

Cowichan Watershed Board

Quarterly Report: January – March, 2017

Executive Director Tom Rutherford

Coordinator Jill Thompson

You can't trust water, even a straight stick turns crooked in it.....

W.C. Fields

Activities

- Meetings with Catalyst staff regarding water storage options & processes
- Local governance meetings with MOE, FLNRO staff and Ministers
 - Follow up meetings and correspondence regarding new relationships and responsibilities
- Technical Advisory Committee
 - 2 meetings; focus on revamping ToR and relationships within and external to CWB
- Fish/Flows WG –technical working group on environmental flows for salmonids
 - Develop and utilize model to ground truth suggested flow regimes
- Water Conservation WG – worked with Cowichan's major water suppliers to track progress towards goal of reducing residential water consumption by 20% over 4 years. Media release of results. Secured support from North Cowichan Environment Committee to host 3 low-flow irrigation workshops.
- Riparian Working Group – Preliminary meeting to set workplan and membership
- Estuarine Health/Water Quality WG
 - reps meet with Deb Epps to Plan Cowichan/Koksilah WQ sampling regime (funded by REFBC)
 - Spring Koksilah opportunistic WQ sampling program initiated
 - Preliminary planning on clam garden initiative
- Watershed IQ working group - Preliminary meeting to set workplan, function and membership
 - Agreement on collaborative approach amongst practitioners and gap analysis on watershed stewardship programming in Cowichan Valley
- BC Freshwater Legacy Fund – complete first funding phase and planning towards phase 2 to explore relationships between CWB, Province of BC, CVRD and Cowichan Tribes
- Sustainable Funding for Watershed Governance Initiative. Create project brief & workplan, work on sustainable funding mechanisms including obtaining capacity funding for Cowichan Tribes.
- Planning Cowichan “private land forestry tour” with TimberWest and other partners
- Plan & implement speaker series 2017 – including hosting 2 Speaker nights
- Meet with Larry Barr and senior Nanaimo staff regarding relationship with CWB.
- Continue bi-lateral meetings with each CWB member and present results of interviews at CWB meeting.
- Meetings with CVRD staff to work towards clearer understanding of relationship between CWB and CVRD
- Strategic Planning with CSRT re: roles and responsibilities
- Planning and Support – 3 CWB/ CWS meetings
- Adoption of new accounting practices and creation of 2017 and 3 year projected budgets.
- Researched charitable status for Cowichan Watershed Society
- Cowichan/Koksilah critical habitat workshop

- Communications – ENewsletter on World Water Day (March22), daily email/Facebook upkeep, info sharing between partners and promoting events, website planning.
- Administration – banking, insurance, filing, etc.

Significant Accomplishments

- Completion of bilateral interviews with Cowichan Watershed Board members and associated outline for CWB strategic plan moving forward
- Creation and Ratification of 3 year Budget
- Agreement with Water Funders Collaborative with support from POLIS Project, to work together to more clearly define role of CWB vis a vis local government, Cowichan Tribes and Province of BC.
- Proposal submitted, by invitation, to BC Freshwater Legacy Fund for the above.
- Significant progress by fish/flows WG, supported by CVRD, to develop science based fish flow regimes for Cowichan River
- Re-invigorated and engaged Riparian and Watershed IQ (Education and Outreach) working groups (new members and workplans)
- Meeting with MOE Minister Polack and FLNRO Minister Thomson resulting in tentative agreement to work together to implement components of local governance proposal
- Agreement with TimberWest and Riparian WG members to host private land forestry tour next quarter. (as follow up to Forest Hydrology workshop)
- Strategic Planning with CSRT regarding roles and responsibilities
- Partnership with MOE, CCLT, Cowichan Tribes created to implement 2017 Cowichan Koksilah WQ sampling program (REFBC funding)
- Successful CVRD proposal to fund further development of science based flow regimes for Cowichan River
- Secured funding for 2 Canada Summer Job grants to support outreach team.

Areas of Focus – next quarter

- Support to TAC and working groups:
 - “5 year checkup” – Strategic Evaluation of CWB Targets
 - Fish/flows
 - Structured decision making process on river flows
 - Conservation
 - Public outreach/engagement team – summer 2017
 - Riparian
 - Prioritization, restoration monitoring & invasive plants
 - WQ/estuarine health
 - Cowichan Bay VORR implementation; WQ sampling program design; clam garden scoping exercise
 - Education/Outreach - Watershed IQ
 - Gap analysis, Support to Rivers Day celebration
- Support ongoing process to clearly define required Cowichan River flow regime to support ecological, cultural, industrial, agricultural and recreational values.
- Develop sustainable funding mechanisms with Sustainable Funding for Water Governance Initiative
- Strategic planning
 - Strategic plan for reviewing/updating targets
 - Work to more clearly define relationship between CWB and major partners – CVRD & Cowichan Tribes
- Follow up on work with Province of BC to implement components of CWB Local Governance proposal
- Communications initiatives
 - Hire/manage summer engagement/outreach team.

- Organize Lower River Clean up – engage local clubs and businesses; collaborate with Upper River Clean up.
- Create profiles on each working group
- Create a document about Cowichan-specific benefits of local co-governance
- Website maintenance and improvement
 - migrate to new server, incorporate Water Challenge, improve Targets and Governance content, @cowichanwatershed.ca email addresses.

Tom's Meetings, Presentations, Onsite visits

January 3	Planning Meeting with Graham Kissack, Catalyst Paper
January 3	Budget Planning meeting – Jill Thompson
January 5	Cowichan Canadian Heritage River Celebration meeting
January 5	Kate Miller, CVRD – Operational Planning meeting
January 5	Budget/Accounting planning meeting
January 9	Cowichan SFWGI Team Meeting
January 9	Darin George, CWB member – meeting
January 9	CLRSS Meeting
January 10	SFWGI Meeting – Larry George, Cowichan Tribes
January 12	Riparian Working Group Meeting
January 12	David Froese, CWB member – Meeting
January 13	Meeting with CWB Co-Chairs
January 13	Meeting with CSRT Co-chair G. Singleton
January 16	Kate Miller CVRD – Planning meeting
January 16	Debra Toporowski – CWB member
January 16	Tim Kulchyski – CWB Member
January 17	David Anderson – CWB Member
January 17	Goetze Schoenfeld, Genevieve Singleton – CERCA
January 17	Herb Hammond - Koksilah plan
January 18	Koksilah Watershed Tour
January 18	Jill Thompson- Planning meeting
January 19	CSRT Roundtable meeting
January 25	Zita Botelho – SFWGI
January 26	Kate Miller/Cheri Ayers – Fish flows WG planning
January 27	FLNRO/MOE OPS staff Nanaimo – Barr, Lapcevic, Robinson – planning meeting

January 28 Dr. C. Ramstead – concerned Cowichan Lake Property owner

January 30 CWB Meeting

January 30 CWS Meeting

January 30 Fish/Flows Working group meeting

February 1 Chief Seymour, CWB Co-chair

February 1 Oliver Brandes – POLIS institute

February 2 Dan Sauve, Alison Nicholson Glenora Creek onsite

February 2 Zita Botelho – SFWGI

February 6 CLRSS Meeting

February 7 Meeting with CWB Co-chairs

February 8 Koksilah planning meeting

February 9 Jill Thompson – planning meeting

February 10 Chantal Nessman – DFO

February 10 Lynn Kriwoken, MOE

February 14 Meeting with Ministers Polack & Thomson

February 14 Cheri Ayers – DFO/Cowichan Tribes

February 15 Fish/Flows working group

February 15 Education Outreach working group

February 16 Cowichan Stewardship Roundtable

February 16 TimberWest Forest Products Planning Meeting

February 20 Kate Miller, CVRD Environmental Manager

February 20 Jill Thompson – Planning Meeting

February 22 CWB budget and work planning

February 22 Graham Kissack – Catalyst Paper

February 23 Rick Bryan, Recreational Canoeing Association of BC

February 23 Rosalie Sawrie, One Cowichan

February 27 CWB Meeting

February 27 CWS Meeting

February 27 TAC Co-chairs meeting

February 28 Rodger Hunter

February 28 Zita Botelho – SFWGI

March 1 Jill Thompson Planning Meeting

March 6 Fish/flows working group meeting

March 6 BC Water Legacy Funders Collaborative Meeting

March 7 Water Quality Sampling Meeting

March 7 Cowichan/Koksilah critical habitat workshop

March 8 TAC co-chairs meeting

March 9 Education Outreach planning meeting

March 9 Shaw Creek planning meeting

March 11 Shaw Creek planning meeting

March 13 Larry George, Cowichan Tribes

March 14 TAC ToR Co-chairs Meeting

March 15 Jill Thompson – Planning Meeting

March 16 Cowichan Stewardship Roundtable

March 16 Kate Miller, CVRD Env. Manager, Planning Meeting

March 16 Quamichan Task Force

March 17 Legacy Funders group meeting

March 20 Cowichan SFWGI Team Meeting

March 21 Laura Brown/Cheri Ayers -Chinook rebuilding plan

March 23 Quamichan Lake outflow onsite

March 23 SFWGI/Fraser Basin Council funding call

March 24 Cowichan Tribes Env. Staff re CWB TAC ToR

March 27 CWB Meeting

March 27 CWS Meeting

March 27 Legacy Funders Group meeting

March 29 CVRD Riparian Signage Meeting

March 29 Lynn Kriwoken, MOE meeting

March 30 Cowichan Tribes Environment Committee Meeting

March 31 Climate change & Economy workshop