

Cowichan Watershed Board

February 29, 2016

Water Quality & Estuarine Health Target Working Group Update



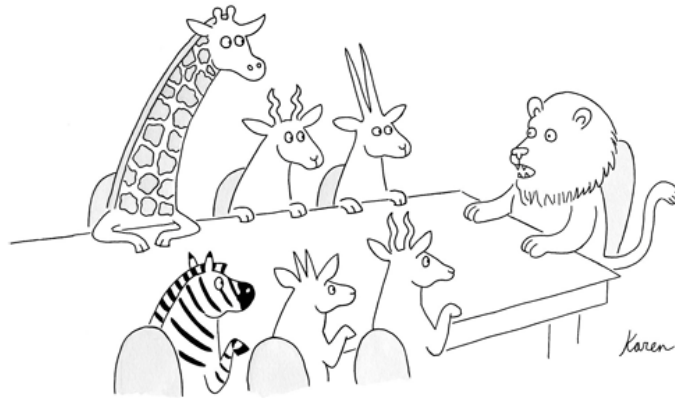
Next 10 minutes....

- Review of Working Group Mandate and membership
- Challenges
- Progress
- Workplan Moving Forward



Working Group Membership

- *'Tim Kulchyski and/or Helen Reid*
 - *Epps, Deb*
 - *Lori Iannidinardo*
 - *Carol Hartwig*
 - *Kate Miller and/or Keith Lawrence*
 - *Emily Doyle Yamaguchi*
 - *Ray Demarchi*
 - *Wayne Haddow*
 - *Ted Brookman*
 - *Stacey Sowa*
 - *Rodger Hunter*
 - *Tom Rutherford*
 - *Jon Lefebure*
 - *Geneen Russo*
- Cowichan Tribes*
B.C. MoE
CVRD Director
Cowichan Naturalists
CVRD Staff
Independent
CERCA
B.C. Min of Ag.
B.C.W.F.
VIHA
CWB
DFO
Chair CVRD Board
Province of B.C.



"In light of recent events, I'm afraid I'm going to have to eat some of you."

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Working Group Challenges

- Expanded flows working group
 - Ongoing drought management planning
- Who's that Rodger guy anyway????



Progress...

- Last meeting earlier this month:
- VORR process – Cowichan Bay
- Dinsdale Farm Issue
- Links to Watershed governance and OCP process
- Koksilah watershed
- Core business...



Core Business/Work Plan

- Ongoing water quality sampling
- Agricultural Partnerships
- Shellfish Monitoring



Water Quality Sampling Program

- 3 years of sampling lead by Deb Epps FLNRO and CVRD; Support by countless volunteers throughout watershed
- Results generally good for Cowichan, some concerns with Koksilah
- Turbidity, E.Coli and metals
- Cowichan Lake, Cowichan River, Cowichan Bay, Bing's Creek, Tunnel Creek, Busy place, Koksilah
- Attainment report completed. Will inform ongoing sampling
- Priority workplanning item for working group



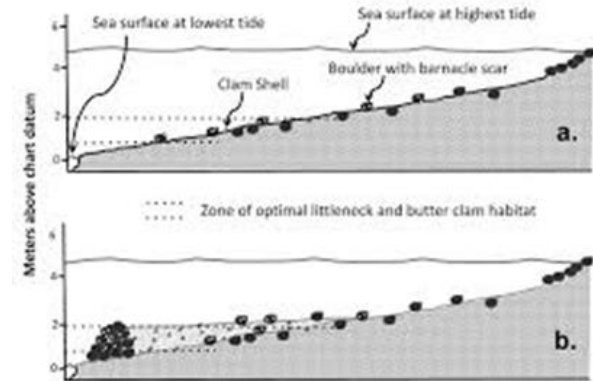
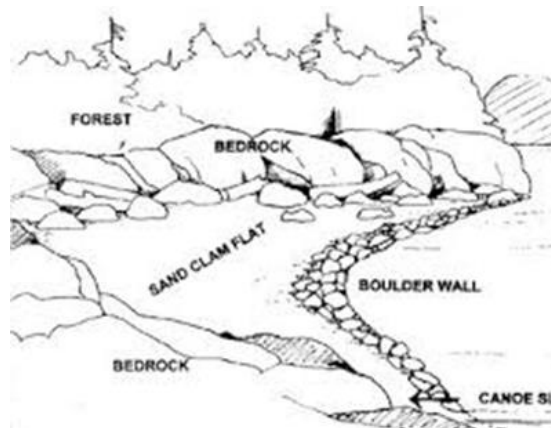
“Agricultural Partnerships”

- Sampling has revealed some issues...
- Progress to date
 - Ministry of Agriculture engaged and supportive
 - Individual and group meetings with farmers
 - Group Environmental Farm Plan
 - Nutrient Management Plans
 - Up to 70K funding per farmer
Funding available for interventions to address shortcomings
- Pilot Bio-Bedding project
- Ongoing Sampling
- Carrot and Stick
- Time to re-engage...



Shellfish Monitoring

- An acknowledged ‘stretch target’ – linked to other initiatives
- 2 New action items supported moving forward
 - Creation of clam garden – Conceptual phase
 - Shorekeepers in Cowichan Bay – SIPS potential partner



Bottom Line...

- Significant gains across a suite of issues and initiatives
- Progress on tough issues never enough – never quickly enough...
- Strong commitment from Community
- Playing the long game....



COMMUNITY MEETING
Proposed Boating Restrictions and Navigation Channel for Cowichan Bay

All community members are welcome to attend a meeting to review the proposed VORR (Vessel Operation Restriction Regulations) and Navigation Channel for Cowichan Bay.

Tuesday, February 15th
7:00 – 9:00 pm
Bench Elementary School
1501 Cowichan Bay Road

A partnership of the Cowichan Valley Regional District, Cowichan Inlet, Thompson Cowick, Fishery and Oceans, BC Wildlife Federation, Living Rivers and the RCMP.

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