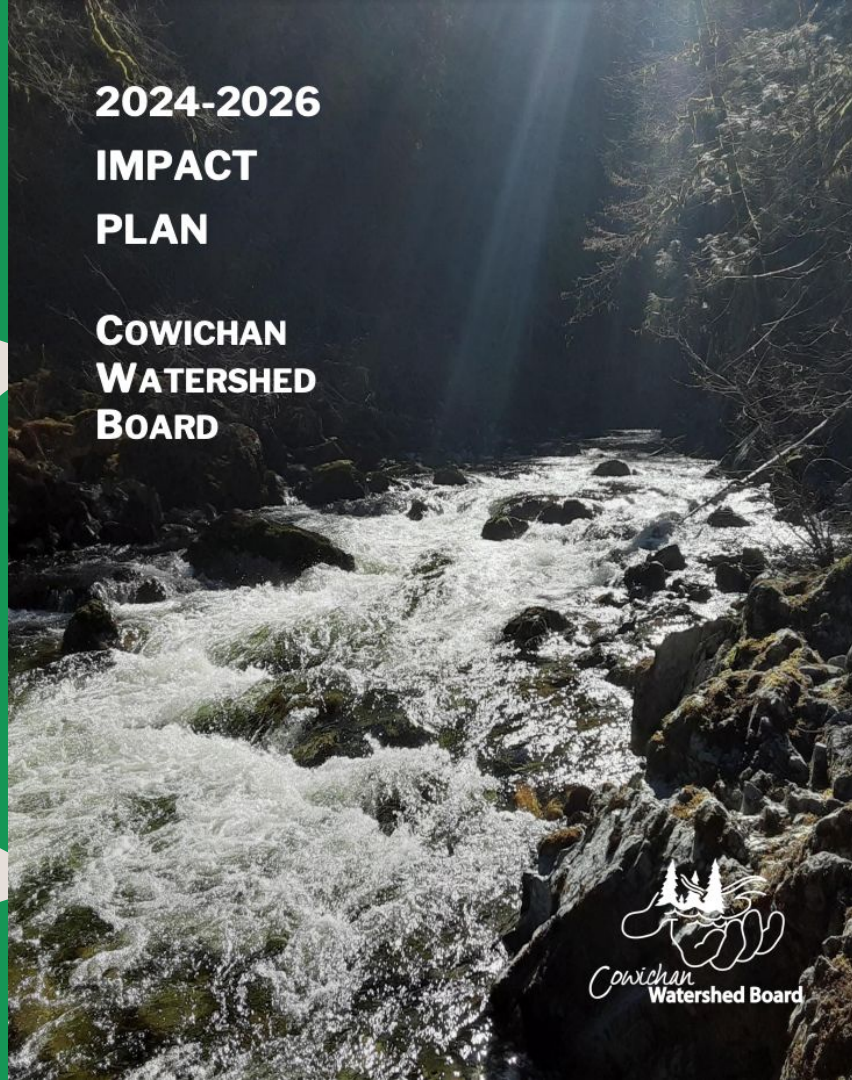


Current Priorities of the Cowichan Watershed Board

**2024-2026
IMPACT
PLAN**

**COWICHAN
WATERSHED
BOARD**



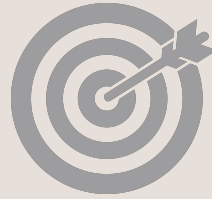
The Cowichan watershed board

will continue to lead, support, and maintain momentum on key areas of impact:



Just Add Water

Working towards solutions to low flows in the Xwulqw'selu (Koksilah) and Quw'utsun (Cowichan) Rivers



Achieving our Targets

Facilitating collaboration and action on the Cowichan Watershed Board Targets for Healthy Watersheds.



Building Partnerships & Watershed Knowledge and Understanding

Supporting co-leadership of CWB, collaboration, public engagement and sharing watershed information.

3.5.1 Roles & Responsibilities of the CWB

The CWB will hold the following roles and responsibilities, to

- be:
- 1 A Leader
 - 2 A Convenor/coordinator
 - 3 An Actor
 - 4 A Communicator/educator
 - 5 An Administrator



Sharing of 2030 vision for CWB:

6 years from now we will be sitting down together, around this table, continuing to deepen our relationships, work through difficulties, share in celebrations and continue our journey of caring for our watershed. Perhaps, rather than our usual breakfast of muffins and coffee we are going to enjoy a hot breakfast together – mixing up some omelets with some of Jill’s amazing eggs and some freshly caught shellfish from Cowichan Bay.

We will invite our only recently actually retired Strategic Priorities Director to reminisce about “the old days” when the weir hadn’t yet been built and the XWP was not yet actioned. He will provide his wisdom to all the young Indigenous and non-Indigenous staff and students.

We will have built staff capacity by creating an inclusive environment where diverse talents are embraced, and mentorship flourishes, empowering individuals to achieve their fullest potential and collectively drive innovation and impactful contributions to our watershed, the CWB and the community.

All of you Board members will be busy, working in your respective organizations and with your authorities to drive forward decisions made at the Board. The Board is nimble and able to respond to the unexpected and by fostering a culture of collaboration, with a focus on family(esque) relationships, we will continue to have a diverse and engaged board that values relationships, embodies innovation and is held up as a source of pride for our community and inspiration around the Province.

And in 2030, our watershed community will be more connected and less divided. The CWB will have worked and be working hard to foster healing, understanding, and collaboration within the watershed, honoring Indigenous knowledge and perspectives, promoting equity and inclusion, and working together to restore harmony between people and the land for a sustainable and resilient future. The result being that the Cowichan people can carry out their cultural practices and all the people of the Cowichan Valley understand and value that their well-being is interconnected with the well-being of their watershed. Living the principle of Mukw' stem 'o' shilhukw'tul, everything is interconnected.

We will have healthier wild, and diverse fish populations in the Cowichan-Koksilah watershed.

With our new Weir, built in 2028, and our collective backup system developed at our fish kill workshops back in 2024, seasonal flows on the Cowichan river support the needs of communities and aquatic ecosystems. And the new Watershed Sustainability Plan is doing the same within the koksilah watershed.

We have made strides, through our heavily engaged WGs, to protect and restore fully functioning streamside, lakefront, wetland, and estuary habitats and have been part of a large community voice that has ensured that in the Cowichan, selective logging (informed by the Cowichan teaching - Stl'at'lum stuhw tun kwunmun - taking only what you need) is the norm.

Lastly, In 2030, we will have a robust way to share data amongst our community to enhance our understanding and knowledge of the watershed and make decisions effectively and efficiently to ensure we have fish friendly, swimmable, and drinkable water in our watersheds.

That is our vision!

DRAFT