

Staff Report Template

This is a monthly snapshot of staff's completed activities and future plans. We ask Board members to please review the table before the Board meeting. There will be time for questions to staff. Also please note decisions required (right column).

Area of Work	Activities (What?)	Comments / Analysis (So What?)	Outcome or Next Steps (Now What?)	Board Support Needed
Just Add Water (addressing low flows)	Weir - releasing DMAF funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate & Chair technical team meeting to develop criteria for project selection, bring in CVRD as partner and retain consultant to lead Continue to participate in regular meetings with Federal IC staff in Ottawa 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cowichan Tribes needs to identify all lower and mid river DMAF funding projects in order to negotiate Contribution agreement to free up federal resources for Cowichan weir (as well as beneficial mid and lower river projects) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CT to retain WEB consulting to work with Tech team, NHC, and CVRD to identify, model and select projects by spring When consultant fully engages CWB required support will be minimal 	
	Weir - Provincial capital funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Sr. WLRS staff to organize Ministers meeting with CWB co-chairs Prep briefing materials and support documents for co-chairs meeting with Ministers Cullen and Rankin January 29 Coordinate regular local partners meetings (Sr. staff from CT, CVRD and PE) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunity to press Ministers directly for resources to complete weir, explore options to extend provincial liability protection of partners and work with Cowichan tribes to explore collaborative governance mechanisms Positive messaging regarding 14M from province from GR advisors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow up needed at Ministerial and Sr. staff level with both BC WLRS and MIRR staff. Work with local partners to access funding to retain project manager Update Stantec cost estimates for new Cowichan weir 	
	Xwulqw'selu Watershed Planning: Ongoing services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CWB staff to continue to play advisory role to both Planning Team and G2G table 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing local and "whole of watershed" perspective to planning process which could result in significant progressive changes to water and land use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water and Forestry workstreams being established. CWB member Alison Nicolson to play significant role in Forestry 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bi-weekly Planning team meetings; G2G meeting January 24 • Newsletter # 2 by Jan 31. • Website revision underway. • Budget / contract / Admin 	in Xwulqw'selu watershed	workstream <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cowichan Tribes Community guidance table being established 	
	Xwulqw'selu Watershed Planning and future CWB Partnership: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CWB is seeking guidance on current commitments and future roles in the XWP in 2024 • Bilateral meetings with XWP facilitation team • Agenda item at G2G table 	Key areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Coordinate CWB's Koksilah-related comms and engagement activities and plans with XWP G2G. Seek G2G input. B. Financial bundling (admin, engagement, advising); to be reviewed with CWS C. Explore CWB leading the scoping and catalyzing of a XWP workstream focussed on community bylaws and planning that impact water, including tools under both local government and CT jurisdiction. 	G2G table feedback (Jan 24) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Fulsome discussion by G2G partners on CWB comms role and mechanisms to ensure synchronicity with XWP process Protocols to be developed B. Not discussed. C. Fulsome discussion on potential of CWB leading community planning workstream. More work required to scope possibilities around this option before bringing to CWB. 	Decisions/guidance needed at meeting.
Achieving our Targets	Fish Sustainability and Flows - Fish Kill Workshop planning ongoing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conversations with CT, DFO and WLRS technical staff around monitoring, response and comms planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority work. Indications are for another challenging year with limited snowpack • Important to coordinate work with agencies, Cowichan Tribes and ENGO's 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm funding allocation from PSF and initiate contract • Hire and onboard project manager 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposal and budget crafted and distributed to partners and PSF (Funder) 			
	Mapping progress on targets, primarily WQ monitoring, through PSF internship - (Phaedra Douglass)	It will enable local organizations and agencies to join the dots between their work more easily to promote collaboration on future work, and to prioritize where work is needed most.	A map or series of maps will be created by May 31.	
	The Riparian Health working group is developing a pilot project to compare results from different assessment methodologies for assessing riparian health. Kelvin Creek subwatershed has been selected.	This pilot will help the WG define key terms such as 'restored' and 'protected' and will help determine an appropriate riparian assessment area. Following a pilot, the methods can be applied more broadly throughout the watershed.	The WG is meeting with Jeff Anderson who is working on a fish habitat restoration in Kelvin watershed to ensure our work supports one another's work.	
	Support letter for BC Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework	Whether and how BC intends to align its laws, policies and practices with First Nations-led conservation, and in particular with First Nations governance of Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas ("IPCAs") declared by them. The absence of any reference to IPCAs at all is a glaring omission from the Framework.	See Board pkg for draft CWB submission.	See Board pkg for draft CWB submission.

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	Presenting to Cowichan Tribes Council for advice on revising the Fish Target indicators to reflect Indigenous knowledge/goals.	Guidance to do so from Chief Hwitsum to allow for multiple perspectives inputted into the targets.	Heather will prepare a presentation and request a space on the agenda.	
Building Partnerships	Chief Hwitsum & Mayor Staples spoke on CWB's behalf at Island Health's Climate Change Gathering (Jan 24)	Share knowledge with other communities; provide guidance to collaborative governance models / partnerships for Island Health	Island Health presenting at CWB and discussing how to partner moving forward.	
	As above, working on community engagement tools RE Xwulqw'selu with partner organizations.	About 10 organizations are active on Koksilah education/protection. Working to coordinate and support.	Potential for Estuary event with Nature Centre. Coordinate 'Save Water' roadside signs for Low Flow Working Group Potential new koksilah.ca website for general info.	
	Tom participates in POLIS Watershed Governance Session	CWB advice solicited in terms of POLIS role moving forward		
Watershed Knowledge and Understanding	Danni met with Living Lakes	- Continuing the ongoing work to define next steps for collaborative watershed data sharing solutions.	Danni has reached out to Kim Lagimodiere for a meeting.	
	Speakers Series 2024: - VIU Cowichan Campus has renewed our partnership for 2024, contributing their Lecture Hall.	Last speakers night was well attended (60) with many new faces and lots of great questions. No video captured.	Next Speakers Night: Becoming a Friend of the Watershed: the value that every single person has. Slides and Stories with Tim Kulchyski (Cowichan Tribes Biologist) and	Come out on. Jill sent calendar invitations as requested.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Elder Philomena Williams will provide a short teaching / welcome to begin each event. - 2024 - 3 Spring/3 Fall events; 3rd Monday of the month (exception: May 13th due to holiday on 20th). - last Speakers Night: "The Brighter Side of Sustainability" Dec 18th with Gord Baird. MCd by David. Connected to a "Stewardship Stocking Stuffer Pop Up"! 		Barry Hetschko (Photographer/Naturalist/Volunteer)	Board MCs needed for 2024 or share ideas for Guest Speakers.
	Tom (with Danni as a sidekick) ws the featured CSRT speaker on Cowichan Weir and Xwulqw'selu planning process	Continue to raise community awareness and understanding around these two priority initiatives		
Administrative and Other	<p>Applications Submitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UVic Internto "tell the story of WQ sampling through the years" = APPROVED -Updated application submitted to PSF for Fish Kill Workshops = PENDING -Phase II funding submitted for 2024 WQ samping to MoE =PENDING 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -This would both tell the story as well as inform upcoming WQ sampling -This would allow us to pursue these workshops for the next 2-4 years (funding dependent) 	Work with UVIC to hire an intern (May - Aug, 250hrs)	
	Ongoing Governance Manual updates, work planning, and fundraising, as indicated in the draft Impact Plan	Several promising grant invitations for 2024. Building capacity.	Gov Manual will go to Partners for adoption as the foundation of our partnership. Impact Plan will be presented as information to partners.	Review/approve Gov Manual; Draft Impact Plan