

Executive Summary

Convening for Action in BC

In 2005, the Province in partnership with BCWWA (British Columbia Water and Waste Association) and the Real Estate Foundation launched a 'made in BC' process known as **Convening for Action**. The founding partners envisioned a series of pilot programs and case studies, with outcomes synthesized as chapters in [Water-Centric Planning: A Guidebook for British Columbia](#).

About Beyond the Guidebook 2010

"In 2005, we said this would be a different kind of guidebook. We said that the Guidebook would be the 'telling of the stories' of how change is being implemented on-the-ground in BC. Before the chapters could be written, however, the regional case studies had to run their course," states Glen Brown, Chair of the BCWWA Water Sustainability Committee.

"Well, it is five years later, and Beyond the Guidebook 2010 is the story of how we got to here and where we are going next. *This is the Water-Centric Guidebook.*"

Similar to the way the 2002 Guidebook is structured, Beyond the Guidebook is written in a way that provides the whole story for those that want it, or just key tidbits for others. A set of three over-arching messages are embedded in the graphic below.



The New Business As Usual

Chapter 1 is the 'call to action'. The future desired by all will be created through alignment of federal, provincial, regional and local policies and actions

Chapter 2 provides an overview of why the Guidebook was a catalyst for action to implement a 'design with nature' approach to rainwater management and green infrastructure.

Chapter 3 describes the steps in an incremental process that has been building practitioner capacity for the past decade in BC to implement the [New Business As Usual](#).

Chapter 4 introduces the stories of three regional initiatives; they demonstrate that the practitioner culture is changing as an outcome of collaboration, partnerships and alignment.

Chapter 5 describes the inter-connected elements of an [Outreach & Continuing Education Program](#) that has advanced a 'water-centric' approach to community development.

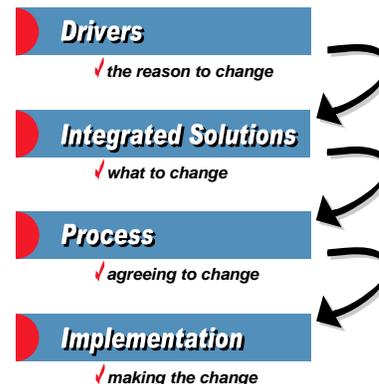
Chapter 6 describes six outcomes resulting from local governments embracing a 'top down bottom up' strategy to implementing the [New Business As Usual](#).

Chapter 7 provides local governments with 'how to' guidance for developing **outcome-oriented** urban watershed plans, with emphasis on a necessary course correction for "ISMPs" ([Integrated Stormwater Management Plans](#)).

Chapter 8 lists supporting documents that are downloadable from the Water Bucket website.

Reproduced from the 2002 Guidebook, the graphic below captures the essence of Beyond the Guidebook 2010.

Elements of Transition



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Changing the Culture

“If one goes back 10 years, there was a void of policy and legislation. This led us down an educational path as the logical alternative,” states Glen Brown. “We took the Guidebook, which is a document, and we moved it to implementation.”

“A good idea is immediate, but preparation for implementation can take 5 to 10 years. Change will then take place quickly,” states the Guidebook (*in Chapter 11, Building Consensus & Implementing Change*).

It has taken patience and consistent messaging over the past decade to incrementally build consensus, facilitate a culture change, and start implementing a new way of doing business.

Develop Tools & Provide Experience

The Water Sustainability Action Plan is the partnership umbrella for an *Outreach and Continuing Education Program* (OCEP) that provides local governments and practitioners with the tools and experience to better manage land and water resources. OCEP is about building capacity in the local government setting to implement [The New Business As Usual](#) by:

- informing and educating practitioners;
- aligning expectations with desired outcomes;
- empowering a ‘regional team approach’; and
- providing tools that enable ‘design with nature’.

The Water Balance Model and Water Bucket Website are the twin engines driving OCEP. The Water Balance Model was developed as an extension of the Guidebook; and the Water Bucket provides consistent messaging and the complete story on integrated land and water management.

From Stormwater to RAINwater

Beyond the Guidebook 2007 initiated the paradigm-shift from the single-function view of traditional ‘*stormwater management*’ to the holistic, integrated and landscape-based perspective that is captured by the term ‘*RAINwater Management*’.

“To provide practitioners with a point of departure that they understood in 2002, we opted for ‘stormwater’ in the Guidebook title. The time is now right to make the break from ‘ISMP’ and instead use ‘IRMP’ – that is, Integrated Rainwater Management Plan,” concludes Peter Law, Chair of the original Guidebook Steering Committee.

Achieving Watershed Outcomes

Table 2 presents a conceptual framework for setting watershed-specific performance targets and then implementing them at the development scale. Creating liveable communities while also protecting or restoring stream health depends upon a process that is founded on these ten Guiding Principles:

1. Choose to be enabled.
2. Establish high expectations.
3. Embrace a shared vision.
4. Collaborate as a ‘regional team’.
5. Align and integrate efforts.
6. Celebrate innovation.
7. Connect with community advocates.
8. Develop local government talent.
9. Promote shared responsibility.
10. Change the land ethic for the better.

Example: Bowker Creek Blueprint

The [Bowker Creek Blueprint: A 100-Year Action Plan to Restore the Bowker Creek Watershed](#)....as the urban heartland of the Capital Regional District redevelops over the decades.....is referenced throughout Beyond the Guidebook 2010. The Blueprint is precedent-setting and embodies all ten Guiding Principles.

Top Down Bottom Up Strategy: The Bowker Creek experience demonstrates what can be accomplished when community groups and municipal staffs coalesce around a shared vision and shared values:

What do we want this watershed to look like in 100 years, and what steps will we take to get there?

“The Bowker Blueprint is about reclaiming what was lost due to our past indifference. We are now talking about how to reverse the trend and bring settlement back into balance with ecology,” states Eric Bonham, founding member of CAVI and former Director in two provincial Ministries. “Never forget that examples inform policy decisions by elected representatives. So provide them with commonsense examples that make it easy to move from awareness to action.”

Need for ISMP Course Correction

The Bowker experience has drawn attention to the unintended consequences when applying the [ISMP Template](#), and has informed the ‘course correction’ that is presented in Chapter 7. “There came a time when we just had to let the ISMP Template go,” reports Jody Watson, Chair, Bowker Creek Initiative.

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Table 2 (brought forward from Chapter 7)

**Developing Outcome-Oriented Watershed Plans:
Framework for Moving from Planning to Action**

Action	Level of Commitment
<p>Complete and implement integrated rainwater/stormwater management plans that are affordable and effective in protecting or restoring Watershed Health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local governments, in collaboration with senior governments, develop Integrated Plans that enable implementation of integrated strategies for greening the built environment; and include establishing watershed-specific runoff targets (for managing the complete rainfall spectrum) that make sense, meet multiple objectives, are affordable, and result in net environmental benefits at a watershed scale. <p><i>(Note: To date, "integrated drainage plans" have typically been called "ISMPs" pursuant to the nomenclature established in Chapter 9 of the 2002 Guidebook. The time has come to describe truly integrated plans as "IRMPs" to reflect the paradigm-shift from pipe-and-convey 'stormwater' to landscape-based 'RAINwater')</i></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local governments, in collaboration with senior governments, establish watershed targets that are characteristic of actual conditions in watersheds, recognizing that there will be different strategies for already developed versus partially developed watersheds.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local governments, in collaboration with senior governments, evaluate the acceptability of watershed-specific runoff targets on the basis of an evaluation framed by these three questions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What target will achieve the watershed health objective? 2. What needs to be done to make the target achievable? 3. Do the solutions meet the test of affordability and multiple objectives?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local governments, in collaboration with senior governments, implement green infrastructure solutions that result in effective rainfall management at the site, catchment and watershed scales.
<p>Embed "IRMP" landscape-based strategies in neighbourhood concept plans</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local governments develop rainwater/stormwater and land use plans through an inter-departmental process that is collaborative and integrated. ▪ Local governments provide guidance as to how watershed-specific targets can be met at the development scale.

Source: **Commentary on Effective Municipal Rainwater/Stormwater Management and Green Infrastructure to Achieve Watershed Health**, April 2008

Released jointly by the Green Infrastructure Partnership and the Inter-Governmental Partnership in conjunction with the consultation process for Metro Vancouver's *Integrated Liquid Waste & Resource Management Plan*

The Commentary is accompanied by a paper titled *Beyond the Guidebook: Establish Watershed-Specific Runoff Capture Performance Targets*, released at the 2008 Water Balance Model Partners Forum.



Photo Credit: Mike Tanner