

Cowichan Watershed Board

February 16, 2015

Water Quality & Estuarine Health Target Working Group Update



Next 10 minutes....

- Water quality Monitoring
- Agricultural partnerships
- Shellfish monitoring
- Liquid waste management



Water Quality Sampling Program

- 3 years of sampling lead by Deb Epps FLNRO and CVRD; Support by countless volunteers throughout watershed
- Turbidity, E.Coli and metals
- Cowichan Lake, Cowichan River, Cowichan Bay, Bing' s Creek, Tunnel Creek, Busy place, Koksilah
- Attainment report to be released later this month. Will inform ongoing sampling
- Lower Cowichan, Koksilah, Cow Bay, Cow Bay streams
- Important Work – need \$
 - Canadian Water network?
 - Gas Tax?



“Agricultural Partnerships”

- Sampling has revealed some issues...
- Individual and group meetings with farmers
- Group Environmental Farm Plan
- Nutrient Management Plans
- Up to 70K funding per farmer
Funding available for interventions to address shortcomings
- Pilot Bio-Bedding project
- Need Project with Profile
- Another Round of 1 on 1 meetings.
- Ongoing Sampling
- Carrot and Stick...



Shellfish Monitoring

- An acknowledged 'stretch target' – linked to other initiatives
- TAC to re-engage with Walter Hajen, EC; Juanita Rogers/Aleysha Gordon; DFO
- Shorekeepers in Cowichan Bay
- Invitation to be extended to T'sou-ke FN to share information on restoration of harvest in Sooke Basin



Liquid Waste Management Plan

- CVRD/DNC leading process and dialogue on the issue
- Obvious Links to Target working group
 - Ongoing dialogue with Emily and others



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.....

