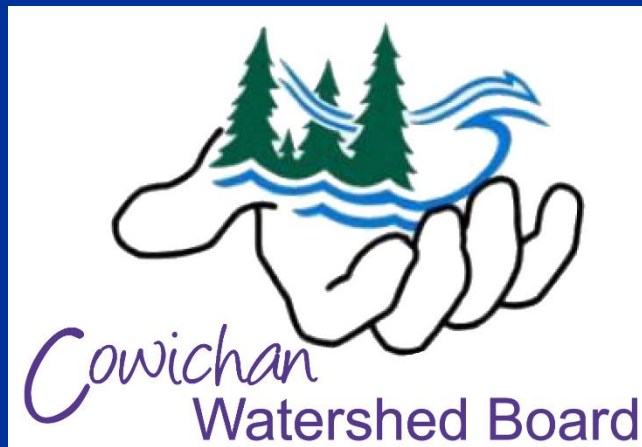


# Cowichan Watershed Board Update



January 27, 2020

# 4 Quick Updates

- Cowichan Weir – BC Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund
- Koksilah Water Sustainability Plan
- CWB “Target” Review
- CVRD Drinking Water & Watershed Protection Program



# BCSRIF – Cowichan Weir

- Separate Agenda Item
- Project Manager Leroy Van Wieren....



# Koksilah Water Sustainability Plan

- Koksilah river experiencing critical flows in summer months, FLNRORD invoked Section 88 of WSA to withdraw licensed irrigation rights from over 30 license holder this summer (Surface water and groundwater).
- Current summer flows have dropped below critical levels – as percentage of MAD less than half of lower Cowichan flows at lowest point.
- WSP a new tool under WSA framework that provides for an enforceable, broadly scoped watershed plan
- Water and Land management “**status quo**” is **no longer working** for Koksilah watershed. We need to try something new...





# Koksilah Water Sustainability Plan

- FLNRORD has received \$ for scoping out what a WSPlanning Process for Koksilah Watershed could look like
- Series of meetings between FLNRORD, Cowichan Tribes and CWB staff over last months.
- Interim letter of Agreement to work together on scoping prepared by Cowichan Tribes, supported by FLNRORD staff, currently under review by FLNRORD Legal
- Process underway to transfer scoping budget from FLNRORD to Cowichan Tribes
- Draft workplan being discussed

# CWB Target Review

- Heather Pritchard coordinating this work – will provide more detailed update in February
- Series of mini workshops with target working groups to look at targets and indicators – evaluate effectiveness and relevance, make changes as necessary so as to provide guidance to CWB work for the next 5 years
- 4 target workshops to date, a fifth tomorrow
- Draft targets and indicators brought back to groups for approval in April May, to TAC and CWB in June



# Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Service

- Community Technical Advisory Group has been working on developing a draft 10 year strategy for consideration by CVRD Board
- CVRD, Cowichan Tribes, Province, local governments and stakeholders
- 3<sup>rd</sup> day long workshop held last Thursday
- Applaud CVRD staff for engaging in this process – reaching out to partners for guidance and input
- 3 key elements to proposed strategy
  - Water Science and Information
  - Water centric policy and planning
  - Watershed Stewardship and Outreach
- Happy to follow up with any board members who have an interest in discussing



# Questions?

