



Cowichan Watershed Board

Real Estate Foundation of BC
660-355 Burrard Street
Vancouver, BC V6C 2G8

March 7, 2016

Dear Review Committee

RE: Local Watershed Management Through Ecosystem-Based Planning

On behalf of the Cowichan Watershed Board, please accept this letter of support for the Cowichan Station Area Association's project "Local Watershed Management Through Ecosystem-Based Planning".

The Cowichan Watershed Board is co-Chaired by Chief William Seymour of Cowichan Tribes, and Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) Board Chair, Jon Lefebure. In 2013 the Cowichan Watershed Board gratefully received funding from the Real Estate Foundation of BC to undertake a local watershed governance pilot in anticipation of new legislation (the Water Sustainability Act) that would enable more local influence and authority for water management. Where this pilot is building the social capacity for local governance in the Cowichan and Koksilah watersheds, we believe the project proposed by the Cowichan Station Area Association will help contribute necessary technical information to assist with watershed planning which is a necessary precursor to effective water management. Little to no written information currently exists on the state of the Koksilah River Watershed, an important information gap that needs to be addressed.

Further, this project supports the Cowichan Watershed Board's publicly supported goal of restoring shellfish harvesting in Cowichan Bay by the year 2020. The health of the Koksilah River watershed is critical to meeting this goal, as contaminants in the river are closely linked to the closure of shellfish harvesting in this area for the past 30 years.

We will work with the Cowichan Station Area Association in project planning and sharing project outcomes with the broader community, enriching the case study for local watershed governance that we are developing. Please feel free to contact us should you have any questions regarding our support for this project.

Sincerely,

Chief William Seymour, Cowichan Tribes
Cowichan Watershed Board Co-Chair

Mayor Jon Lefebure Chair of CVRD
Cowichan Watershed Board Co-Chair