



September 2, 2020

Dear Property Owner,

RE: Cowichan Lake Weir Replacement Project - Update

Following Provincial guidelines, a Water Use Plan was developed for the Cowichan Lake and River systems. This plan, completed in 2018, concluded that replacing the current weir with a new weir is critical to support environmental flows now and for the foreseeable future. It will create an additional 70 centimeters of storage as well as meet all of today's engineering and dam safety requirements.

The weir replacement program has multiple steps that must be completed prior to a new weir being constructed including; engineering design of a new structure, strategies to remove the existing weir, assessment of impacts to the foreshore, formation of a legal entity to apply for a water licence, a formal licence application and adjudication by the province and finally sourcing the resources to construct a new weir prior to construction.

BC Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund have provided a grant to the project sponsors (Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD), Cowichan Tribes, Cowichan Watershed Board, and Paper Excellence) to complete the required engineering and shoreline assessment work phases. This project will be completed by March 2022.

The weir design contract with Stantec Consulting was started in the fall of 2019 and is progressing on plan. The shoreline assessment contract has just been awarded to the engineering firm Kerr Wood Leidal who have engaged Bazett Land Surveying for field work.

A field survey program will start mid-September and run through the fall. This work will record existing conditions and will help to support and verify existing databases to support assessments, analyses and modelling. **Field crews of 1 or 2 people will access the shore by boat and walk along the beach to collect geophysical information along the shoreline from the existing water level to the typical High-Water Mark.** The field work will focus on developed areas and will collect GPS survey measurements, shoreline photos and observations.

For further information on both components of the existing program please visit the Project Website at cowichanlakeweir.ca

Regards,

Leroy Van Wieren, Project Manager

