

# Cowichan Watershed Board

## July 7, 2011

“Targets, targets, targets...”



# Overview

- “Targets”
- Action Plans
- Resources



# Targets – What they are

- Support CBWMP Goals & Objectives
- Science based
  - Integrate several environmental health factors
- Measurable
- Achievable
- Affordable
- Engage Cowichan Valley Residents
  - Relevant
  - Understandable
  - Embraceable



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# Targets – What they aren't

- Ultimate ecosystem indicators
- A finite or exclusive list
- More or less important than other watershed issues
- Mutually Exclusive



# Water Quality Target

- *We want clean water in our watershed*
- **TARGET:** TSS levels (turbidity) in the Cowichan Watershed should meet accepted water quality guidelines
- **ACTIONS**



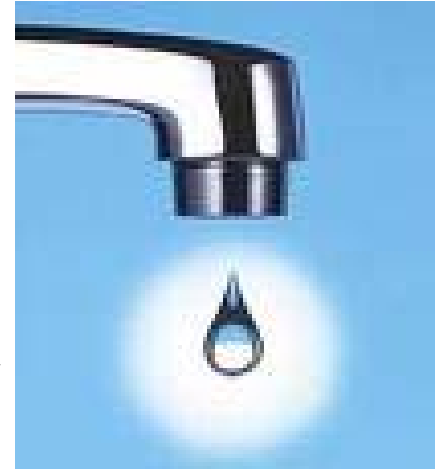
# Estuary Health Target

- ***We want to be able to eat shellfish from Cowichan Bay***
- **TARGET-** Shellfish from designated areas of Cowichan Bay will be harvested for human consumption by 2020
- **ACTIONS**
  - Establish Technical Working Group
  - Generate Map product
  - Design a sampling program
  - Conduct Initial Microbiological sampling
  - Storm water monitoring program
  - Liquid Waste Management Plan review



# Water Use Target

- *We need to use our water wisely*
- **TARGET** – See Background document – specific targets for individual communities
- **ACTION PLAN**
- Create and implement metering and water use reduction plans by Community
- Sub-committee of CWB to work with Catalyst on water conservation opportunities
- Public Education actions to include
  - Summer students for door to door survey
  - Use survey report to develop conservation strategy
  - Implement strategy in 2012



# Watershed IQ Target

- ***You Can't fully value what you don't understand***
- **Target:** Grade 4/5's know their watershed
- **Actions**
  - Pilot 4/5 field trips 2011
  - Expand field trips in 2012; all classes in valley 2013
- **Target:** Residents increasingly know and value their watershed
- **Actions**
  - Weekly articles, occasional radio spots
  - Annual survey through VIU Geography department
  - Ongoing briefings to local politicians and opinion leaders





# Fish Target

- ***We want healthy fish populations in the Watershed***
- **TARGET-** Steelhead fry abundance in the Cowichan should meet or exceed target densities
- **ACTIONS**
  - Conduct ongoing sampling at indexed sites
  - Report results incl. relationship with limit reference points
  - Include results of annual trout snorkel surveys
  - Develop intervention plan if monitoring indicates concerns



# Water Supply Target

- ***Summer water flows are critical and have been declining***
- **TARGET:** Cowichan River summer flows need to be 7CMS or higher
- **Action Plan**
  - Maintain existing WSC stations
  - Snow pillow at Heather Mt.
  - Real time decisions at weir
  - Expert Panel
    - Instrumentation, review 7cms achievability, groundwater connectivity, review flow requirements downstream of intake
  - Continue to evaluate options to ensure flows
    - Rule band, assess benefits/impacts of increased storage, assessment of property impacts, (bathymetry, erosion, LIDAR, water budget model, climate change adaptation)



# Riparian Target

- ***We want to protect and enjoy Stream, River and Lake front habitats***
- **Target** – X% Increase riparian habitats protected by 2021
- **Target** – Y% of riparian habitats restored by 2021
- **Actions**
- Secure properties
  - Inventory and classify
  - Acquisition feasibility & priority
  - Partnership and fundraising
  - Implementation
- Restoration
  - Inventory and classify
  - Priorities and options
  - Partnerships and fundraising
  - Implementation



# Resources....

- Water Quality
  - Existing monitoring programs in place
  - Collation and overview reporting - minimal cost
- Estuary Health
  - Seed funding needed for Tech working group (watershed governance partners)
  - Sampling program – 20K/annum – co-management
  - Stormwater program – 100K Gas tax
  - Liquid Waste management plan review
- Water Use
  - 2011 – 25K in gas tax funding
  - 2012/13 – 15K from General Priorities and Innovations Fund requested
  - Cost sharing with local governments for education component



"I didn't get the government job. They said I lacked experience in *deficit spending*."

# Resources Cont.....

- Watershed IQ
  - Target 1
    - 2011 – 8K pilot Gas tax funding
    - 2012/13 8K seed money requested
  - Target 2
    - Will require enhanced ops funding for communications
    - 2011 – 4K gas tax, 2012/13 10K requested
- Fish
  - Program currently funded a (10K)
  - Living Rivers funding uncertain in future
- Water Supply
  - Living Rivers currently major funder
  - Catalyst looks after weir operations & monitoring
  - Ministry of Health Services – 30K Mapping contribution 2011
- Riparian
  - Require champions for land acquisition – possible linkages to carbon credits
  - Major one time funding investments
  - Local stewardship groups effective partners



# Bottom Line

- “Targets” not intended to “replace the plan”
- Will be effective in raising awareness in community
- Will challenge the Watershed board
- Are about “Doing Something” – not talking about it
- Approval in Principle from Board?

