Cowichan Watershed Board Update

February 24, 2020
5 Areas of Focus in February

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

- Stantech “hard engineering” contract comes in under budget – seeking to re-allocate resources – to “Natural Boundary” and Public Outreach
  - Stantech planning meetings with Leroy around contract/work details.

- Potential bidders meeting for “Natural Boundary” component
  - Leroy approaching “Surveyor General” of BC and Sr. FLNRORD staff for guidance on this component
Koksilah Water Sustainability Plan

- ILOA between Cowichan Tribes and Province of BC signed by Minister Donaldson and Chief Seymour in Council Chambers Feb. 7

- Resources being transferred from FLNRORD to Cowichan Tribes – workplan to be completed by the end of the week

- CWB invited to participate in steering committee by Cowichan Tribes and Province of BC.

- CSAA delivering community outreach sessions in March to improve public understanding of the watershed and why it is under stress

- Tom and Alison speak to Koksilah farmers regarding watershed values Feb. 18 – (Hosted by BC Dairy Assoc)

- Next steps to coordinate project governance and oversight mechanisms and confirm initial workplan
Cowichan In-season water Management

- Initiative to be proactive with decision making regarding water flow management in Cowichan River until new weir is completed.

- Series of “small group” meetings (Catalyst, Cowichan Tribes, DFO, FLNRORD, CWB)

- Some outcomes to date
  - New modelling commissioned (KWL) to inform decision making
  - Options around “going on control” early (prior to April 1) explored
  - Tentative agreements on how to provide necessary (not optimal) fish flows in times of drought
  - Research designs to assess impacts of less than ideal flows on salmonids (focus on chinook juveniles)
CVRD Drinking Water/Watershed Protection Program

- CVRD Environmental Services Manager Kate Miller to provide update
CWB Target Review

- Separate agenda item
  - Tom to provide “Target Origin story…”
  - Heather to provide update on progress of review.
Questions?