

Cowichan Watershed Board

December 13, 2014

Water Quality & Estuarine Health Target Working Group Update



Next 10 minutes....

- Water quality sampling
- Agricultural partnerships
- Shellfish monitoring
- Liquid waste management
- Public health



Water Quality Sampling Program

- 2 years of sampling lead by Deb Epps FLNRO and CVRD; Support by countless volunteers throughout watershed
- 3rd year of fall sampling as part of the comprehensive Cowichan/Koksilah surface water quality monitoring program. Turbidity, E.Coli and metals
- Cowichan Lake, Cowichan River, Cowichan Bay, Bing's Creek, Tunnel Creek, Busy place, Koksilah
- Next steps
 - Draft report
 - Meeting to discuss
 - Further sampling
 - Interventions



“Agricultural Partnerships”

- Sampling has revealed some issues...
- Individual and group meetings with farmers
- Group Environmental Farm Plan
- Nutrient Management Plans
- Funding available for interventions to address shortcomings
- Pilot project with Profile
- Ongoing Sampling...



Shellfish Monitoring

- An acknowledged ‘stretch target’ – linked to other initiatives
- TAC to re-engage with Walter Hajen – Environment Canada
- Invitation to be extended to T’sou-ke FN to share information on restoration of harvest in Sooke Basin



Liquid Waste Management Plan

- Human impact on Cow Bay
 - boats/water quality ongoing issue
 - recent MOT inspections
- LWMP and JUB Lagoons
 - CVRD/DNC leading process and dialogue on the issue



Draft “Public Health Target”

- Complementary to Water quality target
- “We want to be able to swim safely in Cowichan Lake, Cowichan river, and Cowichan Bay...”



Bottom Line...

- Strong commitment from volunteers and agency staff
- Progress on all fronts
- Things are getting done.....
- Seeking monitoring \$
- Playing the long game.....

