

Cowichan Watershed Board

November 29, 2021

Target Review: Flows Target



Background

- Targets were developed by CWB TAC in 2011
- Broadly scoped and aspirational intended to capture the detailed CBWMP actions in accessible understandable “call to action” statements
- Supported by more detailed “indicators”
- Working groups developed to support targets
- Provide framework and guidance for CWB workplan

Review

- Review of targets undertaken in 2020
- Target working groups lead through this process by Heather Pritchard
- COVID has slowed the process
- Would like to begin the process of ratifying “new” targets by CWB members today
- Starting with “Flows” and “Watershed Connections” (previously Watershed IQ) today...

Proposed approach

- Present original and new targets and indicators
- Brief outline of rationale for changes (if any)
- Discussion by board members
- Decision:
 - Ratification of target or agreement on suggestions/concerns regarding changes
 - to be discussed at target working group table

Original Flows Target & Indicators

- **Target:**
 - We want to ensure that Cowichan River summer flows are at levels that support the needs of people and fish.
- **Indicator:**
 - Water reserves in Cowichan Lake are managed such that the rate of flow in the Cowichan River never falls below 7 cubic meters per second (cms).

Draft “New” Flows Target

- **Target:**
 - **Seasonal flows throughout the Cowichan-Koksilah watershed support the needs of communities and aquatic ecosystems.**
- **Note:**
 - Seasonal vs summer
 - Koksilah inclusion
 - Communities vs people
 - Aquatic ecosystems vs Fish

Draft “new” Flows Indicators

- **Flows Indicator #1:**

- Water reserves in Cowichan Lake are managed such that the rate of flow into the Cowichan River meets the soft targets established in the Cowichan Water Use Plan (2018), delivering, at minimum, the following flow regime:

	March & April	May 1 – June 15	June 15 – Fall Rain
Upper Cowichan	25 CMS	15CMS	7 CMS

Draft “new” Flows Indicators

- **Flows Indicator #2 (Placeholder)**
 - The Koksilah watershed is managed so as to deliver rates of flow defined as required Environmental flows (E-flows) as per Water Sustainability Planning process currently underway.



Questions, Comments Discussion...

- Decision – Support and ratify or suggestions/concerns to take back to the working group.....?

