

**2007 ANNUAL BCWWA CONFERENCE AT PENTICTON**  
**Program for half-day session on April 24<sup>th</sup> organized by the Water Sustainability Committee**

<b>THEME:</b>	<b>Water Sustainability: Convening for Action in British Columbia</b>
<b>ABSTRACT:</b>	<p>The British Columbia landscape is being transformed by settlement and economic growth. While the province has been experiencing enhanced social and economic well-being, the need to mitigate pressures on land and water resources has provided a driver for a 'green infrastructure' movement that is water-centric and is founded on a natural systems approach.</p> <p>Infrastructure design is changing. Cumulative benefits are achievable, one property at a time, through changes in the policies, programs, practices and standards that determine how land is developed and water is used. By implementing <b>design with nature</b> infrastructure practices and regulation, the 'convening for action' vision is that British Columbia will be well on the way to achieving water sustainability by 2010.</p> <p>The objective when 'convening for action' is to influence practitioners to learn about and use practices that better balance the necessary relationships of settlement activity and ecological assets in local and regional landscapes. Practitioners are defined as those whose professions, vocations and volunteer tasks relate to use and conservation of water, land and real estate.</p>
<b>MODERATOR:</b>	Kim Stephens, Program Coordinator, Water Sustainability Action Plan for British Columbia

SLOT	SPEAKERS	AFFILIATION	PRESENTATION TITLE	SYNOPSIS OF WHAT WILL BE PRESENTED
1	Raymond Fung & Lynn Kriwoken	Water Sustainability Committee & Ministry of Environment	<b>Water – Choosing Sustainability for Life &amp; Livelihoods</b>	At the 2006 BCWWA Annual Conference, the Water Sustainability Committee organized a Mini-Summit on water stewardship and sustainability in the South Okanagan. This seminal event commenced the branding process within British Columbia for use of the phrase ' <i>water for life and livelihoods</i> ' in order to focus people on what is at stake over both the short and long terms. The phrase conveys the fundamental principles of sustainability of natural systems in their own right and in relation to the health and well-being of people who benefit from the use of water for basic life needs and economic activity.
2	Tim Pringle & Graeme Bethell	Real Estate Foundation of BC & CAVI Leadership Team	<b>Convening for Action on Vancouver Island: Towards Water Sustainability</b>	Convening for Action on Vancouver Island (CAVI) is a regional pilot program. CAVI will integrate with other groups, move ' <i>green value</i> ' from concept to practice, and encourage the introduction of a ' <i>design with nature</i> ' way of thinking into local government decision processes. Further, CAVI will play a leadership role in evolving a framework for water-centric planning that is keyed to accepting risk, rewarding innovation, and learning by doing. The emphasis will be on bringing together local government and the development community to change the way land is developed and water is used on Vancouver Island.
3	Paul Ham	Green Infrastructure Partnership	<b>Convening for Action in the Greater Vancouver Region: Celebrating Green Infrastructure</b>	By pooling resources under a regional partnership framework for outreach and continuing education, local governments can leverage the efforts of their own staffs and develop a common understanding of issues and solutions. The goal in showcasing on-the-ground innovation is to build regional capacity through sharing of green infrastructure approaches, experiences and lessons learned as an outcome of ' <i>designing with nature</i> '.
4	Ted van der Gulik & Meggin Messenger	Ministry of Agriculture and Lands & Ministry of Community Services	<b>Convening for Action in the South Okanagan: Water for Life &amp; Livelihoods</b>	Within the next 10 to 15 years it is projected that the available water in the Okanagan Basin will be fully allocated. At the same time, agricultural development is also expected to increase, with potential growth in the grape and wine sector leading the way. Also, the region will continue to experience both the benefits and consequences of climate change – that is, a longer growing season and changes in form and pattern of precipitation and runoff, respectively. The purpose in 'convening for action' is to build regional capacity and understanding of what <b>Water OUT = Water IN</b> means in the context of a Regional Growth Strategy and its goals.
5	Mike Tanner & Lori Henderson	Water Bucket Website Partnership & Ministry of Environment	<b>WaterBucket – The Water Portal for British Columbia</b>	Education can play an important role in facilitating change. Education increases our capacity to make informed decisions and to act effectively in addressing environmental and development issues. This education and knowledge needs to reflect priorities in water stewardship, with strong linkages between programs, collaborating provincial and federal agencies, citizens of all ages and local communities.