### **2020 DWWP Program Accomplishments – Highlights by Theme**

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**Water Awareness and Stewardship (WAS)**

* Provided **over 130 rebates** to residents including rainwater harvesting, wellhead upgrades, well water testing, irrigation and soil improvements.
* Supported **three watercourse restoration** projects via stewardship seedfunding: Knarston Creek, Little Qualicum Estuary, Chase River. *(Progress Indicator WAS-2)*
* Offered **virtual workshops and activities** to engage the community in water stewardship education:
  + 15 activities for Water to Earth Month;
  + two WellSmart webinars for well owners;
  + one virtual watershed field trip video shared with SD68 educators.
* Supported the completion of the **RDN Water Conservation Plan update for 2020-2030;** results indicate across 9 RDN Water Service Areas, a 4.4% reduction of average water use and 5% decrease in summer way use per connection per day was observed between 2017-2019*. (Progress Indicator WAS-1)*
* Initiated **the Outreach Review and Redesign project**, using Community Based Social Marketing / Behaviour Change principles.

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* Completed the **Area E (Nanoose) Phase 3 Water Budget** Model. *(Progress Indicator WIS-2)*
* Completed the **Area F Water Quality and Quantity Risk Analysis** and working with RDN Planning to integrate this information into the Official Community Plan (OCP) update.
* Completed the **5-Year Wetland Mapping and Monitoring Research Project** with Vancouver Island University (VIU) / Mt. Arrowsmith Biosphere Region Research Insititute.
* Completed the 10th year of **surface water quality sampling with the RDN Community Watershed Monitoring Network** (CWMN); this includes 14 trained stewardship groups in over 20 watersheds. (*Progress Indicator WIS-1 & WIS-3)*
* Completed the **7th year of groundwater monitoring** via the RDN Volunteer Observation Well Network; upgraded the equipment installations as needed. *(Progress Indicator WIS-1 & WIS-3)*
* Reported on **Regional Groundwater Level Trends Pre-Summer 2020**, presenting the analysis to the Board and Water Purveyors.
* Initiated first year of **snowpack modelling** with Ministry of FLNRO and VIU in the Englishman River Watershed.

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* Supported **review of 16+ development referrals for Planning** with water related information. *(Progress Indicator WPS -1)*
* Supported **Area F OCP update** with groundwater and surface water information updates, areas of risk and recommendations. *(Progress Indicator WPS-1)*
* Re-established the **RDN Rainwater Working Group**, a multi-department / agency group focused on the implementation of regional rainwater actions under the LWMP/ DWWP. *(Progress Indicator WPS-3)*
* Successfully completed advocacy with the Ministry of Health that began in 2017, with the publication of **guidelines for Rainwater for Potable Use**. *(Progress Indicator WPS-4)*
* Started an **Ecological Accounting Process for the Millstone River** and riparian area, in partnership with the City of Nanaimo, led by VIU and the Partnership for Waters Sustainability BC.

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* Participated on **Nanaimo River Watershed Roundtable** monthly meetings with multiple stakeholders.
* Participated on the **Nanaimo River Watershed Interagency Partnership**, including the benthic invertebrate monitoring in collaboration with DFO, ENV, SFN, Mosaic and City of Nanaimo.
* Engaged with **youth ambassadors** from Ocean Bridge to support their freshwater stewardship planning efforts in Nanaimo.
* Shared data and reporting results from Area E Water Budget with **Snaw-naw-as First Nation and Te’mexw Treaty Association**.
* Supported **Emergency Services** in response to local incidents including the Schnitzer Fire.
* Engaged with the **BC Agricultural Adaptation Climate Action Initiative for Vancouver Island**, in focus groups on water management and watershed planning.
* Developed Groundwater Factsheets in partnership with the **Arrowsmith Groundwater Alliance**. *(Progress Indicator WIS-4).*
* Convened monthly check-in meetings with **regional water purveyors** between April – October to communicate about watering restrictions etc.

**Adaptation for COVID-19**

* Moved outreach (public engagement, workshops, school activities) into a virtual format.
* Hosted meetings (DWWP TAC, CWMN Data Results Session, Rainwater Working Group) online.
* Moved volunteer training for CWMN into a small group format, with COVID protocols in place for the water sampling activities.