

Cowichan Watershed Technical Advisory Committee

Terms of Reference

April 2010

Mission

- To be a trusted source of expertise and knowledge for sustainable water management in the Cowichan Watershed.
- To provide balanced and considered technical advice to the Cowichan Watershed Board (CWB) and through it to elements of the community at large.
- To draw upon members' diverse knowledge and technical expertise to develop options and recommendations for the CWB and to implement actions needed to achieve the goals of the Cowichan Water Basin Management Plan.

Mandate

- Technical advisory body and communication link with water stakeholder communities throughout the watershed.
- Advises the CWB by:
 - Identifying issues that require timely action to address current needs or ensure future sustainability.
 - Consolidating information and expertise for strategic watershed management planning .
 - Integrating research to support watershed management recommendations.

Mandate cont'd

- Submitting position papers, briefing notes or verbal presentations on water-related topics to the Board as required and feasible.
- Increasing public communication and awareness about water resource issues.
- As appropriate, developing programs and other implementation tools that conserve or enhance water quality and supply.
- Building and strengthening partnerships among water stakeholders in the Cowichan Valley.

Funding and Resources

Short Term

- Partner contributions for a part time Coordinator to work with the Committee as well as the Board.
- Other funding pursued opportunistically and as required.

Long Term

- Options will be explored with the partners for acquiring a stable revenue stream or streams to support Board and Committee activities.

Membership

The CWB will invite selected organizations to designate a technical representative.

- Initially, members will be representatives of the orgs/interests shown in next slide.
- Other orgs/interests may also become members of the committee at the recommendation of the Board.

Preliminary List of Member Orgs

- Catalyst Paper
- Cowichan Economic Development Commission –Tourism Cowichan
- Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Committee
- Cowichan Tribes
- Cowichan Valley Naturalists' Society
- CVRD
- DFO
- Living Rivers Trust
- MOAL
- MOE
- MHLS
- MOTI
- Private Forest Landowners Association
- Quamichan Lake Stewardship Committee
- Somenos Marsh Wildlife Society
- VIHA

Term and Co-chairs

- Initial mandate ends on Dec. 31, 2011.
- Term may be extended based on CWB mandate.
- The Coordinator will serve as a Co-chair
- Other Co-chair elected by members.
- If inadequate resources for Coordinator, both Co-chairs to be elected.