

Metro Vancouver Stormwater Interagency Liaison Group

Meeting on November 10, 2016

Status Report on the Georgia Basin Inter-Regional Educational Initiative:

*Sustainable Watershed Systems: Nature's Assets
Provide Vital Community Infrastructure Services*

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About the IREI

Georgia Basin



The lands draining into the Salish Sea
(Strait of Georgia & Puget Sound)

Launched in 2012.

Five regional district partners,
including Metro Vancouver.

The five represent 75% of BC's population.

Earlier in 2016, the five Regional Boards
adopted Resolutions that reaffirmed
commitment to collaborate.



**Sustainable Watershed Systems:
Primer on Application of Ecosystem-based
Understanding in the Georgia Basin**

Connecting Past and Present Research



September 2016

Released in September 2016,
the PRIMER is written to help
multiple audiences – whether
elected, technical or stewardship –
ask the right questions and ensure
that *“science-based understanding”*
is applied properly and effectively to
implement practices that restore the
hydrologic integrity of watersheds.



A GOAL: **Build Greener Communities**

LIVING WATER SMART Deal with Uncertainty
 CASCADING OBJECTIVES: Manage the Water Balance
 Adapt to a Changing Climate

AN OUTCOME: **Settlement, Economy and Ecology in Balance**

Water Sustainability Plans



Every community has a different motivation and is working at different levels towards sustainability. There are various points of entry depending on where a community is with its water planning efforts.



This mind-map illustrates how the work of the Partnership fits within the provincial framework for Living Water Smart and Building Greener Communities

“The role of local government is to deliver services. Achieving sustainable service delivery is the end goal of asset management.”



David Allen, Co-Chair
Asset Management BC
&
CAO, City of Courtenay



Asset Management Continuum for Sustainable Service Delivery

GROUND ZERO: In the beginning, no **Asset Management Plan** exists. A consequence is an ‘unfunded infrastructure liability’.

STEP ONE: Local governments embrace the BC Framework, with an initial focus on core engineered assets (water supply, sewage, roads) and embark on an **Asset Management Strategy / Plan / Program** process.

STEP TWO: Local governments start thinking holistically and implement a life-cycle approach to infrastructure decision-making so that **Sustainable Service Delivery** for engineered assets becomes standard practice.

STEP THREE: For the drainage function, local governments will integrate natural systems thinking and climate adaptation into asset management and account for the **Water Balance Services** provided by watershed systems.

As understanding grows, local governments will progress incrementally along the **Continuum**

IREI deliverables in 2017 – 2018 will be.....

Ecological Accounting Protocol –

achieve “optimum infrastructure design” & “optimum opportunity cost”

Water Balance Model Expert System –

utilize the full power of the QUALHYMO calculation engine

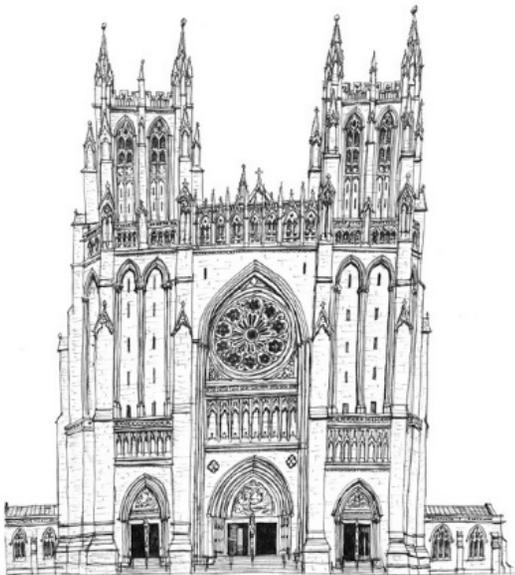
Water Balance Express for Landowners –

by 2018, double the number of installations from 5 to 10

Outreach & Professional Development –

build local government capacity to apply methodologies and tools

“Cathedral Thinking” aptly describes the vision for **Sustainable Watershed Systems**



In embarking on this journey to a water-resilient future, we can learn from our ancestors.

The builders of great cathedrals in medieval times thought in terms of multiple generations carrying out their work, to complete a dream that would not be realised until long after the originator’s death.

The foundation for Cathedral Thinking:

*a far-reaching vision, a well thought-out blueprint, and
a shared commitment to long-term implementation*