



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
DRINKING WATER AND WATERSHED PROTECTION
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 23, 2014 AT 12:30 PM**

Present:

Mike Donnelly, CHAIR	Manager, Water & Utility Services, RDN
Courtney Simpson	Islands Trust Representative
Peter Law	General Public Representative (North)
Gilles Wendling	General Public Representative (South)
Lynne Magee	Island Health
Pat Lapcevic.....	Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
Faye Smith	Environment Community Representative
Ken Epps.....	Forest Industry Representative
Domenico Iannidinardo.....	Forest Industry Representative
Kate Miller	Manager, Environmental Initiatives, CVRD
Oliver Brandes	Academic Community Representative
Alan Gilchrist	Academic Community Representative (VIU)
Deb Epps	Registered Professional Biologist Representative
Leon Cake	Water Purveyors' Representative
Mike Squire	City of Parksville / Program Manager, Arrowsmith Water Service
Bill Sims	Manager, Water Resources, City of Nanaimo
David Vincent	Hydrologist Representative (Northwest Hydraulic Consultants)
Chris Cole	Forestry Industry Representative
Kirsten Fagervik.....	Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Regrets:

Bob Weir	Director of Engineering and Utilities, Town of Qualicum Beach
Fred Spears	Director of Public Works, District of Lantzville

Also In attendance:

Julie Pisani	Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Coordinator, RDN
Alex King.....	Special Projects Assistant, RDN
Deanna McGillivray	Special Projects Assistant, RDN
Rebecca Graves	Recording Secretary, RDN
Shelley Norum	Wastewater Coordinator, RDN
Randy Alexander	General Manager, Regional & Community Utilities, RDN
Geoff Garbutt	General Manager, Strategic & Community Development, RDN
Twyla Graff	CAO, District of Lantzville

CALL TO ORDER

M. Donnelly called the meeting to order at 12:35 pm.

MINUTES

Minutes from the regular meeting of the Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Advisory Committee held June 19, 2013 were adopted.

COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

M. Donnelly welcomed and introduced Peter Law (new TAC member), Dave Vincent (new TAC member), Kirsten Fagervik, (new TAC member), Jessica Dorzinsky (RDN, Special Projects Assistant), Alex King (RDN, Special Projects Assistant), Deanna McGillivray (RDN, Special Projects Assistant).

INTRODUCTORY GROUP PARTICIPATION

TAC Member	Focal Current Project?	Biggest Priority for our Region's Watersheds?
<i>Mike Squire, City of Parksville</i>	To build a new water intake and enhanced water treatment on the Englishman River for the ERWS.	Funding.
<i>Kate Miller, Cowichan Valley Reg. District</i>	Focusing on development and implementation of a number of dykes to protect central area and drought management issues; Governance issues & development of WMPs.	Communication within community.
<i>Courtney Simpson, Islands Trust</i>	Looking at riparian areas / surface water on Gabriola.	Understanding what water is available for development.
<i>Lynne Magee, Island Health</i>	Surface water / groundwater treatment objectives.	Safe drinking water and having an integrated watershed management approach that also considers the ecological values of water.
<i>Bill Sims, City of Nanaimo</i>	Water treatment/ filtration plant that CoN is building for 2015 completion.	Looking at climate change and water conservation, managing supply limits.
<i>Ken Epps, Island Timberlands</i>	Water quality and how our activities affect that and strategies to improve.	Always getting science based information to move forward.
<i>Domenico Iannidinardo, TimberWest</i>	Process and make sure we keep up with the science and best communicate and share information.	Ensure new staff become familiar with these processes.

<i>Chris Cole, TimberWest</i>	To interface with operations and stakeholders; Learning and implementing BMPs.	Increase communication and awareness of TimberWest operations in the watersheds.
<i>Kirsten Fagervik, MOTI</i>	The three hundred development application files for Vancouver Island and review each file to look at water and watershed practices.	Availability of drinking water that meets the drinking water standards and to protect the watersheds.
<i>Alan Gilchrist, VIU</i>	Climate change and agricultural water demand.	To determine water-stressed areas, a greater level of science is needed.
<i>Mike Donnelly, RDN</i>	The ERWS and new intake for Parksville / Nanoose.	Developing an integrated watershed management approach and building relationships with First Nations to help move together in watershed processes.
<i>Oliver Brandes, POLIS</i>	Looking at the implementation of the WSA in BC and what that means.	Watershed governance - how to integrate decision making that's appropriate and engaging First Nations.
<i>Gilles Wendling, GW Solutions</i>	Working with Faye in the Englishman River watershed to better understand the watershed and focusing on the flow in the bedrock aquifer.	To understand the connection between surface water and ground water and create the tools to pass the message back to the public and be more connected to the watershed.
<i>Deb Epps, MOE</i>	To manage and support staff across the province, and all their water monitoring projects.	-
<i>Faye Smith, MVIHES</i>	Groundwater mapping in the Englishman River watershed.	Better inform our elected representatives and developers of the importance of watershed sustainability.
<i>Peter Law</i>	The partnership for Water Sustainability in BC and the Water Balance Model.	Watershed health, engaging the public on this.
<i>David Vincent, Northwest Hydraulic Consulting</i>	Surface water environmental issues.	-
<i>Leon Cake, Coastal Water Suppliers Assoc.</i>	Partnership with other organizations that do operator training.	Open communication with watershed owners.
<i>Pat Lapcevic, MFLNRO</i>	Water Sustainability Act implementation and the preparation for licensing of groundwater.	Sustaining watershed health, looking at cumulative effects and salt water intrusion, especially on the Gulf Islands. Also, engaging the public.
<i>Geoff Garbutt, RDN (guest)</i>	Fairwinds area development.	Coordination of development approvals and standards.

Take away: biggest priorities are effective ongoing communication and improved science.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR THE COMMITTEE

1) First Nations Engagement

Mike Donnelly presented the committee with discussion questions which included:

- How can we meaningfully engage First Nations in the process of visioning and planning for watershed protection?
- Share personal experiences that lend wisdom to successful partnership with First Nations?
- Anyone working closely with local First Nations on current projects that relate to water?

Comments included:

- Maintaining ongoing contact with FN requires commitment.
- There is a legal requirement to engage FN, no longer just a “nice to do”.
- We need something “co-created” with First Nations. Simple things like where you meet, how you notify, and how you set up the agenda in a co-created way is the minimum starting point.
- Cowichan tribes participation in the Water Board process in Cowichan... at the table, doing the sampling, participating, very engaged.
- Work with FN groups in the north includes gathering Traditional Ecological Knowledge about their traditional territories, concerns in the watershed, special interests, cultural significance i.e. bathing areas, etc. Important to have the TEK and the science working together... valuing traditional knowledge demonstrates effort to make sure FN needs are met and their rights are protected as well.
- Important to identify key contacts and understand each other’s way of thinking. Connect with youth and elders. Be aware that, and respect that, elders play a key role. Trust building is very important.
- We have the tendency to focus too much on plans and schedules, and need to adapt to First Nations approaches. Coming to a meeting without an agenda would provide more chances to listen.
- A key to engagement and participation is really being clear what you are there for. To actively participate there needs to be an end goal. Gaining trust and building a good relationship as well as being very clear and engaging them.
- Our typical approach of sending a letter, and waiting for a response is not very effective.
- Not “one size fits all” answer. Approaches to effective relationship building will differ from one regional district to another, and from one First Nation to another
- Conflict and crisis can be an opportunity for a frank discussion with the issue rather than putting it off. For example, a water shortage crisis that affects everyone can bring all parties together to find solutions.

- Discussions may be uncomfortable but provide an important opportunity to speak up and discuss how we move together as a group. Continuing to meet and talk about specific issues helps build an understanding of each other's perspectives. Need to get out to each other's "living rooms and backyards" to understand each other's needs and perspectives.
- Communities are then given the tools to come to a discussion with knowledge and understanding of the others in the room. Allowing First Nations to lead can reduce conflict.
- The most important thing that goes wrong is that a discussion takes place then it fizzles/disappears.
- When you partner with FN you must have knowledge in dealing with the culture of the people... they are very educated on the process of their water in their communities. How do you engage their particular process and partner with that process which opens that door? With First Nations you need to open the door in a respectful way.
- One way is to come in as a pilot project with a community effort of water education for the children – engage the elders, the community, whoever is governing, with the initiative to provide education opportunities for the children.
- Inviting, engaging, forming partnerships should happen in a community format.
- It's about staying engaged, maintaining what you are bringing to the community and helping the community with, and what we are trying to accomplish in the relationship. You can engage the communities, with the WaterSmart program. It can be grass rooted or technical - just engage with them.
- First Nations should be respected as right holders and not just invited to a process we already have. Focus on trust building and relationship building. Find the best way forward for both.
- One approach is to build those relationships, build that trust one-on-one level to the point to set up a separate or parallel process with First Nations. Or they might express interest to sit in the room with us and participate in a forum. We don't know for sure until we meaningfully engage with them and ask.
- The TAC is a group of stakeholders and advisors. FN are not "stakeholders", they want to participate and actually make decisions. Decision making may require engaging board members and elected officials in an entirely different way.
- In a large region with a lot of sub regions, recommended scaling it to the community and scaling it to the resources in that community in order to participate effectively.

2) Streamflow Monitoring Partnerships

Julie Pisani delivered a short PowerPoint and opened the floor to discussions and input.

Comments included:

- Data quality can be an issue. Bad data is much worse than no data. Running the stations, selecting the site and maintaining the data base requires very high quality control.
- Data should be stored at an agreed upon centralized location, for example a Provincial or Federal database.

- Used BCCF for flow monitoring for projects and received good service, good data.
- For MVIHES' flow monitoring program, they have a piece of equipment that they calibrate and volunteers use as a flow tracker.
- CVRD is struggling in their region, desperate for data.
- We should be supporting and pushing the federal government in a constructive way to encourage the investment in these data collection and management systems, also to say community based science is very important to us.
- Would be good to have a geo-referenced map to display where everyone's data is collected. Getting all the data on a map is a start.
- Important to have historic data when we want to look at climate change.
- P. Law, B. Sims, K. Epps, D. Iannidinaro, A. Gilchrest, D. Vincent, K. Fagervik, G. Wendling, N. Goeller (nominated by P. Lapcevic) all showed interest in being involved in the sub-committee.

REPORTS

Update on Community Watershed Monitoring Network – 3 year Trend Report and Program Adaptions for 2014

Julie Pisani gave the committee an overview on the community watershed monitoring network.

Key points:

- Monitoring will continue in 2014 and sampling will occur at 50 sites; 8 sites have been newly added this year, upstream of sites that had displayed turbidity exceedances in the first three years of the program.
- Seven sites were identified at priority sites for expanded monitoring, based on the trends of the past three years of sampling. These sites will now have lab analysis done for Phosphorus and Bacteria in addition to the usual monitoring to determine potential contaminants associated with observed turbidity exceedances.
- 26 out of 51 sites had three years of data by the end of 2013; the remaining sites need to be monitored for 1 - 2 more years to reach three years of data, the earliest point at which a trend report can be produced by the MOE.
- The three-year trend report for the eligible sites that had three years of data at the end of 2013 has been produced by the MOE, and is just pending final edits prior to publishing.
- Some sample sites within the program are marked now as "flagship" sites for their watershed and will be monitored each year for the additional purpose of serving as an indicator for the regional stream water quality for the RGS.
- This program is a partnership between the RDN, volunteer stewardship groups, the Ministry of Environment and Island Timberlands.

Introduction to Integrated Watershed Management Strategy Framework Development

Jessica Dorzinsky presented the report on the Integrated Watershed Management Strategy Framework Development.

Key Points:

- The DWWP action plan outlines Program 4 as “Watershed Management Planning” – this is something we are embarking on starting this year
- The idea is to design a framework or operational structure for enhancing, protecting and restoring watersheds in our region that can be adapted to each water region or basin.
- The framework would involve: alignment of existing tools, expertise and resources; creating a unified strategy for implementation of common water protection mandates; establishment of community-based and science-based watershed objectives and targets for and indicators of watershed health; participation of all interested parties in the process; define a tool-box of management options (policies, bylaws, voluntary measures) that will incorporate watershed protection into land and resource use decisions.
- The framework must be jointly determined and this will be an exercise for the TAC to provide guidance on in the coming months – a proposed process was outlined in a diagram, for consideration.
- Take home question: How do we move from a siloed approach to an integrated water region approach in the work each of us already does?

Update from Team WaterSmart

Alex King and Deanna McGillivray did a mock presentation on Team WaterSmart’s interaction with the public.

Key Points:

- Summary of curriculum connected watershed field trips to Jump Lake Dam and Nanaimo River Regional Park, for grades 4 & 5 in SD68 during the spring.
- Update on Irrigation Check-up program, free visits to assist homeowners with their automatic irrigation system to increase efficiency and reduce waste.
- Description of the Watershed Friendly Yard campaign – where residents with yards that have water-wise features can receive a locally made cedar sign to promote this throughout the community.
- Update on Rainwater Harvesting Rebate program and Rural Water Quality (well testing and upgrades) Rebate program
- Summary of TWS community events, interactive outreach display

Update on RDN Water Budget

Julie Pisani updated the committee on the water budget, geodatabase and web-map.

Key Points:

- Data that went into the Water Budget Report calculations is now viewable in a GIS web map format
- Staff are in the process of streamlining the pre-existing Water Map with this new Water Budget Map to result in one web map that is effective for housing, inter-relating and displaying water data
- This tool should be used by consultants, professionals, RDN staff
- A suite of data entry spreadsheet templates and protocols will be developed to ensure data is kept current

Take-away questions for the TAC (perhaps to answer at next meeting):

1. What data would be most helpful to you to be housed and interrelated in an RDN served Water Map? What data would you search for / use the most?
2. What data can your organization provide to contribute to the inventory of regional water data to include in a GIS map and database?

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 pm.

Mike Donnelly, Chair