

**GREATER VANCOUVER REGIONAL DISTRICT
UTILITIES COMMITTEE**

REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, November 13, 2014

9:00 am

2nd Floor Boardroom, 4330 Kingsway, Burnaby, British Columbia

A G E N D A¹

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1.1 November 13, 2014 Regular Meeting Agenda

That the Utilities Committee adopt the agenda for its regular meeting scheduled for November 13, 2014 as circulated.

2. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

2.1 October 9, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes

That the Utilities Committee adopt the minutes of its regular meeting held October 9, 2014 as circulated.

3. DELEGATIONS

4. INVITED PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Kim Stephens, Partnership for Water Sustainability in BC re: Inter-regional Collaboration for Watershed Sustainability

5. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE OR STAFF

5.1 Tap Water & Water Conservation Campaign – 2014 Water Wagon Program & Lawn Sprinkling Communications

Designated Speaker: David Hocking

That the Utilities Committee receive for information the report titled *Tap Water & Water Conservation Campaign – 2014 Water Wagon Program & Lawn Sprinkling Communications* dated October 17, 2014.

5.2 Update on Water Sustainability Act - Pricing B.C's Water

Designated Speaker: Inder Singh

That the GVWD Board receive for information the report titled *Update on Water Sustainability Act - Pricing B.C's Water*, dated October 27, 2014.

¹ Note: Recommendation is shown under each item, where applicable.



DATE: November 13, 2014
TO: Metro Vancouver Utilities Committee
FROM: Kim A Stephens, M.Eng., P.Eng., Executive Director
SUBJECT: **INTER-REGIONAL COLLABORATION FOR WATERSHED SUSTAINABILITY**
 Presentation #7 – Progress update for period May 2014 through November 2014

BACKGROUND:

Launched in 2012, the *Georgia Basin Inter-Regional Education Initiative* (IREI) involves local governments from the Metro Vancouver region and along the east coast of Vancouver Island. Five geographic regions are sharing and learning from each other.

This form of collaboration accelerates implementation of standards of practice (i.e. engineering, planning and environmental) that are affordable & effective in maintaining healthy watersheds and streams.

This desired outcome aligns with the Minister of Environment's purpose in requiring that the Metro Vancouver region develop an *Adaptive Management Framework for Watershed Health*.

PURPOSE OF UPDATE PRESENTATION:

In early 2015, the Partnership will co-apply with a Vancouver Island regional district for a capacity-building grant from the **Gas Tax Agreement Strategic Priority Fund** to implement the next phase of inter-regional collaboration under the IREI umbrella.

THEREFORE, in presenting this progress report, the Partnership for Water Sustainability asks that:

1. Metro Vancouver endorse continued participation by the Metro Vancouver region and members in the *Georgia Basin Inter-Regional Education Initiative* (IREI).
2. Metro Vancouver support-in-principle a grant application to be submitted by the Partnership in 2015, to the *Gas Tax Agreement Strategic Priority Fund*, to implement the IREI through 2017.

This progress report also provides the Partnership with the opportunity to update the Utilities Committee about two IREI-related initiatives:

- Water Balance Model Express for Landowners
- Across Canada Workshop Series on Resilient Rainwater Management

The Partnership's History with the Utilities Committee provides context:

1. September 2011 – asked for funding for *Water Balance Model Express for Landowners*.
2. May 2012 – introduced the benefits of the *Georgia Basin Inter-Regional Education Initiative (IREI) for 'Rainwater Management in a Watershed Sustainability Context'*.
3. October 2012 – asked the Committee to formalize its support for inter-regional collaboration.
4. April 2013 – recognized Metro Vancouver as a “Champion Supporter” of the Partnership.
5. October 2013 – foreshadowed how inter-regional collaboration could inform implementation of the Metro Vancouver region's *Draft Adaptive Management Framework for Watershed Health*.
6. May 2014 – presented an overview of the 2014 Work Plan for inter-regional collaboration.

YEAR 3 IMPLEMENTATION:

The IREI process aligns with each region’s priorities and individual work plans. The five partner regions are Metro Vancouver, Capital, Cowichan Valley, Nanaimo and Comox Valley.

In 2014, five Inter-Regional Collaboration Sessions were convened between January and September. Sessions were hosted in Victoria (twice), Ladysmith, Nanaimo and Courtenay. The cities of Surrey and Coquitlam represent the Metro Vancouver region on the IREI Leadership Team.

A Metro Vancouver interagency working group provided the content for the “Springboard Session” hosted by the Province in January.

KEY MESSAGE #1: The series outcomes will be synthesized in a guidance document titled “*Beyond the Guidebook 2015: Towards a Watershed Health Legacy in the Georgia Basin*”.

Water Balance Model Express for Landowners:

Metro Vancouver provided funding for development of the Express because use of the tool will help members fulfil required actions in the region’s *Integrated Liquid Waste & Resource Management Plan*:

- 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).

Local governments will be able to focus landowners on how to “design with nature” to first capture and then slowly release rainwater. The goal is to protect stream function.

Implementation of the Express is being undertaken one local government partner at a time. Each partner is being asked to contribute a feature that adds to the tool’s capability or usability. Features will then be available to all partners – for example, the Surrey Express is incorporating Google Maps.

KEY MESSAGE #2: The Express is pre-populated with three performance targets. Each partner local government does the analysis to establish target values that are watershed-specific.

Across Canada Workshop Series on Resilient Rainwater Management:

Funded by Intact Insurance through the *Climate Change Adaptation Project* at the University of Waterloo, the workshop series has provided the Partnership with a platform to achieve multiple objectives, notably:

- Document and share the story of BC’s collaborative and adaptive approach to protecting and restoring watershed health.
- Showcase the case study experience of those local governments leading change in BC.
- Introduce the WBM Express and other “made in BC” web-based tools to audiences across Canada.

The workshop series has provided the Partnership with a clear picture of what other provinces are doing, and what makes rainwater management in BC different from the other provinces. The differences start with a Living Water Smart and Green Communities framework which is *enabling*. This is the critical success factor which makes innovation possible in BC.

KEY MESSAGE #3: For the past two decades, BC communities have been addressing the “Shifting Baseline Syndrome”. The focus of a “design with nature” approach is on outcomes. This means restore watershed health over time.