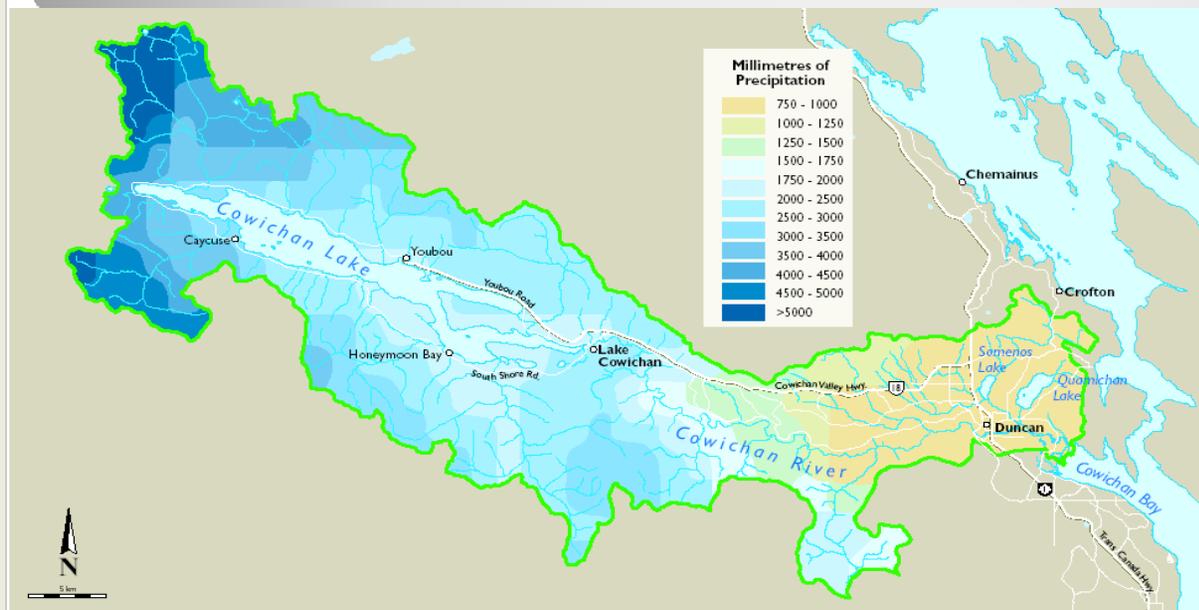


# Cowichan Watershed Board



Collaborative  
Watershed  
Governance  
Workshop

Oct. 5, 2011

# Today

- **Introduction/Context**  
Big Picture to Local
- **Form of Governance and Rationale**
- **Strengths and Challenges**

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# Context –Big Picture (elephants to consider)

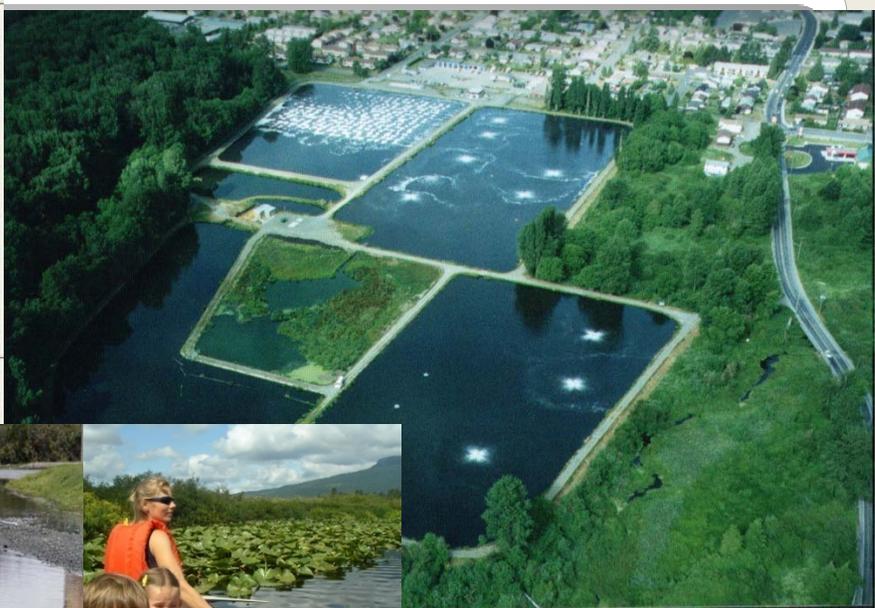
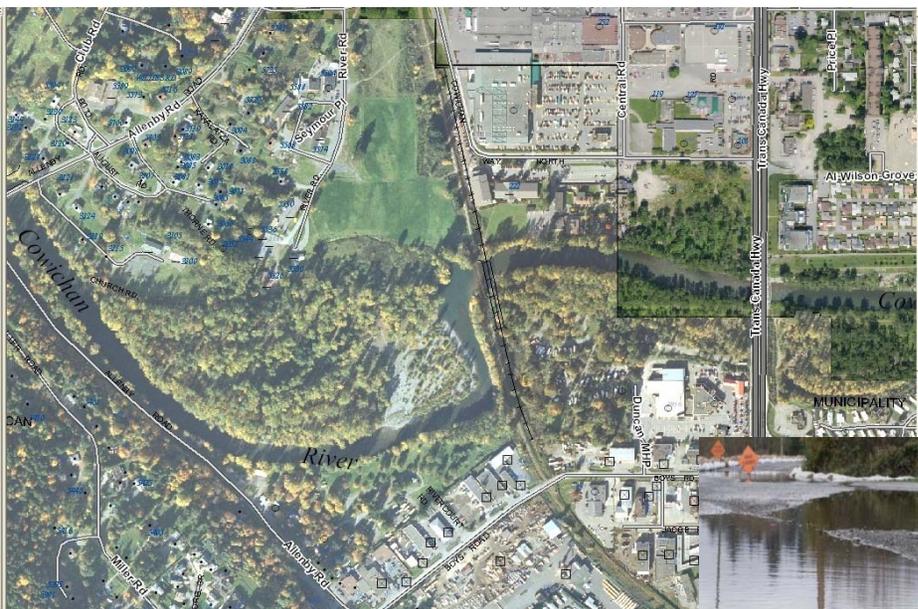
- Global Warming Climate Chaos
- Peak Oil
- Financial Instability (Peak Debt?)
- Ecological Footprint/SHCC
- Peak Senior Government

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# Context -Local



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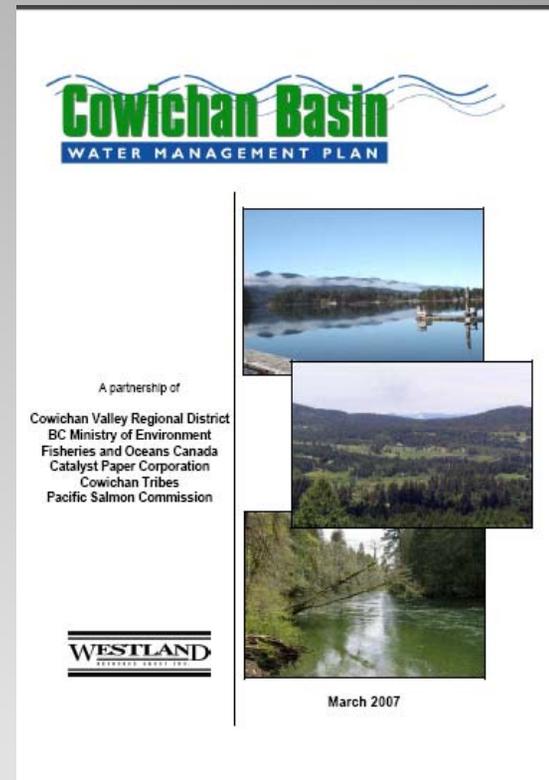
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# Context -Local

## The Water Management Plan

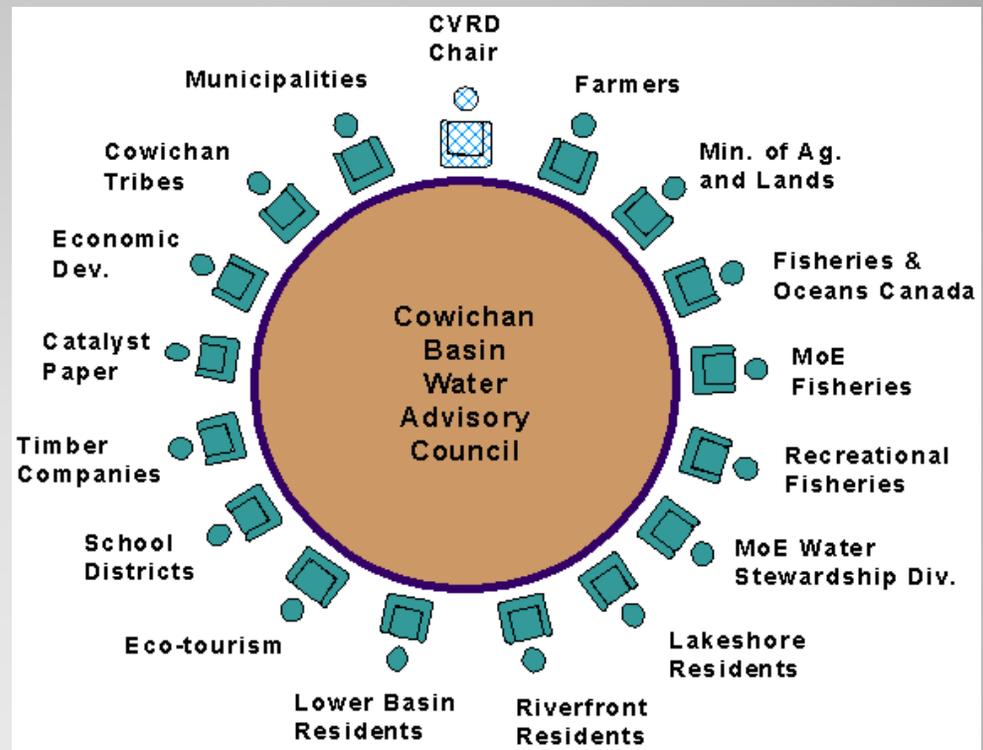
- Completed early 2007
- 6 Goals, 23 Objectives, 89 Actions
- For 3 yrs implementation scant due to governance/leadership issues
- Dedicated Partners kept things alive

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# Proposed Governance Body

- Legitimately represent all interests (accountability)?
- Integrated-whole watershed thinking?
- Consensus approach?
- Provide/attract funding support?



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## Model Adopted

- Local leadership
- CVRD/Cowichan Tribes full partners
- Inclusive of federal & provincial governments
- Include opinion leaders
- Special advisors and strong technical advisory committee

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# Who? -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

### CVRD

- Rob Hutchins\*
- Lori Iannidinardo
- Klaus Kuhn

### Canada

- Don Radford

### Special Advisors

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

\* Co-chairs

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# Technical Advisory Committee

- Catalyst Paper
- Cowichan Ec. Dev. Commission
- Cowichan Lake & River Stewardship Committee
- Cowichan Tribes
- Cowichan Valley Naturalists'
- CVRD
- DFO
- BC Parks
- VIHA
- Living Rivers Trust
- Ministry of Agriculture
- MOE
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Trans. & Infra.
- Private Forest Landowners Association
- Quamichan Lake Stewardship Committee
- Somenos Marsh Wildlife Society

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# **2010 - Cowichan Watershed Board Established**

- To provide leadership/direction for managing the watershed - implement plan –engage community

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# CWB Approach

- No regulatory authority -consensus, cooperation & partnership based
- Facilitate community education, advocate for best practices, plan and make decisions/recommendations to others, coordinator of activities
- Commitment to science and best available information

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## **Initial CWB Focus:**

- Common understanding of plan & watershed issues
- Building relationships and trust
- Engaging partners/technical advisors/special advisors

## **Initial CWB Focus -cont'd:**

- **Fill information gaps**
- **Establish priorities & work plan**
- **Develop initial set of targets**
- **Acquire funds!**

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# Address Key Elements of Plan

- Demand Management
- Manage Water Supply to Meet Needs
- Water Quality
- Protect/Enhance Natural Habitat/Biodiversity
- Flood Management
- Communications

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# Expanding on the Plan

Additional Areas  
of Board Focus

- Culture
- Economic development
- Public health



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# Moving Forward

## CWB Strengths:

- Community-led integrated watershed management
- Cowichan Tribes is full & active partner
- Leadership is at local level where results of decisions have greatest impacts.
- Partnerships support consensus & address leadership/governance vacuums
- Commitment to science
- Pursuing targets -links plan to benefits

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# Moving Forward

## Challenges:

Demonstrate strong track record of success over next 2-3 years.

Dance with the elephants

Secure long term stable funding.





Forward and Up

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