

# **The Coast Sustainability Trust II**

## **Report of the Trustee as of March 31, 2011**

### **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 Matching Fund account. 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.

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 March 31, 2011 the CST II balances and distributions were as follows:

### **Account Balances**

Community Matching Fund Account	\$4,929,654
EBM Adaptive Management Account	\$674,901
EBM Matching Fund Account	\$5,646,407
Landscape Reserve Planning Account	\$17,967
<b>Total available funds</b>	<b><u>\$11,268,929</u></b>

### **Distributions to beneficiaries to date**

Forest Worker Severance	\$2,933,857
Contractor Mitigation	\$10,749,764
Community Matching Funds	\$13,933,812
EBM Adaptive Management Sub-trust	\$1,241
EBM Land Use Planning Sub-trust	\$209,068
ESAMDAP Sub-trust	\$132,486
EBMWG Sub-trust	\$1,633,855
Landscape Reserve Planning Sub-trust	\$735,000
<b>Total Distributions to beneficiaries</b>	<b><u>\$30,329,083</u></b>

Total available funds plus distributions **\$41,598,012**

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 \$3.2 million. There was no need to use any of the capital of the CST to fund its administration. This allows over \$4.3 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**

Before this quarter, the five RSCs had been allocated \$3,700,000 to use towards developing Regional Economic Development Strategies and to support individual initiatives that fit those strategies. This quarter an additional \$400,000 was allocated to each RSC for that purpose. Most of those funds will be transferred over from the EBM Matching Funds during the second quarter. As of the end of March

2011, funding has been and remains approved for a total of 226 projects. An additional 25 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 \$17,006,063, for projects worth a total of \$126,343,087. Therefore, on average a total of \$7.43 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 March 31, 2011, Funding Agreements were being negotiated with proponents of the most recently approved projects.

**Status of Community Matching Fund funding requests  
As at March 31, 2011**

<b>Regional Steering Committee</b>	<b>Total Project Size</b>	<b>Amount Requested of CST</b>	<b>Amount Rejected by CST or abandoned by applicant</b>	<b>Amount still under consideration by CST</b>	<b>Number of Approved Projects</b>	<b>Amount approved by CST</b>	<b>Amount disbursed by CST</b>
<b>Central Coast</b>	\$21,349,771	\$5,956,397	\$2,597,633	\$540,000	57	\$2,818,764	\$2,346,765
<b>Comox Strathcona</b>	\$58,212,046	\$14,008,419	\$8,766,491	\$1,393,594	42	\$3,698,333	\$3,519,396
<b>Mount Waddington</b>	\$107,361,177	\$9,583,517	\$4,697,905	\$1,179,726	49	\$3,705,887	\$2,748,693
<b>North Coast</b>	\$45,934,660	\$8,257,201	\$4,344,730	\$658,639	32	\$3,253,833	\$2,493,448
<b>QCI Haida Gwaii</b>	\$47,328,481	\$6,314,436	\$2,315,190	\$470,000	46	\$3,529,246	\$2,825,510
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$280,186,135</b>	<b>\$44,119,969</b>	<b>\$22,721,948</b>	<b>\$4,241,959</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>\$17,006,063</b>	<b>\$13,933,812</b>

**Types of Projects Approved for Community Matching Fund Assistance**

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. Following is a table that shows the type of projects approved for CST funding support:

## Types of projects approved for CST Funding

Regional Steering Committee	Total Project Size	Amount approved by CST	Nature of Approved Project					
			Agriculture & NTFPs	Aquaculture & processing	Forestry	Infra-structure	Planning	Tourism
Central Coast	\$12,160,826	\$2,818,764	\$53,116	\$352,090	\$99,604	\$920,026	\$528,366	\$865,562
Comox Strathcona	\$28,908,243	\$3,698,333	\$12,500	\$1,037,000	\$0	\$542,500	\$190,500	\$1,915,833
Mount Waddington	\$31,116,910	\$3,705,887	\$91,400	\$354,188	\$15,000	\$1,562,411	\$39,500	\$1,643,387
North Coast	\$15,270,427	\$3,253,833	\$0	\$630,120	\$50,000	\$741,261	\$24,750	\$1,807,702
QCI Haida Gwaii	\$38,886,681	\$3,529,246	\$207,559	\$366,030	\$227,398	\$1,451,016	\$165,232	\$1,112,011
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$126,343,087</b>	<b>\$17,006,063</b>	<b>\$364,575</b>	<b>\$2,739,428</b>	<b>\$392,002</b>	<b>\$5,217,214</b>	<b>\$948,348</b>	<b>\$7,344,496</b>
<b>Percent of Approved Amounts</b>			2.1%	16.1%	2.3%	30.7%	5.6%	43.2%

On the North Coast and in the Mount Waddington, Comox and Strathcona Regional Districts the highest concentration of project approvals relate to the enhancement of tourism opportunities, with an emphasis on eco and cultural tourism. Examples are the construction or renovation of First Nations Big Houses and carving sheds, support for tourism associations on the Central Coast, Northern Vancouver Island and Haida Gwaii, production of an Art Route brochure in Haida Gwaii, 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 wilderness centre at Mount Washington, bear watching operations in Phillips Arm for the Kwiakah First Nation and in the Orford River Estuary for the Homalco First Nation, and the promotion of movie film sites in northern Vancouver Island. In aggregate, 43.2% 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. 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 in Campbell River, improving the dock at Holberg and upgrading the seaplane ramp in Seal Cove, Prince Rupert and improving cruise ship terminals, docks and harbours. Other projects enhance industrial or commercial opportunities, such as an industrial park in Port Alice, building a new town square in the Village of Queen Charlotte, or assistance in creating an Economic Development Zone on Quinsam Indian Reserve 12 in Campbell River. 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 equipment and barge facilities that would have been lost to them on the withdrawal of Western Forest Products from their area. Funding was also approved to assist in the installation of Broadband Internet in seven Northern Vancouver Island communities. In aggregate, 30.6% of CST funding has gone to assist infrastructure related projects.

A third focus is shellfish aquaculture and processing. The Comox Strathcona and Mount Waddington RSCs 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. Support was given to the BC Shellfish Growers Association to help it with a business and market development initiative. The Homalco First Nation received a grant to assist it in developing a scallop farming venture. The Central Coast, North Coast and Queen Charlotte Islands - Haida Gwaii RSCs 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, 16.4% 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 pursued vacuum drying of chanterelle mushrooms, and is now branching into other edible products.

To date, CST funding has been fairly evenly split, with 52.2% of funding going to First Nations sponsored initiatives, and 47.8% 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.

### **Employment Impact of CST Funding**

Following is a table which displays the employment impact of CST funding. The numbers are based on a combination of information submitted in the original applications, quarterly reporting as the project proceeded, and results of a survey taken of recipients of CST funding after the projects were completed. Numbers shown are actual employment or contract positions and have not been reduced to full time equivalents. Spin off jobs were not included as, especially in the case of tourism, the provision of high speed internet and long range planning, they are very difficult to estimate.

<b>Regional Steering Committee</b>	<b>Full time Jobs while Project Active</b>	<b>Part time Jobs while Project Active</b>	<b>Full time Jobs when Project Completed</b>	<b>Part time Jobs when Project Completed</b>
<b>Central Coast</b>	26	127	184	213
<b>Comox Strathcona</b>	83	222	202	206
<b>Mount Waddington</b>	69	223	176	189
<b>North Coast</b>	93	107	75	31
<b>QCI Haida Gwaii</b>	183	219	84	94
<b>Total:</b>	<b>454</b>	<b>898</b>	<b>721</b>	<b>733</b>

## **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 March 31, 2011 the EBM Matching Fund Account had a value of \$5.646 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 of the implementation of EBM would be better understood later in 2009. Since that time the CST Trustee has been working with Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations 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. In a May 18, 2010 meeting the Advisory Board of the BC Forestry Revitalization Trust (BCFRT) agreed to consider the possibility of providing matching funds to the EBM Matching Fund to allow workers and contractors on Haida Gwaii to receive mitigation for the negative impacts of EBM on them. A letter was sent out to the three major licensees on Haida Gwaii asking them to submit proposals for worker and contractor mitigation.

In a meeting of the BCFRT Advisory Board on February 23, 2011 it was agreed that the BCFRT would provide matching funds to the CST to allow for mitigation to the workers and contractors on Haida Gwaii that have been negatively impacted by the implementation of EBM. The expected cost of that mitigation is \$5.2 million, with half coming from the CST, and half from the BCFRT. The CST Trustee is working with the contractors, licensees and workers on Haida Gwaii to firm up those numbers, and to try to make the mitigation payments in the second quarter of 2011.

Also during the February 23, 2011 Advisory Board meeting it was agreed that up to \$200,000 per RSC could be used to match with industry, First Nations and/or civic communities to provide entry level training for people that want to enter the harvesting side of the forest industry. Details of the type of projects that might be considered will be developed in the second quarter of 2011.

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

Effective March 31, 2009 a new sub-trust called the EBM Adaptive Management sub trust 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. Its goal is to invest in the Central Coast, North Coast and the 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.

To date, only minor meeting related and administrative expenses have been incurred by this sub-trust.

## **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. To date disbursements of \$735,000 have been made to those groups out of this fund.

## **Looking Ahead**

During the second quarter of 2011, I expect the following activity in CST II:

- Funding requests will continue to be received and evaluated by the five RSCs.
- Funding Agreements for Community Matching Fund projects will continue to be signed in the five RSC areas, and further disbursements will be made.
- The EBM Adaptive Management sub-trust will become operational.
- Mitigation payments for worker and contractors negatively impacted by the implementation of EBM on Haida Gwaii will be made from the EBM Matching Fund.
- Guidelines will be developed for the entry level forestry worker training matching fund.

Eric van Soeren

Trustee