

My Commitments

January 2020 Progress Report

Community	
Regular outreach and updates (meetings, information sessions, email, and Facebook)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued community meetings (e.g., road safety & trails, Koksilah watershed) General communication through email/facebook on an irregular basis
Cooperate and collaborate with First Nations on important initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active member of the Cowichan Watershed Board (co-chaired by Cowichan Tribes and CVRD) focused on water issues; Active member of CSAA's Koksilah Working Group which is working with Cowichan Tribes on a watershed condition assessment. Encouraging joint effort to address road safety issues in Eagle Heights area. Enrolled in Hul'qumi'nnum lessons
Ensure residents have the information they need to plan for emergencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CVRD booklets and information sessions available on request - contact April Diver. Sahtlam has become a study area for planning/practicing emergency response and grant funding is supporting an evacuation route planning exercise for that area. Make sure you are signed up for emergency notifications https://www.cvrld.bc.ca/2276/Emergency-Notifications?fbclid=IwAR2_dPQYFelqKcQ1DzJjpxpbDicF1RwpZ1DGly-K5DumijQpCuS27fef9cl
Land Use Planning for a Sustainable Future	
Complete Cowichan-Koksilah Official Community Plan, including local area plans for Sahtlam & Eagle Heights/Koksilah Business Park areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area E OCP review overtaken by a need to streamline and harmonize the 9 electoral area OCPs into one OCP to be followed by a modernization process to address critical emerging issues (e.g., population growth, climate change, affordable housing etc.) Harmonized OCP in draft form including a local area plan for Cowichan Koksilah. (target completion first half of 2020) Community information sessions beginning in February 2020
Focus on ensuring strong zoning bylaws to implement the OCP and local area plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with staff to bring forward key zoning changes (accessory building size; backyard chickens) as a stop gap measure until zoning bylaws are harmonized through the OCP modernization process.

Engage in meaningful community consultation in land use decision-making processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active, skilled Area E Advisory Planning Commission Ongoing advocacy for improving CVRD community consultation processes beyond minimum requirements
Advocate for better land, soil, and ecosystem type inventory information and GIS capabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At Board successfully supported additional resources to acquire higher resolution/more accurate imagery focused on land-use and flood plain mapping.
Advocate to adopt leading edge practices specifically in green building, regional planning, active transportation and rezoning amenity contributions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appointed as CVRD representative on an initiative to develop a Vancouver Island climate change action plan.

Water and Natural Environment

Support for Cowichan Watershed Board to lead "whole of watershed" protection and management for the Cowichan and Koksilah Rivers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appointed to and active member of the Cowichan Watershed Board where I try to bring a "whole of watershed" thinking perspective.
Advocate for development of a Cowichan/Koksilah Water Sustainability Plan, including implementation of storm water management for the Sh'hwuykwselu watershed to reduce flood risk on Koksilah floodplain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Province is funding work in 2020 to scope out the feasibility of conducting a Koksilah water sustainability planning process!!!! Technical work undertaken with Cowichan Tribes on flood risks for Sh'hwuykwselu (Busy Place) is now available for integration into land use policy and practices
Advocate for "whole of watershed" thinking and collection of information and planning to support sustainable water use and watershed management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing to work with community led Koksilah Working Group to complete technical assessment of the Koksilah watershed and provide information about the watershed to Koksilah land owners and residents. Continue to advocate for full implementation of drinking water and watershed protection services.
Support implementation of soil deposit bylaw to lower risk of dumping of contaminated soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring initial implementation of soil deposit bylaw through Electoral Area Services Committee
Advocate for a review of private forest management regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided input to Provincial review through submissions by Cowichan Watershed Board and Cowichan Station Area Association – see report https://engage.gov.bc.ca/app/uploads/sites/121/2019/11/PMFLPR-WWH-Report-Final-1.pdf

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Parks and Trails	
Continue to support Area E parks and trails master plan projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with volunteers and staff to establish a trail through the CVRD green belt from the corner of (Old) Cowichan Lake and Hanks roads through to Tipperary Road and Appaloosa Way.
Continue to advocate for regional thinking, particularly regarding parks, trails, recreation, and growth management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to work with Board on developing a more equitable and efficient regional approach to recreation; the Board has determined that a user-based funding model for the significant recreation facilities throughout the region is preferable. Staff are currently exploring governance options. Continue to advocate for implementation of Cowichan 2050 a framework for guiding regional growth management.
Work with Cowichan Tribes on initiatives to improve road safety and walkability in the Koksilah Business Park/Eagle Heights area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raised the need for better coordination of road works to enable road safety/walkability improvements in Eagle Heights neighbourhood and as a result MOTI is coordinating upcoming water main work with Cowichan Tribes, Duncan and CVRD to identify opportunities for improvements.
Complete Koksilah Road pilot pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preliminary work to assess feasibility of a pathway along Koksilah Rd. from the HUB to the highway is complete and work to address several impediments is continuing.
Governance	
Advocate for routine third party reviews of CVRD programs to evaluate and improve service delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New review re Land-use Services underway; continuing to advocate for embedding "routine" reviews into CVRD policy.
Regional Infrastructure	
Work with community and volunteer firefighters to ensure community facilities are maintained and meet community needs over the long-term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sahtlam Firehall Building detailed assessment in business plan for 2020 including thorough seismic and firehall functionality assessments.
Support modernization of BC legislation pertaining to regional districts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for related resolutions through AVICC and UBCM
Work with Ministry of Transportation staff to improve road safety and condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Toured and discussed road condition issues throughout Area E with Jessica Learn, the new MOTI ops manager and I continue to bring specific issues to MOTI's attention as they arise. Continue to advocate for MOTI investment.

