

Partnership for Water Sustainability in British Columbia

2016 Annual Report



President's Perspective

Breadth and Reach of the Partnership

For the 4th consecutive year, the Partnership for Water Sustainability and Irrigation Industry Association of BC are collaborating to deliver a workshop. This year's event is titled **FLOWnGROW: Balancing Economy, Ecology and Settlement in the Okanagan**.

The three previous workshops were extremely successful and we are looking forward to building on our past successes. FLOWnGROW is a timely follow up to *Feast and Famine – Solutions and Tools in Response to a Changing Climate in BC*, which was held in Richmond in December 2015.

Sitelines Magazine: In May, the British Columbia Society of Landscape Architects (BCLSA) invited the Partnership to deliver the keynote address at the BCLSA Annual Conference. BCLSA then asked us to be co-editor and provide the content for the June issue of their Sitelines Magazine. Copies will be distributed at FLOWnGROW. Article titles listed below demonstrate the breadth and reach of the Partnership:

- Restoring the Water Balance – What Happens on the Land Matters
- Water as a Form-Maker
- The Journey to Balance Economy, Ecology, and Settlement on Vancouver Island
- Waterbucket.ca: Website Showcases Water-Centric Innovation and Leadership
- Water Balance Express: Restore 'Environmental Flows' in Urban Streams
- Water Licence Calculator: Managing Water as One Resource
- High Efficiency Irrigation Standard: How it Will Help Achieve a Water Balance
- Sustainable Service Delivery: Watersheds are Infrastructure Assets

Metro Vancouver Agriculture Water Forum: Metro Vancouver asked the Partnership to help organize and facilitate an Agriculture Water Forum for the Metro Vancouver region in November 2016. The Partnership is moderating the forum as well as providing presentations. The forum will highlight water supply issues facing the agriculture industry in the region.

Water Sustainability Act: Because groundwater licencing is a requirement under the Water Sustainability Act, the Province looked to the Partnership to develop an agriculture water licencing tool. The tool went live on February 29th and is now being used by those applying for a water licence as well as the water licence adjudicators. Some additions that have been added to the tool include livestock water use, adjusted irrigation season lengths, as well as groundwater and watershed boundaries.

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Agriculture Water Demand Model: The Partnership is now in Year Four of a five-year agreement with the Ministry of Agriculture to deliver the Agriculture Water Demand Model program. This past year the Central Kootenay Regional District as well as the Alberni Clayoquot Regional District were surveyed to compile the land use inventory information. A methodology for obtaining the Peace River land use inventory is still being investigated. Work on the soil data attributes is also continuing.

Water Balance Model: The Water Balance Model Express continues to expand. It is currently operational for the District of North Vancouver, Cowichan Valley Regional District, the City of Surrey, Coquitlam, Comox Valley Regional District and Cape Breton. The Partnership is also continuing to initiate upgrades to the Water Balance Model.

A Look Ahead: The Partnership will continue to implement the *Water Sustainability Action Plan* in 2017 and will look for new opportunities and activities that can help us celebrate our successes and build on Action Plan initiatives such as:

- Georgia Basin Inter-Regional Education Initiative (IREI)
- waterbucket.ca website

Success can only be accomplished through the integration of efforts of practitioners including our many partners in the provincial government, local governments and non-profit societies. Our successes are only possible with your support and efforts.

I thank the Partnership leadership team - Kim Stephens, Richard Boase, Eric Bonham, Glen Brown, Raymond Fung, Peter Law, Tim Pringle, Mike Tanner, John Finnie and Derek Richmond - for their insight and direction. As a team we have many exciting initiatives planned. If anyone reading this is interested in working with us please feel free to contact any of the above.

Ted van der Gulik
President
Partnership for Water Sustainability
November 2016

