



Cowichan Watershed Board

Local Governance Update

BC Freshwater Legacy Initiative

July 31 , 2017



Local Governance Background...

- Pursuing local decision making through proposal to the province of BC was supported by Cowichan Tribes, CVRD and the CWB
- There were some legitimate concerns expressed and issues highlighted by CWB Members:
 - 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
- These concerns have been acknowledged and reflected in our approach

BC Freshwater Legacy Initiative Background

- 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 Background

- The Money – 4 envelopes....
- Cowichan tribes - to provide for a project lead for water and watershed governance
- CWB – Additional staff time to ensure no drain on time/resources dedicated to flows/technical work
- 2 external facilitators to plan and implement our workshops.
 - Sr. Facilitator
 - Local Jr. Facilitator to provide local perspective and build capacity within our community
 - free up the partners to fully participate without having to run the process
- 4th envelope is for direct costs associated with meetings, meals, venues etc.



July Update.....

- Cowichan Tribes has completed contracting process for CT Project Lead
- Welcome to.....
- Lydia Hwitsum!!
 - Original Co-Chair and founder of Cowichan Watershed Board
 - Legal expertise, community member, passionate advocate for water sustainability



July Update Continued

- Jill and Tom have been working with Jennifer Archer to create draft approach and statement of work for Facilitation contract
- CWB team will meet Wednesday to review and move forward with process
 - Brian Carruthers
 - Larry George/Lydia Hwitsum
 - Oliver Brandes
 - Jennifer Archer
 - David Slade
 - Tom Rutherford
 - Jill Thompson



Next Steps...

- Cowichan Team to work with facilitator to plan and implement 2 Half Day Workshops before December (followed by full day workshop next year)
- Representatives from Cowichan Tribes, CVRD and CWB
 - Politicians, Elders, Staff
- Workshop 1
 - Identify challenges to establishing clearly defined relationships between CT, CVRD and CWB that would support local water/watershed governance in Cowichan Valley
- Workshop 2
 - Begin to develop strategies to address challenges

Update (Cont.)

- Details to be worked out by Cowichan Team and facilitator
- If we can retain facilitator in timely fashion, Could organize workshops around September and October CWB meetings
- Final full day workshop in new year followed by workshops with Province of BC...



Questions....

