

Cowichan Watershed Society

# DRAFT WORK PLAN

2017

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# DRAFT 2017 Work plan – Cowichan Watershed Society

## Priorities

1. Green = highest immediate priority – funding secured
2. Orange = medium priority – if funding secured
3. Pink = lower priority OR unfunded

## Funding Sources

OPS = Operations Budget contributed by the CVRD and Cowichan Tribes

REFBC = Grant 2014-2018 from the Real Estate Foundation of BC for local governance readiness

Legacy Fund = Grant(s) from BC Freshwater Legacy Fund for local governance work

Sustainable Funding for Watershed Governance Initiative = Grant(s) to explore sustainable funding mechanisms for local water(shed) governance

Eco Action = grants from Environment Canada for citizen engagement on climate (water quality, quantity)

Summer Jobs = partial grants for summer students from Government of Canada (cover min. wage only)

Sponsors = local business donors and sponsorships

## Staff

Tom = Tom Rutherford, Executive Director

Jill = Jill Thompson, Community Engagement Coordinator, Board Assistant

## 1) General Operations

	Target/ Project	Activities	Lead	Timeframes (2017)	Source of Funds
<b>GENERAL OPERATIONS</b>					
1	Board Coordination and Support	Organize and/or serve as a resource for Board/Society/Technical Advisory Committee, selected Working Groups and related meetings	Tom / Jill	Ongoing	OPS
1		Liaise with Board/TAC members, Special Advisors/Government staff/and stakeholders in the interests of the CWB			
1		Review policy documents relevant to the watershed and prepare briefings materials, position papers, letters of support, speaking notes etc.			
1	Financial Mgmt	Monitor/manage budget			
1		Pursue funding for ops and projects			
1	TAC and Working Group Coordination	Implement 5 year review of targets			
1		Support and coordinate Target Working Groups			
1	Build and Support	Maintain relationships with stakeholders			

	Target/ Project	Activities	Lead	Timeframes (2017)	Source of Funds
	Partnerships	–particularly stewardship groups within the watershed			
2		Attend Agricultural Commission, Stewardship Roundtable, Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship etc. meetings as time permits.			
3	Other	Other initiatives as opportunities arise and based on Board direction and available funds.			
3		Pursue opportunities that may benefit the CWB and or the watershed			
<b>COMMUNICATIONS – Building Organizational Profile and community engagement</b>					
1	Digital Presence	Website improvements	Jill, Arthur Caldicott	Ongoing	REFBC
1		Facebook presence – CWB, Water Woman, partner sites.	Jill	Ongoing	OPS, Legacy Fund (Pending)
1	Media	Periodic articles, E-Newsletter, radio interviews	Jill, Tom, comms contract or	Ongoing	OPS, Legacy Fund (Pending)
2	Community Engagement Events	River Cleanup- Participation in Upper River cleanup and participation, support organization and promotion in the Lower River Clean Up with CLRSS and Cowichan Tribes	Jill	August	Sponsors

## 2) Local Governance

	Target/Project	Activities	Lead	Timeframes (2017)	Source of Funds
<b>LOCAL GOVERNANCE</b>					
2	CWB Organizational Structure	Work with Key partners to more clearly define relationship between CWB, CVRD and Cowichan Tribes and role of CWB in local water(shed) governance moving forward	Tom	Ongoing	Legacy Fund (pending)
2	BC Water Sustainability Act Tools and Initiatives	Work with Province of BC to explore advisory function, critical flows and drought management as defined under the WSA	Tom, Board Committee, Flows Working Group	April-Dec.	Legacy Fund (Pending)
1	Sustainable	Explore mechanisms for accessing	Cowichan	Ongoing	SFWGI

	Target/Project	Activities	Lead	Timeframes (2017)	Source of Funds
	Watershed Governance Funding	sustainable funding for local water and watershed governance in the Cowichan valley	Team(L. George, B. Carruthers, D. Slade, Tom, Jill		
2	Communications	Communications support for Local Governance	Jill	Ongoing	Legacy Fund (Pending)

### 3) Technical Working Groups

	Target/Project	Activities	Lead	Timeframes (2017)	Source of Funds
	<b>FLOW TARGET</b>				
1	Target - Successfully Increase the Probability of Adequate Summer Flows in the Cowichan River	Work with primary partners (Cowichan Tribes, CVRD, Catalyst Paper) to develop and implement strategic plan to increase storage capacity in Cowichan Lake	Tom Partners/ fish-flows WG/ Possible contract	March-Dec.	OPS/ REFBC
1		Structured decision making process to develop science based target and minimum fish flows	Fish-flows WG	Jan.-Apr.	OPS/ REFBC /DFO /CVRD
1		Broadly scoped SD process to define Cowichan flow targets for cultural, recreational, agricultural and industrial interests	CVRD	March-Oct.	Clean Water/ Waste Water Fund - Pending
1		Build knowledge base and support among community stakeholders	Tom, Jill, Contract	To March 2018	REFBC
1		Public communications regarding drought management. Monitoring and reporting to public and province	Tom/Jill/ Fish-flows WG	To March 2018	REFBC
2	Project - Building Knowledge re implications of climate change and land use management on health of lake and river	Organize Working forest tour for community leaders and decision makers to increase knowledge of current practices and continued dialogue around land use in the Cowichan Valley	Tom/ Riparian WG	Jan-June	REFBC
	Ad Hoc flows committee	Represent CWB perspective on weekly Catalyst Ad Hoc Flow calls	Tom	April-Nov.	OPS/ REFBC
	Project - Cowichan Watershed Water	Assist in identifying remaining knowledge gaps regarding		Based on assessment	

	Budget and relationships between Surface and Ground water	groundwater and groundwater/surface water issues.		of current project	Seek funds as appropriate.
<b>WATER QUALITY /PUBLIC HEALTH/SHELLFISH TARGETS</b>					
1	Surface Water Quality Monitoring 2016-2018	Ongoing collaboration with others regarding continued standard monitoring of key sites: Koksilah River, Cowichan Bay bench and Cowichan River/Fish Gut alley; marine – e-coli sampling; spot checking farms; microbial source tracking at freshwater and marine sites  Outreach to farming community – livestock producers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• communication materials</li> <li>• Farm visits/workshops</li> </ul>	Water Quality WG MOE CCLT	To March 2018	REFBC
2	Cowichan Bay Vessel Operators Restriction Implementation	Ongoing collaboration to fully implement VORR in Cowichan Bay to protect sensitive habitats Fund raise, purchase and install buoys Outreach education initiative Compliance program (CT, DFO, RCMP)	Water Quality/ Est. Health WG	March-Dec.	OPS/ Partner Funding
2	Clam Garden	Planning for clam garden pilot in Cowichan Bay Funding Tech support Site survey Traditional Knowledge Eng/feasibility Permitting	Water Quality Est. Health WG	Ongoing	OPS/ Partner Funding
3	Groundwater Quality Monitoring	Collaborate with others and assess results of completed study coordinated by MFLNRO, identify ongoing monitoring requirements and help seek funds as appropriate.	Tom	Ongoing	Seek funds as appropriate.
<b>RIPARIAN TARGETS</b>					
1	Restore 10% of impacted shoreline habitat by 2021	Continue to work with Riparian WG to coordinate and support Riparian restoration works including Prioritization (restoration & acquisition) Standardized Monitoring Development of riparian outreach/Education messaging Inventory of current riparian habitats, issues and opportunities Invasive Plant Issues and Strategies	Riparian WG	Ongoing	OPS/ various funding partners
2	Formal protection of 50% of remaining shoreline	Continue to work with local Stewardship Groups, the CVRD, Cowichan Tribes and	Tom	Ongoing until acquired	OPS

		national/provincial scale conservation organizations to acquire the Shaw Creek Properties			
3		Work with Working Group to set priorities for acquisition or alternate forms of protection	Riparian WG	Ongoing	OPS
3		Meet with TimberWest senior management to discuss targets and possible mutually beneficial means of formally protecting riparian habitats.	Tom	After forestry tour	OPS
<b>FISH SUSTAINABILITY TARGET</b>					
2	Chinook	Support Chinook restoration initiative and development of Chinook target utilizing the Flows and Fish Working Group as a forum.	Fish-flows WG	January - Ongoing	OPS
3	Steelhead	Encourage MOE/BCCF to monitor and report status to Board. Prepare letters of support for BCCF as required.	Fish-flows WG	Ongoing	OPS
<b>WATER CONSERVATION TARGET</b>					
2	Residential Water Conservation Challenge 2014-2018	Water Challenge reporting and analysis, and public announcement of results	Jill, David S., Water Suppliers	Ongoing	OPS, EcoAction Pending
2	Encourage water conservation by major water users	Organize attend meeting with Catalyst Management to continue discussion on water conservation within its operations – (and how to assist with getting conservation initiative messaging out) as well as strategic planning related to increased storage	Tom, Jill, David	May	OPS
3	Public Engagement	Water conservation and awareness outreach program, educational workshops.	Jill, youth	May – Sept	Sponsors Summer Jobs, EcoAction
<b>WATERSHED EDUCATION/IQ</b>					
1	Coordination and gap analysis	Working Group to carry out gap analysis to determine potential areas of engagement required to meet Watershed IQ targets	Watershed IQ working group	May – Dec	OPS
2	Speaker Series	Organize/promote Watershed Speaker Series With VIU	Jill, Tom	9 months / yr	REFBC, Sponsors
3	Watershed Field Trips		Tom	Ongoing as funding permits	Currently unfunded
2	Door to Door Survey	Analysis of water knowledge survey	Jill, contractor	Feb-April	REFBC