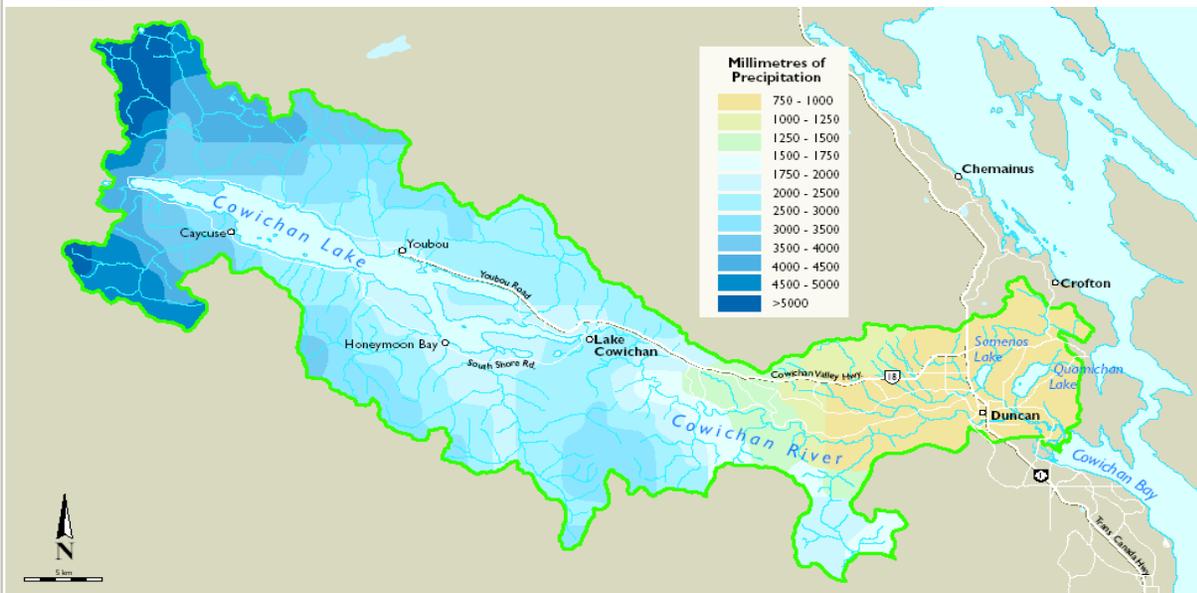


# Cowichan Watershed Board Update

March  
2011



# Today

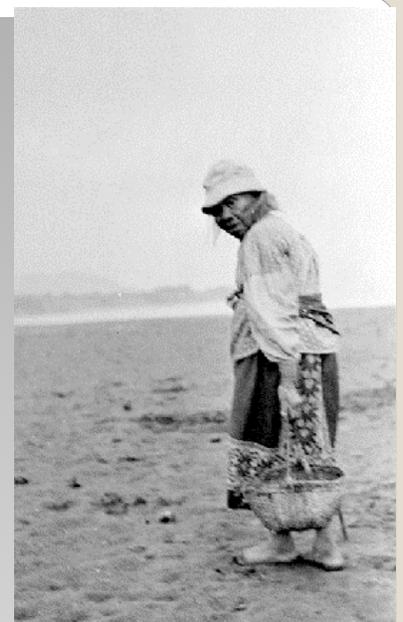
- **History**
- **Crisis and the Watershed Plan**
- **The Watershed Board and its Activities & Plans**

**Cowichan Watershed Board**

## For 1000s of years the watershed was home to ...

- Forests of massive fir & cedar
- Lakes & streams rich with salmon
- Tidal flats abundant with shellfish
- Thriving villages

**Cowichan Watershed Board**



## **Over past 150 years dramatic changes to watershed ...**

- Clear cuts and young forests now dominate
- Salmon runs threatened by land use & habitat degradation issues
- Shellfish beds polluted



**Cowichan Watershed Board**

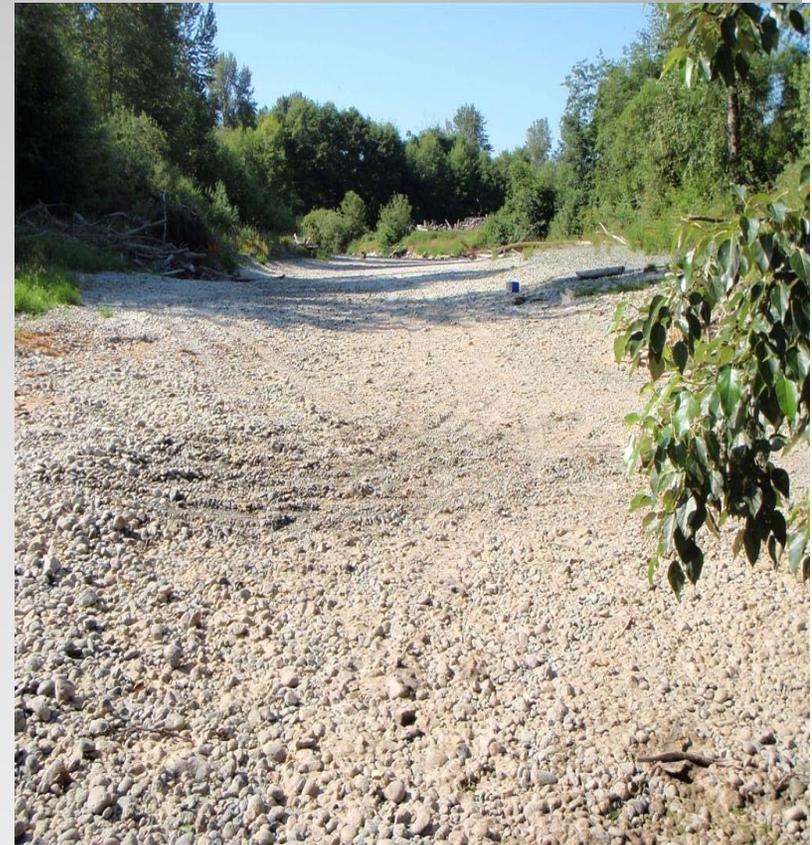
# **150 yrs of dramatic change... cont'd**

- **Urban and rural sprawl covers much of the lowland**
- **Roads, transmission lines, dykes**
- **Safe & abundant water throughout watershed no longer a given**

**Cowichan Watershed Board**

# 2003 Drought - wake up call

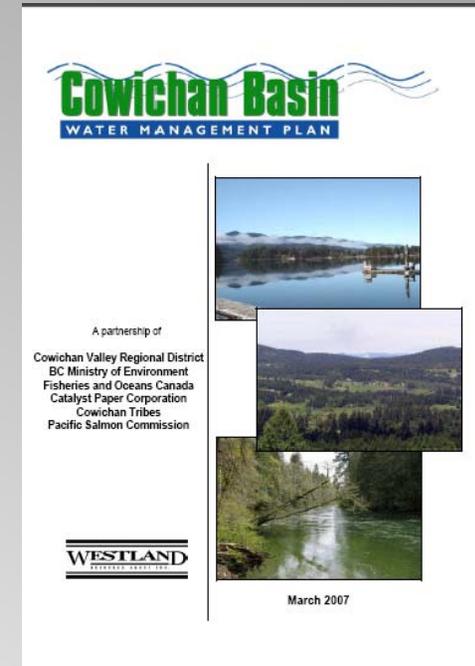
- River level critically low ...
- Responsibilities for managing water, fish, forests etc. diverse/diffuse
- Integrated mgmt. plan essential



**Cowichan Watershed Board**

# Cowichan Basin Water Management Plan

- Completed early 2007
- 6 Goals, 23 Objectives, 89 Actions
- For 3 yrs implementation scant ...but ongoing commitment among partners.



**Cowichan Watershed Board**

# **2010 - Cowichan Watershed Board Established**

- **Recommendation of Plan**
- **Provide leadership/direction - implement plan**
- **Jointly led by Cowichan Tribes and CVRD**

**Cowichan Watershed Board**

# CWB Members

## **Cowichan Tribes**

- Chief Lydia Hwitsum\*
- Darin George

## **At Large**

- Hon. David Anderson
- Mayor Ross Forrest
- Bruce Fraser
- Tim Kulchyski

## **B.C.**

- Dr. Lorna Medd
- David Slade

\* Co-chairs

## **CVRD**

- Rob Hutchins\*
- Lori Iannidinardo
- Klaus Kuhn

## **Canada**

- Don Radford

## **Special Advisors**

- Arvid Charlie
- Dr. Nicole Vaugeois
- Ted van der Gulik
- Dr. Rick Nordin

**Cowichan Watershed Board**



# CWB Approach

- No regulatory authority – Role is to facilitate community education, advocate for best practices, and make recos to other authorities.
- 2010 -year for foundational work
- Bring parties together for learning, understanding, planning and decision making.

**Cowichan Watershed Board**

## **First year CWB focus:**

- **Common understanding of plan & watershed issues**
- **Relationships and trust**
- **2010 work plan with key elements**
- **3 year business plan for implementing priorities**
- **Funding!!!**

**Cowichan Watershed Board**

# Accomplishments

- **Governance Materials for Board and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)**
- **TAC established (May 2010)**
- **Special advisors recruited**

**Cowichan Watershed Board**

# **Awareness / understanding relationships / trust**

- **Presentations & field trips for Board members & interested stakeholders**

**Cultural values  
Climate change  
WAM/SOE  
Fisheries  
Public health**

**Water levels  
Hydrology  
Agriculture  
Flooding  
Groundwater**

**Cowichan Watershed Board**

## More to come

Groundwater

Ec. Dev.

Advanced

Conservation

Bathymetry ✓

Limnology

Erosion ✓

Climate Change

LiDAR study ✓

Some newsletter articles/presentations ✓

Web site can be ready for Open House March  
22 –WWD.

**Cowichan Watershed Board**

# 2010 Work Plan

## Goal 1 – Workshop 1 - Water Conservation

- Water conservation strategies -how they can be embedded and considered in OCPs and other plans and policies.
- Encourage addressing of leaks, metering, incentives, volume based pricing practices for conservation.

✓ but needs follow up

**Cowichan Watershed Board**

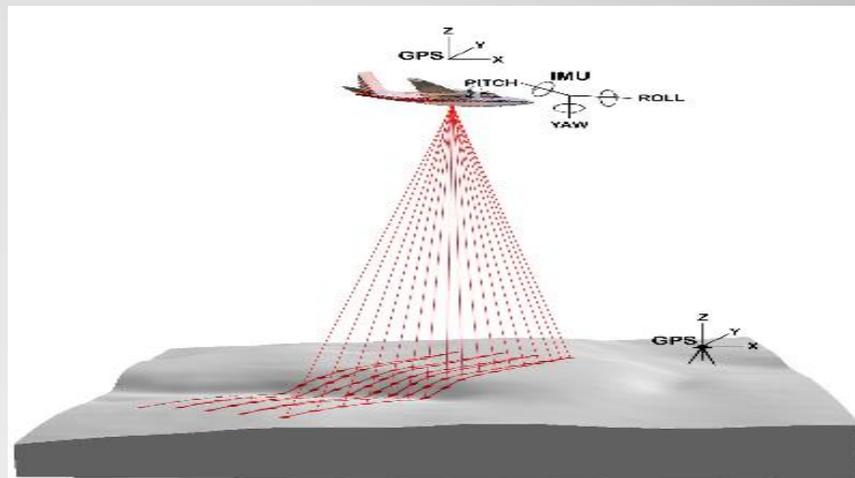


# 2010 Work Plan

## GOAL 2 – Manage Water Supply to Meet Needs



- Defer consideration of raising the weir until completion of four studies:
  - LIDAR ✓
  - Bathymetry 😊
  - Erosion ✓
  - Localized climate change 😊



**Cowichan Watershed Board**

# 2010 Work Plan

## Workshop 2 – Water Protection

- Best management practices for rain water mgmt and ground water protection to prevent contamination.
- Encourage coordinated approach to local govt bylaws, OCPs and policies to support storm water mgmt.

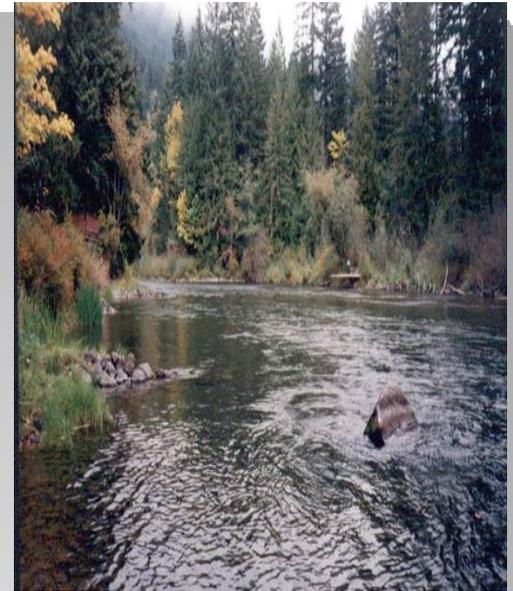


**Cowichan Watershed Board**

# 2010 Work Plan

## Goal 3 – Protect/Enhance Natural Habitat

- Workshop 3 - R&A Habitats  
Explore opps. to coordinate OCPs, bylaws and policies to protect & enhance riparian & aquatic habitats.
- Workshop 4 –Climate Change and Forest Practices on Private Land  
Explore how Forest Cos. intend to alter forest practices in response to CC. 😊



**Cowichan Watershed Board**

# 2010 Work Plan

## Goal 4-Flood Management

- Workshop 5– Integrated Flood Mgmt. 😊
- Provide input & feedback to integrated flood mgmt project. ✓
- Support Flood Mgmt Negotiations ✓



**Cowichan Watershed Board**

# Moving Forward -

## Opportunities

- Establish foundational info 😊
- Build on plan –stretch targets ?
- Strengthen goodwill & partnerships 😊
- Communicate... 😊
- Secure funding 😊

## Barriers

- Secure funding – short 😊, immediate and longer term

**Cowichan Watershed Board**

# Targets

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# **Technical Advisory Board Committee**

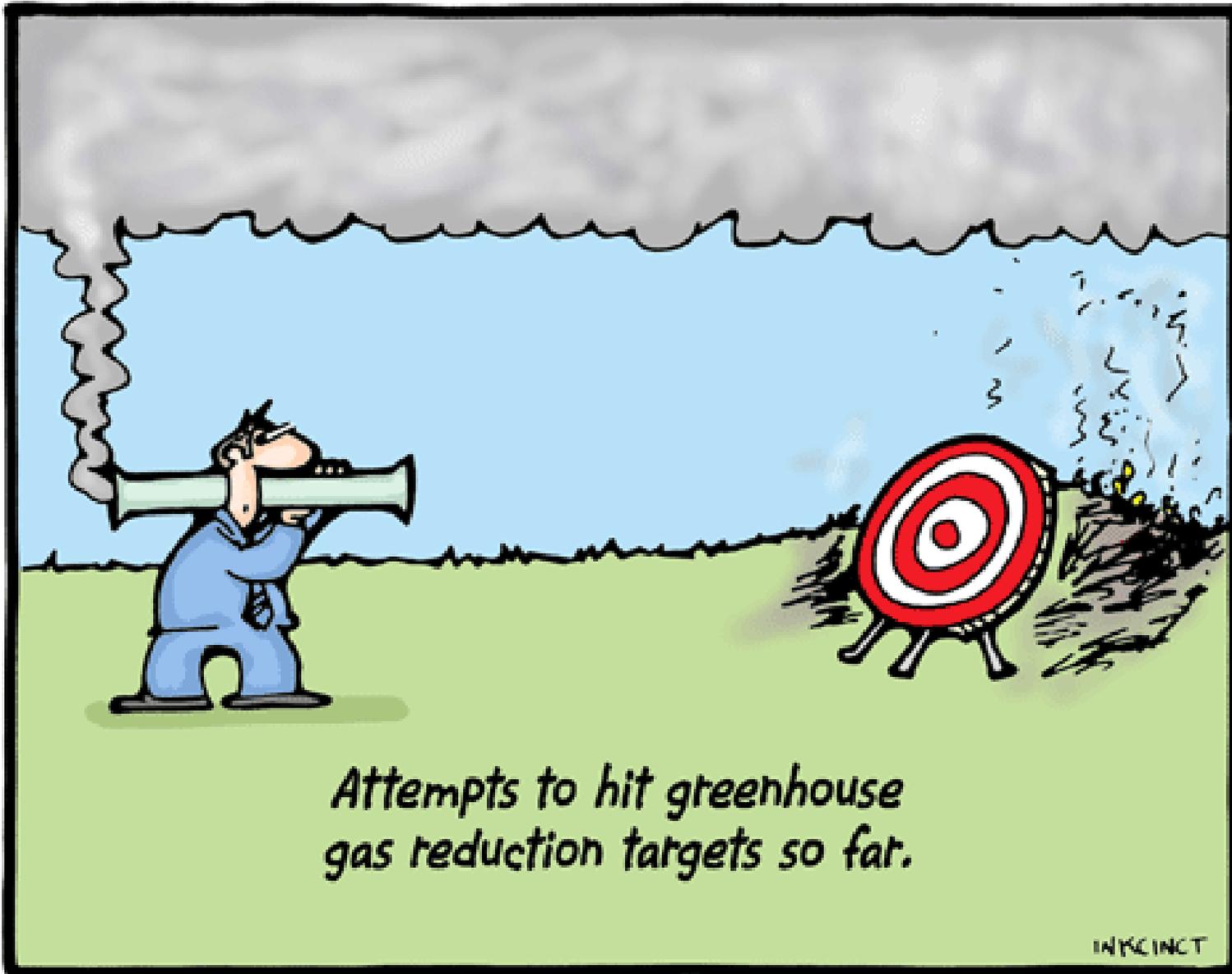
Craig Wightman

Tom Rutherford

Geneen Russo

Rodger Hunter

**Cowichan Watershed Board**



*Attempts to hit greenhouse gas reduction targets so far.*

INKCINCT

# Criteria

- **Meaningful linkage to the goal**
- **Integrative**
- **Measureable**
- **Sound Science**
- **Achievable**
- **Understandable**
- **Affordable**
- **Appealing**
- **Motivational**
- **Marketable**
- **Time Frame**

**Cowichan Watershed Board**

# Topics Considering

- Domestic Water Use
- Steelhead Index
- Water Quality
  - Measures
  - Safe clams
- Flow 100% 7 cms or more
- Incremental habitat protected

**Cowichan Watershed Board**



Forward and Up

**Cowichan Watershed Board**