

# TIMELINE: Inception & Development of the Cowichan Watershed Board

1991

Concerns about declining water flows in Cowichan River during Summer and Fall. DFO/MOELP propose to raise Norske Canada Ltd. Weir at Lake Cowichan by 57 cm.

2003

Significant drought event, ecological and economic values at risk. First instance of trucking spawning Chinook salmon upstream.

First Nations, industry, all levels of government come together for first time to seek solutions to water supply issues.

2004

Cowichan Basin water planning process initiated. Need for overarching water management plan acknowledged and resourced by five watershed partners. Three year public planning process ensues.

2007

Weekly ad hoc water planning calls initiated during control period (April–October inclusive). Catalyst Paper involves community partners in dialogue over in-season water management decisions.

CWB's foundational Cowichan Basin Water Management Plan (CBWMP) document completed.

2012

Cowichan watershed targets created and endorsed by CWB. Broad scope targets are accessible, mutually supportive, reflect actions of CBWM, and become a delivery mechanism for CBWMP.

CWB expands Lake Cowichan community's Cowichan River Cleanup downstream, adding a Lower River Cleanup in Duncan that becomes CWB's signature public involvement and community engagement event.

Major collaborative initiative results in the Cowichan Bay Vessel Operation Restriction Regulation being passed to protect Cowichan Bay's sensitive Eelgrass habitats permanently.

2011

CWB Technical Advisory Committee struck. Technical experts from First Nations, all levels of government, industry and ENGO's provide technical support and advice to CWB.

2010

Cowichan Watershed Board (CWB) formed. Watershed partners come together to fund Coordinator to form CWB. Board co-chaired by Chief, Cowichan Tribes and Chair, CVRD.

2008

CBWMP wins First Place in the Comprehensive Policy and Plans category, Planning Institute of B.C.

2013

Group Environmental Farm Plan targeting nutrient management is the result of a partnership with agriculture to address high E. coli levels revealed by attainment sampling.

2014

Cowichan Water Conservation Challenge begins as a partnership with local water purveyors targeting domestic water conservation for five years.

2016

CWB creates and delivers formal proposal to engage with Province of B.C. to develop Water Sustainability Act tools as a pilot project in the Cowichan Valley.

CWB brings academics, community, and industry together for the Forest Hydrology Workshop to discuss impacts of forestry on hydrology.

2012/  
2013

Partnership with MOE, CVRD and community organizations results in comprehensive, watershed-scale, water quality attainment sampling program over two year period.

2018

Co-Governance Conversations workshop triggers extensive changes to CWB Governance Manual to include a robust recognition statement in both Hul'qumi'num and English, and the adoption of the principle of Nutsamat kws yaay'us tth qa': working together as one on water issues.

2017/  
2018

CWB, Cowichan Tribes and CVRD engage in Co-Governance Conversations Workshop Series to strengthen partnership.

Cowichan Water Use Planning process reaches consensus on 70cm increase to raise Cowichan Lake weir, help mitigate climate change, and ensure water sustainability.

2017

Whole of Watershed approach yields \$2.7-million in coastal restoration funding for Cowichan Tribes. Watershed partners work together to create and support Cowichan Tribes' extensive watershed restoration vision.

Iconic Cowichan Chinook spawners rebound from 500 in 2005 to 10,000 in 2017, reaching DFO target levels for first time in more than a decade.

