Cowichan Watershed Board
July 7, 2011

“Targets, targets, targets…”
Overview

• “Targets”
• Action Plans
• Resources
Targets – What they are

- Support CBWMP Goals & Objectives
- Science based
  - Integrate several environmental health factors
- Measurable
- Achievable
- Affordable
- Engage Cowichan Valley Residents
  - Relevant
  - Understandable
  - Embraceable
Targets – What they aren’t

- Ultimate ecosystem indicators
- A finite or exclusive list
- More or less important that other watershed issues
- Mutually Exclusive
Water Quality Target

• *We want clean water in our watershed*

• **TARGET**: TSS levels (turbidity) in the Cowichan Watershed should meet accepted water quality guidelines

• **ACTIONS**
Estuary Health Target

• **We want to be able to eat shellfish from Cowichan Bay**

• **TARGET**- Shellfish from designated areas of Cowichan Bay will be harvested for human consumption by 2020

• **ACTIONS**
  – Establish Technical Working Group
  – Generate Map product
  – Design a sampling program
  – Conduct Initial Microbiological sampling
  – Storm water monitoring program
  – Liquid Waste Management Plan review
Water Use Target

- *We need to use our water wisely*
- **TARGET** – See Background document – specific targets for individual communities

**ACTION PLAN**
- Create and implement metering and water use reduction plans by Community
- Sub-committee of CWB to work with Catalyst on water conservation opportunities
- Public Education actions to include
  - Summer students for door to door survey
  - Use survey report to develop conservation strategy
  - Implement strategy in 2012
Watershed IQ Target

• **You Can’t fully value what you don’t understand**

• **Target:** Grade 4/5’s know their watershed

• **Actions**
  – Pilot 4/5 field trips 2011
  – Expand field trips in 2012; all classes in valley 2013

• **Target:** Residents increasingly know and value their watershed

• **Actions**
  – Weekly articles, occasional radio spots
  – Annual survey through VIU Geography department
  – Ongoing briefings to local politicians and opinion leaders
Fish Target

- We want healthy fish populations in the Watershed
- TARGET- Steelhead fry abundance in the Cowichan should meet or exceed target densities
- ACTIONS
  - Conduct ongoing sampling at indexed sites
  - Report results incl. relationship with limit reference points
  - Include results of annual trout snorkel surveys
  - Develop intervention plan if monitoring indicates concerns
Water Supply Target

- **Summer water flows are critical and have been declining**
- **TARGET:** Cowichan River summer flows need to be 7CMS or higher

**Action Plan**
- Maintain existing WSC stations
- Snow pillow at Heather Mt.
- Real time decisions at weir
- Expert Panel
  - Instrumentation, review 7cms achievability, groundwater connectivity, review flow requirements downstream of intake
  - Continue to evaluate options to ensure flows
    - Rule band, assess benefits/impacts of increased storage, assessment of property impacts, (bathymetry, erosion, LIDAR, water budget model, climate change adaptation)
Riparian Target

- We want to protect and enjoy Stream, River and Lake front habitats
- **Target** – X% Increase riparian habitats protected by 2021
- **Target** – Y% of riparian habitats restored by 2021

**Actions**
- Secure properties
  - Inventory and classify
  - Acquisition feasibility & priority
  - Partnership and fundraising
  - Implementation

**Restoration**
- Inventory and classify
- Priorities and options
- Partnerships and fundraising
- Implementation
Resources….

- **Water Quality**
  - Existing monitoring programs in place
  - Collation and overview reporting - minimal cost

- **Estuary Health**
  - Seed funding needed for Tech working group (watershed governance partners)
  - Sampling program – 20K/annum – co-management
  - Stormwater program – 100K Gas tax
  - Liquid Waste management plan review

- **Water Use**
  - 2011 – 25K in gas tax funding
  - 2012/13 – 15K from General Priorities and Innovations Fund requested
  - Cost sharing with local governments for education component

"I didn’t get the government job. They said I lacked experience in *deficit spending.*"
Resources Cont……

• Watershed IQ
  – Target 1
    • 2011 – 8K pilot Gas tax funding
    • 2012/13 8K seed money requested
  – Target 2
    • Will require enhanced ops funding for communications
    • 2011 – 4K gas tax, 2012/13 10K requested

• Fish
  – Program currently funded a (10K)
  – Living Rivers funding uncertain in future

• Water Supply
  – Living Rivers currently major funder
  – Catalyst looks after weir operations & monitoring
  – Ministry of Health Services – 30K Mapping contribution 2011

• Riparian
  – Require champions for land acquisition – possible linkages to carbon credits
  – Major one time funding investments
  – Local stewardship groups effective partners
Bottom Line

- “Targets” not intended to “replace the plan”
- Will be effective in raising awareness in community
- Will challenge the Watershed board
- Are about “Doing Something” – not talking about it
- Approval in Principle from Board?