

Cowichan Weir  
License & Owner Process:  
Status Update

February 28, 2022

# Recap

- For the Weir to proceed, it needs a conservation license holder(s) and owner(s)
- Cowichan Tribes is convening a facilitated process with CVRD, BC, DFO, PE, CWB
- Goal is consensus on a *single preferred arrangement* for the weir license/ownership

# Three Big Take-Aways from Scoping

## **1) Learning about what's involved in being a licensee and owner**

**2) Process clarification:** Province clarified that a *non-binding application for the new (conservation) water license would be allowed*. Prior to granting a license, the Province will work iteratively with the applicant(s) to examine issues and make key outstanding decisions, including those related to risk liability, the province's financial contributions, license terms & conditions wrt water management, etc.

## **3) Strategic issue and challenge: no party willing to exclusively take on new responsibilities.**

Parties considered 3 strategic questions ahead of first Flying V workshop:

- *What is your desired role in weir license/ownership?*
- *How willing are you, if at all, to assume responsibilities associated with license/ownership?*
- *What would it take to enable you to have a role?*

# Status Update: What We Heard on Feb 1

**Emerging consensus on a direction forward:** representatives agreed to explore a local partnership approach for a new water license/weir ownership arrangement that is *enabled, empowered, and resourced* by senior governments.

- Province/DFO committed to supporting a local approach; not willing to assume asset ownership/license while compelling local options exist
- No local party willing/able to take on responsibilities alone - necessitates shared approach
- PE will continue providing capacity for ops & maintenance (PE not willing to contribute to capital)
- All recognize the *urgency to initiate the application process*

# Immediate Next Steps

- Cowichan Tribes Chief and Council passed motion (Feb 8) for CT, CVRD, PE to *explore a local partnership on a water license application*
- CVRD considering the *same motion* this week (March 3<sup>rd</sup>)

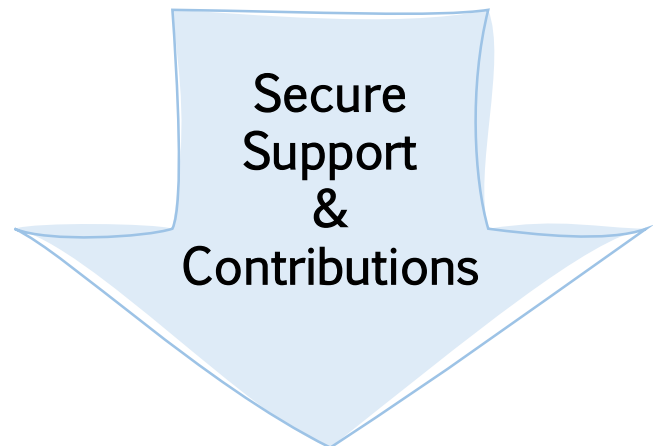
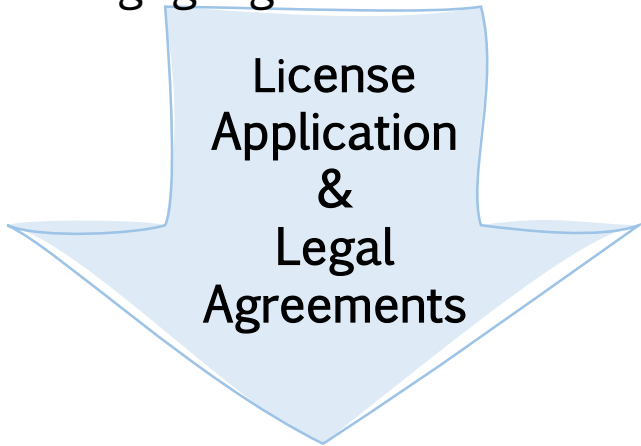
# MILESTONES TO WEIR COMPLETION

2022



- Consensus recommendations on license/ownership approach
- Initiate water license process and development of legal agreements
- Engage governments and funders for contributions and support

2023

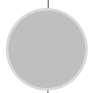


2024



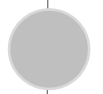
- BC Decision to grant water license, authorize construction
- License, owner, operator arrangements confirmed
- Financial Framework (capital contributions) secured
- Support may be required from local electorate

2025



- Weir construction tendering, procurement

2026



- Weir build

2028



- Weir completion

# Discussion

*Any general questions or concerns for clarification?*

With the emerging direction of a local partnership approach, the 3 strategic questions are still relevant - but have become more nuanced...

- What are the options and implications for CWB's role in a local partnership - in the short and long-term?
- How can the CWB bring its successes, strengths, and lessons learned to bear in the evolution of CT and CVRD's partnership on water?