

**METRO VANCOUVER REGIONAL DISTRICT
UTILITIES COMMITTEE**

REGULAR MEETING

**Thursday, September 20, 2018
9:00 A.M.**

28th Floor Committee Room, 4730 Kingsway, Burnaby, British Columbia

A G E N D A¹

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1.1 September 20, 2018 Regular Meeting Agenda

That the Utilities Committee adopt the agenda for its regular meeting scheduled for September 20, 2018 as circulated.

2. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

2.1 July 11, 2018 Special Meeting Minutes

That the Utilities Committee adopt the minutes of its special meeting held July 11, 2018 as circulated.

2.2 July 12, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes

That the Utilities Committee adopt the minutes of its regular meeting held July 12, 2018 as circulated.

3. DELEGATIONS

4. INVITED PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Kim Stephens, Executive Director, The Partnership for Water Sustainability in BC

Subject: Inter-Regional Collaboration for Healthy Watersheds

5. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE OR STAFF

5.1 Sustainable Infrastructure and Buildings Policy

Designated Speakers: Conor Reynolds and Megan Gerryts

That the Utilities Committee endorse the *Sustainable Infrastructure and Buildings Policy* as presented in the report dated September 7, 2018, titled "Sustainable Infrastructure and Buildings Policy".

¹ Note: Recommendation is shown under each item, where applicable.



DATE: September 20, 2018
TO: Metro Vancouver Utilities Committee
FROM: Kim A Stephens, M.Eng., P.Eng., Executive Director
SUBJECT: **INTER-REGIONAL COLLABORATION FOR HEALTHY WATERSHEDS**
 Presentation #9 – Progress update for period ending September 2018

BACKGROUND:

Launched in 2012, the *Georgia Basin Inter-Regional Education Initiative* (IREI) is endorsed by five Regional Boards, including Metro Vancouver. The five represent 75% of the population of BC.

The IREI provides Metro Vancouver municipalities with a mechanism to collaborate, share outcomes and cross-pollinate experience with local governments on the east coast of Vancouver Island.

The support of the Utilities Committee has been an ingredient in the success of the IREI. The Utilities Committee has provided the Partnership with a platform to report out regularly.

This process raised the profile of the IREI program, lending credibility to our over-arching educational goal: *Build capacity within local government to implement a whole-system, water balance approach.*

PURPOSE OF UPDATE:

In 2016, Metro Vancouver support helped the Partnership secure federal and provincial funding in the amount of \$265,000 for the ***Sustainable Watershed Systems, through Asset Management*** program.

THEREFORE, this progress report provides the Partnership for Water Sustainability with the opportunity to update the Utilities Committee about inter-regional accomplishments over the past 18 months, and:

- Thank the Utilities Committee for supporting the **Blue Ecology Workshop** in November 2017.
- Extend an invitation to attend the **Parksville 2019 Water Symposium** next April.

The Partnership's History with the Utilities Committee provides context:

1. **September 2011** – asked for funding for *Water Balance Model Express for Landowners*.
2. **May 2012** – introduced the benefits of the *Georgia Basin Inter-Regional Education Initiative (IREI) for 'Rainwater Management in a Watershed Sustainability Context'*.
3. **October 2012** – asked the Committee to formalize its support for inter-regional collaboration.
4. **April 2013** – recognized Metro Vancouver as a “Champion Supporter” of the Partnership.
5. **October 2013** – foreshadowed how inter-regional collaboration could inform implementation of the Metro Vancouver region's *Draft Adaptive Management Framework for Watershed Health*.
6. **May 2014** – presented an overview of the 2014 Work Plan for inter-regional collaboration.
7. **November 2014** – introduced the idea that communities can shift the ecological baseline upwards by implementing standards of practice that replicate and restore a desired watershed condition.
8. **November 2015** – announced release of *Beyond the Guidebook 2015* and introduced the vision for Sustainable Watershed Systems.
9. **May 2016** – requested \$5000 in bridge funding for the IREI program and a letter of support for the *Sustainable Watershed Systems, through Asset Management* program.
10. **November 2017** – invited Metro Vancouver to sponsor the *Blue Ecology Workshop* about interweaving Indigenous knowledge and Western science.

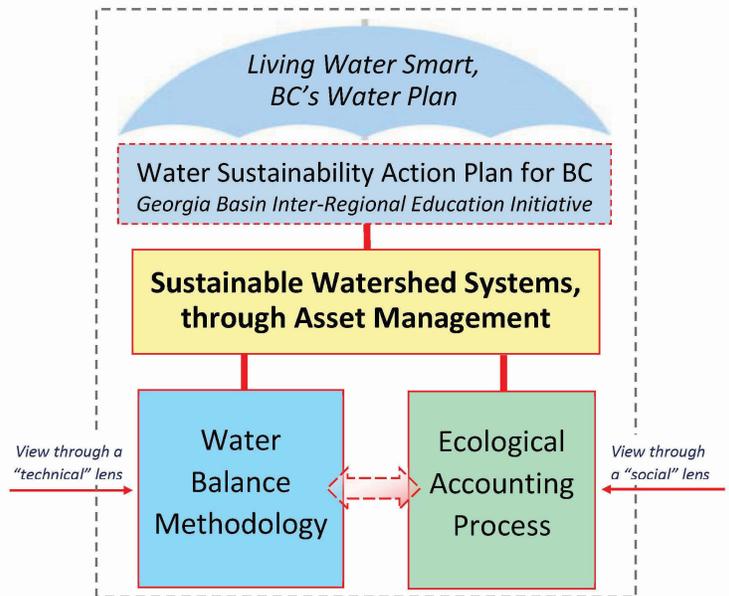
INTER-REGIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2017-2018

As illustrated opposite, the twin pillars of the IREI are the **Water Balance Methodology** (adopted by the Province in 2002) and the **Ecological Accounting Process** (EAP), which is under development.

In 2017-2018, federal-provincial funding enabled the Partnership to move forward with three initiatives:

- **Water Balance Model Desktop** – *downloadable version for advanced users complements the original online decision support tool.*
- **Water Balance Express for Landowners** - *Metro Vancouver applications now total four: North Van District, Langley Township, Surrey & Coquitlam.*
- **EAP** – *two demonstration applications completed on Vancouver Island have tested the “valuation of worth” methodology to generate ‘real numbers’ using the BC Assessment database.*

The Partnership is currently collaborating with UBCM and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs to integrate ‘natural assets’ into engineered asset management. ‘Getting it right’ starts with recognition that **hydrology is the engine that powers ecological services.**



The Twin Pillars of Sustainable Watershed Systems

Hydrology is the Engine that Powers Ecological Services

What do you wonder about EAP – Ecological Accounting Process?

A foundation concept is that ecological systems such as creeksheds are "infrastructure assets" that provide "water balance services" that in turn power "ecological services".

A guiding principle for EAP development is that local governments need "real numbers" to deliver outcomes and support decision making. Hence, EAP deals with a basic question: **what is a creekshed WORTH**, now and in future, to the community and various intervenors?

EAP provides a methodology to assign a dollar value to the "stream corridor and riparian zone" (natural assets). Then a baseline annual budget for maintenance and management of this "Commons Asset" can be incorporated in asset management strategies and plans. Inclusion requires definition and measurement.

WORTH is defined as use by the community of a "package of ecological services" made possible by the hydrology. Ecological services are diverse, and provide environmental, social and traditional (core) services to the community via a natural asset – in this case, a creek/riparian area.

In 2017-2018, Stage 1 tested the concept for leveraging the BC Assessment database to establish a financial value for the "Commons Asset" (the land comprising the stream corridor and riparian zone).

In 2019, Stage 2 would refine the "valuation of worth" methodology (Stage 1) by further validating the EAP through additional demonstration applications with four collaborating local governments, namely: District of North Vancouver, Capital Regional District, Regional District of Nanaimo, and Town of Gibsons.