

# **The Coast Sustainability Trust II**

## **Report of the Trustee as of September 30, 2009**

### **General**

The Province of British Columbia created the Coast Sustainability Trust (CST) in 2002 to mitigate the negative effects on workers, contractors and communities, including First Nations of:

1. provincial government decisions related to the Land and Resource Management Plan process; and
2. the implementation of Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) in the:
  1. Central Coast;
  2. North Coast;
  3. Queen Charlotte Islands/ Haida Gwaii;
  4. Comox Strathcona Regional District; and
  5. Regional District of Mount Waddington.

The CST was initially funded with \$25,000,000 directed to mitigate forest workers and contractors (the Mitigation Fund), and \$10,000,000 directed to communities and mitigation related to the implementation of EBM (the Matching Fund). Any undisbursed funds in the Mitigation fund were required by the CST Trust Deed to be rolled into the Matching Fund as of March 31, 2005. At that time \$12,258,170 was rolled into the Matching Fund.

The Trust Deed that created the CST stipulated that it was to terminate on March 31, 2007, and that the Trustee then had two years to determine what to do with any remaining funds in the CST. The original intention was to disburse all matching funds to eligible beneficiaries by that time, but on March 31, 2007, there was still over \$20 million in the CST accounts. Roughly \$6 million had been committed to specific projects, but over \$14 million had not.

In anticipation of the termination of the CST, all the Advisory Board and Regional Steering Committee members, as well as all First Nations, organized communities and Regional Districts that were potential beneficiaries of the CST, were asked to comment on the disposition of remaining CST funds. The unanimous response was that the CST should be rolled over into a new trust that mirrored the existing trust, with only a few suggestions for minor changes.

The Advisory Board decided to roll the CST into the Coast Sustainability Trust II (CST II). CST II assumed all the assets and liabilities of the CST, retained the governance structure of the CST, and kept the Matching Fund Guidelines. The main differences are that the Regional Steering Committees now have the ability to increase the CST II commitment to any one project to as much as \$250,000 instead of the previous \$100,000 maximum and, in order to help small communities, the CST II may contribute up to 75% of the first \$50,000 in a project's cost, instead of the previous 50/50 minimum requirement, for all community matching fund projects.

The other main difference with the CST II is that the Ecosystem Based Management Land Use Planning (EBMLUP) and the Economic, Scientific and Adaptive Management Development and Planning (ESAMDAP) sub-trusts were rolled into a new Ecosystem Based Management Working Group (EBMWG) sub-trust Account effective April 1, 2007, and an additional \$1,644,320 has been

received from the Province of British Columbia to fund the EBMWG. That sub-trust was terminated effective March 31, 2009.

Effective March 31, 2009 the Ministry of Agriculture and Land contributed \$580,000 to the CST II to create a new sub-trust, known as the Ecosystem Based Management Adaptive Management (EBM-AM) sub-trust. Residual funds in the EBMWG sub-trust were used first to settle any outstanding liabilities of the EBMWG, and the balance was allocated to the EBM-AM sub-trust.

Also effective March 31, 2009, the Ministry of Agriculture and Land contributed \$750,000 to the CST II to create a second new sub-trust, known as the Landscape Reserve Planning (LRP) sub-trust.

Given that the CST II assumed all the assets and liabilities of the CST, and given many partially funded Community Matching Fund projects were transferred to the CST II, activity reporting for the CST II Community Matching Fund includes CST activity:

### **CST II Account Balances and Distributions**

As of September 30, 2009 the CST II balances and distributions were as follows:

<b>Account Balances</b>	
Community Matching Fund Account	\$7,800,116
EBM Adaptive Management Account	\$673,818
EBM Matching Fund Account	\$5,417,471
Landscape Reserve Planning Account	<u>\$756,450</u>
<b>Total available funds</b>	<b><u>\$14,647,855</u></b>
<b>Distributions to beneficiaries to date</b>	
Forest Worker Severance	\$2,933,857
Contractor Mitigation	\$10,749,764
Community Matching Funds	\$11,215,730
EMB Adaptive Management Sub-trust	\$0
EBM Land Use Planning Sub-trust	\$209,068
ESAMDAP Sub-trust	\$132,486
EBMWG Sub-trust	\$1,633,855
Landscape Reserve Planning Sub-trust	<u>\$0</u>
<b>Total Distributions to beneficiaries</b>	<b><u>\$26,874,760</u></b>
Total available funds plus distributions	<b><u>\$41,522,615</u></b>

In addition to the original \$35,000,000 given to the CST, five other sub-trusts of the CST and CST II were funded by the province. Unused funds in the EBM Land Use Planning and ESAMDAP sub-trusts were rolled into the EBMWG sub-trust, and unused funds in the EBMWG sub-trust were rolled into the EBM Adaptive Management sub-trust. The Landscape Reserve Planning sub-trust was also created effective March 31, 2009. These five sub-trusts combined have received a total of \$3,373,320. Income to date from investments of the CST and now the CST II has exceeded total administration expenses by over \$3 million. There was no need to use any of the capital of the CST to fund its administration. This allows over \$4 million more than originally planned to go to beneficiaries.

## Community Matching Fund Account

When the CST Community Matching Fund started operations, the Advisory Board agreed that decisions related to specific initiatives in the communities should be made at the local level as opposed to by the broader Advisory Board. Five Regional Steering Committees (RSCs) were formed. They are the Central Coast, Comox Strathcona, Mount Waddington, the North Coast, and Queen Charlotte Islands/Haida Gwaii. Significant progress has been made to date with all five RSCs.

### Leverage of CST Community Matching Funds

Each of the five RSCs has been allocated \$3,700,000 to use towards developing Regional Economic Development Strategies and to support individual initiatives that fit those strategies. As of the end of June 2009, funding has been and remains approved for a total of 206 projects. An additional 19 projects were approved but were subsequently abandoned by the applicant for a variety of reasons and did not receive CST funding. The main reason for applicants abandoning their projects was an inability to source matching funds or other forms of financing.

The total commitment from the CST is \$16,313,789, for projects worth a total of \$122,147,489. Therefore, on average a total of \$7.50 goes into approved projects for each \$1.00 of CST funds committed.

Following is a table that shows the total value of the requests for assistance, and the progress in approving funding for each of the RSCs. As of September 30, 2009, Funding Agreements were being negotiated with proponents of many of the approved projects.

### Status of Community Matching Fund funding requests As at September 30, 2009

Regional Steering Committee	Total Project Size	Amount Requested of CST	Amount Rejected by CST or abandoned by applicant	Amount still under consideration by CST	Number of Approved Projects	Amount approved by CST	Amount disbursed by CST
Central Coast	\$17,800,771	\$5,341,397	\$2,328,309	\$390,000	56	\$2,623,087	\$2,252,665
Comox Strathcona	\$52,250,005	\$12,933,575	\$8,764,193	\$606,500	37	\$3,562,882	\$2,705,852
Mount Waddington	\$92,583,888	\$7,989,227	\$3,740,164	\$912,435	46	\$3,336,629	\$2,219,854
North Coast	\$45,107,071	\$7,964,117	\$3,730,730	\$904,912	31	\$3,328,476	\$1,817,724
QCI Haida Gwaii	\$41,382,937	\$5,669,906	\$2,158,490	\$48,700	40	\$3,462,716	\$2,219,636
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$249,124,672</b>	<b>\$39,898,221</b>	<b>\$20,721,886</b>	<b>\$2,862,547</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>\$16,313,789</b>	<b>\$11,215,730</b>

## **Types of Projects approved**

In order to stimulate economic activity, each RSC considers and approves projects that fit into the strategic priorities of their area or, if no formal strategic priorities have been developed, projects that clearly fall into the range of initiatives that likely will be included. The types of projects vary to some extent by the chosen strategic direction of each RSC. On the North Coast and in Mount Waddington and Comox Strathcona the highest concentration of project approvals relate to the enhancement of tourism opportunities, with an emphasis on eco and cultural tourism. Examples are providing funding for a Art Route brochure in Haida Gwaii, the construction or renovation of First Nations Big Houses, support for tourism associations on the Central Coast, Northern Vancouver Island and the Queen Charlotte Islands/Haida Gwaii, assistance to the Nisga'a in Gingolx for their cultural longhouse and carving shed, assistance to the Haida in the construction of a cultural center and a totem pole carving project, assistance to the Kwakiutl in a resort upgrade, assistance to the Bella Coola Valley Museum to help make it an even better attraction, funding for self directed walking tours in Campbell River and the Comox Valley, a mountain Sports Centre and an outdoor centre at Mount Washington, bear watching operations in Phillips Arm for the Kwiakah First Nation, and the promotion of movie film sites in northern Vancouver Island. In aggregate, 42.2% of CST funding has gone to assist tourism related projects.

Infrastructure improvements are another primary focus, and the biggest one in the Central Coast and Haida Gwaii/QCI. Some are aimed at enhancing tourism, such as adding an interpretive garden, salt water aquarium and movable webcams to the Visitor Information Centre in Queen Charlotte, creating or improving destination hiking or mountain biking trails, establishing a waterfront trail in Prince Rupert, construction of RV and campground facilities, construction of an all season all weather boat ramp, improving cruise ship terminals, docks and harbours, and investing in the Vancouver Island Mountain Sports Centre at Mount Washington and the Strathcona Park Outdoor Centre. Other projects enhance industrial or commercial opportunities, such as an industrial park in Port Alice, building a new town square in Queen Charlotte, or assistance in creating an Economic Development Zone on Quinsam Indian Reserve 12 in Campbell River. The Queen Charlotte Islands – Haida Gwaii RSC also voted to provide \$250,000 towards a new recycling centre. The Central Coast RSC voted to contribute \$35,000 to a Central Coast Business Enterprise and Visitor Centre, \$302,500 towards a project that provides Broadband Internet to the communities on the Central Coast, and \$400,000 to help the Oweekeno acquire road building and maintenance, and barge facilities that would have been lost to them on the withdrawal of Western Forest Products from their area. The Mount Waddington and Comox Strathcona RSCs have also approved funding to assist in the installation of Broadband Internet in seven Northern Vancouver Island communities. In aggregate, 32.3% of CST funding has gone to assist infrastructure related projects.

A third focus is shellfish aquaculture and processing. The Comox Strathcona and Mount Waddington Regional Steering Committees jointly elected to help fund a Shellfish Industry Investment Attraction Initiative promoted by the Vancouver Island Economic Developers Association (VIEDA). This was expanded to assist in attracting investment for shellfish processing. The Comox Strathcona Regional Steering Committee also approved a grant to the Homalco First Nation to assist it in developing a scallop farming venture. The Central Coast, North Coast and Queen Charlotte Islands - Haida Gwaii RSCs jointly agreed to support a combined North Coast – Skeena First Nations Stewardship Society and Turning Points Initiative Society application for assistance in developing a coast wide shellfish aquaculture initiative. The Central Coast RSC has also provided support to the Heiltsuk Nation Shellfish Co-operative, and the North Coast RSC has provided funding to assist in performing Biotoxin studies. On Haida Gwaii, the Skidegate and the Old Massett Haida have received funding to help in

training shellfish farm workers at two pre-commercial pilot projects. In aggregate, 15.3% of CST funding has gone to assist aquaculture and processing related projects.

The CST also supports the development of non timber forest products. In Northern Vancouver Island this has taken the form of the Wild Island Food Co-operative, while the Queen Charlotte Islands/Haida Gwaii RSC approved funding to a Co-op that will initially pursue vacuum drying of chanterelle mushrooms, and later branch into other edible products.

To date, CST funding has been fairly evenly split, with 50.7% of funding going to First Nations sponsored initiatives, and 49.3% going to civic community sponsored initiatives. In fact, a significant number of initiatives related to shellfish aquaculture, tourism, planning and broadband internet installations were joint initiatives between First Nations and civic communities.

### **Ecosystem Based Management Matching Fund Account**

Upon the roll-over of funds from the CST to the CST II, the Advisory Board directed that \$5,000,000 within the CST Matching Fund Account remain segregated from the Community Matching Fund Account, so a separate account named the EBM Matching Fund was established. The purpose of the EBM Matching fund is to help mitigate the negative impacts of the implementation of Ecosystem Based Management on the forest workers, contractors and both civic and First Nations Communities in the CST operating area. This account has been dormant since the roll-over and the only activity has been growth through interest on the invested funds. As of September 30, 2009 the EBM Matching Fund Account had a value of \$5.417 million.

Because EBM was not projected to be fully implemented until March 31, 2009, none of those funds could be disbursed before then. In the December 2, 2008 CST Advisory Board meeting, a decision was made to not release those funds until at least June 2009, as it was felt by the Board that the implications Implementation of EBM would be better understood later in 2009. Since that time the CST Trustee has been working with Ministry of Forests and Range staff to try to determine the projected impact of the implementation of EBM on workers and contractors so that an allocation of available funds can be made between workers, contractors and communities.

### **Ecosystem Based Management Working Group subtrust (EBMWG)**

In the second quarter of 2007 a donor directed EBMWG sub trust of \$620,000 was added to the CST II by the Province of British Columbia. In addition, surplus funds of \$70,488 from the old Ecosystem Based Management - Land Use Planning (EBMLUP) Sub-trust plus \$14,927 from the old Economic, Scientific and Adaptive Management Development and Planning (ESAMDAP) Sub-trust were rolled in to the new subtrust. A further \$1,024,320 was added to the EBMWG subtrust during 2008. Its purpose was to fund consulting projects approved by the EBMWG with a view to improving the scientific basis of EBM related decisions.

As of September 30, 2009, disbursements of \$1,633,855 had been made. Surplus funds totaling approximately \$78,000 were credited to the newly created EBM Adaptive Management sub-trust.

### **EBM Adaptive Management sub-trust**

Effective March 31, 2009 a new sub-trust called the EBM Adaptive Management (AM) subtrust was created. It was seeded with \$500 from the EBMWG subtrust, and received a further \$575,000 from the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands during the second quarter of 2009. It's goal will be to invest in the

Central Coast, North Coast and the Queen Charlotte Islands/Haida Gwaii plan areas by 1) funding the successful implementation and management of an Adaptive Management program that supports the goals of Ecosystem Based Management, 2) funding projects in an Annual Work Plan approved by the Joint Land and Resource Forum, and 3) investing in and supporting Adaptive Management, Ecosystem Based Management, and other specific uses as directed by the donor. No disbursements have been made to date.

### **Landscape Reserve Planning sub-trust**

Also effective March 31, 2009, a second new sub-trust called the Landscape Reserve Planning (LRP) sub-trust was established. It received a total of \$750,000 from the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands in the second quarter of 2009. Its purpose is to support the First Nations represented by the Nanwakolus Council, the Coastal First Nations, and the Tsimshian Stewardship Committee in Landscape Reserve Planning. The first disbursement from this fund is expected to be made in the fourth quarter of 2009.

### **Looking Ahead**

During the fourth quarter of 2009, I expect the following activity in CST II:

- Funding requests will continue to be received and evaluated by each of the five Regional Steering Committees.
- Funding Agreements for Community Matching Fund projects will continue to be signed in the five RSC areas, and further disbursements will be made.
- The new EBM Adaptive Management sub-trust and the new Landscape Reserve Planning sub-trust will become operational.

Eric van Soeren, Trustee