



the partnership
for water sustainability in bc

IREI - Inter-Regional Education Initiative

Inter-Regional Collaboration for Watershed Sustainability

Towards a Watershed Health Legacy in the Georgia Basin

Agenda Package for “Springboard Session” on January 23, 2014

Hosted by the Ministry of Community, Sport & Cultural Development

At the Central Baptist Church // 833 Pandora Avenue, Victoria // from 9:30am until 3:30pm



Inter-Regional Collaboration in the Georgia Basin

Overview of 2014 Work Plan

WHY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Watershed health and rainwater/stormwater management are priorities for communities on the east coast of Vancouver Island and in the Metro Vancouver region ▶ Communities are 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 ▶ A group of champions representing five geographic regions within the Georgia Basin tributary area has embarked on a collaborative “sharing and learning process” ▶ Inter-regional collaboration will help 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)
WHAT	<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>leveraging 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
SO WHAT	<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>
NOW WHAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Design <i>Inter-Regional Collaboration Session #1</i> (on Jan 23) so that it provides a “springboard” to four subsequent sessions in Victoria, Nanaimo, Duncan and Courtenay: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Capital Region – March 26, 27 or 28 □ Nanaimo Region – April 9 or 16 □ Cowichan Valley – May 27 □ Comox Valley – week of June 23 ▶ At the Springboard Session, showcase the Metro Vancouver draft Adaptive Management Framework process ▶ 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 series outcomes in a workbook that provides guidance ▶ Report out in early 2015
THEN WHAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ The workbook would inform anyone involved in a watershed-based planning 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 planning, and create a legacy (i.e. healthy watersheds & streams)

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Agenda for “Springboard Session” on January 23, 2014

0930	REGISTRATION // MEET & GREET
1000	Watershed Health Goal <i>Refer to Exhibit A (“About the Watershed Health Goal”) & Exhibit B (“cloud diagram”)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Provincial Policy Framework Enables Action: Glen Brown, Ministry of Community, Sport & Cultural Development▶ Vision & Work Plan for Inter-Regional Collaboration: Kim Stephens, Partnership for Water Sustainability in BC
1035	The Metro Vancouver Draft Adaptive Management Framework: Details of the Creation Process and Framework Features <i>From a sharing and learning perspective, the importance of the “Metro Vancouver story” is that the process illustrates how practical outcomes are achieved when agencies and individuals collaborate and align efforts.</i> <i>The draft Adaptive Management Framework (AMF) developed by an inter-governmental working group provides a universal, consistent, yet flexible, monitoring framework that may be implemented across municipalities of different sizes, drainage patterns and budgets. The AMF is a work-in-progress.</i> <i>In 2011, the Minister of Environment’s approval of the Metro Vancouver region’s Integrated Liquid Waste and Resource Management Plan included a requirement that Metro Vancouver assist member municipalities to develop a coordinated program to monitor watershed health and assess and report out on the implementation and effectiveness of Integrated Stormwater Management Plans (ISMPs).</i> <i>Formed in 2012, the inter-governmental working group comprised staff from municipalities, Metro Vancouver, and Ministry of Environment. The group was tasked with developing a weight-of-evidence performance measurement approach that would be available to all Metro Vancouver member municipalities.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Part 1: Metro Vancouver Context Speaker: Helia Yazdanpanah, Metro Vancouver▶ Part 2: Adaptive Management Framework - Introduction and Overall Approach Speaker: Melony Burton, City of Coquitlam▶ Part 3: The Framework: Why, What and When to Monitor Speaker: Julie Pavey, District of North Vancouver
1200	LUNCH
1300	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Part 5: Data Collection, Analysis and Assessment Speaker: Krista Payette, Ministry of Environment▶ Part 5: Reporting, Supplemental Monitoring, Adaptive Management Planning and Practices Speaker: Carrie Baron, City of Surrey▶ Part 6: Test Run of the Framework, Case Studies and Cost Estimates Speaker: Helia Yazdanpanah, Metro Vancouver
1430	REFRESHMENT BREAK
1445	Town-Hall Segment: Share Your “Ah-Ha Moments” <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Conversation Starter: What have you learned; and what do you still wonder? Facilitator: Kim Stephens
1525	Next Steps

Inter-Regional Collaboration in the Georgia Basin

Exhibit A

About the Watershed Health Goal

- A. Since the late 1990s, and largely due to heightened awareness as an outcome of the impact of the “salmon crisis”, governments have recognized the need to restore and protect watershed health.
- ▶ By 2002, looking at rainfall differently led the Province to adopt the Water Balance Methodology, initiate a performance target approach to capturing rain where it falls, and initiate changes in the ways rainwater runoff is returned to streams.
 - ▶ Released in 2002 to support / facilitate the “rainwater component” of Liquid Waste Management Plans, the underlying premise for “**Stormwater Planning: A Guidebook for BC**” was expressed as:
 - Land development and watershed protection can be compatible.*
 - Science-based understanding bridges the gap between policy and site design.*
 - ▶ The Guidebook presents a framework for implementing an ‘adaptive approach’ to watershed-based actions (i.e. learn by doing; change direction when science-based understanding leads to a better way).
- B. Watershed health is a priority for local governments throughout the Georgia Basin.
- ▶ In 2012, the Regional Boards for the Comox Valley, Nanaimo Region, Cowichan Valley, Capital Region and Metro Vancouver Region agreed to collaborate under the umbrella of the *Inter-Regional Education Initiative*.
 - ▶ All five regions have over-arching plans that are watershed-based and establish a vision.
 - ▶ Everyone is primed to move from talk to “implementation and integration”.
 - ▶ Collaboration will accelerate affordable and effective outcomes within each region.
- C. A core group of local government champions representing the five geographic regions is functioning as an inter-regional leadership team:
- ▶ The vision for collaboration is that a series of working sessions will inform and educate the leadership team and others about watershed health:
 - a. *All regions are dealing with challenges associated with watershed monitoring*
 - b. *Each region is at a different point along the Watershed Health continuum*
 - c. *Each region has something unique to contribute to the mix*
 - ▶ The vision for collaboration boils down to three objectives:
 1. *Share experience on how to measure watershed health, and how to monitor progress*
 2. *Understand what each regional district is doing, what works and what does not*
 3. *Understand the elements of a performance monitoring framework that can be used to adjust actions **and inform community planning** that maintains healthy streams*
 - ▶ The deliverable will be a guidance document that is a compilation of session and series outcomes.
- D. Over the past 15 years, local government leaders have been applying science-based understanding to develop tools, establish precedents and gain the experience necessary to achieve the Watershed Health Goal.
- ▶ Going forward, a guiding principle for collaboration is to leverage “science-based understanding” of the relationship between land use changes and resulting stream health (and also financial liability) consequences in order to influence community planning.
 - ▶ The mantra for the ultimate outcome of the Inter-Regional Collaboration Series is framed this way:
“through sharing and learning, ensure that where we are going is indeed the right way”
- E. Because affordability ultimately drive standards of practice, “Sustainable Service Delivery” is a way to view watersheds through an asset management lens and provide a higher level-of-service at a reduced level-of-cost.
- F. Looking ahead, one of the desired outcomes of collaboration is to galvanize additional champions who will both implement needed changes in practice and maintain the watershed health legacy over time.

THE PROVINCE:

DESIRED OUTCOME: Support local governments that are demonstrating leadership and innovation in evolving standards of practice that protect/restore Watershed Health

WHY: So that communities can showcase how to implement a watershed-based approach that: 1) strives for greener communities; 2) saves money while providing a higher level of service; 3) reduces a community's water footprint; 4) improves water quality and protects aquatic habitat; 5) adapts to a changing climate; 6) results in cumulative benefits over time; and 7) achieves a balance between economy and ecology.

HOW: Align provincial drivers so that they are mutually reinforcing

Provincial policy framework enables action to achieve the Watershed Health Goal:

- Rainwater Component of Liquid Waste Management Plans
- Living Water Smart / proposed Water Sustainability Act
- Green Communities / Sustainable Service Delivery
- Green Communities / Regional Growth Strategies
- Green Communities / Climate Change Adaptation

Get the water part right, and the rest will follow:

- **WHAT:** "Design with Nature"
- **WHY:** nature provides services at a reduced cost
- **HOW:** "mimic the Natural Water Balance"

Collaborating regions view Watershed Health Goal through complementary lenses that together form a complete picture:

- Metro Vancouver Region – watershed plan effectiveness
- Capital Region – water quality assessment
- Nanaimo Region – leveraging partnerships
- Cowichan Valley – climate change adaptation
- Comox Valley – sustainable service delivery

COLLABORATION OUTCOME:

"Ensure that where we are going is indeed the right way"

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN THE GEORGIA BASIN:

DESIRED OUTCOME: Understand the elements of a performance management approach that can be used to adjust actions and inform community planning that maintains healthy streams

WHY: So that implementation of evolving standards of practice is affordable and effective in maintaining healthy watersheds and streams

HOW: Community development activities and alteration of the Built Environment will result in cumulative benefits, not impacts

COLLABORATION GOAL:

Align local actions and provincial policies through a "top-down & bottom-up" sharing and learning process

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Exhibit B

(as updated on Jan 17/14)