

Cowichan Watershed Board Update



July 27, 2020

4 Update Topics today....

- ❑ Progress on Cowichan Weir – Leroy Van Wieren
- ❑ New BCSRIF Proposal Concept
- ❑ Koksilah WSP Outreach & Engagement
- ❑ Cowichan Water Conservation License
–*Developing a recipe for success*–
separate agenda item



New BCSRIF Proposal

- Second and final call from this joint Federal provincial salmon focussed funding source
 - First call netted us 4M to bring weir to shovel ready state – work to be completed April 2022
 - Received support from CWS and Koksilah WSP steering committee to move forward on planning stages of joint proposal to fund salmon stock assessment work on Koksilah watershed:
 - No salmon abundance estimates developed for Koksilah this century – basing our push for more sustainable flows on impacts to salmon
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The Work...



- ❑ adult abundance estimates for CN and CM
 - partial fence, DIDSON and camera

 - ❑ Juvenile density estimates for Coho and Steelhead
 - Transect sampling using triple pass removal methodology

 - ❑ Habitat assessment work to more clearly define the relationship between flows and critical habitats for salmon species (work already completed for steelhead)
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The Approach...

- ❑ Exploring a partnership approach
- ❑ Twinned watershed proposal involving Koksilah and Chemainus
 - Similar watersheds with similar issues
 - Leads from Chemainus could be Halalt FN or QARS
 - Would avoid competitive proposals from adjacent watersheds – partnership approach



Next Steps

- ❑ Deadline Sept. 15
- ❑ Need to make sure partnership works for all involved and decide on project proponent
- ❑ Working to secure project manager and Operations manager, field work by CT technicians
- ❑ Large initiative – 500K over 4 years for each watershed.



Koksilah WSP Scoping Community Engagement

- ❑ 4 Major components to current Koksilah WSP scoping initiative
 - Building Relationships at the Planning table
 - Filling technical gaps – hydrological work to identify factors contributing to chronic summer low water
 - Engagement Cowichan Tribes community members
 - Broader Community engagement – taking the pulse of the “Kosilah community”...
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Community Engagement...

- MODUS Planning has been retained to do initial outreach and engagement
- Kick off meeting last Thursday
- MODUS team working on interview design
 - Detailed one on one interviews with key stakeholders and community leaders
 - Broadly scoped Survey



This Work has 3 primary Objectives:

- ❑ **Solicit opinion and information** that will assist the SC in planning the next phase of a Koksilah water(shed) planning process
- ❑ **Initiate a positive dialogue** with community members and key stakeholders
- ❑ **Demonstrate a commitment** to early and transparent engagement with the community, decision-makers, and key water and land users about the WSP scoping exercise



Expected Outcomes

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- ❑ A better understanding of the interests, concerns and perspectives of community members and key stakeholders
 - ❑ A positive engagement experience for all participants who will have a clear understanding of the engagement process and how their input will be used at all stages of this process.
 - ❑ Interested, informed and engaged community partners and stakeholders
 - ❑ Summary report of the information gathered to assist the Steering Committee in planning next steps.
 - ❑ Summary Presentations delivered to the Steering Committee and/or Cowichan Tribes Committee(s)
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Huy tseep q'u Questions ...

