



Cowichan Watershed Board

BC Freshwater Legacy Initiative Grant



Background

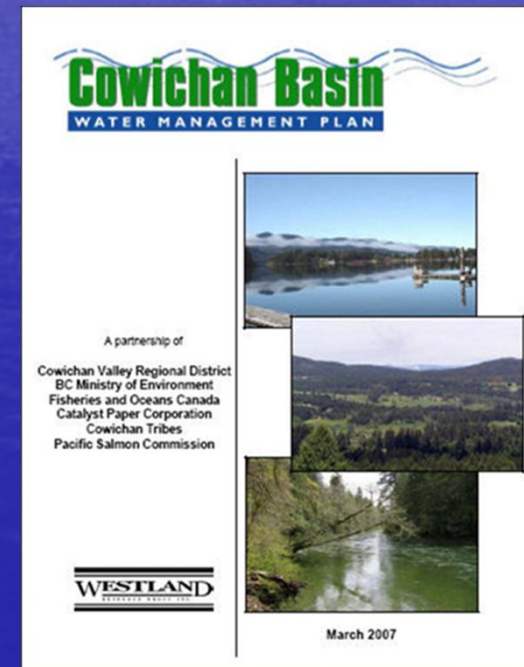
- Strategic plan framework Identifies 3 major priorities:
 - Flows
 - Technical work to implement our plan as supported by the target working groups
 - Exploring how the people who live here in the valley as represented by the CWB could be more involved in decision making in our watershed through some kind of local governance model.

Local Governance...

- Pursuing local decision making through our proposal to the province of BC was supported by Cowichan Tribes, CVRD and the CWB
- There were some legitimate concerns expressed and issues highlighted:
 - Is this drawing resources away from work on flows and other tech projects?
 - How much is this going to cost?
 - What's the role of the CWB – we aren't really a formal entity
 - What about our partners – Cowichan tribe's rights and title, CVRD's mandate under the municipal act – how is all this supposed to work

Status Quo..

- Bottom line is there is a strong believe that status quo is not good enough and that local people should be more involved in decisions that affect our watershed
- Concerns acknowledged, reflected in our approach...



BC Freshwater Legacy Initiative

- As you know, we have been exploring a partnership with BC Freshwater Legacy initiative to explore local governance options and address concerns
- Taken a bit of time, team effort:
 - Jill Thompson
 - Larry George and Eamon Gaunt
 - Brian Carruthers and Kate Miller
 - David Slade
 - CWB Co-chairs Seymour and Lefebure
 - CWB Special Advisor Dr. Oliver Brandes



BC Freshwater Legacy Initiative

- Have reached an agreement that will see the initiative provide the CWB with 200K over 18 months. The money will be delivered in 4 envelopes to enable 2 pieces of work.
- The Work:
 - First, it will enable us to host facilitated workshops between CVRD, Cowichan Tribes and the Cowichan Watershed board to more clearly define our roles with respect to water and watershed management and how we can more effectively work together respecting rights and title and the CVRD role as defined by the municipal act.
 - Secondly, it will provide resources to continue to explore a partnership with the Province of BC as defined under the water sustainability act.



BC Freshwater Legacy Initiative

- The Money – 4 envelopes....
- First will go directly to Cowichan tribes to provide for a project lead for water and watershed governance
- Second will go to the CWB to provide Jill and I with additional time.. This will allow us to continue to dedicate the same amount of time to flows and technical work that we are presently doing. There will be no drain on our time or resources to engage in this new work



The Money (cont.)

- Third envelope will go to retaining 2 external facilitators to plan and implement our workshops.
 - 1 high end world class facilitator
 - 1 local valley resident to work as jr. facilitator – build capacity within our own community and bring a local perspective to the facilitation process
 - Jill and I able to participate fully as CWB representatives – supporting you – our board – rather than worrying about the process
- 4th envelope is for direct costs associated with meetings, meals, venues etc.



Your Role...!

- Your role as board members will be to participate in these workshops – we will schedule well in advance – have ample time to express your support for, or concerns with how we are moving forward



Questions??????

