

Watershed Planning and Rainwater Management: Creating the Future in the City of Coquitlam

Part B – Implementing a Watershed-Based to Community Planning in Coquitlam

8. Looking Beyond 2014: Adaptive Management Using Monitoring that Informs

A condition of the BC Minister of Environment's approval of the *2010 Integrated Liquid Waste and Resource Management Plan* requires that municipalities, with the coordination of Metro Vancouver, develop a program for assessing watershed health and the effectiveness of ISMPs.



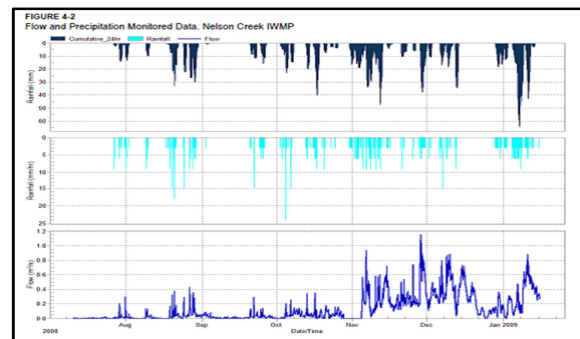
To meet this requirement, Metro Vancouver formed a technical working group composed of members of the Stormwater Interagency Liaison Group (SILG), the Environmental Monitoring Committee (EMC) and Ministry of Environment.

The group has produced a draft **Monitoring and Adaptive Management Framework (AMF)**

- tracking ISMP implementation;
- monitoring watershed health in a cost-effective, consistent, and meaningful way;
- using monitoring results to identify impacts
- analyzing and prioritizing those impacts to select the most effective adaptive management practices to bring about improvements; and
- reporting out to Ministry of Environment on all the components above.

which provides an approach for:

The draft AMF report was released in October 2013. It is anticipated that, after review and consideration, the AMF would be adopted by municipalities as a guide to monitoring watershed health and assessing ISMP effectiveness in order to satisfy the Minister's condition.



Coquitlam has been implementing the draft Monitoring and Adaptive Management Framework as it is being developed. This year's results will pilot the use of the framework while helping the City to fulfil the environmental monitoring recommendations of completed watershed plans.



Watershed Planning and Rainwater Management: Creating the Future in the City of Coquitlam

Part C – Inter-Regional Collaboration & Watershed-Based Approach to Planning

Towards a Watershed Health Legacy

Watershed health is a priority for local governments on both sides of the Salish Sea. A group of champions representing five geographic regions has emerged as an inter-regional leadership team. Coquitlam and Surrey represent the Metro Vancouver working group on this team which includes provincial ministries.

Since the late 1990s, all levels of governments have recognized the need to restore and protect watershed health. Yet all regions have struggled with the question of how best to monitor watershed health. Inter-regional collaboration will help each region understand what the other regions are doing, what works and what does not.

Affordable and Effective Practices

The collaborating regions view the Watershed Health issue through complementary lenses that together form a complete picture. Each region has something unique to contribute to the mix:

- Metro Vancouver – IWMP effectiveness
- Capital Region – water quality standards
- Nanaimo Region – partnerships
- Cowichan Valley – climate change
- Comox Valley – sustainable service delivery

To be completed by late 2014, the inter-regional deliverable is a workbook on the ***Elements of an Adaptive Management Framework for a Watershed Health Legacy***. The vision is that collaboration will result in consistent application of evolving standards of practice that are affordable and effective in maintaining healthy streams.

Inter-Regional Collaboration in the Georgia Basin

“Through sharing & learning, ensure that where we are going is indeed the right way”



VISION:

Move beyond the rhetoric and into the substance of watershed health and how to effectively monitor it

DELIVERABLE:

“Towards a Watershed Health Legacy: Elements of An Adaptive Management Framework”

TURNING VISION INTO ACTION:

Community development activities and alteration of the Built Environment will result in cumulative benefits, not impacts