



**the partnership  
for water sustainability in bc**

IREI - Inter-Regional Education Initiative



**DATE:** October 3, 2013  
**TO:** Metro Vancouver Utilities Committee  
**FROM:** Kim A Stephens, M.Eng., P.Eng., Executive Director  
**SUBJECT:** **RAINWATER MANAGEMENT IN A WATERSHED SUSTAINABILITY CONTEXT**  
Presentation #5 – Progress update for period April 2013 through September 2013

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### **WHO WE ARE and WHAT WE DO:**

- The *Partnership for Water Sustainability in BC* is a not-for-profit society.
- We are integrators. We play a bridging role between the Province, local government and community.
- The Partnership is not government, but government is very much part of the Partnership.
- For the past decade, we have been delivering the *Water Sustainability Action Plan*.
- We bring a holistic approach to LAND and WATER. We connect dots.
- The Partnership is facilitating inter-regional collaboration among local governments.

### **PURPOSE OF UPDATE PRESENTATION:**

- Provide an update on inter-regional collaboration with Vancouver Island local governments because:
  - The Province's approval of the Metro Vancouver region's *Integrated Liquid Waste & Resource Management Plan* included a requirement that Metro Vancouver will assist member municipalities to develop a coordinated program to monitor stormwater (rainwater) and assess and report the implementation and effectiveness of Integrated Stormwater Management Plans; and
  - The Metro Vancouver region's *Draft Adaptive Management Framework for Watershed Health* may be used as the starting point for evolving an inter-regional framework that works for everyone within the Georgia Basin.

### **OUR HISTORY WITH THE COMMITTEE PROVIDES CONTEXT:**

- September 2011 – We asked for funding for *Water Balance Model Express for Landowners*.
- May 2012 – We introduced the benefits of the *Inter-Regional Education Initiative (IREI) for 'Rainwater Management in a Watershed Sustainability Context'*.
- October 2012 – We asked the Committee to formalize its support for inter-regional collaboration.
- April 2013 – We recognized Metro Vancouver as a “Champion Supporter” of the Partnership.

## RAINWATER MANAGEMENT IN A WATERSHED SUSTAINABILITY CONTEXT

Presentation #5 – Reporting out on progress during the April 2013 – September 2013 period

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### MORE ABOUT INTER-REGIONAL COLLABORATION:

- Watershed health is a priority for local governments throughout the Georgia Basin.
- A goal of inter-regional collaboration is consensus on a performance monitoring framework that can be used to adjust actions and inform community planning that maintains healthy streams:
  - ▶ **The Water Balance Goal:** After development or redevelopment, each site will function as it did before, or better.
  - ▶ **To Protect Watershed Health:** *“Integrate the Site with the Watershed and the Stream”*
  - ▶ The emphasis is on the ‘how-to’ details of implementation and integration.
  - ▶ Local governments learn from those who are leading by example.
  - ▶ Collaboration is the pathway to an outcome-oriented approach to **implementation and integration** within and between regions.
  - ▶ Everyone needs to agree on expectations and how all the players will work together, and after that each region and each community in a region can reach its goals in its own way.
  - ▶ Collaboration will accelerate affordable and effective outcomes within each region.
- In June 2013, at a brainstorming session hosted by the Capital Regional District, a core group of local government champions representing five geographic regions affirmed that it will function as an inter-regional leadership team.
- In July 2013, and as an action item arising from the June session, a similar brainstorming session with senior provincial managers explored the Province’s role in the inter-regional collaborative process.
- During the period October 2013 through June 2014, each region will host a working session with a theme specific to the host region:
  - ▶ Metro Vancouver Region – the “Draft Adaptive Management Framework”
  - ▶ Capital Region – water quality standards
  - ▶ Nanaimo Region – partnerships
  - ▶ Cowichan Valley – climate change
  - ▶ Comox Valley - stewardship
- The inter-regional leadership team has framed the ultimate outcome of the series of working sessions in these terms: “Through sharing and learning, ensure that where we are going is indeed the right way.”
- Metro Vancouver is planning to host Inter-Regional Session #1 because:
  - ▶ In 2012, an inter-governmental and multi-disciplinary working group was tasked with developing a weight-of-evidence performance measurement approach that would be available to all Metro Vancouver member municipalities.
  - ▶ The Metro Vancouver region’s *Draft Adaptive Management Framework* would provide guidance for Metro Vancouver municipalities, so that they can report out biannually (to the Ministry of Environment) pursuant to the requirements of the region’s *Integrated Liquid Waste & Resource Management Plan*, on the effectiveness of watershed-based planning initiatives and the health of their watersheds.
  - ▶ If the Ministry of Environment is satisfied that this assessment program could result in improvement of Integrated Stormwater Management Plans and protect stream health, the deadline for municipal completion of these plans may be extended from 2014 to 2016.
- The inter-regional process will serve as a feedback loop and peer-review that could potentially improve and/or enhance the Metro Vancouver region’s *Draft Adaptive Management Framework*.