

Cowichan Station Area Association--**Koksilah Watershed Working Group**

Terms of Reference February 2016

Introduction

As part of its mandate, the CSAA has a role to engage with citizens, government, other non-profit agencies, and private companies regarding the development and management of lands and waters in the vicinity of Cowichan Station. The Koksilah River watershed, of which Cowichan Station is a part, forms a natural geographical scope for the CSAA to play a role in monitoring the local environment and engaging with the citizenry around education, management, and decision making.

Mission

The **Working Group**'s mission is to work with the CSAA Board, local citizens, and other stakeholders to ensure healthy and sustainable land and water management in the Cowichan Station area and the larger Koksilah River watershed.

Definitions

"Koksilah River watershed" refers to the area of land draining into the Koksilah River and includes the Glenora Creek and Kelvin Creek sub-watersheds.

Guiding Principles

In order to accomplish its mission, the KWC will strive to:

1. identify gaps in information, understanding, and action on issues related to the management and protection of the Koksilah River and its watershed;
2. work with the CSAA Board and other organizations, agencies, and individuals to address these gaps;
3. take such actions as are appropriate to facilitate local understanding of and ecologically responsible management of the Koksilah River and its watershed.

Mandate

The mandate of the **Working Group** is to undertake the groundwork needed for protecting the ecological integrity of the Koksilah River and its watershed. This will involve:

1. liaising and building partnerships with community organizations, government agencies and industry, for the purpose of building awareness of, and protecting, the Koksilah River and its watershed;
2. obtaining information relevant to the Koksilah River and its watershed;
2. identifying information requirements, events, and opportunities to further local understanding and engagement with the Koksilah River and its watershed;
4. making recommendations to the CSAA Fundraising Committee for the raising of funds that enable the activities listed above and supporting applications for relevant fundraising opportunities to further the work of the Koksilah Watershed Working Group;
5. developing plans and other strategic documents for fostering ecological integrity, cooperation, and community-driven decision making relevant to the Koksilah River and its watershed.

Membership

The Koksilah Watershed Working Group Membership will include CSAA members and others with relevant skills and time to commit to the mandate and goals of the **Working Group**. The CSAA Board reserves the right to make any final decisions with regards to the Koksilah Watershed Working Group membership.

Operating Procedures

Two thirds of members constitute a quorum.

The Working Group will operate on a consensus basis. The **Working Group** has a responsibility to ensure that everyone is heard and that decisions are based on the Guiding Principles and Mandate outlined within this Terms of Reference.

The Working Group will meet on an “as and when needed” basis.

Materials requiring review and/or approval by the CSAA Board will be delivered through the CSAA Coordinating Committee. (**Question to the Board: Does this Committee still exist?**)

Conflict of Interest

Where there is potential or perceived conflict of interest related to the work of and/or decisions made by the Watershed Working Group, Working Group members will make this known to the Working Group, as soon as possible.

