

## Staff Report Template - February 2024

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"> <li>Coordinated and onboarded consultant for the project.</li> <li>CVRD contributes BCSRIF funds to lower/mid river project selection process</li> </ul>	Reminder: Cowichan Tribes needs to identify all lower and mid river DMAF funding projects in order to negotiate Contribution agreement to <b>free up federal resources for Cowichan weir</b> (as well as beneficial mid and lower river projects)	NHC retained to model potential projects and provide report to CT technical selection committee	
	Weir - Provincial capital funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CWB Co-Chairs met with Ministers Cullen and Rankin on January 29, 2024.</li> </ul>	Also present: Parliamentary Secretary Fin Donnelly, Deputy Minister Lori Halls and several other Sr. WLRS and MIRR staff present, Rosie Simms, Robert Martin and Tom.  Request for assistance in three specific areas: (1) 14M in partnership funding to leverage Cowichan Tribes 24M Federal IC grant. (2) Agreement and commitment to work to identify options for provincial liability protection for the weir (3) Agreement and commitment to work with Cowichan Tribes on an G2G basis to develop an agreement/arrangement that recognizes shared decision-making interests for water	Chief and Chair sent a follow up letter to Ministers Cullen and Rankin  A meeting is organized with DM Halls for March 1st. Opportunity to press for resources to complete weir, explore options to extend provincial liability protection to partners and work with Cowichan tribes to explore collaborative governance mechanisms	

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		<p>associated with this project</p> <p><u>Outcomes:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minister Cullen informed us that WLRS has an extensive list of requests in for funding to MoF/TB. The Cowichan Weir is #1, top of that list</li> <li>Minister Cullen tasked DM Lori Halls to work with the Cowichan team towards resolving the second two issues.</li> </ul>		
	<p>Xwulqw'selu Watershed Planning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Published newsletter and working on website revision.</li> <li>Creating MoU and Contract Agreements for CWB/XWP partnership</li> <li>Setting up meetings with CVRD and Cowichan Tribes leadership on scoping the new workstream.</li> </ul>	<p>Key areas we offer support to XWP: Communications; Advising and Budget Administration; and considering the scoping of a workstream for healthy community planning.</p>	<p>MoU and Contract Agreements to be reviewed by staff and signatories.</p> <p>Initial scoping meetings with Cowichan Tribes and CVRD to be held in March.</p>	
Achieving our Targets	<p>Fish Sustainability and Flows - Fish Kill Workshop planning ongoing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Budget revisions underway to align with funder requests</li> <li>Staff starting to work on organizing first workshop, for March</li> </ul>	Priority work.	Continued conversations with Pacific Salmon Foundation regarding level of funding but initial funds to begin the work have been pre-approved.	

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	Water Quality target - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Met with UVic coordinator regarding applications for intern position</li> </ul>	This intern will create a single report that synthesizes nearly 30 years of sampling to tell the story of changing water quality, informing actions that can be taken to improve water quality	Intern selected, awaiting confirmation of acceptance.	
	Selection of water quality sampling locations of Upper Cowichan River is underway	Many different locations have been sampled over the years and staff is looking at which will contribute best to our understanding of water quality in the watershed	Sampling parameters will be examined next and refined to best represent the target and indicators	
Building Partnerships	Met with Aquahacking and Foresight	Discussion regarding possible collaborations with a particular focus on support for the Fish Kill work.	Sent Fish Kill application for review and awaiting their input regarding how they could contribute to the work.	
	Met with Larry/Tim regarding funding partnerships with Cowichan Tribes: what is needed, how funds could flow to support our shared work.	Creating an MoU with Finance and working with Larry as to shared funding applications.	Hopefully an outcome of deeper partnership (projects and fiscal) and enhanced funding for both organizations.	
	Supporting Koksilah Low Flow Working Group communications - sign project, beginning to plan public meeting for spring.  One:one discussions with concerned residents - farmers, stewardship volunteers, etc.	Projections of drought this summer combined with Provincial implementation of groundwater licensing is grounds for stress in agriculture community and beyond. Looking for support. More attention needed.	KLFWG members may collaborate to seek collective communications support to handle summer drought communications better.	

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	Letters of support provided to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Genevieve Singleton and the Land Trust - continue salmon walks.</li> <li>• Letter of support provided for Somenos Marsh Society for tackling invasive aquatic plant: Parrot's Feather</li> </ul>	Priority work.	Awaiting news of successful applications.	
	Beginning work to support the CLRSS' new annual Water Festival (July) and the Stewardship Roundtable's River Day (September).	Priority work.	Provide support in the leadup to these events.	
Watershed Knowledge and Understanding	Speakers Series 2024: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VIU Cowichan Campus - Elder Philomena Williams will provide a short teaching / welcome to begin each event.</li> <li>• 2024 - 3 Spring/3 Fall events; 3rd Monday of the month (exception: May 13th due to holiday on 20th).</li> </ul>	Priority work.	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 Barry Hetschko (Photographer/Naturalist/Volunteer )	Board MCs needed for 2024 or share ideas for Guest Speakers.
Administrative and Other	Finalized Draft Governance Manual; Finalized Draft Impact Plan; Drafted Annual Report.	Priority work.	Gov Manual will go to Partners for adoption as the foundation of our partnership. Impact Plan and Annual Report will be presented as information to partners.	Review/approve Gov Manual; Review/approve Draft Impact Plan; Review/approve Annual Report