

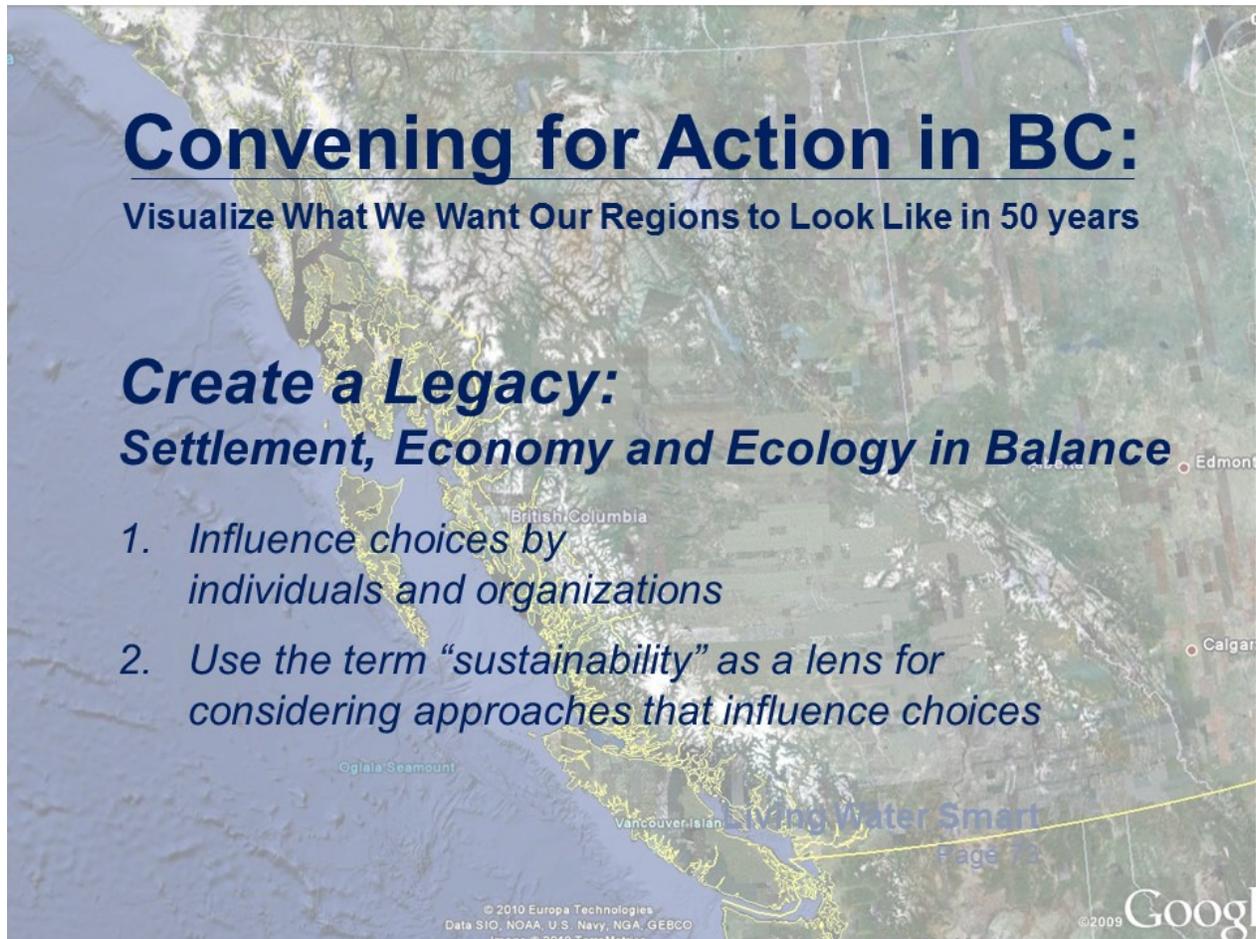


the partnership
for water sustainability in bc

2019 Annual Report



November 2019



The Partnership originated as an inter-governmental initiative almost two decades ago, became the BC Water Sustainability Committee in 2003, and then 8 years ago on November 19, 2010 was incorporated as a not-for-profit society.

The purpose of incorporation of the Partnership as a society is to ensure the legacy of the tools and initiatives developed under the umbrella of the Water Sustainability Action Plan for British Columbia.

The mission of the Partnership is to develop tools and talent, and focus on outcomes that align regional and local actions with a provincial policy, program and regulatory framework for achieving water and watershed sustainability.

Partnership for Water Sustainability in British Columbia

2019 Annual Report

2019 Board of Directors



TED VAN DER GULIK is chair of the Water Balance Model initiative and also led the Agriculture Water Demand Project initiative for the Province. In February 2014, he retired from the Ministry of Agriculture after 35 years of service as the Senior Engineer in the Sustainable Agriculture Management Branch in Abbotsford. “The Water Balance Model was the driving force behind the formation of the Partnership and continues to provide a strong link to the other projects that have been initiated,” says Ted.



RICHARD BOASE is the District of North Vancouver’s Section Manager, Environmental Sustainability (Operations). Richard is also Co-Chair of the Water Balance Model initiative. “Getting involved in the Partnership was simply the right thing to do,” reflects Richard. “This belief is what drives my personal commitment to fulfilling my own ecological and sustainable vision. Our water is the most precious commodity on the planet. Through the Partnership, I saw a way of contributing and making a difference to sustain this resource, which is a right for all, in a way that appealed to me immensely.”



MIKE TANNER is Chair of the Waterbucket Website and Partnership Treasurer. He retired as a Senior Manager with BC Hydro’s Power Smart Program. “Recognizing a need for a single point of access to news, information and tools for sustainable water management in BC, we launched the waterbucket.ca website in 2005,” says Mike. “By providing universal access to information, we believe we will continue to see ever-improving standards of practice in all aspects of land development and water resource management.”



TIM PRINGLE was the founding Executive Director of the Real Estate Foundation of BC, and served in that capacity for 20 years. “A number of creative and experienced volunteers direct the work of the Partnership and help implement its programs,” says Tim. “I am privileged to work with them and to be able to pursue my passion to see BC communities adopt a more integrated approach to stewardship of land and water. The Partnership’s goal is to help communities implement designing with nature strategies as a basic step to managing settlement change in balance with ecology makes perfect sense.”



DEREK RICHMOND retired from the City of Courtenay in 2013. He has served as Chair of CAVI-Convening for Action on Vancouver Island since 2011. “My passion for water resources and the environment has been with me from an early age. As a practitioner with more than 40 years in engineering and environmental issues, I am fortunate to have been involved in a wide variety of projects and initiatives across Canada, and in the USA and the UK. I see an opportunity to apply experience gained during my career to the visioning that will help steer us in the right direction to maintain water resources in balance with ecology, economy and education,” says Derek.



PETER LAW has volunteered his time to undertake many important Partnership functions, such as recording secretary and Membership Chair. “My principle interest in seeking the nomination is the promotion of Water Sustainability as it pertains to the restoration of our small streams and how this is linked to maintaining a watershed’s health. As a Provincial Biologist with the Ministry of Environment for 30+ years, I became acutely aware of how our existing land development practices are causing natural systems to degrade. I have supported the need for ‘change’ through educational approaches promoted by the Partnership to *Design with Nature*.”

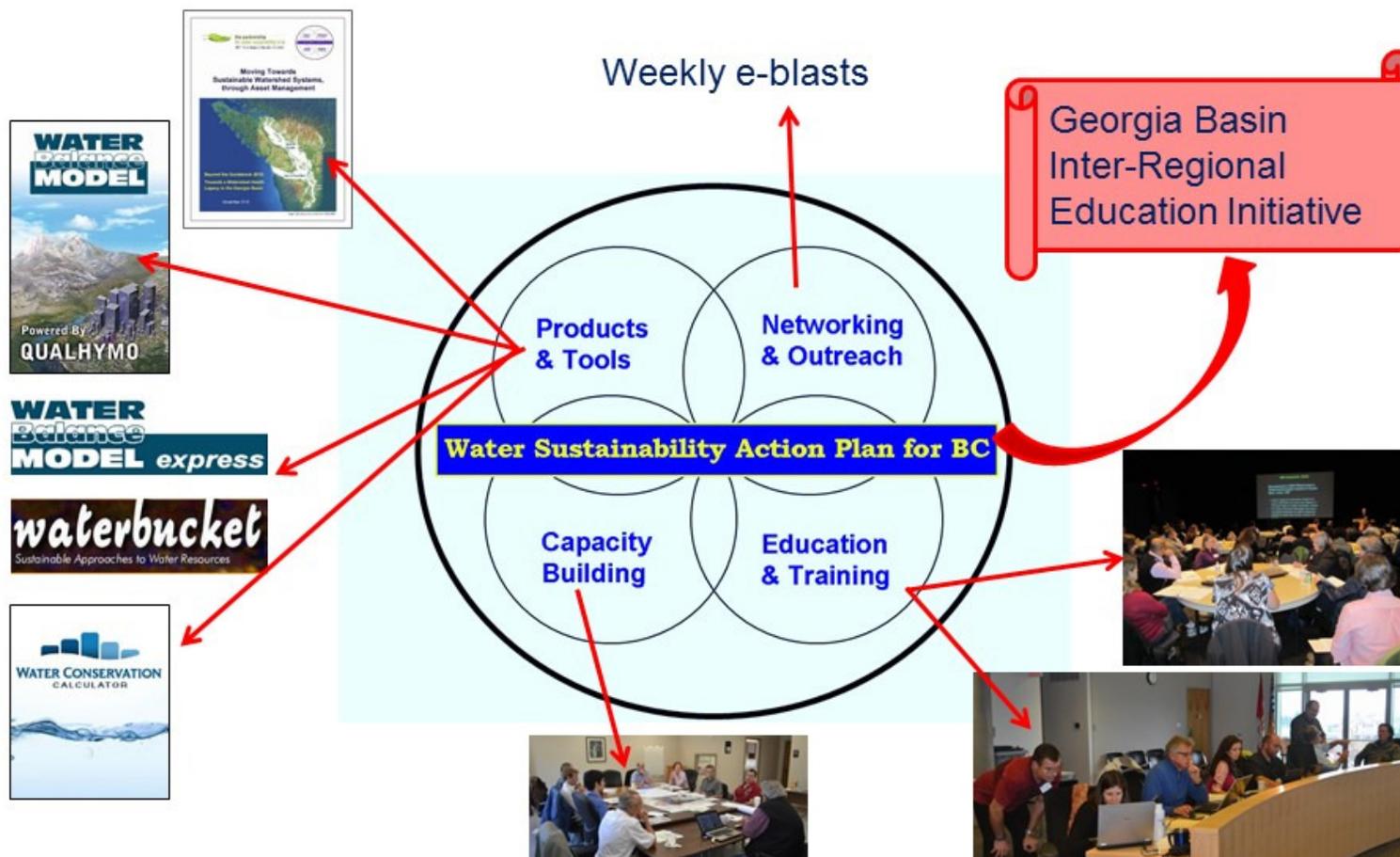


RAY FUNG is the Director of Engineering & Transportation Services with the District of West Vancouver. He is a founding member of the Partnership. He previously chaired two of the Partnership’s original incarnations, namely: the Water Sustainability Committee of the BCWWA (2003-2008) and the BC Green Infrastructure Partnership (2008-2011). “Over the last 10 years, the Partnership has accomplished much. Yet much still remains to be accomplished,” states Ray.

Partnership for Water Sustainability in British Columbia

2019 Annual Report

OUR MISSION: Develop Tools. Develop Talent.
Focus on Outcomes



The Partnership is the umbrella entity for the Water Sustainability Action Plan for British Columbia



President's Perspective

Breadth and Reach of the Partnership

As in previous years, this past year has found the Partnership for Water Sustainability in BC in the midst of a number of new and old ventures with respect to promoting sustainable watersheds in BC. Annual reports from other members of the Partnership's Leadership Team address some of those initiatives. Below, my focus is on how the Partnership supports ongoing implementation of the Water Sustainability Act. To this end, the Partnership is responsible for three provincial tools:

- **Water Licencing Tool:** The PWSBC has received funding from the Ministry of Agriculture to upgrade the Agriculture Water Licencing Tool. Originally developed in 2016 the tool has been very successful and the Province has requested that some upgrades be added. Upgrades include the ability to report monthly water use and a drawing tool that will allow the reports generated to be used as a farm plan with the water application.
- **Landscape Water Calculator:** The PWSBC launched this new tool using the platform that was built for the agriculture calculator. The city of Kelowna, RBC Blue Water Program and the Irrigation Industry Association of BC are funding partners in this project. Nearing completion, it is expected to be launched early in 2020.
- **Agriculture Water Demand Model:** The Partnership finished a five year agreement with the Ministry of Agriculture to deliver the Agriculture Water Demand Model program in March of 2018. In May of 2018 another five year agreement was established in an effort to make the AWDM operational for the entire province. The new agreement will allow for additional work on digitizing soils data, update climate data to 2018 and develop an online version of the AWDM.

As always the PWSBC success is accomplished by partnering with the provincial government, local governments, non-profit societies and practitioners. Our successes are only possible with their 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. .

Ted van der Gulik
President
Partnership for Water Sustainability
November 2019





Report from the Executive Director

Collaboration in a Changing Climate

This annual report remind readers that the Partnership for Water Sustainability originated as an inter-governmental partnership, formed in 2002. Since 2004, we have been responsible for delivering the Water Sustainability Action Plan through partnerships and collaboration. The essence of this long-term and ongoing commitment is distilled as follows:

- Multi-year programs blend technical assistance and awareness-raising.
- Develop guidance documents and online tools.
- Collaborate. Develop talent. Focus on outcomes.
- Cross-pollinate with other organizations.

The **Georgia Basin Inter-Regional Education Initiative** (IREI) is the Partnership's flagship program. Five regional districts are IREI partners: Metro Vancouver, Capital, Nanaimo, Cowichan Valley and Comox Valley. Combined, they represent 75% of BC's population. The Partnership's mandate is to provide value through collaboration and partnerships. This means:

1. Play a bridging role among the provincial government, local government and community sectors.
2. Help to align regional and local actions with provincial policy, program and regulatory framework.
3. Employ research and develop tools and resources to support whole-system, water balance approach
4. Undertake demonstration applications that test, refine and mainstream new ideas and approaches.
5. Showcase success stories and facilitate peer-based learning.

The IREI provides local governments with a mechanism to collaborate, share outcomes and cross-pollinate experience with each other. Under this umbrella, the Partnership's mission is to advance the whole-system, water balance approach to land development and sustainable service delivery. The associated educational goal is to provide local governments with tools and understanding necessary to implement whole-system, water balance approach.

*Kim A. Stephens,
Executive Director
Partnership for Water Sustainability in BC
November 2019*





Report from the Membership Chair

Categories of Membership

The Partnership has three categories of membership to our society:

- Associate
- Organization (Corporate)

Here are some brief details about these types of membership:

- **Associate:** Our policy is that any individual with an interest in green infrastructure and/or water sustainability can become an Associate Member by going to the top-right corner of any page on the waterbucket.ca website and follow the instructions to receive the weekly Waterbucket News. In 2019 we had 130 individuals join (and receive our weekly newsletter). Since 2012 a total of 748 Associate Members have joined the Partnership.
- **Organization/(Corporate):** This category currently totals 18 organizations local governments and consultants that are Water Balance Model (WBM) Partners and Subscribers, respectively

*Peter Law
Membership Chair
Partnership for Water Sustainability
November 2019*





Report from the Secretary

The New Societies Act and Collaboration

The Partnership continues to operate effectively and with increased efficiencies since the introduction of the new Societies Act which came into effect in British Columbia in 2016. This has allowed the Partnership to undertake some of its work in a virtual but rapid response manner while still maintaining the one-on-one contact with the Directors.

Filing of reports as a requirement of the Societies Act has become easier; and also provides for quick reviews, changes and sharing of information.

As with other organizations operating under the Societies Act, we participated in a survey / review of the new Act and reported that we are able to function more effectively with its recent changes.

As we evolve and look to the future for changes within the organization, including an increasing workload, more complex issues, changes to directorship and succession planning, the tools we use and their applications are becoming ever more important.

We look forward to embracing these challenges and feel confident that we move ahead with a solid foundation for future administrations.

*Derek Richmond
Secretary
Partnership for Water Sustainability
November 2019*





Report from the Chair, Operational Plan Committee

Looking Ahead to 2020 and Beyond

Developed and approved by the Board in 2018, the Operational Plan (the Plan) continued to guide the Leadership Team and volunteers. The Plan identifies 12 current goals for the Partnership and, provides detailed information specifically to outline objectives and day-to-day tasks. The Plan also identifies the Chair responsible for each of the goals as well as the person(s) responsible for the required activities and events to achieve these goals.

The Plan and ensuing activities were designed to ensure alignment with the mission, vision and values of the Partnership. The Plan also helps the Partnership use available resources to achieve the desired outcomes. I am happy to announce that the first goal has been completed with the successful Parksville Symposium, the second in the *Vancouver Island Water Stewardship in a Changing Climate Series*. Work continues on the remaining 11 goals.

The Plan provides guidance that leads to commitment and working arrangements that extend to cooperation, coordination and coevolution with shared goals. One of the priority goals is to enhance the capabilities of the online Water Balance suite of tools to support the Ecological Accounting Process (EAP) as well as expanding their use.

The sudden death of Dr. Charles Rowney, the Partnership's Scientific Authority, has created some challenges in the Partnership's ability to advance use of the *Water Balance Model powered by QUALHYMO*. Dr. Mike Hulley (Royal Military College) has stepped up to co-chair the QUALHYMO Advisory Team, enabling this goal to be addressed in 2020.

The Plan continues to help the Partnership to successfully engage partners, by being clear about our goals and why we are doing what we are doing and, how we are going to set about achieving them. This clarity of goals and objectives will allow partners in the local government and stewardship sectors to do what they want to do and ascertain how they will contribute to our mission - for example, in October the Partnership signed an MOU with Asset Management BC, thereby providing a framework for collaboration.

While the Plan is somewhat static, even when called rolling, it is the ability of the current leadership team to adapt on the fly which continues to create successful achievements.

Mike Tanner
Chair
Partnership for Water Sustainability
November 2019





Report from the Chair, Vancouver Island Water Stewardship Annual Symposium Series

Convening for Action in the Comox Valley in April 2020

Congratulations and thank you to the superb team that made the Parksville 2019 Water Symposium such a success story. To reiterate what I said at the conclusion of the event:

Parksville 2019 demonstrated that a group of some 200 biologists, planners, engineers, streamkeepers, politicians, administrators, students, volunteers, and others, all with different backgrounds, expertise and responsibilities, can share a common learning experience and agree on strategies for water and land stewardship, and stream restoration. It was indeed a magical experience.

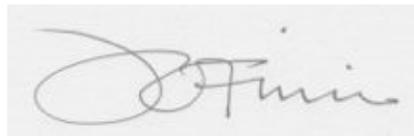
This holds true. Expectations were high as we approached Parksville 2019. But they were clearly met as evidenced by the comments, reviews and survey results received. Parksville 2019 was informative, educational and inspiring, and most participants left keen to attend the next in the series: *Comox Valley 2020 on Climate Change, Collaboration and Restorative Landscapes*. This title reflects more than just current buzz words. It is what we must consider and do to diverge from the worrisome path we are on.

Three days of presentations, interactive workshops, and educational field sessions at Parkville 2019, led by experts from Canada and the US, gave delegates a great deal of food-for-thought and ideas for action that will help us do better. That is our mantra: **Do, Learn, Adapt and Do Better**. The Annual Vancouver Island Water Symposium series helps us accomplish this.

Organizing these events is a big job. I am pleased that my co-chair these past two years - Paul Chapman, Executive Director of the Nanaimo & Area Land Trust (NALT) - has stepped up to take over as chair of the **Vancouver Island Symposia Series on Water Stewardship in a Changing Climate**. Let us show Paul and the Committee our support for next year. Attend, participate, discuss, critique, do.

Make a difference.

John Finnie, P.Eng.
Chair, Parksville 2019 Organizing Committee
Chair, Nanaimo 2018 Organizing Committee
Partnership for Water Sustainability
November 2019

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Finnie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



Report from the Chair, Ecological Accounting Process (EAP) Initiative

A BC Strategy for Community Investment in the Natural Commons

Local governments have existing tools in the form of policies and legislation for ‘maintenance and management’ (M&M) of ecological assets, which are used for infrastructure services. What they lack are a pragmatic methodology and meaningful metrics for effective decision-making and implementation.

Like constructed infrastructure assets, ecological assets provide services to support quality of life and property enjoyment. Local governments need ‘real numbers’, not imputed values, which will enable informed community investment decisions for M&M.

But there is no common method of identifying ecological services or determining the budget required for M&M.

EAP, the Ecological Accounting Process, has a philosophy, strategy and valuation methodology. EAP is a recent milestone along the ‘green infrastructure continuum’. The lynch-pin concept for EAP is the ‘natural commons’.

EAP is about applying existing tools more successfully to protect and manage ecological assets. Testing, refining and mainstreaming EAP is a 3-stage program.

- Stage 1 demonstrated EAP relevance to local government.
- Stage 2 resulted in working definitions and consistent application of EAP methodology.
- Stage 3 mainstreaming is to be implemented in 2020 and 2021, subject to the Partnership receiving confirmation of grant funding in December 2019 for a 2-year program.

Mainstreaming would comprise six more EAP Demonstrations, for a grand total of ten, that cover a broad range of land use situations within the Georgia Basin (Vancouver Island and Metro Vancouver) – urban, suburban, semi-rural and rural.

The vision for the Stage 3 program is to create a ‘self-help’ way of doing business in the local government context. Local governments would then deploy solutions themselves, and rely less without reliance on outside service providers. Peer-based learning and sharing ultimately holds the key to mainstreaming EAP.

Tim Pringle
Chair, EAP Initiative
Partnership for Water Sustainability
November 2019

