

# Cowichan Watershed Board February 27, 2017

Everything you always wanted to know  
about the CWB....

Strategic Planning on the fly!



# The next 45 minutes...

- Reporting back on conversations with CWB members – “The Questions...”
- “Take Aways” and minor profundities...
- Key Elements of a Strategic Plan
- Discussion !
- Next Steps...
- (Who won the Prize?)

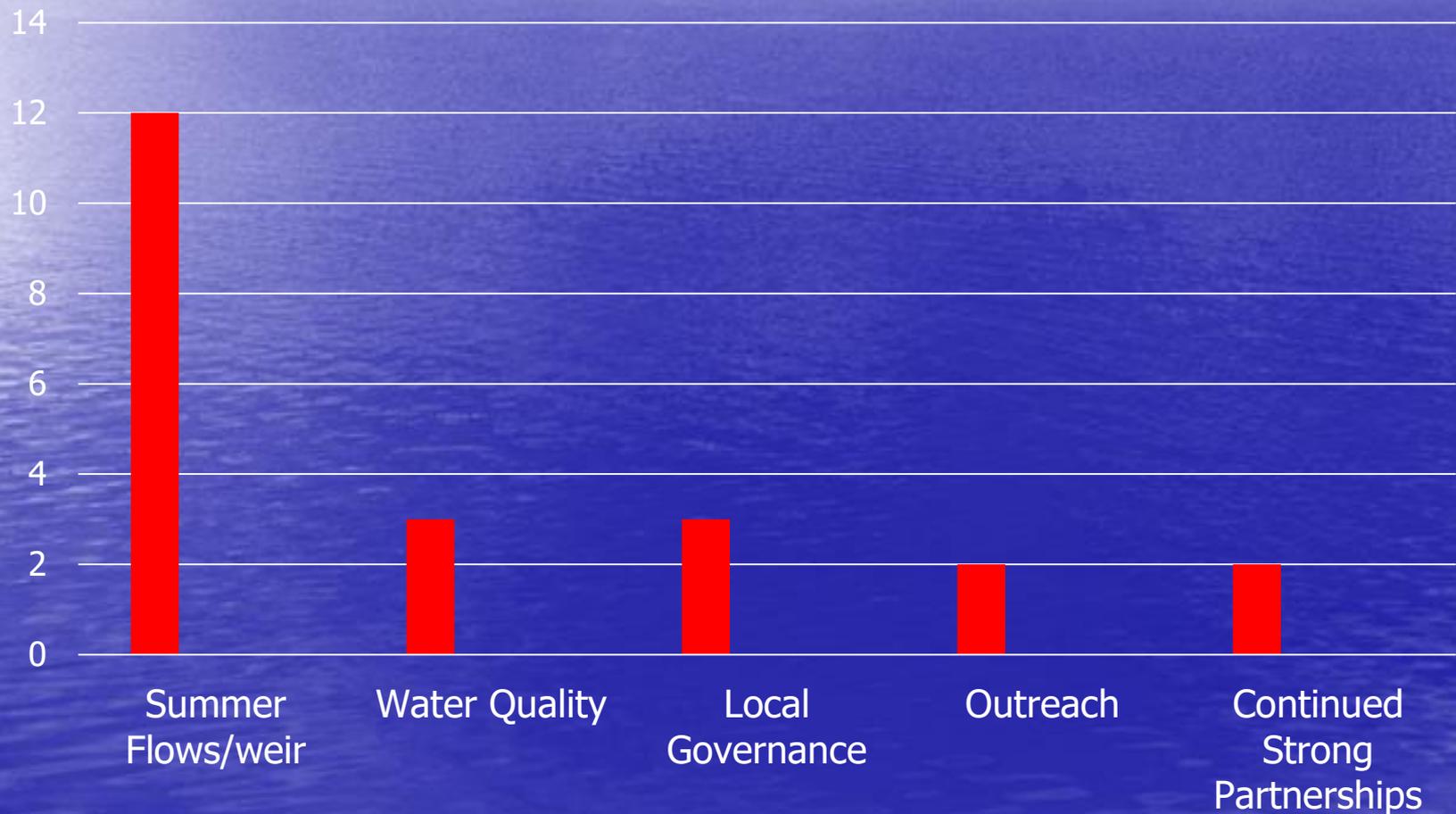


# The Questions...

1. What do you think should be the 2 priority items in the Cowichan Watershed Board's workplan moving forward?
2. What CWB accomplishment to date are you most proud of?
3. What motivated you to become a board member? Are you getting satisfaction from your involvement? Is there anything you would like to be more involved in?
4. What is your major concern about, (or threat to the effectiveness of) the board at this time?
5. What opportunities exist for the board to fulfill its mandate that we are currently not exploring
6. What do you feel the role of the CWB coordinator should be in order to be most effective in furthering the interests of the board?

# What do you think should be the 2 priority items in the Cowichan Watershed Board's workplan moving forward?

Priorities – 20 Total Responses



# Priorities – what does it mean?

- Outcome

- Clear direction that providing adequate flows should be our major focus moving forward
- Other “Priorities” quite focused:
  - Water Quality
  - Local Governance
  - Outreach and Education
  - Strong Partnerships

- Words of Wisdom

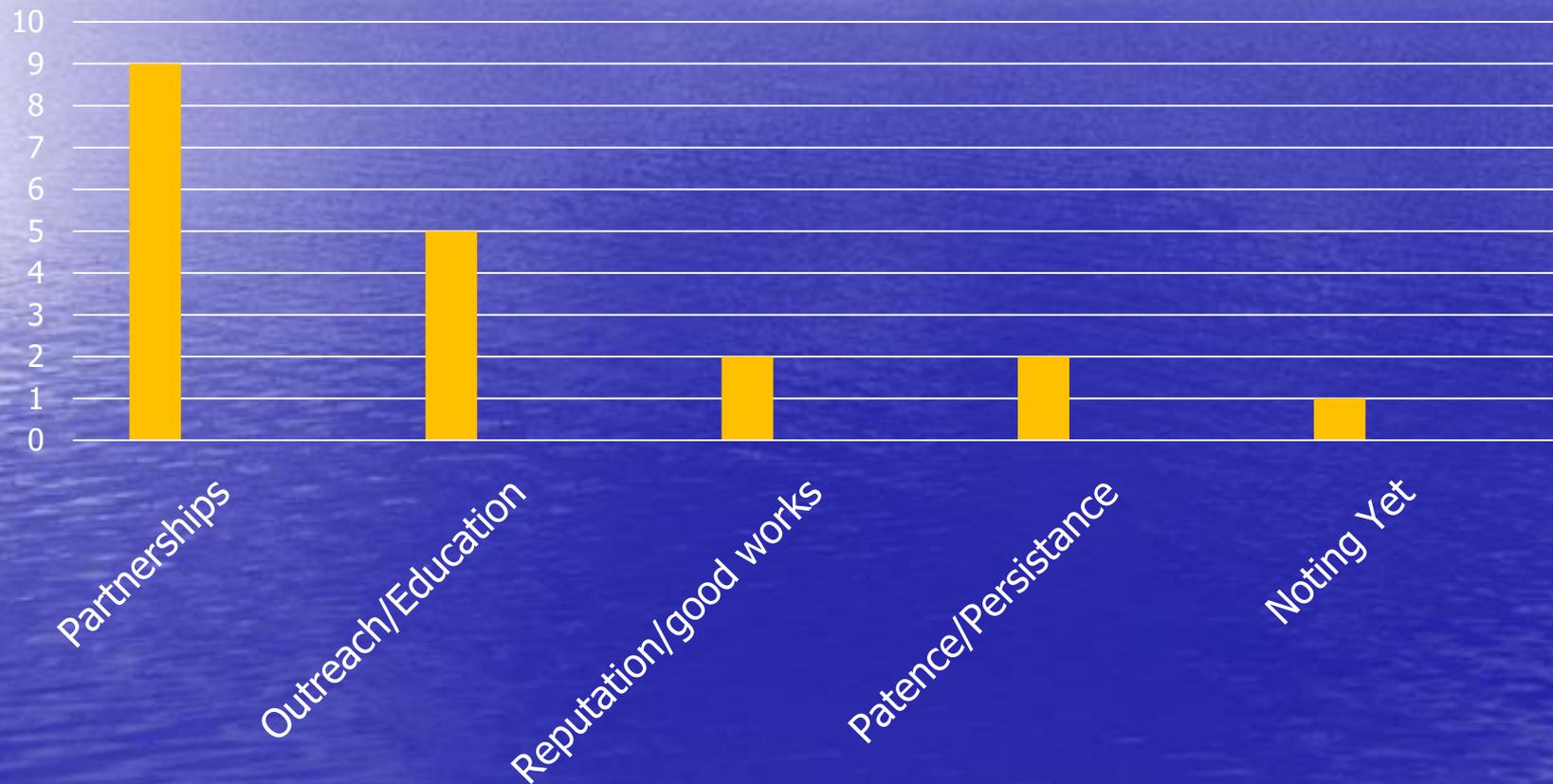
- *The watershed Board’s job is to serve the community – to “make things right” for the river and the people who live here. D.G.*

- Bottom Line

- Addressing the storage issue is heavy lifting but an agreed upon priority – Partners need a strategic plan for moving forward

# What CWB accomplishment to date are you most proud of?

**Most Proud of...**  
19 Responses



# Pride in our work.....

- Outcome
  - Strong indication (approx.  $\frac{3}{4}$  of responses) indicate that the partnerships we have forged and the work we have done in providing accurate and accessible information to our communities about our water and watershed are our crowning achievements.
- Other sources of pride quite focused:
  - Pride in our good works, reputation, patience, persistence
  - “Nothing” response indicates frustration in lack of progress on weir
- Words of Wisdom
  - *Our (education/awareness) campaigns turn people around so they want to work with us to do the right thing for our watershed rather than oppose us. C.S.*
- Bottom Line
  - The internal Partnerships we have formed have allowed us to work together towards a common goal of watershed and community health. They are unique and important and must be maintained
  - We need to continue to work hard to reach out to external partners to realize our goals....

# What motivated you to become a board member?

Why are You Involved?  
19 Responses

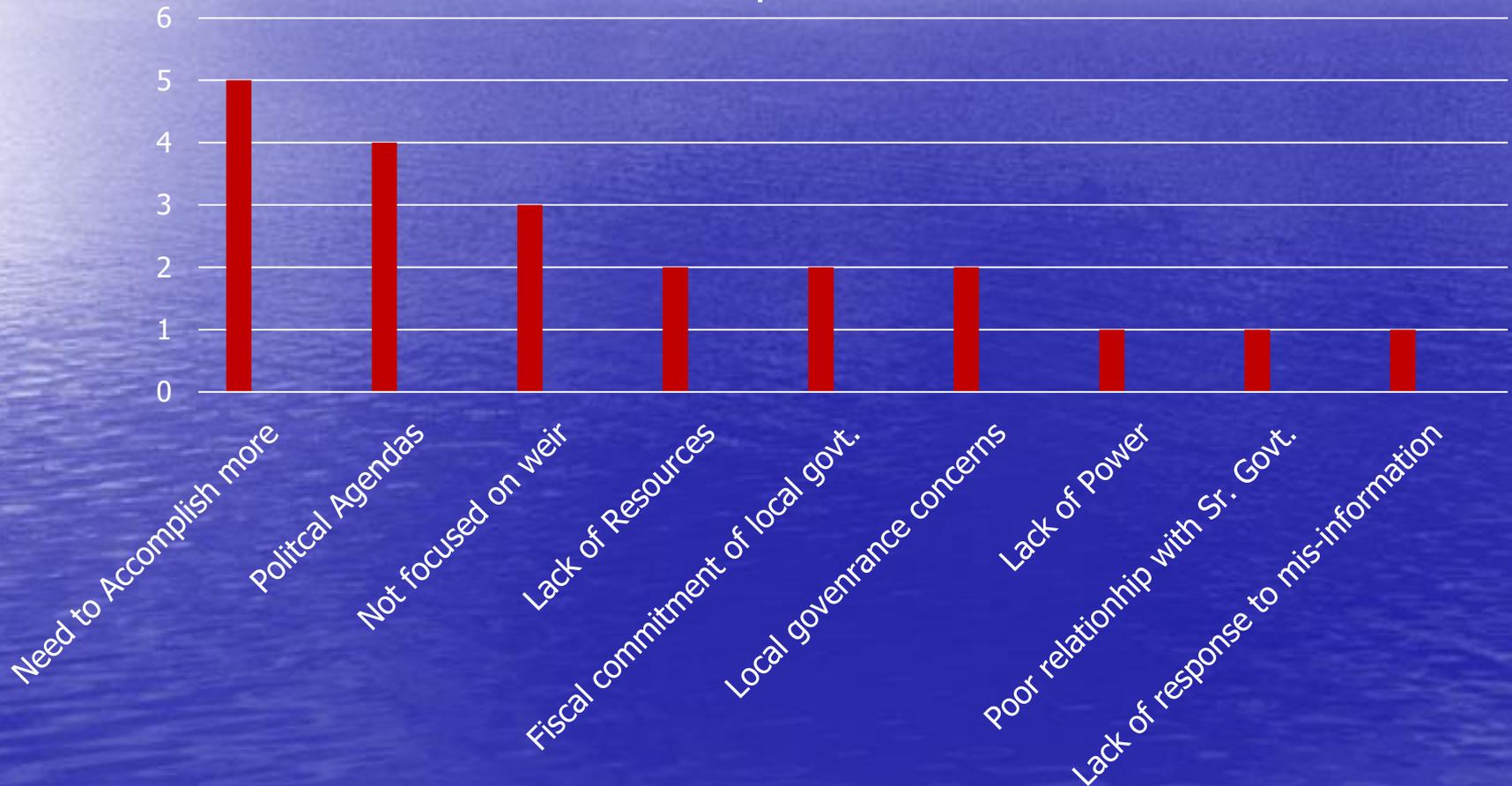


# Reason for Involvement?

- Outcome
  - All of you are busy
  - Your involvement is based on a sense of responsibility, concern for the river and desire to be involved in something that is well positioned to make a difference.....
  - Again the value of the partnerships involved in our Board is highlighted
- Words of Wisdom
  - • *I get a sense of satisfaction collaborating with other individuals that also care deeply about the River and environment/water issues in our valley. D.F.*
- Bottom Line
  - Every board member expressed a level of satisfaction with their involvement
  - Every board member expressed a desire to remain involved and double down on effort
  - We have a sense of purpose.....

# What is your major concern about, (or threat to the effectiveness of) the board at this time?

Major Concerns...  
21 responses



# Major Concerns?

- Outcome

- “Need to accomplish more” not totally relating to weir (but mostly)! Combined with “not focused enough on weir” – about half responses express concerns with progress on weir.
- Some concerns about confused political agendas (mostly expressed by politicians...)
- Conflicting views about power and money

- Words of wisdom

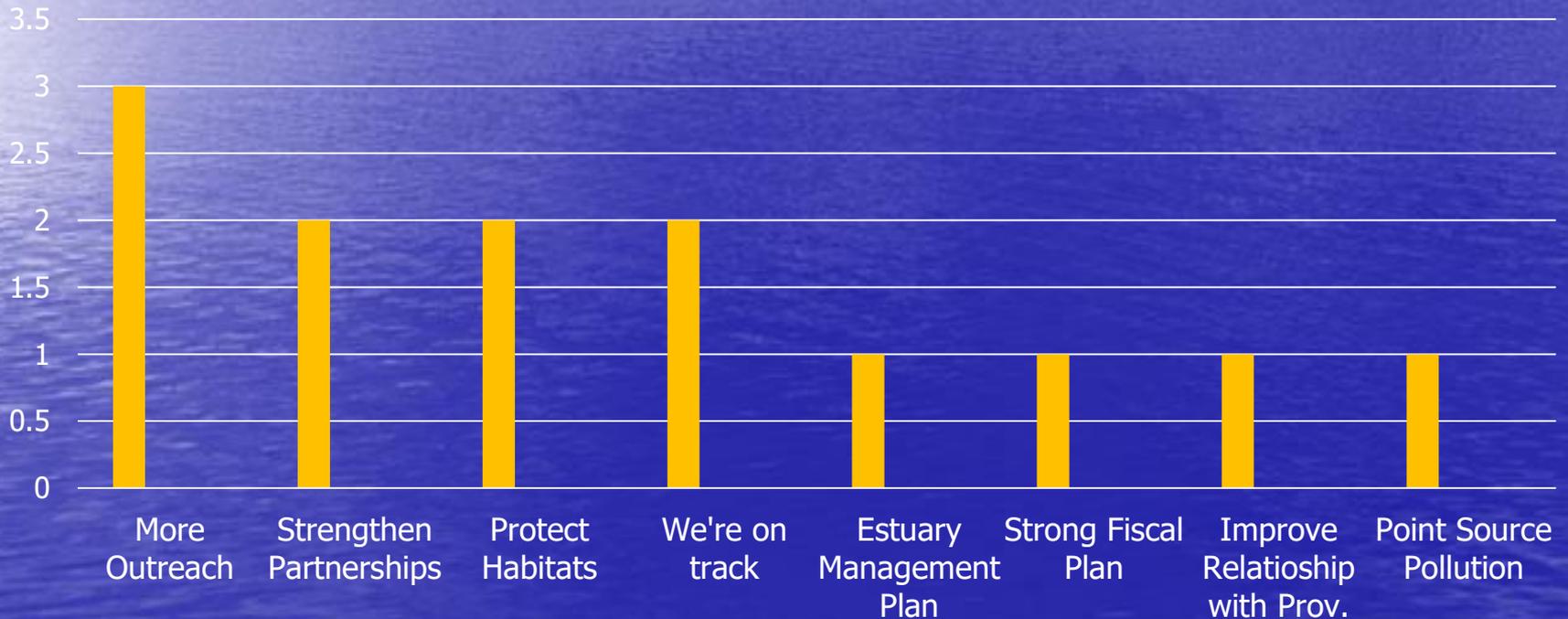
- *We are dealing with complex issues that will take time to address properly. I have a concern that members will get impatient and lose interest due to apparent lack of progress. The issues we are dealing with are too important to allow that to happen... T.K*

- Bottom Line

- See “Priorities” We need a strategic plan outlining how we can be more effective in moving forward with the weir
- Need to address our “political agenda” issues – What is the role of a CWB member?

# What opportunities exist for the board to fulfill its mandate that we are currently not exploring

## Opportunities... 13 Responses

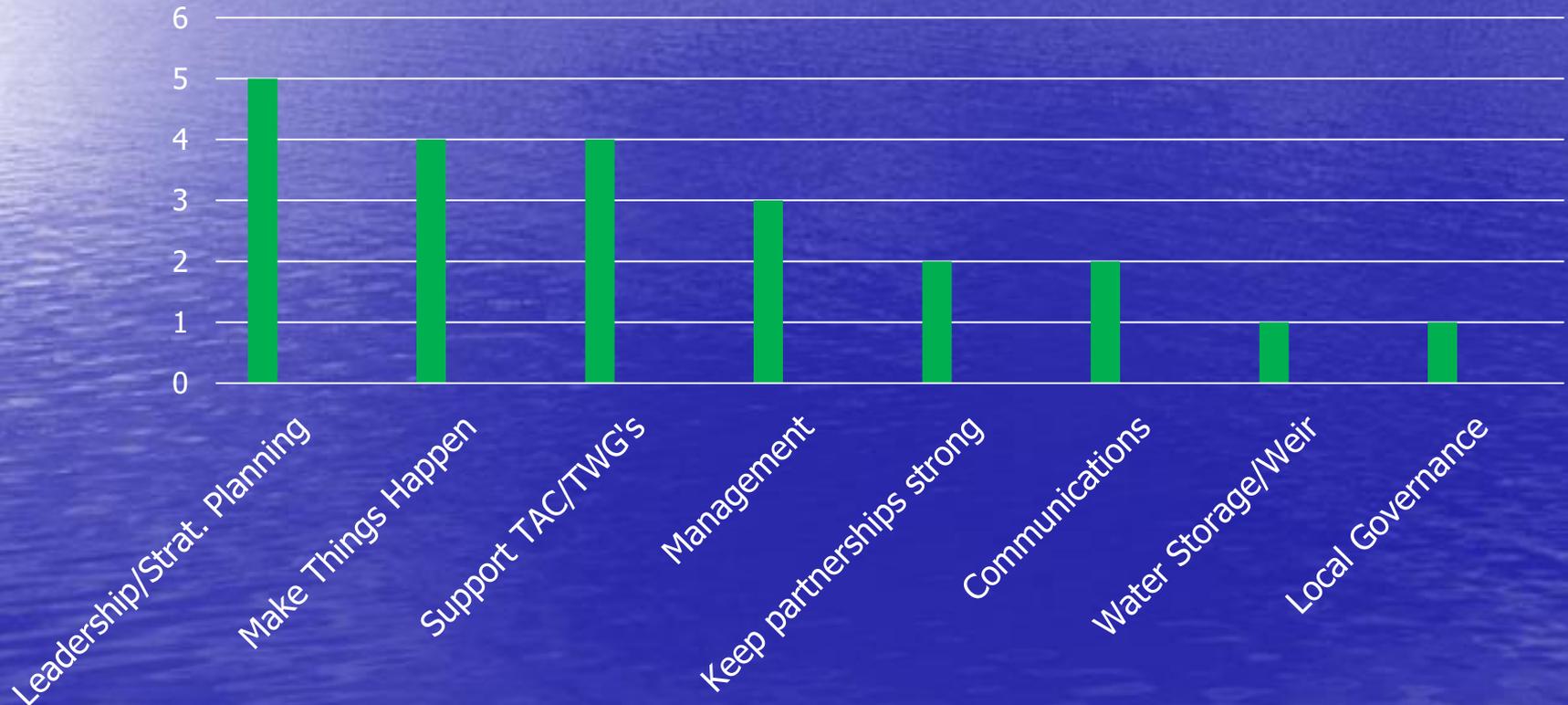


# Opportunities for Engagement

- Outcome
  - Over half respondents either stay the course or push hard with outreach and partnerships – things we already do well
  - Variety of other answers – only one provided by more than one respondent is “protect habitat”
- Words of wisdom
  - • *I’m responsible to the river. The board should represent the river. The River is our constituency D.F.*
- Bottom Line
  - Although some good suggestions – no strong messaging around things we should be doing that are higher in priority to those we are already engaged in.
  - To date Board members seem to be satisfied with our areas of engagement....

# What do you feel the role of the CWB coordinator should be in order to be most effective in furthering the interests of the board?

Role of Executive Director  
22 responses



# Role of Executive Director

- Outcome
  - Over two thirds responses calling for “leadership, strategic planning, making things happen and support to technical work”
  - Also mentions of emphasis on supporting partnerships, communication, local governance and water storage
- Words of wisdom
  - *You should be focussing on Leadership and implementation. Your role is to identify the goal posts and carry the ball towards those goalposts – and to drag as many people as possible along with you...! D.S.*
- Bottom Line
  - My sense is the board is looking to me to keep the ship sailing in the right direction – clearly define (and concentrate on) key priorities, keep things moving, have a clear emphasis on technical excellence, keep the board informed and engaged, and seek direction from board members on key policy issues.

# Take Away's and minor Profundities...

- Three things we're doing right....
- **Our partnership approach**
  - Internally – meaningful partnership between Cowichan Tribes, CVRD, DFO and other participants
  - Externally – CWB seeks to engage a variety of partners to work towards our goal of a healthy river and a healthy watershed
- **Our work towards providing for more storage for adequate summer and fall flows.**
  - Although there are some concerns that we're not moving fast enough
- **Our outreach and education work**
  - An informed community makes informed decisions about the watershed they live in.

## Take Away's (cont.)

- Three things we have to improve upon
- We need to make meaningful progress in addressing flow issues on the Cowichan River
- We need to keep building and maintaining the partnerships that give the board it's strength. We need to clearly define our relationship with our key partners – Cowichan Tribes and CVRD – and with senior levels of government.
- We need to build and maintain the capacity to deliver on our core mandate – without “building and empire” just for the sake of doing so....

# Where do we need to get organized...?

- Water Storage
- Partnerships & Relationships
- Capacity to deliver



# Water storage.....

- Identify the ask – how much water do we need
  - Flow schedule over time to address ecological, cultural, industry, agricultural, recreational needs. This process needs to be science based and defensible.
  - Model required flow regime to find needed storage and associated weir ht.
- License
  - Who will hold the license and assume the associated liability
  - Extensive process associated with application
- Funding
  - Involved partners need strategic approach to accessing the considerable funds required to complete the work
- Implementation.....

# Partnerships & Relationships

- Strengthen and enhance the relationship between our two key contributing partners – Cowichan Tribes and CVRD. This is what the future of water stewardship in BC looks like...
- Continue to strengthen relationships with Province of BC and work together to develop tools under the WSA that will benefit the Cowichan watershed
- Develop stronger operational coordination between board and key partners (Cowichan Tribes and CVRD) and external partners (Catalyst, Timberwest, etc.)
- More clearly define role of Cowichan Watershed Board in the complex socio-political landscape of BC in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

# Capacity to deliver...

- Our effectiveness is based on a strong foundation of technical work – of “getting things done”
- The CWB can provide a leadership and supportive role to the complex stewardship community in the Cowichan Valley that has been so effective in delivering solid technical programming on the ground.
- With our key partners, very important that we continue to deliver on our targets - on implementing the CBWMP
- This needs to continue to be a priority for the CWB

# So...Key Elements of our strategic plan moving forward

- Water Storage
- CWB role in local governance
  - Province of BC
  - CVRD
  - Cowichan Tribes
  - Govt. of Canada
- Strong technical programming to fulfill our mandate



# Who won the contest?

- Which of the questions was there the most consensus on?
  - Question 1 – Priorities for the board
- Which of the questions was there the most variation in responses?
  - Question 5 – What should we be doing that we're not?
- And the winner is.....
- Rosalie!!!!

# Questions, Comments, Discussion...

