

Cowichan Watershed Society

DRAFT WORK PLAN

2015

DRAFT

3/6/2014

Target/Topic	Activities	Timeframes (2015)	Source of Funds
<p>GENERAL OPERATIONS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize and/or serve as a resource for Board/Society/Technical Advisory Committee, selected Working Groups and related meetings • Liaise with Board/TAC members, Special Advisors/Government staff/ and stakeholders in the interests of the CWB • Monitor/manage budget • Pursue funding for ops and projects • Maintain relationships with stakeholders –particularly stewardship groups within the watershed • Review policy documents relevant to the watershed and prepare briefings materials, position papers, letters of support, speaking notes etc. • Attend CVRD Agricultural Commission, Stewardship Roundtable, Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship etc. meetings as time permits. • Pursue opportunities that may benefit the CWB and or the watershed • Prepare reports/presentations for funders. • Other initiatives as opportunities arise and based on Board direction and available funds. 	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>OPS</p>
<p>GOVERNANCE</p> <p>Successfully establish increased influence over the implementation of the Cowichan Estuary Environmental Management Plan (CEEMP)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiate discussions with MOE • Re-initiate discussions with MFLNRO • Obtain support of stakeholders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If deemed fruitful -negotiate Agreement for CWB role with MOE/MFLNRO ○ Develop Operational Processes ○ Formally Adopt Role of CEEMP Steering Committee under Agreement 	<p>February March March April May June</p>	<p>OPS/REFBC</p>

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<p>Negotiate with Province regarding increasing the influence of the CWB in decisions affecting the watershed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalize summary of governance options involving more local influence over watershed prepared at request of Province. Arrange for and attend staff level meetings with Province to consider options (with support of Polis Project.) Support Board member discussions of possible governance options. Negotiate with Province regarding possible pilot involving increased local influence based on above. 	<p>March –ongoing 2015</p>	<p>OPS and Provincial Contribution</p>
<p>FLOW TARGET</p> <p>Successfully Increase the Probability of Adequate Summer Flows in the Cowichan River</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review proposed raising of weir or replacement of weir options. Support application for a local conservation license for additional storage to support summer flows and depending on who applies for license and available funding, help negotiate new flow regime with province. (Includes ongoing visits to key property owners to discuss impacts with LiDAR showing scenarios.) Help address questions/concerns of lake shore property owners 	<p>February and ongoing.</p> <p>TBD</p> <p>TBD –(see above)</p>	<p>OPS REFBC</p> <p>REFBC</p> <p>REFBC</p>
<p>Cowichan Watershed Water Budget and relationships between Surface and Ground water (Current Gas Tax Project under CVRD)</p>	<p>Assist in identifying remaining knowledge gaps regarding groundwater and groundwater/surface water issues. Seek funds as appropriate.</p>	<p>On completion of current project and presentation to the CWB</p>	<p>OPS</p>
<p>Forestry, Hydrology and Climate Change Workshop and Follow Up</p>	<p>Coordinate a workshop involving forest ecologists, climate change experts forest and fisheries hydrologists and forest practitioners to explore interactions between forestry, hydrology and climate change and identify risks and possible mitigation measures to reduce potential negative impacts</p>	<p>April workshop and develop/pursue subsequent work plan as funding permits. (Subject to RESBC reaffirming approval)</p>	<p>RESBC</p>

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<p>WATER QUALITY/SHELLFISH TARGETS</p> <p>Ongoing Surface Water Quality Monitoring (Current Gas Tax Component under CVRD)</p> <p>Groundwater Quality Monitoring (Current Gas Tax Component under CVRD)</p> <p>Group Based Environmental Farm Plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate with others regarding results of current study coordinated by MOE, identify ongoing monitoring requirements and help seek funds as appropriate. Collaborate with others and assess results of current study coordinated by MFLNRO, identify ongoing monitoring requirements and help seek funds as appropriate. Assist in oversight of Group Based Environmental Farm Plan in pursuit of best management practices regarding manure management and water conservation –included seeking supplementary funds. 	<p>On completion of current project and presentation to the CWB</p> <p>On completion of current project and presentation to the CWB</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>OPS</p> <p>OPS</p> <p>OPS</p>
<p>RIPARIAN TARGETS</p> <p>Restore 10% of impacted shoreline habitat by 2021</p> <p>Formal protection of 50% of remaining shoreline</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support Cowichan Lake and River Stewards' pursuit of target through letters of support, direct participation and resources as available. Continue to work with local Stewardship Groups, the CVRD, Cowichan Tribes and national/provincial scale conservation organizations to acquire the Shaw Creek Properties Work with Working Group to prioritize specific sites for acquisition or alternate forms of protection. Meet with TimberWest senior management to discuss targets and possible mutually beneficial means of formally protecting riparian habitats. 	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing until acquired</p> <p>April –May and Ongoing</p> <p>June and ongoing</p>	<p>OPS</p> <p>OPS</p> <p>OPS</p> <p>OPS</p>

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FISH SUSTAINABILITY TARGET Steelhead Chinook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage MOE/BCCF to monitor and report status to Board. Prepare letters of support for BCCF as required. • As time and resources permit support Chinook restoration initiative and development of Chinook target utilizing the Flows and Fish Working Group as a forum. 	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>January -Ongoing</p>	<p>OPS</p> <p>OPS</p>
WATER CONSERVATION TARGET	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subject to successfully acquiring funding, oversee 2nd Water Knowledge Survey and report out to Board and Community. • Support issuing of Water Conservation Challenge to water purveyors in region • Find Partner(s) to cost share water conservation brochure and if funding is secured help produce/distribute material as part of survey. • Organize attend meeting with Catalyst Management to continue discussion on water conservation within its operations as well as issues related to weir 	<p>July-August with October reporting.</p> <p>Challenges issued by end of June</p> <p>Brochure complete by mid June</p> <p>May</p>	<p>OPS And Canada Student Program (T)</p> <p>OPS</p> <p>OPS</p> <p>OPS</p>
COMMUNICATIONS/ WATERSHED IQ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Communications Calendar with Working Group and Participate in Communications Initiatives Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Finalize revamp of website ○ Enhance Facebook presence ○ Ongoing watershed field trips from March to October 	<p>March</p> <p>Ongoing with new site up March 30</p> <p>TBD</p> <p>January to October</p>	<p>OPS</p> <p>OPS/REFBC</p> <p>REFBC</p> <p>REFBC</p>

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COMMUNICATIONS/ WATERSHED IQ continued	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Communications support for Estuary governance Pilot and Flows initiative 	Ongoing prior to Flows application and upon approval of tentative role in CEEMP administration from MOE/FLNRO	OPS/REFBC
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Shadowing experiences 	Associated with selected field trips	REFBC
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Periodic Articles Newsletter and papers 	Ongoing	REFBC
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Participation in Upper River cleanup and participation, support organization and promotion in the Lower River Clean Up with CLRSS and Cowichan Tribes 	June –August	OPS/REFBC and CSP (T)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support CCLT to deliver watershed experiences for Grades 4s/5s –subject to successfully acquiring funds. 	Ongoing	OPS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Assist Estuary Nature Centre to acquire additional funding for interactive watershed model 	Ongoing until successful	OPS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Organize/promote Watershed Speaker Series With VIU 	10 months per year	REFBC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Develop and promote communications materials re targets including status report and summaries of work plans. 	April and ongoing	OPS/REFBC	

OPS=Operations Budget contributed by the CVRD and Cowichan Tribes
REFBC=Funding from year 1 & 2 of 3 year contribution from the Real Estate Board of BC Provincial Contribution –In 2013 the Province contributed \$15,000 through the CVRD for the CWB to prepare a proposal for a watershed governance pilot.