

ANNOUNCEMENT

August 2008



Cowichan Valley Water Balance Model Forum

Create Liveable Communities and Protect Stream Health

WHAT is it: The new 'Water Balance Model powered by QUALHYMO' is unique, bridges engineering and planning, links development sites to the stream and watershed, and enables local governments to establish science-based runoff performance targets. Web-based and public domain, the tool is available at www.waterbalance.ca

Developed by an Inter-Governmental Partnership in 2003 as an extension of *Stormwater Planning: A Guidebook for British Columbia*, the model correlates green infrastructure effectiveness in protecting stream health. It also underpins a water-centric approach to climate change adaptation.



Rather than expending effort re-inventing calculation methods and chasing routine data, stakeholders can focus on developing the results they seek in an accessible, flexible and proven environment that has been delivered with the features they have specified. This tool is

the professional computational and communication backbone that will take us towards the sustainable reality of a greening of the built environment.

WHY does it matter: The Cowichan Valley is the pilot region for an inclusive and collaborative educational program. A select focus group comprising leading Island land developers, consultants and Cowichan Valley local governments will participate in a hands-on training forum with the most innovative on-line tool available for rainwater management and green infrastructure.

WHEN: Friday, October 17 from 10am to 3pm

WHERE: The Board and Training rooms at the offices of the Cowichan Valley Regional District

FACULTY: The teaching team comprises:

- Kim Stephens – Water Sustainability Action Plan
- Jim Dumont – Engineering Applications Authority
- Richard Boase - District of North Vancouver

AGENDA OVERVIEW: The forum will be conducted as a 'hybrid-training workshop' to meet the diverse information needs of invitees.

This means the day will be built around case study demonstrations of the WBM. These will provide the technical foundation for roundtable sharing of ideas on 'how to' achieve runoff-based performance targets for developments, the "New Business as Usual" for rainwater management and green infrastructure.

To provide a reality-check on the brainstorming, three developer-consultant teams are being asked to apply the WBM beforehand at three scales:

- Single family site
- Large commercial development
- Residential neighbourhood

The desired outcome is that development proponents will understand how to use the WBM as a decision support tool to help them meet targets, and local government reviewers will understand what the results mean.