



Making a difference...together

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Notice of Meeting on **Wednesday, February 26, 2013, at 9:30 am**
Board Room, 6th floor, 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC

N. Jensen (Chair)
V. Derman
W. McIntyre

J. Mendum (Vice Chair)
B. Desjardins
A. Bryson (Board Chair, ex-officio)

D. Blackwell
C. Hamilton

J. Brownoff
B. Isitt (C. Coleman)

AGENDA

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Adoption of Minutes of November 27, 2013
3. Chair's Remarks
4. Presentations/Delegations
 - 1) Progress Report to Partners on Inter-Regional Collaboration for Watershed Sustainability – Presentation by Kim Stephens, The Partnership for Water Sustainability in BC
5. Environmental Services Committee – Terms of Reference
6. Integrated Watershed Management Implementation Update (EEP 14-01)
7. Hauling and Processing Household Kitchen Scraps – Award of Contract 13-1787 (ERM 14-03)
8. Millstream Meadows Remediation Project Update and Monitoring Results (August 2012-August 2013) (EEP 14-02)
9. Roundtable on the Environment Update (EHQ 14-04)
10. Update from Solid Waste Advisory Committee
11. Update from Public and Technical Advisory Committee, Integrated Solid Waste Resource Management Plan
12. Information Items:
 - (a) Multi-Material BC New Advisory Committee – Call for Expressions of Interest – Deadline: Wednesday, March 12
 - (b) Capital Region Invasive Species Partnership Minutes – September 18 and December 4, 2013

To ensure quorum, please advise Shannon Asdal at 250-360-3129 if you or your alternate cannot attend.



PROGRESS REPORT TO PARTNERS	
DATE:	February 2014
TO:	Capital Regional District
FROM:	Kim A Stephens, M.Eng., P.Eng., Executive Director
RE:	INTER-REGIONAL COLLABORATION FOR WATERSHED SUSTAINABILITY

SCOPE:

The *Inter-Regional Education Initiative* supports implementation of integrated and watershed-based community planning processes on the east coast of Vancouver Island and in the Lower Mainland. A desired outcome of inter-regional collaboration is accelerated implementation of affordable and effective watershed sustainability and green infrastructure practices. The purpose of this progress report is to:

1. thank the Capital Regional District for its support of inter-regional collaboration;
2. inform the Capital Regional District about the scope of the 2014 Work Plan; and
3. foreshadow the 2014 deliverable and its anticipated application in the years ahead.

BACKGROUND:

In 2012, the Partnership for Water Sustainability in British Columbia asked the Boards of five regional districts – namely Capital, Cowichan Valley, Nanaimo, Comox Valley and Metro Vancouver – to endorse local government collaboration under the umbrella of the *Inter-Regional Education Initiative (IREI)*; and furthermore, to support a grant application to UBCM for a “Gas Tax Fund Capacity-Building Grant”.

The grant application was not successful. Nevertheless, the partners carried on and are now in Year 3 of inter-regional collaboration. The Province has provided funding for the Partnership’s facilitating role.

IMPLEMENTATION:

A goal of inter-regional collaboration is to help everyone go farther, more efficiently and effectively.

In 2012, each region hosted a ‘sharing and learning’ event to initiate the IREI program. Year 1 constituted the ‘proof-of-approach’ for aligning efforts and leveraging more with the same resources.

In 2013, a group of local government champions representing the five geographic regions convened as an inter-regional leadership team and committed to working together to achieve this goal: ***Restore and/or protect stream and watershed health***. Alignment with provincial policies is a critical success factor.

In 2014, the partner regions are hosting a series of Inter-Regional Collaboration Sessions. This process aligns with each region’s priorities and individual work plans. Regions will be sharing and learning from each other. The deliverable is a workbook that may be used by local governments as a guidance document to adjust actions, inform watershed planning, and create a legacy (i.e. healthy watersheds and streams). To learn more, refer to ATTACHMENT #1 for details of the 2014 Work Plan.

Inter-Regional Collaboration in the Georgia Basin

Attachment #1 - Overview of 2014 Work Plan & Collaboration Deliverable

<p>WHY</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Watershed/stream health and rainwater/stormwater management are priorities for communities on the east coast of Vancouver Island and in the Lower Mainland region ▶ Communities have been struggling with the question of how best to move forward on the Watershed Health issue, particularly in light of a changing climate and financial drivers to provide higher levels-of-service at reduced levels-of-cost ▶ Inter-regional collaboration is helping each region understand what the other regions are doing, what works and what does not ▶ Collaboration will help everyone better deliver on regulatory requirements, especially for the watershed/rainwater component of Liquid Waste Management Plans (LWMPs)
<p>WHAT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ The collaborating regions view the Watershed Health issue through complementary lenses that together form a complete picture ▶ Each region has something unique to contribute to the mix: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Metro Vancouver – <i>watershed plan effectiveness</i> 2. Capital Region – <i>water quality assessment</i> 3. Nanaimo Region - <i>partnerships</i> 4. Cowichan Valley – <i>climate change adaptation</i> 5. Comox Valley – <i>sustainable service delivery</i> ▶ The inter-regional deliverable is a workbook on application of performance monitoring approaches that are affordable, effective and adaptive
<p>SO WHAT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ The vision is that collaboration would result in implementation of standards of practice that are affordable and effective in maintaining healthy watersheds and streams ▶ The mantra for inter-regional collaboration is framed in these terms: <i>Through sharing and learning, ensure that where we are going is indeed the right way</i>
<p>NOW WHAT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Organize a series of Inter-Regional Collaboration Sessions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Springboard Session – January 23 (hosted by the Province in Victoria) □ Capital Region – March 28 (in Victoria) □ Nanaimo Region – April 29 (in Nanaimo) □ Cowichan Valley – May 27 (in Duncan) □ Comox Valley – week of June 23 (in Courtenay) ▶ At each regional session, inform and educate the local audience about necessary actions to fulfil regulatory objectives, commitments and requirements in the host region ▶ Compile the set of session outcomes in a workbook that provides guidance ▶ Report out in early 2015
<p>THEN WHAT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ The workbook would inform anyone involved in a watershed health monitoring process ▶ The workbook would be the starting point for sharing, learning and adapting over time ▶ The workbook may be used by local governments to adjust actions, inform community and watershed planning, and create a legacy (i.e. healthy watersheds & streams)

**REPORT TO ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2014**

SUBJECT INTEGRATED WATERSHED MANAGEMENT IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

ISSUE

To present highlights of recent work within the Capital Regional District (CRD) Integrated Watershed Management Program (IWMP).

BACKGROUND

At its February 23, 2011 meeting, the Core Area Liquid Waste Management Committee directed staff to proceed with the implementation strategy for integrated watershed management (IWM) planning in the core area. This work was undertaken by the Stormwater, Harbours and Watersheds Program (under the Core Area Stormwater Quality Program), which was recently renamed the Integrated Watershed Management Program to better reflect its current role. Some program deliverables are regional in nature (education, for example) and that work is shared with the other CRD stormwater programs. Program staff work with an IWM Inter-Municipal Group to discuss and initiate activities.

The IWM strategy, designed to be flexible and evolve over time, gives staff and municipalities a chance to explore opportunities that were not available within the historic activities of stormwater sampling, monitoring and reporting, outreach and non-regulatory stormwater source control. IWM work, performed in cooperation with the core area municipalities, provides a forum for discussion and identifies new short-term tasks for improving watershed health and protecting the environment. At the January 25, 2012 Environmental Sustainability Committee meeting, staff presented an information report updating the committee on work done in 2011 and planned for 2012. This report follows up on that with highlights of the 2012-2013 IWM program work (Appendix A).

CRD staff are developing the 2014 program work plan which will be discussed at the next meeting of the IWM Inter-Municipal Group. Staff will continue to work on the initiatives highlighted in Appendix A and support municipal environmental protection efforts.

ALTERNATIVES

1. That the Environmental Services Committee receive this report for information and recommend that staff continue to work on an integrated watershed management approach to protect the region's watersheds and receiving environment.
2. That the Environmental Services Committee request additional information.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

The IWM approach allows the CRD to build on the existing stormwater monitoring programs and support local governments with new strategies for environmental protection. These strategies include an increased focus on dealing with watershed stressors near the source rather than at the municipal infrastructure or receiving environment level. The program supports cooperative municipal efforts in watersheds that cross municipal boundaries and provides guidance towards measuring watershed and receiving environment health to better assess program actions and municipal efforts.

INTER-GOVERNMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

A solid foundational knowledge is essential before setting targets for watershed protection and enhancement. Inter-regional collaboration is already successful in sharing information and generating discussion about new techniques for watershed management. There is a need to build awareness of watershed protection issues before local governments can proceed with on-the-ground solutions. Enhanced watershed education will significantly raise the profile of watershed protection in the community and simultaneously increase the visibility of the CRD as leaders in environmental protection. Education also provides value to our local governments as we combine existing funding in this area with funds such as the RBC Blue Water grant.

ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

This work is included within the existing 2013-2015 core area stormwater program budget. When deliverables have a regional scope, funding from the existing 2013-2015 budgets for the Saanich Peninsula, Sooke and Electoral Areas is also utilized. Some 2014 work will also be funded through the \$75,000 RBC Blue Water Grant.

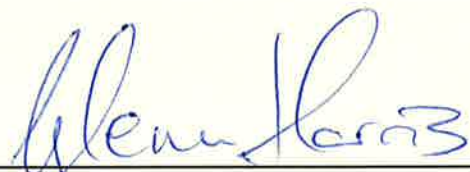
The Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development has stated its goal to support innovative solutions towards watershed health and that addressing watershed and environmental considerations will be a requirement for future Gas Tax Funding applications. As the CRD often applies for Gas Tax Funds, IWM will, where appropriate, strengthen those applications.

CONCLUSIONS

The CRD's IWM work, performed in cooperation with the core area municipalities, provides a forum for discussion and identifies new short-term tasks for improving watershed health and protecting the environment. Examples of this are an inter-regional workshop series, common design guidelines for low impact development, watershed education and enhanced monitoring. Integrated Watershed Management allows the CRD to build on the existing stormwater monitoring programs and support local governments with new strategies for environmental protection. This approach will also strengthen future Gas Tax Funding applications by meeting the Province's requirement of consideration of the needs of watersheds and the environment.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Environmental Services Committee receive this report for information and recommend that staff continue to work on an integrated watershed management approach to protect the region's watersheds and receiving environment.



Glenn Harris, Ph.D., R.P.Bio.
Senior Manager, Environmental Protection



Larisa Hutcheson, P.Eng.
General Manager
Parks & Environmental Services
Concurrence

DG:cam

Attachment: 1

INTEGRATED WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PROGRAM 2012-2013 WORK PLAN

HIGHLIGHTS

Inter-Regional Workshop Series

Program staff started to develop a method to evaluate the health of the region's watersheds and determined that they needed to interact with peers at other regional districts and local governments to learn how they were doing this. Municipal staff also benefit from sharing information and ideas with their counterparts in other regions. The Partnership for Water Sustainability in BC offered to facilitate a process which has evolved into a five workshop series. The first workshop, held on January 23, 2014 and hosted by the Province of BC and Metro Vancouver, introduced the Metro Vancouver's Draft Adaptive Management Framework. The second workshop, being hosted by the CRD on March 28, will be a forum to discuss water quality monitoring and watershed assessment.

Common Design Guidelines for Low-Impact Development (LID)

CRD staff worked with the IWM Inter-Municipal Group on designing the requirements for this document, a resource for municipal staff to aid in the evaluation of LID works (such as rain gardens and swales) for building permits, etc. Staff used a Metro Vancouver design guide as a starting point and modified it for CRD use. CRD staff retained Kerr Wood Leidal to lead a session with the Inter-Municipal Group to develop the requirements for modifying the Metro Vancouver document. Staff will use these requirements in a Request for Proposal to select a contractor to develop CRD-specific design guidelines.

Watershed Education

In 2012, the program received a \$75,000 grant from the Royal Bank of Canada's Blue Water Program. This grant will provide funds to enhance watershed education in the region. Deliverables for 2014 include items such as: a series of videos highlighting watershed topics (cross-promoting other CRD initiatives, where appropriate, e.g., climate action); guidebooks for residential rainwater management and low-impact development; and school curriculum materials for watershed-specific topics to be promoted through the Environmental Protection Division's K-12 educational initiative.

Enhanced Monitoring

Staff have enhanced monitoring in two areas: working with the Ministry of Environment on marine water quality objectives for the core area harbours and updating stormwater and stream monitoring programs. Sampling to support the water quality objectives is complete and data analysis is now being done by the Ministry prior to municipal and public consultation, and completion of the water quality objectives document by CRD and provincial staff. As resources allow, the stormwater monitoring plan is being modified to become a more comprehensive approach (e.g., including streams and other water bodies) for better evaluation of the effects of stormwater on the environment. This improved plan will be discussed in the 2013 annual core area stormwater quality report.