

Caring for the land means going beyond just doing enough

“EAP, the Ecological Accounting Process, is an expression of Blue Ecology”

ABSTRACT: The program comprises two 90-minute sessions which are cascading and integrated. They introduce foundation pieces for a restorative framework and mindset, namely *Blue Ecology* and *EAP, the Ecological Accounting Process*.

Application of both would help restore the interconnectivity and function of natural systems and facilitate better multi-disciplinary collaboration in the implementation of green infrastructure.

Blue Ecology and EAP describe a whole-system approach to caring for the Natural Commons and ecological assets. Think of Blue Ecology as a compass in terms of how it relates to a water-first approach to Water Reconciliation between cultures.

The compass points the way forward and to success. EAP is an expression of Blue Ecology and provides local governments with a tool that presents financial evidence supporting the benefits of investment in riparian natural environments.

Part One explains what the Blue Ecology vision for an attitude change looks like through a local government lens and provides on-the-ground examples at the parcel scale.

Part Two presents the methodology and metrics for tackling the Riparian Deficit in stream corridors and introduces the EAP training program underway at Vancouver Island University.

Part One of an integrated and cascading 2-part program	
Title	Blue Ecology, compass for a water-first approach
Time slot	10:30 until 12:00 on May 9
Session lead	Richard Boase, Director & Vice-President, Partnership for Water Sustainability in BC
Co-presenter	Paul Chapman, Executive Director, Nanaimo and Area Land Trust
Abstract	<p>Blue Ecology describes a whole-system approach to caring for stream corridors and ecological assets. The Blue Ecology compass points the way forward and to success.</p> <p>The unifying principle for the session is the need for a change in attitude so that we appreciate and respect the land in everything that we do, because actions on the land have consequences for water. We can heal the land over time by making decisions that are always restorative and cumulative such that we restore altered landscapes.</p>
Learning outcomes	<p>Participants in the session would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Leave with a basic understanding of the Blue Ecology genesis. ▪ Appreciate how the use of the Blue Ecology framework can lead to restorative outcomes. ▪ Be introduced to a local government policy for achieving “net gain” in <i>Environmentally Sensitive Areas</i>, and thus appreciate how this policy aligns with and illustrates application of a Blue Ecology lens ▪ Be exposed to the online <i>BC Landscape Water Calculator</i> tool for achieving water use targets through plant selection at the parcel level, and thus appreciate how this tool aligns with the Blue Ecology philosophy and framework
Part Two of an integrated and cascading 2-part program	
Title	EAP, the Ecological Accounting Process: A Dollars and Sense Method to Protect Stream Systems
Time slot	1:00 until 2:30 on May 9
Session lead	Tim Pringle, Director & Past-President, Partnership for Water Sustainability
Co-presenters	Anna Lawrence & Sam Gerrand of the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region Research Institute
Abstract	<p>Streams are ecological systems. Human settlement imposes changes in the landscape and alters the hydrological and ecological capacity of streams.</p> <p>EAP provides metrics and measures to understand and value stream systems in the local government context. The metrics calculate the financial value of the stream area, as defined in the <i>Riparian Areas Protection Regulation</i>, and provide a financial and social case to reduce the <i>Riparian Deficit</i>.</p>
Learning outcomes	<p>Participants in the session would learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Why streams are systems (basic hydrology and ecology), natural commons and essential natural assets. ▪ How EAP makes a financial case for a stream and supports restorative management. ▪ How EAP calculations provide a financial value for inclusion in local government plans and budgets for asset management. ▪ How Vancouver Island University has taken in EAP as a resource for research partnerships with local government and to train future practitioners.