



DATE: September 28, 2012
TO: Metro Vancouver Utilities Committee
FROM: Kim A Stephens, M.Eng., P.Eng., Executive Director
SUBJECT: **RAINWATER MANAGEMENT IN A WATERSHED SUSTAINABILITY CONTEXT**
Presentation #3 - Reporting out on progress during the May-September period

PURPOSE

The writer has met with the Committee twice: on September 14, 2011 to seek financial support for the **Water Balance Model Express for Landowners**; and on May 9, 2012 to introduce the benefits of the **Inter-Regional Education Initiative**. At the latter, the Chair invited the writer to report back in Fall 2012. On October 10th, our objectives in again meeting with the Utilities Committee are three-fold:

1. Announce that the beta version of the **Water Balance Model Express for Landowners** is ready.

***EXPLANATORY NOTE:** This web-based tool will help members fulfil your regulatory requirements pursuant to the Actions listed in the region's Integrated Liquid Waste and Resource Management Plan (ILWRMP), in particular:*

- 1.1.20 (update municipal bylaws),
- 1.1.21 (update municipal utility design standards),
- 3.4.7 (develop and implement ISMPs) and
- 3.5.9 (report out to the Ministry of Environment).

2. Report that the Regional Planning Advisory Committee (RPAC) supports the **Inter-Regional Educational Initiative for 'Rainwater Management in a Watershed Sustainability Context'**.

***EXPLANATORY NOTE:** A guiding principle is that IREI program elements will align with local government priorities and staff workloads. And a program goal is that local governments will leverage more with the same resources. Furthermore:*

- a. The WBM Express is nested within the IREI.
- b. REAC (Regional Engineers Advisory Committee) supports the WBM Express.
- c. The City of Surrey and North Vancouver District are demonstration applications for the WBM Express and are contributing to curriculum development for the IREI.

3. Offer to present to municipal Councils, as a delegation by the Partnership, about the value in leveraging participation in the **WBM Express** and the **Inter-Regional Education Initiative**.

CONTEXT

- The *Partnership for Water Sustainability in BC* is a not-for-profit society. Metro Vancouver and majority of municipalities are charter members.
- In 2012, the Metro Vancouver Board gave the Partnership a grant of \$50,000 towards development of the **Water Balance Model Express for Landowners**. This leveraged ~\$250,000 in co-funding.
- The Partnership is helping the Province implement the Living Water Smart and Green Communities initiatives. This is being done through a shared responsibility in delivering the *Water Sustainability Action Plan for British Columbia*, and in particular the "**Beyond the Guidebook**" initiative.

ABOUT THE INTER-REGIONAL EDUCATION INITIATIVE

- Collaboration is the pathway to a consistent approach to implementation and integration of water sustainability and green infrastructure policies and practices within and between regions.
- Yet there is no formal mechanism to enable or facilitate inter-regional collaboration. The Partnership fills this gap.
- At the heart of the IREI is ‘Beyond the Guidebook’, an ongoing initiative to provide local governments with the tools and understanding necessary to integrate the Site with the Watershed and the Stream.
- The Beyond the Guidebook initiative is building on the technical foundation created a decade ago when the Province and Environment Canada jointly released ***Stormwater Planning: A Guidebook for British Columbia***. The Partnership for Water Sustainability is:
 - the steward for the Guidebook; and
 - leading the "Beyond the Guidebook" initiative;
- Tools developed through inter-governmental partnerships include the Water Balance Model, the waterbucket.ca website, and the Water Conservation Calculator.
- The IREI will help all local governments bridge the ‘implementation and integration’ gap.
- The IREI comprises these inter-connected modules:
 - Water Balance Model Training Workshops
 - A Course on Watershed Blueprints
 - Learning Lunch Seminars & Series
 - Watershed Blueprint Case Profiles
 - Primers in the Beyond the Guidebook Series
- These program modules are designed to provide a consistent framework for knowledge-sharing within a region and between regions. There is ample flexibility to adapt within the framework to incorporate local objectives, learning outcomes, and examples.
- To demonstrate how to make inter-regional collaboration tangible, the Partnership implemented a ‘proof of approach’ on Vancouver Island in the first half of 2012.
- On May 30th, the Partnership applied for a Capacity Building Grant under the Gas Tax Agreement. To be successful, an application must demonstrate that the initiative supports a regional approach, is built around partnerships, and is replicable and/or transferable provincially. Because four regional districts are IREI partners, we have already met this test. Our application includes this statement:

“The Ministry looks forward to aligning efforts with the Partnership (for Water Sustainability) in three regions — Vancouver Island, Lower Mainland and the Okanagan — to further advance implementation of the “Beyond the Guidebook” initiative; and provide communities with the tools and knowledge to protect and/or restore watershed health,” stated Cairine MacDonald, Deputy Minister of Environment in a September 2012 announcement.

“The Ministry’s renewed emphasis on the rainwater management component of Liquid Waste Management Plans has created an opportunity to demonstrate how to integrate regulatory compliance and collaboration.”

Georgia Basin Vision: *The Partnership’s ultimate objective is to formalize participation of the Metro Vancouver region so that the initiative morphs into the “Georgia Basin Inter-Regional Education Initiative”.*

- An announcement by UBCM is expected sometime during the November-December period.