

The background is a solid blue gradient. At the top, there are several decorative, wavy lines in lighter shades of blue and cyan, some with a dotted or dashed texture.

Governance and Operations

February, 2010

Purpose

- Review key points related to CWB:
 - Governance
 - Operating policies and procedures
- Discuss and reach agreement on meeting procedures and ground rules



Governance Framework

Purpose of the CWB

- guide implementation of the Cowichan Basin Water Management Plan;
- Improve quality of water management decisions and the outcomes arising from those decisions within the Cowichan watershed.



Governance Framework

Mandate – provide leadership for sustainable water management by:

- Guiding implementation of Plan
- Recommending Priorities
- Providing advice to governments
- Securing funding
- Engaging local stakeholders
- Gathering information about watershed health
- Providing and accessing specialized expertise
- Public outreach and reporting

No regulatory authority



Governance Framework

Principles

- Partnership
- Representation
- Watershed Emphasis
- Transparency

Membership

12 members

- 3 CVRD Board members
- 2 Cowichan Tribes chief and/or councilors
- 3-4 community appointees (jointly agreed upon by CVRD & Cowichan Tribes)
- 1 -2 recommended by the federal government
- 2 recommended by the provincial government

- CVRD and Cowichan Tribes co-chair

Term

- Initial mandate ending on Dec 31, 2011; subsequent mandates 3 years consistent with local government election cycle
- Members serve 2 year terms except 3 years for elected officials
- All members may be reappointed

Operating Policies

- Regular meetings at a minimum of every 2 months
- Meetings open to public
- Plan reviewed and revised at least every 3 years
- Annual report and business plan prepared by February 15th each year
- Funding initially through partners but over long term will require formal funding mechanism e.g., possibly surcharges on licenses, fees, etc.

Operating Policies

Committees

- CWB sub-committees or task groups established as required to assess and report on specific issues.
- Advice sought from Cowichan Watershed Technical Working Committee comprised of the partners and other knowledgeable individuals:
 - Cowichan Stewardship Round Table; and
 - other local stewardship groups like the Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Committee, Somenos Marsh Wildlife Society, and Quamichan Watershed Stewardship Committee.

Operating Policies and Procedures

- Meeting procedures by consensus of CWB members.
- Regular meeting dates established at start of the year.
- Other meeting dates at the call of the Co-Chairs.
- Members who are unable to attend can provide their written input prior to a meeting or join via teleconference.
- Meetings are open to the public except for reasons given in Section 90 of the Community Charter.
- Public notification of meetings at least one week in advance of regularly scheduled meetings.
- Resource people or community representatives may be invited to attend where their input would be of benefit.

Operating Policies and Procedures

Decision-making

- Quorum 7 members
- Consensus model as much as possible.
- If decisions complex or there is significant disagreement then decision making will be according to Robert's Rules of Order.
- In consensus decision making a motion, second, and as required discussion will take place before calls for a response on the motion.
- In consensus decision making, a position of "I can live with that" can contribute to consensus.
- Members will be mindful and make best efforts to act in accordance with the following "Ground Rules"

CWB Ground Rules

- Members will:
 - come well prepared to discuss issues.
 - recognize concerns & interests of others, whether or not they agree with them.
 - share discussion time, encourage full participation and search for common understanding.
 - state their own views clearly, listen carefully to others, and explore issues fully before forming conclusions.
 - work in a spirit of collective problem solving.

CWB Ground Rules cont'd

- Members commit to:
 - Creatively searching for opportunities.
 - Speaking with respect and courtesy – no interrupting or side conversations.
 - Suspending judgments and checking rumours.
 - Attempting to reach consensus .
 - Advocating for the adopted plan.
- Members will be careful to differentiate between representing the CWB versus personal opinion when writing or speaking independently or in other venues.



Discussion

- Questions?