Cowichan Watershed Board Update

March 30, 2020

4 Update Topics today….

- Cowichan Weir – BC Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund
- Cowichan Water Management Planning
- Koksilah Water Sustainability Plan
- 2020 Salish Sea Conference Panel

BCSRIF – Cowichan Weir

- Participated in "Kick off" Webex Meeting with Stantech Engineering team and local partners Friday March 20
- Project Manager Leroy Van Wieren will provide more detailed update as separate agenda item

Koksilah Water Sustainability Plan

- This work represents an opportunity to change the way we manage our water and watersheds in British Columbia
- Fiscal agreement signed – 75K to Cowichan tribes for scoping initiative – end date Sept. 30
- Project Governance
  - Steering committee set
  - Initial working groups set
  - Selective non-disclosure agreement drafted
  - Next meeting April 9

Koksilah Water Sustainability Plan

- CWB staff resourced to contribute to this process by BCFLI
- Current role:
  - Advisory role in Steering Committee
  - Member of Stakeholder Outreach Working group
- Question:
  - If properly resourced, would CWB members be comfortable with CWB taking on secretariat role to Koksilah WSP Steering Committee?

Cowichan In-season water Management

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

- Immediate outcomes:
  - Decision made to go on control early to capture water as lake levels dropped rapidly
  - Flows held at 25 cms as per E-flow guidelines
  - Lake was only 57% full when went on control
  - Precipitation over weekend has raised lake level – flows being maintained at 25cms until weir is overtopped and system goes off control

Lake Levels


Re: Claudia Ferris shared "CWB.
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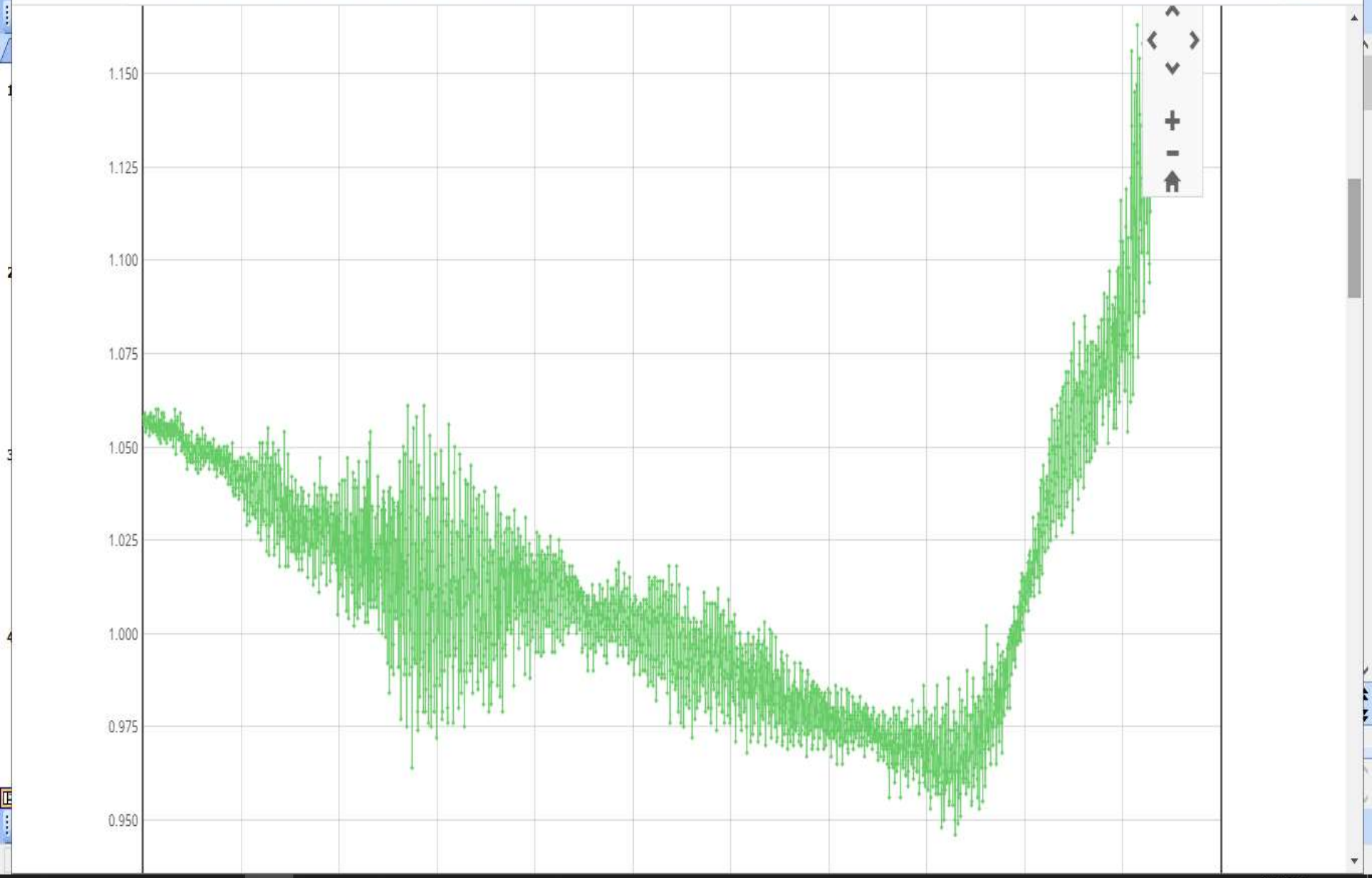

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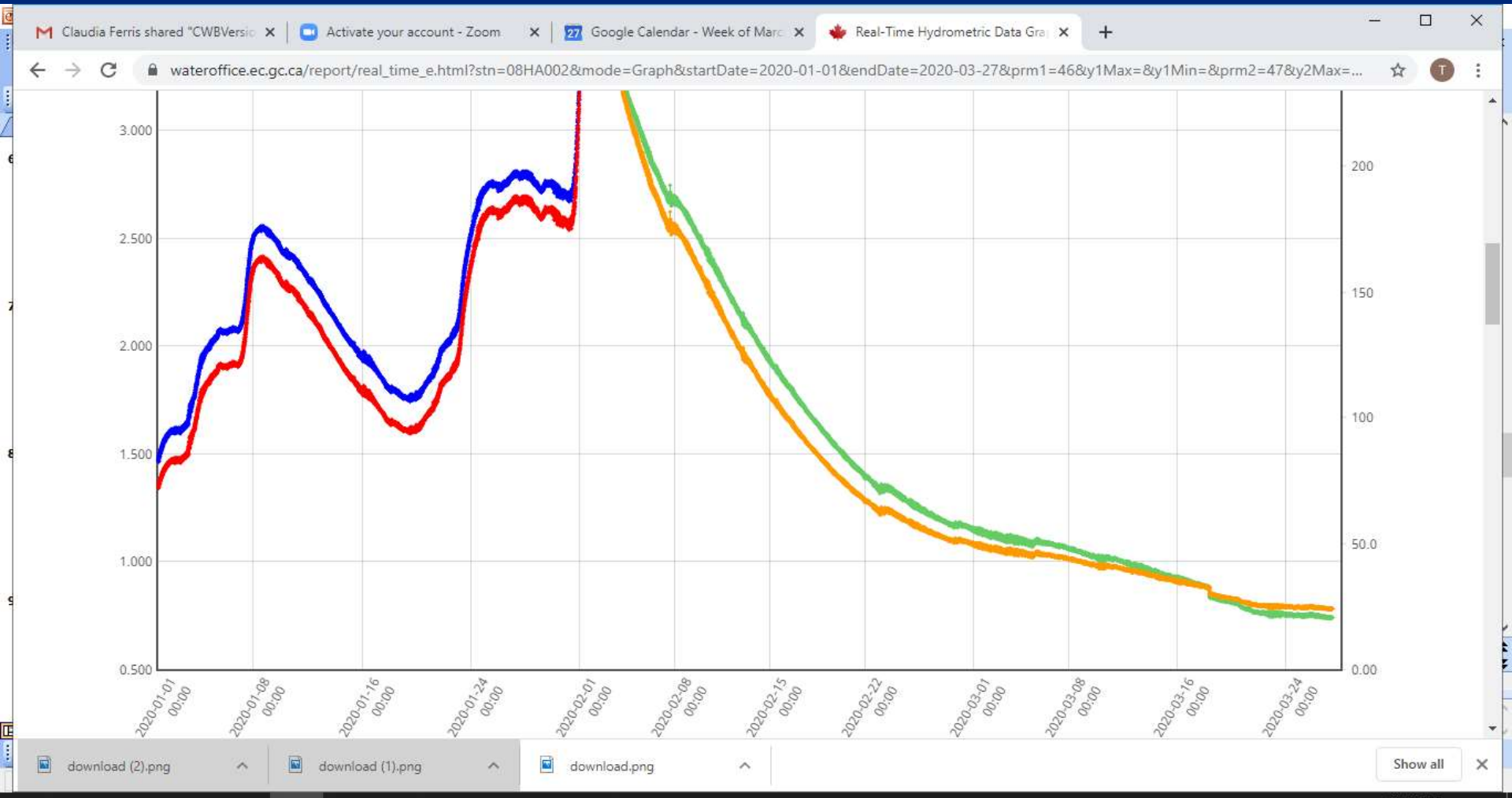
River Flows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Cowichan In-season water Management

- Long Term Outcomes
  - working to create simple guideline model looking at 3 parameters
    - lake level, snow pack (earlier in season) and date
  - managing water to maximize flows and avoid pumping
  - Discussions around environmental priorities: whether more important to maintain e-flows (and at over what time periods) or avoid pumping – in most years will be impossible to do both.
  - Important to gather information on impacts if we do drop below optimal flows (which we have done 5 out of last 6 years….)

Salish Sea Conference

- Tim and I scheduled to be part of a "panel" to discuss water/watershed management at international conference next month
- Conference cancelled but identified real synergies among panel members and continuing relationship
- Eg. Nisqually River Foundation creating forest hydrology models that will provide guidance to forest management practices (rotation length, AAC, harvest prescriptions, etc.) based on working towards minimizing hydrological impacts to the watershed.

Questions?