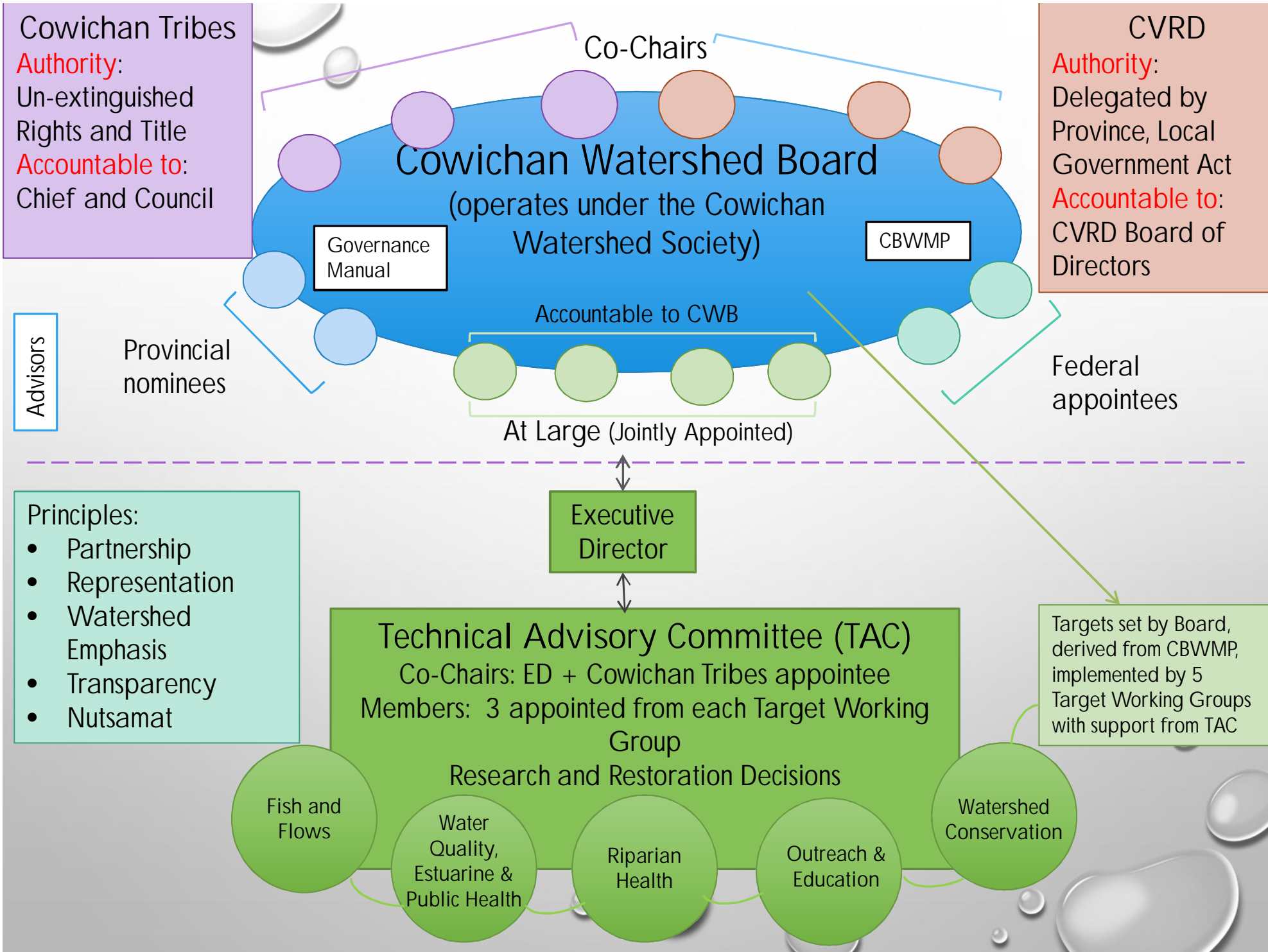
- ANNUAL REPORT
 - INCLUDES YEAR IN REVIEW AND FINANCIAL SUMMARY
- BUSINESS PLAN
 - - OPERATIONAL PLAN FOR THE COMING YEAR, FIVE YEAR BUDGET INCLUDING PROJECTIONS, PROGRESS EVALUATION
- PRESENTED TO CWB, COWICHAN TRIBES, CVRD
 - PROVIDES A BASIS FOR THE BOARD MEMBERS AND THE PARTNERS TO EVALUATE THE BOARD'S PERFORMANCE, WHETHER DELIVERABLES WERE MET, AND WHETHER FUNDS WERE SPENT APPROPRIATELY.
 - INCLUDES REVIEW AND EVALUATION OF PARTNER'S AND BOARD MEMBERS PERFORMANCE AGAINST RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE PLAN, PROVIDING A BASIS FOR THE PARTNERS TO ASSESS THE BOARD'S PERFORMANCE.

FISCAL MANAGEMENT

- Fiscal management and legal accountability of the Board is maintained through the Cowichan Watershed Society. The Society is responsible to ensure adherence to the standards of the BC Society Act and all applicable laws.
- Fiscal accountability to the partners is achieved through Funding Agreements with the Society that specify expectations for the funds provided, combined with the annual submission and presentation of the Board's Annual Plan and Business Plan.
- Fiscal accountability to all other funders is achieved by the Society as specified in the funding agreements from those funders.
- A financial statement is prepared annually, and presented at the Annual General Meeting of the CWS.

PUBLIC REPRESENTATION

- ❑ Representation is one of the Board's core principles. At least half of the Board members are publicly elected representatives of CVRD, Cowichan Tribes, or local municipalities
- ❑ Efforts are made to include all levels of elected government as well as members at large who are jointly appointed by the elected Co-Chairs to contribute specific areas of expertise to the table.



BOTTOM LINE.....

- The “Co-governance Conversations” Workshop Series highlighted the need for us to take a look at how we are accountable to our work, each other and Cowichan Valley Residents
- Through improvements to our Reporting and Evaluation and Fiscal management, as outlined in these proposed changes, I feel we are ensuring we are “being the best we can be” in terms of accountability under our current mandate.....

QUESTIONS AND DIALOGUE

