

Cowichan Watershed
Board Presentation
March 6, 2010

LIVING RIVERS TRUST FUND VISION

“Create a legacy founded on healthy watersheds, sustainable ecosystems and thriving communities.”

\$21 Million transferred by BC in 2006

**Three Business Plans:
Fraser, LR-GB/VI, Skeena**

Projects and Partners

- Water Management Plans / Pilot Governance
 - Integrated Production / Harvest Plans – WSP
 - Stream Flow / Temperature Improvement
 - River & Estuary Restoration
 - Nutrient Enrichment
 - Community Involvement
 - *First Nations Legacy Pilot*
- ✓ Ministry of Environment
 - ✓ Fisheries and Oceans Canada
 - ✓ Pacific Salmon Commission
 - ✓ Habitat Conservation Trust Fund
 - ✓ Ministry of Transportation
 - ✓ BC Hydro Bridge Coastal
 - ✓ FIA – Forest Companies
 - ✓ Campbell R. Salmon Foundation
 - ✓ Regional Districts
 - ✓ Municipalities
 - ✓ Pacific Salmon Foundation
 - ✓ 22+ Stewardship Groups
 - 15 First Nations to Date



Living rivers

GEORGIA BASIN
VANCOUVER ISLAND

*BC Conservation
Foundation*

Supports:

BC's Climate Action Plan

BC's Water Plan (Living Water Smart)

BC's New Relationship with Aboriginal People

DFO's Wild Salmon Policy

Partnerships with numerous others including

NRCan Regional Adaptation Collaborative

*Initiative (2009-2011) involving Cowichan and
three other watersheds*



Actual and Projected: 2006 through 2010

LRTF \$6.78 M

Partners \$12.34 M

Cowichan Watershed

LRTF \$1.15 M

Partners \$2.09 M

CWMB in 2010 approx \$200K

Living Rivers extension sought for 2011



The LRTF is currently undertaking a
Collaborative Watershed Governance
Initiative

***MoE \$40K support for Cowichan pilot**

Living Water Smart
**Examining Models for
Water Act Modernization**

WATERSHED GOVERNANCE

- **The present BC Water Act has a little used Section 4 describing Water Management plans, but it is onerous and expensive for communities to initiate and requires an Order in Council**
- **OKANAGON BASIN BOARD – started 1980s has letters patent, specific responsibilities and taxing capability**

WATERSHED GOVERNANCE MODELS:

- Many provinces in Canada and jurisdictions worldwide have enabling legislation for community-based watershed governance
- Powers are quite varied and they may be regulatory agencies like **ONTARIO CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES** - started in 1948 (expanded 1954 after Hurricane Hazel)
- Or collaborative without specific regulatory powers like **WASHINGTON STATE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COUNCILS** – started 1987 with Nisqually

ESTABLISHED WATERSHED GOVERNANCE MODELS COMMON ELEMENTS:

- **A representative decision making Board with specific delegated authority that has usually evolved over time**
- **A staff coordinator, technical capacity, support from partner organizations and all orders of government**
- **A watershed management plan that builds and evolves over time**
- **A voluntary citizen stewardship group linked to the Board and supported by the coordinator**
- **Capacity to sustain itself financially**

ONTARIO CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES:

- Watershed focused - local, community-based environmental agencies.
- Represent grouping of municipalities on a watershed basis and work in partnership with others to manage their respective water issues.

ONTARIO CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES:

- The *Conservation Authorities Act* provides the means by which the province and municipalities of Ontario could join together to form a Conservation Authority within a specific area - the watershed - to undertake programs of natural resource management.
- 36 authorities operate in watersheds in which 90% of the Ontario population reside.

Three Fundamental concepts were embodied in the Act:

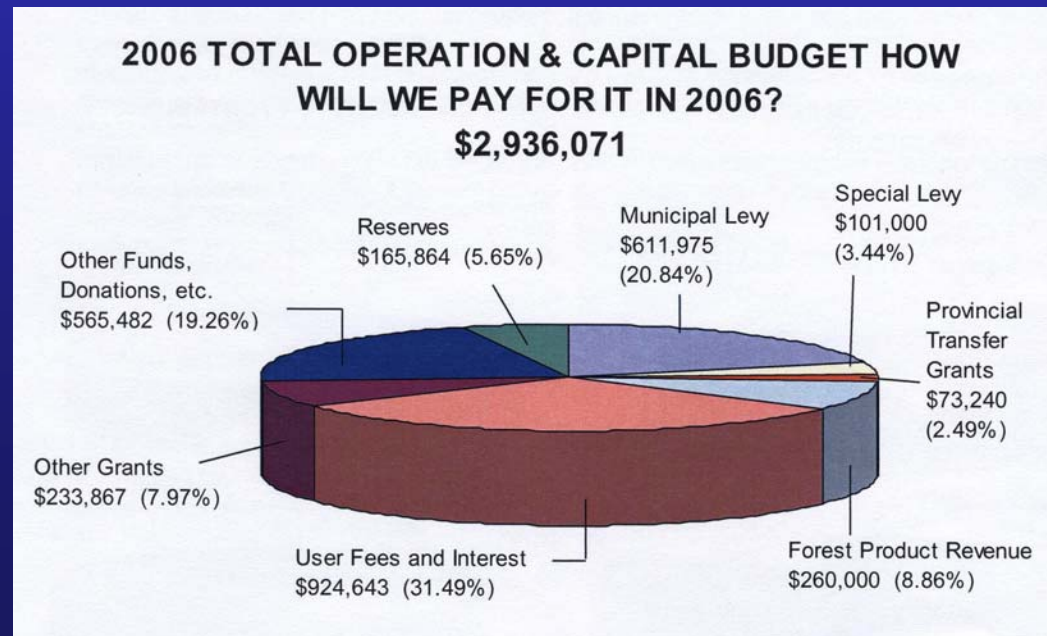
1. Local Initiative —

- A Conservation Authority in any area could only be formed when the desires of the residents reached the point where they were willing to request the government of Ontario to form an Authority.
- This latter task involved burdens and responsibilities similar to the running of a municipality. The local initiative requirement meant that people living close to the problems were required to recognize and solve them.
- It also meant that solutions would not be imposed from above and an Authority would only undertake those plans which it could face economically, culturally and democratically.

2. Cost Sharing —

The **Conservation Authorities Act** stipulated that the costs of projects should be shared by municipalities and by the provincial government. This proved to be one of the soundest ideas in the Authority movement. It has meant that an Authority can flourish only when the local people have enough enthusiasm and conviction to support it financially.

**LONG
POINT
CONSERVATION
AUTHORITY**



3. Watershed Jurisdiction — Conservation Authorities were to have jurisdiction over one or more watersheds. This stewardship was to cover all aspects of conservation in the area. This has meant that a Conservation Authority has been able to handle such problems as flood control in a complete and rational basis. By its power to establish regulations, an Authority has been able to protect life and property, river valleys from building encroachment and erosion problems.

However Ontario Conservation Authorities up to now do NOT have authority for “water taking permits” i.e “water licenses” in BC terminology.

They would like to have this authority!

WASHINGTON STATE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COUNCILS

- **Started with Nisqually Basin in 1987**
- **Enabled by State Legislation : Plan plus Council**
- **Management Plan Task Force led by Ecology and final plan approved by legislature**
- **Management Council + Advisory Citizen's Group**
- **Coordinator provided by State**
- **No special enforcement capacity – individual agency statutes govern – effective cooperation**

- **NISQUALLY PLAN ELEMENTS**

Element 1 - Mineral Resources

Element 2 - Water Resources

Element 3 - Flood Damage Reduction

Element 4 - Fish Management

Element 5 - Wildlife Management

Element 6 - Special Species, Habitat and Features

Element 7 - Hydropower

Element 8 - Economic Enhancement

Element 9 - Local Land Use Planning

Element 10 - Agriculture and Forestry Land Base

Element 11 - Recreation

Element 12 - Education and Interpretation

Element 13 - Land Acquisition and Protection

Element 14 - Management Entity

Element 15 - Management Area Boundary

Cowichan Watershed Board

Your Collaborative Mandate (and Membership) is quite similar to a Washington State Watershed Council

- *Advocate for the well-being of the watershed*
- *Guide/coordinate implementation of the plan*
- *Engage local people in management decisions*
- *Secure stable funding*
- *Monitor and report on health of watershed*

Governance Challenges in Moving the Cowichan WMP Forward

- **The WMP is complex - requires locally-based collaborative leadership in resolving competing interests especially around supply/demand issues.**
- **BC does not currently “enable” collaborative locally-based governance.**
- **Costs are significant requiring extensive partnering and new long term sources of revenue.**
- **Partner funding is time sensitive and largely dependent on early success of this pilot moving forward.**

Cowichan Board Governance Positives

- *You are co-chaired by Cowichan Tribes and CVRD.*
- *You have a very good water management plan to build on and capacity to resolve outstanding issues.*
- *The basin already has an active stewardship roundtable with a proven track record of achievement through collaboration.*
- *Partners have pooled \$\$\$ (MoE, CVRD, LR) to hire a Cowichan Watershed Board Coordinator .*
- *There is an opportunity to influence Water Act modernization.*

***You are here today
ready to get to
work!***



Cowichan Stewardship Roundtable