

Cowichan Watershed Board

April 24, 2017

2017 First Quarter Review



Last Quarter Highlights....

Flows

- Significant progress by fish/flows WG, supported by CVRD, to develop science based fish flow regimes for Cowichan River
- Successful CVRD proposal to fund further development of science based flow regimes for Cowichan River



Technical

- Re-invigorated and engaged working groups (new members and workplans)
- Partnership with MOE, CCLT, Cowichan Tribes created to implement 2017 Cowichan Koksilah WQ sampling program (REFBC funding)
- Agreement with TimberWest and Riparian WG members to host private land forestry tour next quarter. (as follow up to Forest Hydrology workshop)



Governance

- 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 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 developed, by invitation, to BC Freshwater Legacy Fund for the above.



Planning/Administration

- 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
- Strategic Planning with CSRT regarding roles and responsibilities
- Secured funding for 2 Canada Summer Job grants to support outreach team.



Focus This Quarter...



– Flows

- Complete work with FLNRO, DFO, Cowichan Tribes and recreational sector on target and minimum fish flows to support CVRD lead SDM process.
- Engage and support CVRD Structured Decision Making Process to clearly define required Cowichan River flow regime to support ecological, cultural, industrial, agricultural and recreational values.
- Work with FLNRO, Cowichan Tribes and others to define “critical flows” for Koksilah River

Technical

- 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, Stoltz bluffs & invasive plants
 - WQ/estuarine health
 - Cowichan Bay VORR implementation; WQ sampling program; clam garden scoping exercise; Dinsdale farm; etc.
 - Education/Outreach - Watershed IQ
 - Gap analysis, Support to Rivers Day celebration

Communications initiatives

- Organize Lower River Clean up – engage local clubs and businesses; collaborate with Upper River Clean up.
- Create profiles on each working group
- Hire/manage summer engagement/outreach team.
- 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.



Governance

- Develop sustainable funding mechanisms with Sustainable Funding for Water Governance Initiative
- Utilize resource provided by the BC Freshwater Legacy Fund to work to more clearly define relationship between CWB and major partners – CVRD, Cowichan Tribes, Province of BC, Govt. of Canada
- Follow up on work with Province of BC to implement agreed upon elements of “new relationship”
- Strategic planning
 - Strategic plan for reviewing/updating targets

Questions or Comments??

