



Request for Expressions of Interest

December 16th 2022

2022 CWB Water Quality Attainment Report

The Cowichan Watershed Board (CWB) is seeking Expressions of Interest from qualified scientists or knowledge holders in the Cowichan Valley, with demonstrated understanding of watershed ecosystems and fish habitat, and with experience analyzing complex scientific data and writing technical reports.

Background: The CWB has worked with a variety of partners over the past 10 years to conduct broadly scoped Water Quality Attainment Sampling to monitor the health of our watershed, from the estuary to the tributaries that enter Lake Cowichan.

This sampling has occurred every five years, starting in the lower watershed in 2012/2013 and in the upper watershed in 2017/18. The 2022 sampling year focussed on the lower watershed with a total of 31 sampling sites identified, nine in the Cowichan Bay marine environment, nine in the Koksilah River basin, and 13 along Cowichan Bay tributaries.

Details of the sampling sites, including GPS coordinates, are available.

Requirements of the Contractor:

Provide the CWB with a 2022 Water Quality Attainment Report, including:

- i) an analysis and interpretation of the results of the 2022 sampling.
- ii) a brief comparative analysis against Cowichan Water Quality Objectives from the 2012/2013 and the 2017/2018 sampling periods to inform recommendations for improving water quality and aquatic habitat.
- iii) Incorporation of the following report elements, which will all be provided by the CWB:
 - Introduction and brief history of water quality testing in the Cowichan and Koksilah Rivers
 - Project scope (objectives, protocol, and parameters)
 - Maps with description of sampling locations
 - Photos of sites / volunteers sampling
 - **Appendices**
 - Table of Complete List of Sites
 - Dates and Water Quality Parameters
 - List of Volunteers
 - Guidelines and Protocols

Contractor will be required to provide at least two drafts for review and feedback, with additional review prior to finalizing the report.

Timeline: This contract is expected to begin on January 27th. A first draft of the report is due on March 6th. The final report is due March 17th. A presentation to the CWB is expected for March 27th 2022.

Budget: Contractors are asked to submit a detailed work plan and proposed budget. This project is grant funded with limited funds.

Resources: The Contractor will have access to the Draft 2022 Water Quality Attainment Summary Report with related attachments, prepared by Chris Steeger and Elodie Rogers, Coordinators of the 2022 sampling program.

CWB staff will provide coordination as needed between the CWB Water Quality Working Group, provincial MoE staff, and the Water Quality Attainment Contractor regarding content for the above.

Other Reference Documents: (1.) [Preikshot, D. 2018. Cowichan/Koksilah Water Quality Sampling: Summer and Fall 2017](#); (2.) [2012 Water Quality Objectives Attainment in the Cowichan and Koksilah Rivers](#) (Published 2021 by Smorong, D.). Cowichan Watershed Board, Duncan. Other reports are available at <https://cowichanwatershedboard.ca/water-quality-target/>

Expressions of Interest: To be considered for this contract, please email a copy of your CV, proposed workplan and budget, and a cover letter outlining your qualifications to the undersigned by January 20th, 2023.

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