

CWB VIDEO / AUDIO UPDATE

Monday March 30th 2020
9:30-11:30 am

Location: Online
Zoom Video Conference line or Phone.



In light of the CoVid19 recommendation that Canadians stay home and reduce social gatherings, the March CWB meeting was cancelled and this online update session was held instead.

Participants: Co-Chairs Chief Seymour and Aaron Stone, Tim Kulchyski, Kristine Sandhu, Alison Nicholson, David Anderson, David Slade, Debra Toporowski, Lori Iannidinardo, Tom Rutherford, Jill Thompson, Heather Pritchard. **Guest Presenters:** Leroy Van Wieren (CVRD); Clay Reitsma and Judith Cullington (North Cowichan, JUB outfall project).

1.	Welcome and Check-in to get technology working.	Participants all checked in with sound /camera checks.
2.	Review Agenda / Questions about format	
3.	Updates from Executive Director (Tom Rutherford): -Cowichan weir replacement -Cowichan in-season water management -Koksilah Watershed Sustainability Plan -Salish Sea Conference	See presentation attached. Weir update deferred to Leroy (next presenter)
4.	Presentation: Leroy Van Wieren, CVRD Update on Cowichan Lake Weir Engineering and Natural Boundary Analysis	Leroy reviewed his presentation from January CWB meeting to update us on progress since that time. 1) Weir engineering project is behind schedule but Stantec has provided an aggressive project plan that should be able to proceed despite CoVid to keep this project on time and below budget. First 'kick off' call was held last week. 2) "Natural Boundary" project needs to be re-defined as impact modelling. Using the term "Natural Boundary" has been problematic because it implies ground surveys of 800 properties would be needed, which is not the intent or scope of this project. The goal is to understand the impact of a (~70cm) higher weir on upstream properties, which is largely a modelling exercise. This project is delayed but there is time to get on track, and modelling needs to follow from the design (1) anyway. Q: Chief Seymour asked /offered whether the Co-Chairs could help support this with a letter. A: The Surveyor General has determined they can't provide input to the development of the application anyway so no (but thank you).

		3) the budget has been revised to move budget not required for Step 1 to support Step 2, and for weir project communications.
5.	<p>Presentation: Clay Reitsma, District of North Cowichan Senior Manager, Engineering</p> <p>- Update on Joint Utility Board (sewage) outfall project</p>	<p>See presentation.</p> <p>Clay also noted that CoVid is hampering efforts to start public consultation. The limited avenues available for consultation during the pandemic might be argued to restrict a person's ability to participate.</p> <p>Q: What is being done to test environmental contaminants from the outfall?</p> <p>A: Clay provided the following note as a follow-up to the call to better address this question.</p> <p><i>The current discharge in the Cowichan River has been in existence since the 50's. As such, we do not have to hypothesize about the effects to the degree that we can test for select substances in tissues and sediments in the Bay.</i></p> <p><i>In the EIS we sampled the effluent to find out which CECs are present that have guidelines (there are not many guidelines that have limits at this point in time). We then took samples of tissues and sediments in the Bay to see if we could find accumulations of the said substances. We did not detect such substances after approximately 70 years of discharge. That being said our intent is to continue to monitor select substances through the Receiving Environment Monitoring Program (REMP).</i></p> <p>[For more info: See Stage 2 EIS Outfall Terminus report Section 1.4.2 (page 8-10) lists CECs that were looked at, and Section 3 (page 47 on) talks about the results of bioaccumulation in tissues.]</p> <p>Q: Since the options presented will impact how much pipe would end up being laid in the ocean vs on land, is there a summary available to the public of the general comparative environmental impacts of pipes laid in water vs pipes laid on land?</p> <p>A: Clay explained this isn't easily summarized. The environmental, cultural and economic impacts are inter-related and can't be easily summarized.</p>
6.	Other	<p>Q: Did CVRD's Drinking Water and Watershed Protection budget pass on Wednesday?</p> <p>A: Yes the amended budget passed as presented by CVRD staff.</p> <p>Comments on the format were generally positive, including the ability to view slide decks and faces even on a cell phone in a car (go Tim go!). However technical issues caused some problems.</p>
7.	Adjourn. Next meeting Mon. April 27 th (Format TBD)	Stay tuned.