



the partnership
for water sustainability in bc

2020 Annual Report

*Reconnect People, Land and
Water in Altered Landscapes*

- 1. Influence choices by individuals and organizations***
- 2. Use the phrase “sustainable and resilient” as a lens for considering approaches that influence choices***

November 2020



President's Perspective

Breadth and Reach of the Partnership

The Partnership is celebrating 10 years of existence as a non-profit. Kim Stephens elaborates in his report. The Partnership continues to promote many water sustainability initiatives in the province of British Columbia as highlighted in this Annual Report.

Symposia Series on Water Stewardship in a Changing Climate: Due to COVID, the Partnership co-produced a video trilogy of videos for broadcast on YouTube during the November - December period. Elsewhere in this Annual Report, Richard Boase shares a progress report on the series.

EAP, the Ecological Accounting Process: Elsewhere in this Annual Report, Tim Pringle shares a progress report on the EAP program. The intent is to make sustainable service delivery more robust with the inclusion of the value and costs associated with the use of services from natural assets as municipal infrastructure.

Water Sustainability Act: The Partnership is responsible for the following:

- **Agriculture Water Calculator:** The Partnership has continued to receive funding from the Ministry of Agriculture to upgrade the Agriculture Water Calculator. There are two years remaining in this program. Upgrades have been made to the calculator at the request of the Province of BC. This includes the ability of grapes crops to include a cover crop when estimating an annual water budget.
- **Irrigation Use Calculator:** In some regions of the province, water managers are requesting agricultural producers to monitor or measure their water use. Reports do not need to be submitted to the provincial government but must be kept on file. Agricultural producers were upset that it appeared that a meter may be needed which would be a significant cost for some. The BC Cattleman's Association asked The Partnership to develop an irrigation water use calculator to determine annual water use without the need to purchase a meter. This tool has been developed and can be found alongside the agriculture and landscape calculators at www.bcwatercalculator.ca.
- **Landscape Water Calculator:** The landscape calculator is now functional with the City of Kelowna being the first partner in the application of this tool. The calculator works province wide but as a partner the city of Kelowna has added features. The Partnership has reached out to other local governments inviting them to become a partner in the tool.

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Agriculture Water Demand Model: The current agreement with the province on the AWDM expires in 2023. Work in the northern part of the province is progressing. An online version of the AWDM is being worked on a beta version should be available by March 2021.

Water Balance Model: Additional work is continuing with the Water Balance Express. A concerted effort is underway to use the tool as part of municipal bylaws. This venture is being piloted in the District North Vancouver.

waterbucket.ca Website: The enduring success of the website is reflected in the increase in the number of requests to be added to Waterbucket eNews, The Partnership's weekly newsletter. Elsewhere in this Annual Report, both Mike Tanner and Peter Law comment in their reports on waterbucket.ca and membership, respectively.

The success of The Partnership 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. Kim Stephens elaborates in his report elsewhere in this Annual Report.

In closing, I thank The Partnership leadership team - Kim Stephens, Richard Boase, Eric Bonham, Glen Brown, Raymond Fung, Peter Law, Tim Pringle, Mike Tanner, John Finnie, Derek Richmond, Emanuel Machado and Brian Bedford - for their insight and direction.

*Ted van der Gulik
President
November 2020*



2020 Board of Directors

In the early 2000s, a team of water champions was given the opportunity to move into a provincial vacuum and fill a need as a “water roundtable” in the local government setting. This team had responsibility for delivering the Water Sustainability Action Plan through partnerships. With success came the need for a permanent structure to ensure the legacy of Action Plan tools and programs. This led to incorporation of The Partnership as a society on November 19, 2010.

A decade later, the Partnership is led by a team of mission-focused volunteers, elders and collaborators. These individuals bring experience, knowledge and wisdom to the Partnership roundtable. This enhances the effectiveness of the Partnership as the hub for a convening for action network in British Columbia. Although many on the Partnership leadership team have retired from their day jobs, the water-centric mission continues. The Leadership Team comprises seven (7) elected Directors, who are listed below, and five non-Directors.



TED VAN DER GULIK, President, was a founding member of the technical committee that was the genesis of The Partnership. 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. While in government, Ted led the Agriculture Water Demand Project initiative for the Province. Post-retirement, he continues to have a program delivery role. “The Agriculture Water Demand Model has been instrumental in the recent development to the Agriculture and Landscape Water Calculators developed by The Partnership,” says Ted.



RICHARD BOASE, Vice-President, is the District of North Vancouver’s Section Manager, Environmental Sustainability (Operations). Richard is also Co-Chair of the Water Balance Model initiative. “Having the opportunity to continue serving the community of British Columbia as a whole through the activities of the Partnership is a rare and honourable position to be in,” says Richard from his desk in North Vancouver. “Despite the dramatic changes to our everyday lives the Partnership continues to deliver valuable resources and knowledge to the communities we serve. Despite the challenges faced over the past 9 months I am extremely proud of our efforts and success stories.”



TIM PRINGLE, Past-President, 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.”

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MIKE TANNER, Treasurer, is Chair of the waterbucket.ca 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."



DEREK RICHMOND, Secretary, worked in the private and public sectors for over 40 years in the UK, USA and across Canada. Derek made his last stop, before retiring, in the Comox Valley, where he served as Chair of CAVI – Convening for Action on Vancouver Island from 2011 through 2016. "Regardless of the complexity of problems with which we are faced, my passion for water resources has taught me the importance of clear visioning, partnering and cooperation with all stakeholders, and that collaboration is essential for success. While it may be tempting to believe that we can function successfully within our own silos, my experience and more recently the world-pandemic, prove otherwise. Our future success will be measured by our ability to maintain water resources in balance with ecology, economy and education," says Derek.



PETER LAW, Membership Chair, was a Senior Biologist with the Ministry of Environment. In addition to his Partnership responsibilities, Peter is President of the Mid Vancouver Island Habitat Enhancement Society. "My principle interest is to promote Water Sustainability as it pertains to the restoration of our small streams and how this is linked to maintaining a watershed's health. While with the Ministry of Environment for 30-plus 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 recently retired from his longstanding role in local government. He was formerly the Director of Engineering & Transportation with the District of West Vancouver, a position he held for 12 years. Ray 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). Reflecting on the 10 year anniversary of the Partnership, Ray states, "Water sustainability remains a key challenge related to climate change. While the Partnership has accomplished much, this imperative has the potential to inspire many more actions in the years ahead."



Report from the Secretary

The Partnership in the Age of COVID

The ability of the Partnership to remain ahead of the 'curve' is an achievement of which we have always been proud. What is more impressive, is that as part of normal practice, our use of virtual meetings since 2016, has allowed us to become seasoned users of platforms, such as Zoom, thus allowing us to be creative, fluid and efficient in our day-to-day operations.

Out of every misfortune, there is always some gain. For the Partnership, that gain has been our ability to look back and feel confident that our investment in the '4-Cs' (cooperation, communication, collaboration and coordination) has been core to the success of our vision and that it is now more important than ever. COVID19 has demonstrated that not only at the social level but at the technical, provincial and global levels, the '4-Cs' are essential for success.

This year the Partnership continues to operate effectively and with increased efficiencies. We have been fortunate to attract new talented and seasoned people to our 'Leadership Team' and will benefit greatly from their wisdom and experience in the years to come.

We look forward to another year of working with all of our current and new partners and building on those common strengths that allow us to succeed through working in a collaborative environment.

*Derek Richmond
Secretary
November 2020*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Richmond', with a large, stylized flourish underneath.



Report from the Executive Director

Embrace Shared Responsibility & Create a Legacy

November 19th 2020 is a major milestone in the history of the Partnership for Water Sustainability in British Columbia. It marks the first decade since incorporation of “the BC water sustainability committee” as “The Partnership”, a not-for-profit society that provides services to government and local communities in support of Living Water Smart, British Columbia’s Water Plan.

Incorporation as an independent legal entity was a transformative decision. It ensures the legacy and sustainability of tools, resources and programs developed under the umbrella of the Water Sustainability Action Plan for British Columbia; and delivered through inter-governmental partnerships.

But our history began long before 2010. Our “partnerships & collaboration journey” actually commenced some two decades earlier. A group of like-minded and passionate individuals, including representatives of three levels of government, came together as a committee and created a “water roundtable” that evolved over time into The Partnership.

And what was the mission of this water roundtable? Champion a water-centric approach to use and conservation of land. Develop tools, resources and programs to support water-centric planning.

Time has passed quickly. Has it really been a decade? So much water under the bridge, literally. In taking stock of The Partnership’s rising trajectory, the members of the Leadership Team feel good about the Partnership’s track record of accomplishment through partnerships and collaboration with others.

The Partnership’s guiding philosophy is to help others be successful. When they are successful, we are successful.

We keep raising our game. And so do our collaborators. Shared successes lead to more successes. We judge progress by the distance travelled, not the distance remaining. We are optimistic about the future. Over the course of this past decade, the tide has turned. There is a track record to continue building upon.

*Kim A. Stephens,
Executive Director
November 2020*

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kim A. Stephens". The signature is fluid and cursive, matching the printed name to its left.



Report from the Membership Chair

From Membership to Partnerships

In 2018, the Partnership Board passed a resolution that redefined the role of membership in our society. This change was a result of legislated changes to the BC Societies Act. To comply with the Act, our society had to identify the source of our funding to determine if we were to be designated as a “member funded society”. As our funding is derived primarily from the public sector, and exceeds the thresholds as defined in the Act, we had to relinquish our “membership categories”, and payment structure. This does not mean we have abandoned the membership that we have built over the past 10 years. We will still recognize individuals and contributors who support our mission. These include:

- **Lifetime Members** – those key individuals who have played a pivotal role in the genesis and evolution of the society
- **Champion Supporter Members** – recognizing agencies and organizations whose support is vitally important, as they have enabled our society to develop tools and deliver programs. They have demonstrated a shared commitment to water sustainability.
- **Leadership Team Members** – comprises directors and non-directors who have been responsible for developing and delivering elements of the “Water Sustainability Action Plan for BC”.
- **Associate Members** – individuals who have an interest in green infrastructure and water sustainability, and who sign up for our weekly *Waterbucket eNews* newsletter at waterbucket.ca

As we move forward into the next decade, our leadership team will continue to strengthen our partnerships with “not for profit” organizations to achieve two objectives - assist us in our mission; and benefit from our tools and expertise. In particular, we see the stewardship sector of BC – whose members work to monitor, protect and restore natural aquatic ecosystems - as an important partner.

Peter Law
Membership Chair
November 2020

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Peter Law', written in a cursive style.



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

Community Investment in the Natural Commons

The EAP program continues to develop as one of The Partnership's primary services to support water sustainability in BC communities. **EAP focuses on streams as a metaphor for watershed health.** Its core concepts of the Natural Commons, Constructed Commons and the Stream System utilize metrics to describe and quantify the social, ecological and financial values (uses and enjoyment) derived from the ecological services of streams.

These metrics are the WORTH of a stream indicated by investment (expenditures) for maintenance and management of the stream. As well, the metrics capture outlays to acquire land to protect Environmentally Sensitive Areas, add to greenways, parks, trails, etc. **The second measure is the financial value** of the stream corridor and the regulatory setback area on each side. EAP calculations use BC Assessment data for residential and agricultural parcels which abut the stream.

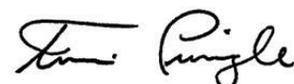
Early in 2020 EAP completed two projects in Stage 2 of a 3-stage program: Kilmer Creek (District of North Vancouver) and Shelly Creek (Regional District of Nanaimo). During 2020 project work continues with three Stage 3 projects comprising the Millstone River (City of Nanaimo and RDN), Bowker Creek (Capital Regional District) and Bings Creek (Cowichan Valley Regional District and District of North Cowichan). Completion of the latter two projects will run into early 2021.

In 2021, Stage 3 will add another three projects. When completed in late 2021, the initiative will have completed 10 demonstration applications of EAP over four years. The pending 2021 projects are Saratoga Creek (Comox Valley Regional District), Bertrand Creek (Township of Langley) and another project to be determined.

The growth of interest in EAP and the range of complexity of cases have led The Partnership to collaborate with Vancouver Island University through MABBRI (Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Reserve Research Institute) to provide graduate students with real-world experience. The services provided by graduate students through MABBRI have been excellent.

The Partnership is already looking beyond 2021. Our vision is to expand the scope of collaboration with MABBRI and thus bring to fruition a concept that we call *Going Beyond the Classroom*. We see deepening involvement of graduate students as an integral element of a succession plan to accelerate application of the EAP methodology and metrics in the years and decades ahead. Under this scenario, my future role would be somewhat analogous to that of a professor emeritus who provides oversight and advice to support the next generation of leaders.

Tim Pringle
Chair, EAP Initiative





Report from the Chair, waterbucket.ca website

If the topic is water, just go to waterbucket.ca

The waterbucket.ca website and the weekly Waterbucket eNews provide the Partnership with two media platforms to share successes within BC and beyond. The website typically has over 2000 visitors each month; and the weekly e-newsletters reach an audience of close to 2500 subscribers.

This report is an opportunity for me to reflect on our history. When the Minister of Environment announced the launch of waterbucket.ca in 2005, our vision statement was: “If the topic is water, just go to waterbucket.ca”. Well, the vision has been fulfilled. Users tell us that waterbucket.ca dominates Google searches. Even better, 60% of our world-wide audience in over 100 countries falls within the 18-34 age demographic. And the proportion increases to 75% when the age range 18-44 is considered.

The idea for waterbucket.ca was an action item that came out of focus group workshop hosted by the Province in November 2003. More than 40 representatives from various sectors within the water industry and from the broader community travelled from three regions to Kelowna to participate. Eighteen months later, we launched the website. It was funded by an inter-agency partnership that included provincial ministries, regional districts, BC Hydro, BC Gas, Environment Canada and others.

The website is a major factor to The Partnership achieving its mission to promote and advance the protection and management of natural and engineered water resources in B.C. A goal of waterbucket.ca as a province-wide communication vehicle is to play a supporting function in achieving the desired outcome that has been stated for Integrated Community Sustainability Planning, and that is - *to advance the environmental, economic, social and cultural sustainability of British Columbia's communities.*

By providing access to education, research, technical services and tools, we can, through collaboration and partnerships, help communities both reduce the increased demand for water and protect stream health from the adverse consequences of land development practices.

Mike Tanner
Chair
November 2020





Report from the Moderator, Vancouver Island Water Stewardship Annual Symposia Series

Re-Imagining the 2020 Symposium as a Video Trilogy

The Partnership linked together with NALT (Nanaimo and Area Land Trust) in 2018 to co-host what was going to be a stand-alone event on Water Sustainability. Now in 2020 we continue to share a vision for harnessing the power of collaboration and inspiring all BC communities to get involved.

The Partnership mandate of providing all interested parties with science, knowledge, tools and places to meet others similarly inclined led us to take on the challenge of the pandemic with something bold. It is our hope that through our collaborative actions we can instill the impetus for action to reconnect hydrology and ecology. For the past four years, we have co-led the [Vancouver Island Symposia Series on Water Stewardship in a Changing Climate](#).

This year the symposia team dared to be different because that is way we are. The video trilogy series is something that has not been done. Delivered by livestreaming on YouTube, each video is a documentary that focuses on a specific piece of watershed restorative action, based on the real life experiences and projects of those leading the way. Each video is built around a moderated 'group conversation'. It was a difficult task but once again the energy and dedication of the symposia team rose to the challenge. Filming was done in the field and at the Vancouver Island Conference Centre in Nanaimo and was done in strict compliance with Provincial Health guidelines in place at the time

Three module teams totaling twelve individuals are on camera in the Video Trilogy Series. Every team member invited is passionate about what they do and has already established themselves as leaders in their areas of interest or career. This is what we hope and believe will inspire series viewers to apply what they absorb from each of the team conversations. But the video series is not a magic wand. It won't result in overnight change. Humans are not wired that way. It is best to view the series as an important milestone in a journey. We hope to bring others along with us.

Success will follow because the series will have seeded participants with information that allows them to carry on and follow a path that is right for them. It may well be a path that we may not have thought about, and that is okay. The important consideration is that each participant will have reached their own conclusions based on what they got out of the three sessions, and what resonated with them individually.

*Richard Boase, P.Geo.
Moderator,
November 2020*

