

## Cowichan Watershed Board – Cowichan Tribes

Rights and title are unresolved in the  
Cowichan

But we need to move forward

The best option given fed/prov. priorities  
and capacity is local action

## Cowichan Watershed Board Context

- Cowichan people are guided by a  
powerful philosophy that shapes or  
attachment to land and water and our  
relationships

*Mukw`stem`i`utunu tumuhw,`o`huliitun tst  
mukw`stem`i`utunu tumuhw`o`shilhukw  
`ul.* "Everything on this Earth is what sustains  
us, everything on this Earth is connected  
together" (Hul`q`umi`num elder)

## CWB Approaches Resonate Strongly with Cowichan Tribes Philosophy

Time/Understanding

- Took time to study strengths/weaknesses of  
plan –lots of discussion led to deepened  
understanding of issues –built trust

Partnerships

- From beginning full partnership between  
local government and Cowichan with  
outreach/inclusion of senior govts. and  
others

## Some Success Ingredients

Consensus

- Board proceeds on basis of consensus

Whole of watershed thinking

- Consistent with Cowichan philosophy

Targets

- Logical and resonate with people

## Some Indicators of Success

Relationships and trust strengthened.

Establishing foundation of knowledge essential for management and pursuit of targets –e.g. flow target, shellfish target

Anticipate Joint CVRD –Cowichan Tribes pursuit of Water Storage License.