



CVRD

STAFF REPORT

REGULAR REGIONAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
OF MARCH 28, 2012

DATE: February 27, 2012 FILE NO:
 FROM: Chief Administrative Officer BYLAW NO:
 SUBJECT: Inter-Regional Rainwater Management Education Initiative

Recommendation/Action:

That the Board endorse the Inter-Regional Education Initiative on rainwater management and support the associated Comox Valley Regional District Gas Tax Capacity Building Grant Application to fund related inter-regional education and learning activities in the Capital Regional District, Cowichan Valley Regional District, Regional District of Nanaimo and Comox Valley Regional District.

Relation to the Corporate Strategic Plan:

Participation in the Inter-Regional Education Initiative would support the Corporate Strategic Plan Goals to (1) Develop an environmental education plan with a focus on water, biodiversity and climate change; and (2) Develop water planning policies to guide community planning and development practices.

Financial Impact: *(Reviewed by Finance Division: [Signature])*

There are no direct costs associated with participation in this inter-regional initiative; however it is proposed that some staff will attend the education sessions. The Partnership for Water Sustainability in BC in association with Comox Valley is applying for Gas Tax funding to fund the initiative and educational programs.

Background:

Attached for the Committee's consideration is a proposal by the Partnership for Water Sustainability in BC to initiate an Inter-Regional Education Initiative on Vancouver Island. Staff from the Capital Regional District, Comox Valley Regional District, Regional District of Nanaimo and Cowichan Valley Regional District is very supportive of this initiative to educate, collaborate and share ideas on water sustainability and rainwater management best practices.

The primary objectives of the initiative include:

- Advancing watershed sustainability and green infrastructure practiced Vancouver Island wide
- Linking activities in and between the four (4) regions so that everyone can benefit from lessons learned
- Enhancing collaboration and increasing alignment of efforts across boundaries
- Reducing workloads through sharing and cross-fertilization of experiences

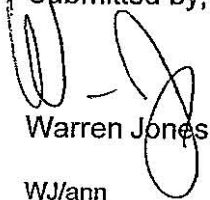
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- Improving existing and introducing new tools so that local governments and the development community will have a common understanding of how to integrate the site with the watershed and stream
- Increasing effectiveness of decisions about the use and conservation of land and water assets

The education initiative is proposed to be funded by Gas Tax, therefore the Committee is being requested to endorse the Comox Valley Capacity Building Gas Tax Application, which if approved will fund the education initiative. Staff from the four partnering regional districts will be recommending endorsement of the initiative to their respective Boards.

The conservation and protection of water in the Cowichan Valley is a high priority and this inter-regional initiative is one more opportunity to assist local governments in better understanding and managing this precious resource.

Submitted by,



Warren Jones

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File: ADMINISTRATOR/Reports/Staff Reports/2011-2013/to RSC March 28 Inter-Regional Education Initiative