

**GOAL 4 - Reduce Impacts of High
Water Levels, Respecting the
Importance of Winter Floods to
Natural Systems**

**Working Group Recommendations
April 2010**

Topics Covered in Goal 4

1. Development setbacks to reduce flooding risks.
2. Increasing flood buffering capacity of floodplain and constricted channel areas
3. Ensuring drainage allows tillage of farm fields in late spring

Topics Covered in Goal 4

4. Maintaining winter water levels to protect organic soils.
5. Promoting stormwater management that emphasizes infiltration and detention
6. Research to support decision-making

Development setbacks to reduce flooding risks

Recommendations (local govts.):

- Develop/upgrade precision of floodplain mapping for portions of lake and river not in Northwest Hydraulics study
 - Identify and prioritize key at risk structures and report to CWB - October 2010
- Provide a rationale for allowing development below 1 in 200 yr flood level and report to CWB - October 2010.

Increasing Flood Buffering Capacity of Floodplain & Addressing Constricted Channel Areas

Recommendation - Encourage the CVRD to host a workshop including Cowichan Tribes, municipalities, MOTI, MCRD, MOE, MSGPS, DFO and INAC to develop an integrated approach for implementation of an IFMP including rainwater balance for the catchment area. Report back by October 2010.

Ensuring Drainage Allows Tillage of Farm Fields in Late Spring

Recommendation – Seek advice from special Advisor Ted van der Gulik regarding a solution that preserves ecological integrity and is consistent with the IFMP.

Maintaining winter water levels to protect organic soils.

Recommendation - Seek advice from special Advisor van der Gulik regarding a solution that preserves ecological integrity and is consistent with the IFMP.

Promoting Stormwater Management Emphasizing Infiltration & Detention

Recommendation - Request that the CVRD lead development of a plan and supporting rationale for adopting low impact development principles and report to the CWB by October 15, 2010.

Research to Support Decision-making

Recommendation: Direct Coordinator to explore with the federal and provincial govts. and others the feasibility of using the Cowichan as a pilot for studying innovative approaches to watershed management and monitoring.
(Outdoor laboratory for studying water related issues.)