Regional District of Nanaimo

DRINKING WATER & WATERSHED PROTECTION

September 23, 2026 | Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

ROUNDTABLE UPDATES

All Committee Members

INVITED PRESENTATION

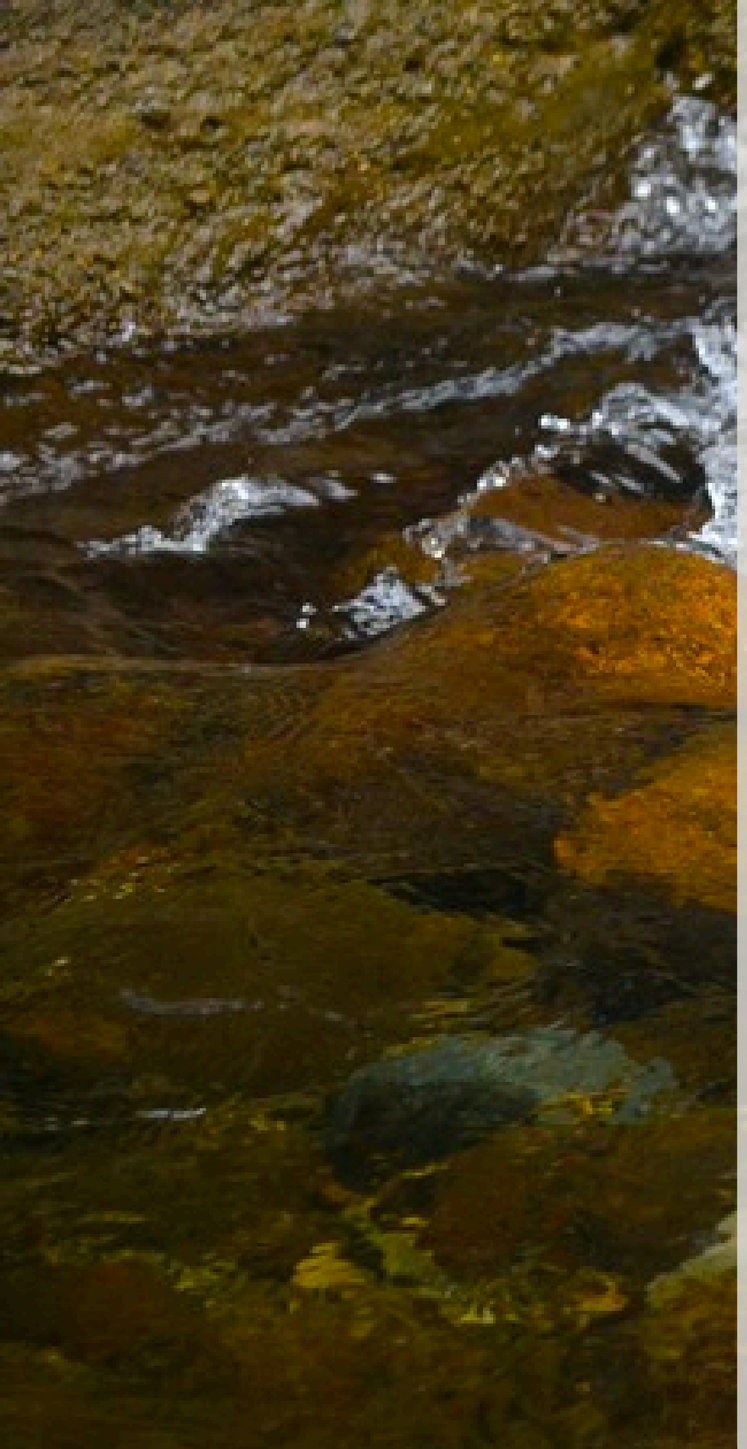
NANAIMO AREA & LAND TRUST

School Water Stewards Program Annual Update

STAFF PRESENTATION

EAST WELLINGTON PLEASANT VALLEY OCP TECHNICAL STUDIES

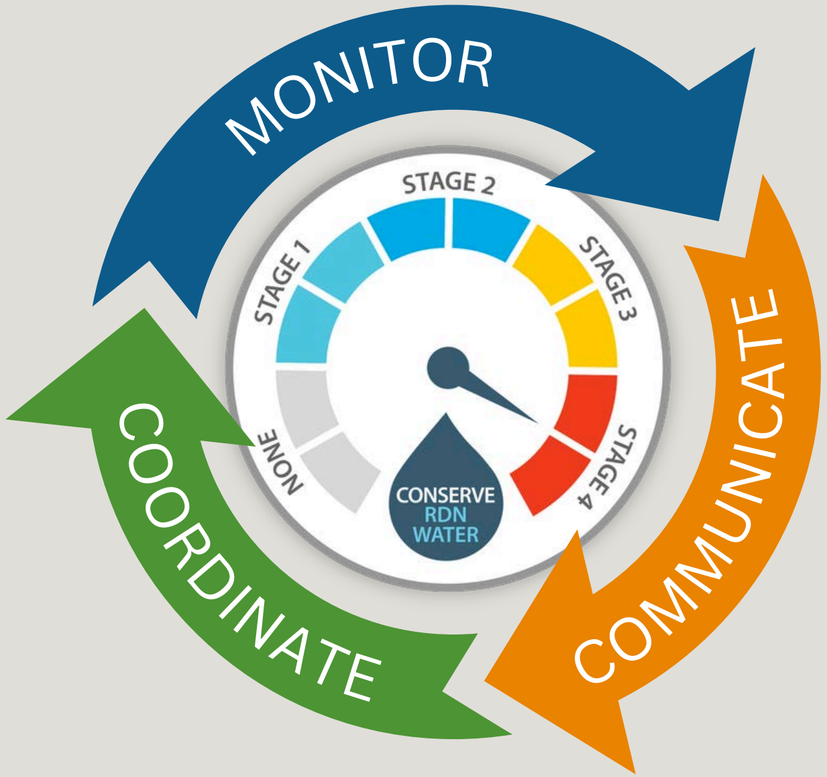
Stephen Boogaards
Senior Planner, Long Range Planning, RDN



DWWP PROJECT UPDATES

- Summer 2026 Regional Drought Response Summary
- Irrigation Initiatives
- Team Watersmart - Summer Review & Upcoming Outreach
- Residential Rainwater Guidebook Project Update
- Stewardship Support: Tool Lending Library
- Monitoring Updates
  - CWMN & Water Data & Dialouge Event
  - Canadian Benthic Invertebrate Network Analysis
- Cedar-Yellowpoint-Cassidy Phase 3 Water Budget
- DWWP TAC Terms of Reference

SUMMER 2026 REGIONAL DROUGHT RESPONSE SUMMARY



Coordinating and responding to seasonal drought is a core activity of the DWWP program during the dry season months.

Monitoring & Information Sharing:

- Act as a conduit for updates from Provincial and regional monitoring programs
- Share timely data and as conditions change

Communication & Outreach:

- Produce and distribute drought-related communication materials
- Guide and promote consistent messaging across the region

Regional Coordination & Convening:

- Convening water service providers to share updates and align responses
- Facilitates coordinated drought response across jurisdictions

SUMMER 2026 REGIONAL DROUGHT RESPONSE SUMMARY

MONITORING & DATA SHARING

- Monitoring groundwater levels through the Volunteer Observation Well Network and reporting seasonal trends via the **Pre-Summer Groundwater Level Analysis**, highlighting early season conditions and multi-year aquifer trends

- Supported **drought monitoring pilot with Ministry of WLRS** through training and field support linked to DWWP's Community Watershed Monitoring Network

- Supporting **operational snow survey data** and associated reports for water and land managers to improve understanding of both regional and watershed specific snow distribution

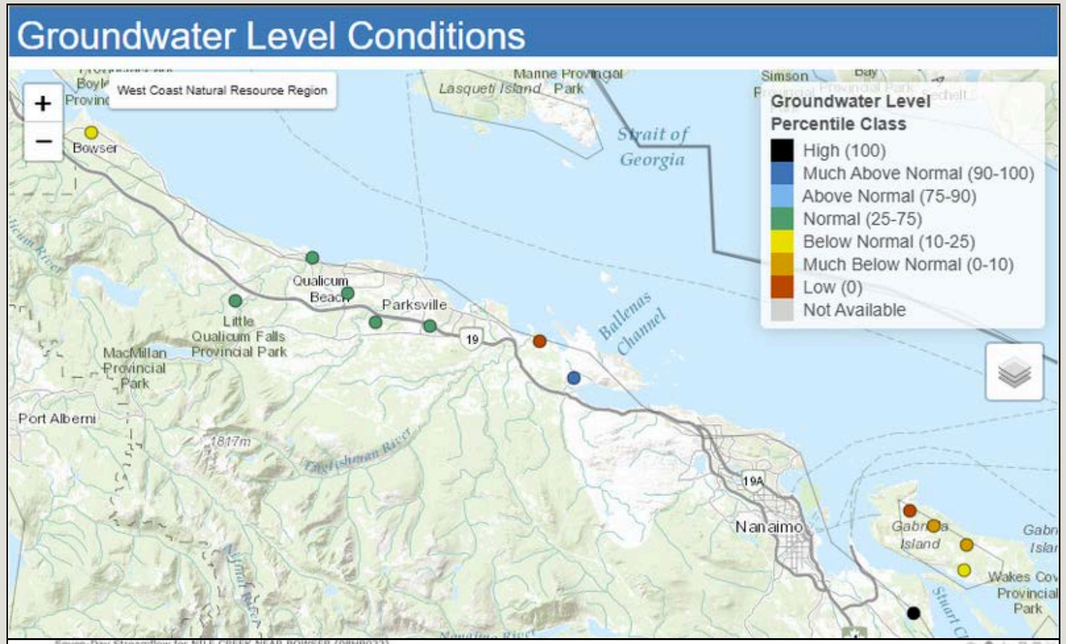
- Receiving and sharing regular updates from the **Provincial hydrometric networks and groundwater observation well networks** to inform regional water management

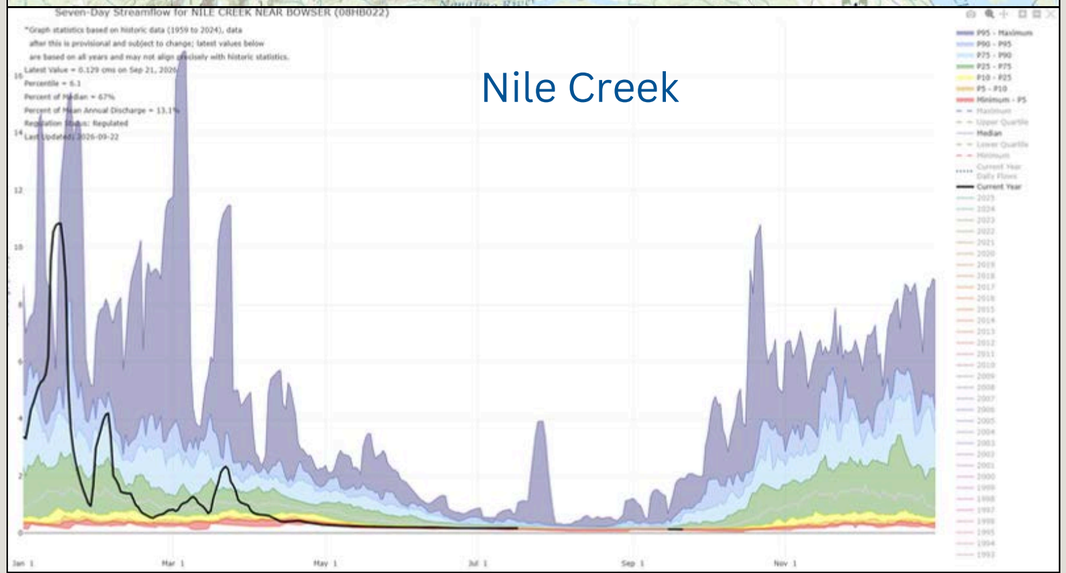
SUMMER 2026 REGIONAL DROUGHT RESPONSE SUMMARY

DROUGHT CONDITIONS

Conditions varied across watersheds, aquifers, and water systems, but several consistent pressures shaped the regional response:

- Snowpack going into the spring season was at record lows
- Streamflows declined through the summer, with varied timing and severity across monitored watersheds
- Rainfall events provided temporary relief without removing the need for continued monitoring and conservation
- Groundwater conditions varied considerably across regional aquifers – more “low” characterizations going into this season since we started annual reporting
- Provincial drought levels provided regional context, but did not fully reflect local water-system conditions



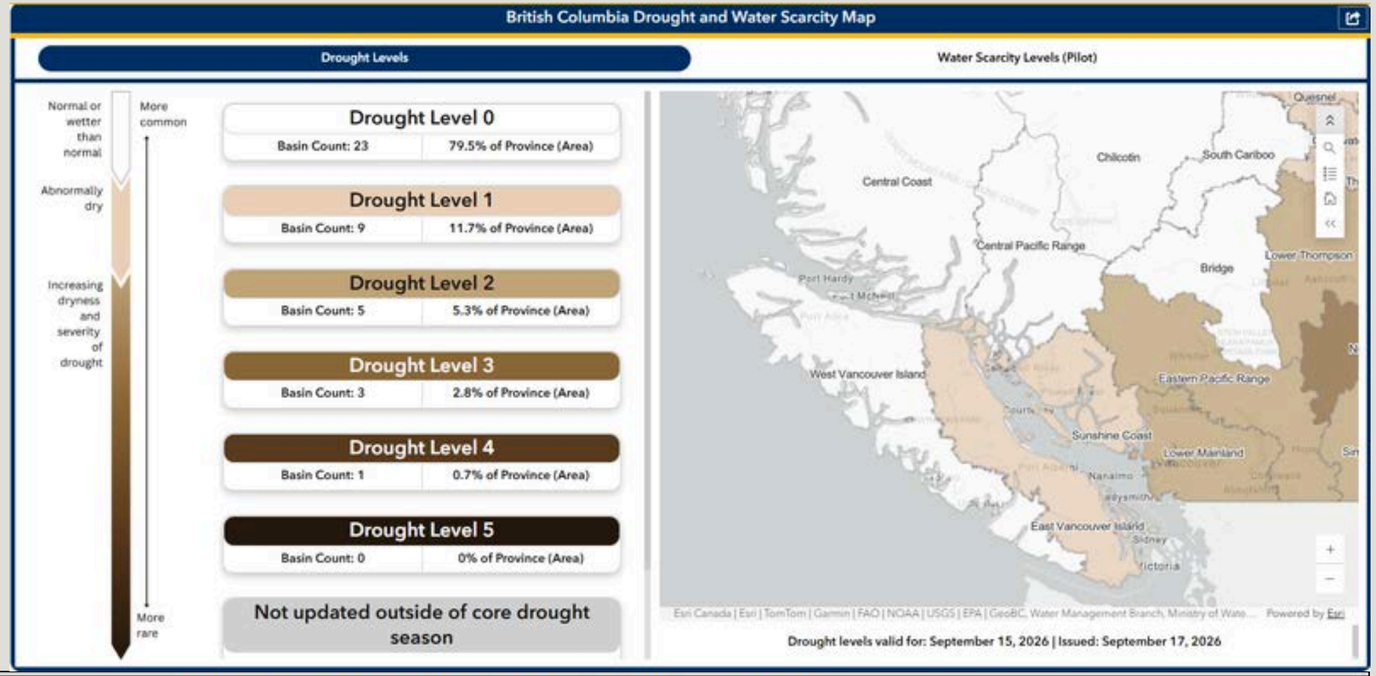


SUMMER 2026 REGIONAL DROUGHT RESPONSE SUMMARY

PROVINCIAL REPORTING

Drought Levels determined by the Province based on hydrological drought conditions. The main drought indicators used to monitor drought levels are:

- Precipitation percentiles
- Standardized Precipitation Index
- Standardized Precipitation Evapotranspiration Index (SPEI) (various timescales);
- 7-Day average streamflow percentiles;
- 7-Day average lake level percentiles; and
- Groundwater level percentiles (daily).



2026 DROUGHT LEVELS AT A GLANCE

Drought Levels:	0		1		2		3		4		5					
BASINS	28-May	4-Jun	11-Jun	18-Jun	25-Jun	2-Jul	9-Jul	16-Jul	23-Jul	30-Jul	6-Aug	13-Aug	20-Aug	27-Aug	3-Sep	10-Sep	17-Sep
East Vancouver Island	4	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	3	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1

2026 WATER SCARCITY LEVELS AT A GLANCE

Water Scarcity Levels:	LOW		MOD		HIGH												
BASINS	28-May	4-Jun	11-Jun	18-Jun	25-Jun	2-Jul	9-Jul	16-Jul	23-Jul	30-Jul	6-Aug	13-Aug	20-Aug	27-Aug	3-Sep	10-Sep	17-Sep
Chemainus River	*	LOW	MOD	MOD	MOD	MOD	MOD	MOD	MOD	MOD	MOD	HIGH	HIGH	MOD	MOD	MOD	MOD
French Creek	*	LOW	MOD	MOD	HIGH	HIGH	MOD	MOD	MOD	MOD	MOD	MOD	MOD	MOD	MOD	MOD	MOD
Koksilah River	*	MOD	LOW	MOD	MOD	MOD	MOD	MOD	MOD	MOD	MOD	MOD	HIGH	HIGH	MOD	MOD	MOD
Tsolum River	*	MOD	MOD	MOD	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH	MOD	MOD	MOD	MOD	MOD	MOD	MOD	LOW	MOD

SUMMER 2026 REGIONAL DROUGHT RESPONSE SUMMARY

PROVINCIAL: DROUGHT MONITORING PARTNERSHIPS PROJECT

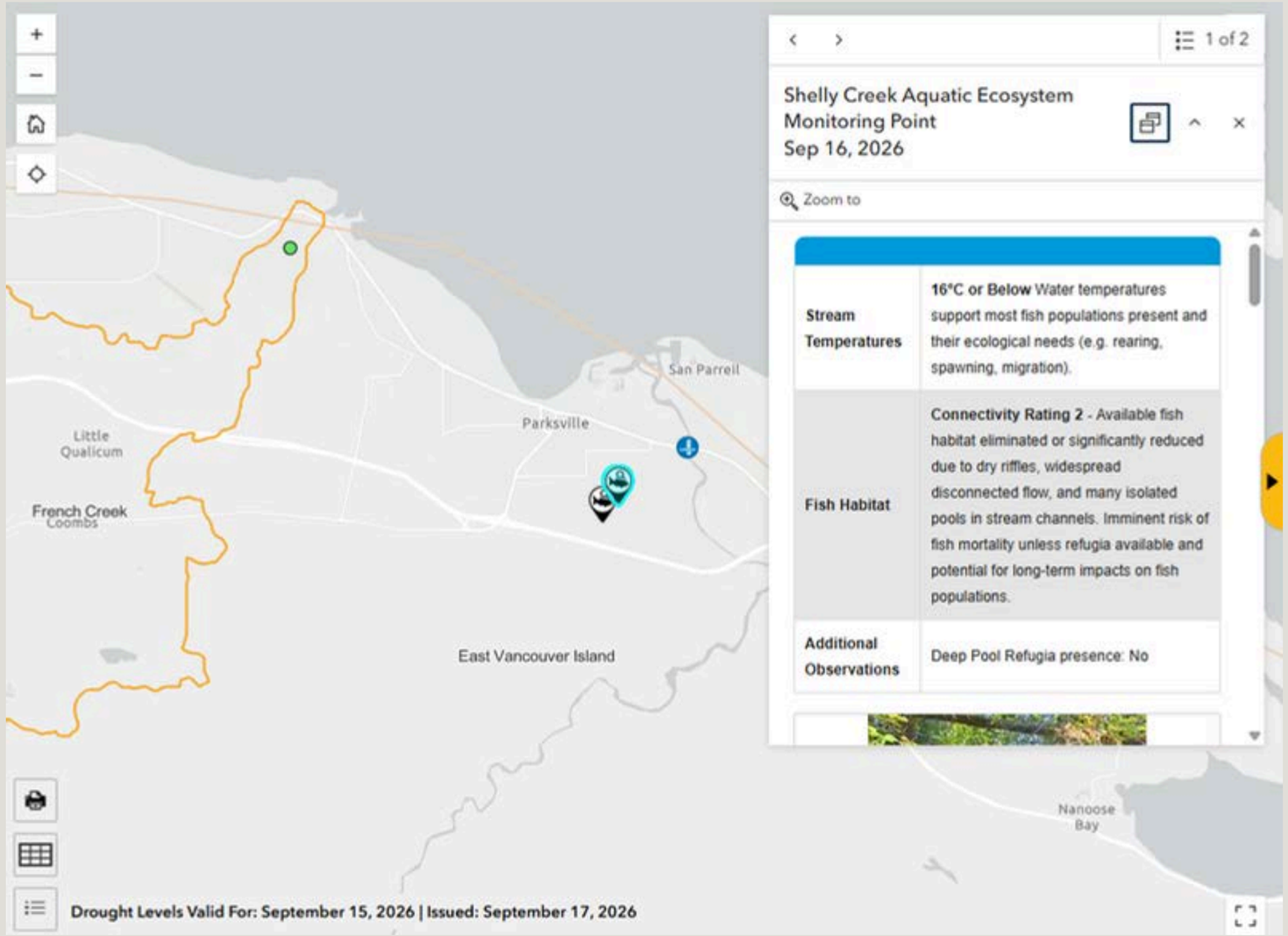
Goals for monitoring:

- Assess and manage water scarcity risks and impacts on aquatic ecosystems
- Understand connectivity patterns and ecosystem function in relation to gauged flows and assigned drought levels

Fills gaps where the Provincial drought characterization does not describe:

- ecosystem, social or economic impacts or
- localized conditions on small tributaries or specific systems

Can support both short and long-term drought response actions



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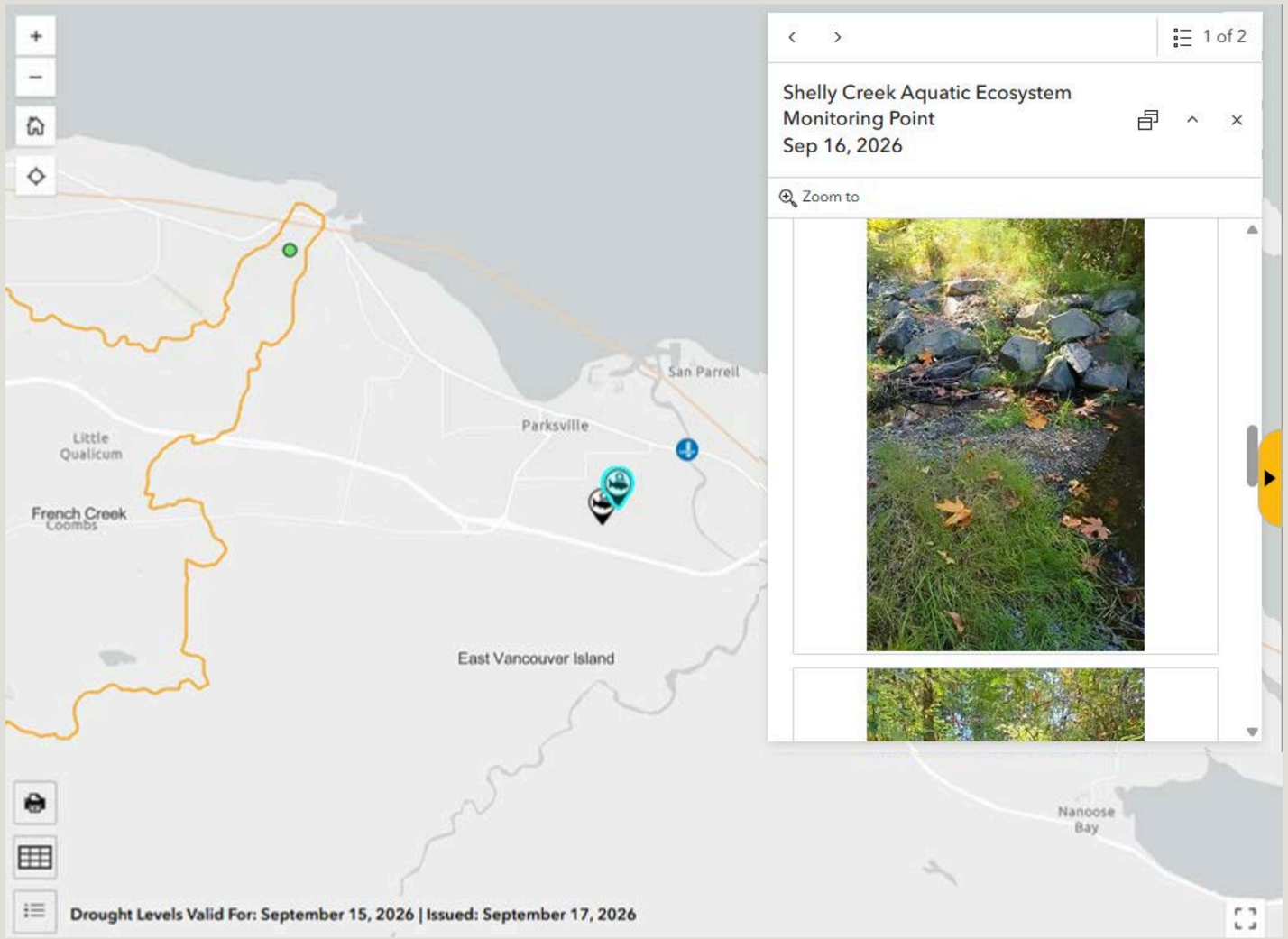


SUMMER 2026 REGIONAL DROUGHT RESPONSE SUMMARY

COMMUNICATION & OUTREACH

- Developing and sharing consistent messaging across the region
- Promoting water conservation as essential for ecological health and wildfire preparedness.

- Outreach on social media, in person, and on the Team Watersmart Get Involved page
- Recurring radio ads on several local stations
- Print material
  - Monthly ads included in the Nanaimo News Bulletin and PQB News
- Regular social media updates and education materials shared at events through the Team WaterSmart booth
- Vehicle decals for local water service providers
- News Releases – prepared when water conservation levels change

SUMMER 2026 REGIONAL DROUGHT RESPONSE SUMMARY

COORDINATION & CONVENING

- Hosted **early season drought response meeting** with water planning staff across eastern Vancouver Island (CowVRD, CoMVRD, CVRD)
- **Coordinated with regional water purveyors** to align conservation levels and share system updates.
- **Maintaining a centralized interactive map** showing watering restrictions by purveyor area.
- Brought updates to the **DWWP Technical Advisory Committee** pre-drought season to review and gather feedback on regional drought strategies.

WATER CONSERVATION LEVEL	1	2	3	4
EFFECTIVE DATES	Begins April 1	May 1–October 31	As required	
Frequency	ANY DAY	Every other day: Even # houses = Even # days Odd # houses = Odd # days	One day per week: Even # houses = Thursdays Odd # houses = Mondays	SPRINKLING BAN: LAWN WATERING NOT PERMITTED
Watering times	Between 7 pm - 7 am	Between 7–10 am OR 7–10 pm for 2 hrs MAX	Between 7–10 am OR 7–10 pm for 2 hrs MAX	
Washing vehicles, boats, houses (siding)	ANYTIME	ANYTIME (on your watering day)	Between 7–10 am OR 7–10 pm on your watering day	Between 7–10 am OR 7–10 pm once per week on your Level 3 watering day
Hand-watering, drip irrigation	ANYTIME	ANYTIME	VOLUNTARY RESTRICTIONS encouraging residents to reduce water use where they are able to	Between 7–10 am OR 7–10 pm
Filling fountains, pools, hot tubs	ANYTIME	ANYTIME (on your watering day)		NOT PERMITTED
Pressure washing walkways, driveways, siding	ANYTIME	ANYTIME (on your watering day)		ONLY prior to application of paint, preservative, stucco, or sealant
New lawn permits	Can apply for a permit	Can apply for a permit		NO PERMITS ISSUED

Vegetable gardens and fruit trees are exempt from all watering restrictions, even in Level 4.

SUMMER 2026 REGIONAL DROUGHT RESPONSE SUMMARY

ALIGNED APPROACH WITH RECOMMENDATIONS FOUND IN:

"Drought Ready: From Crisis Response to Community and Watershed Resilience in British Columbia" July 2026

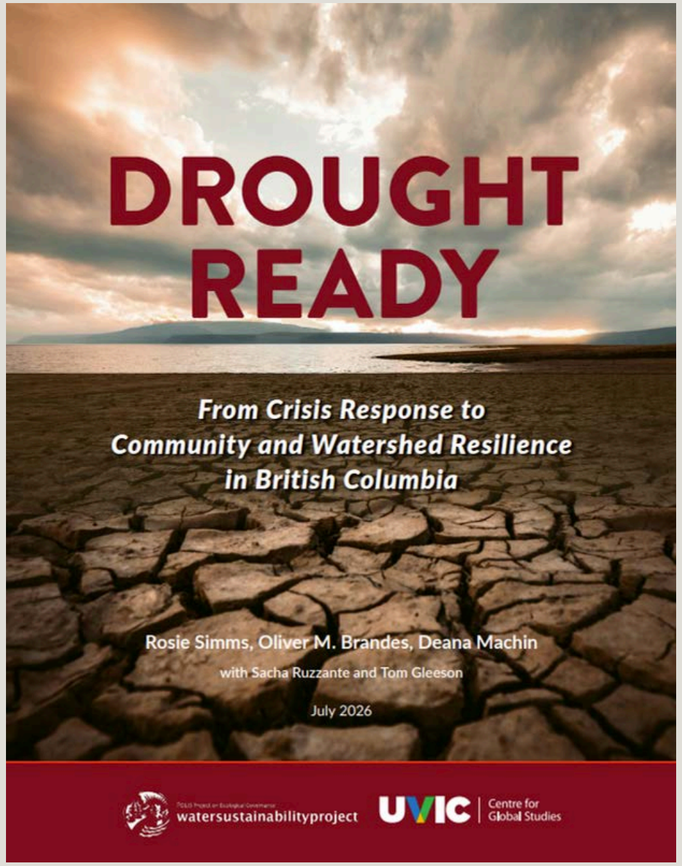
Provincial drought levels are context, not local decision triggers: *Local conservation decisions also depend on source conditions, storage, infrastructure, demand, and operational risk.*

Monitoring has the greatest value when connected to decisions: *Information needs to be timely, understandable, and linked to defined communication or response actions.*

Regional coordination improves public clarity: *Shared messaging is valuable, even when water systems respond differently.*

Conservation messaging must go beyond individual behaviour: *Residents have an important role, but drought readiness also requires action by utilities, land and water managers, and governments.*

Drought preparation cannot begin in summer: *Pre-season planning and post-season review are essential parts of an effective response*



Upcoming Webinar:
Creating a Blue Dialogue: What does Drought-Ready Mean for BC?

- *Tuesday October 6 @ 12:30-2pm*
- *POLIS Water Sustainability Project*

SUMMER 2026 REGIONAL DROUGHT RESPONSE SUMMARY

NEXT STEPS & PRIORITIES FOR NEXT SEASON

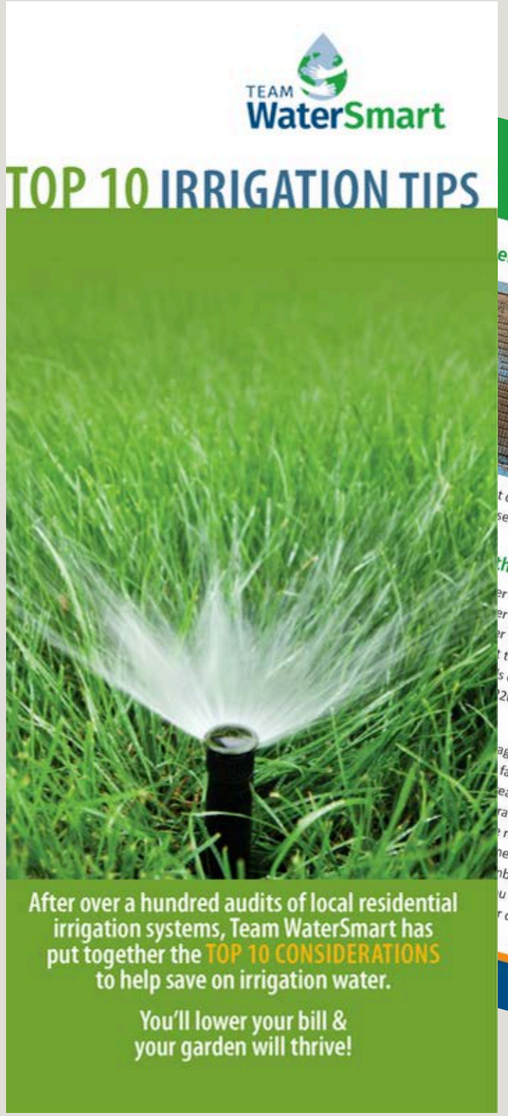
- Anticipate 2027 conditions and begin early-season messaging
- Conduct a regional post-season drought debriefs with:
  - Regional water purveyors
  - Vancouver Island water planners
- Review monitoring priorities and identify key information gaps
  - Refine drought-response thresholds and decision triggers with partners
- Support RDN water conservation bylaw review and share lessons regionally
- Engage recreation services and playing field operators on drought preparedness and watering approaches
- Continue year-round water conservation messaging and public education
- Provide feedback on Provincial drought monitoring and reporting programs
- Continue to build and strengthen partnerships with water providers, stewardship groups, and Provincial drought response teams

IRRIGATION INITIATIVES

The DWWP has multiple initiatives focused on reducing unnecessary irrigation use during dry summer periods

They include:

- Residential irrigation checkup program
- Irrigation upgrades and soil amendments rebate program
- Irrigation focused education, outreach and brochures
- BC Landscape Water Calculator and partnerships with the Irrigation Industry Association of BC (IIABC)



IRRIGATION INITIATIVES
RESIDENTIAL IRRIGATION CHECKS

Through this program, DWWP staff conduct site visits with residents who have high water use to assess their irrigation systems for leaks, damage, and inefficiencies. A follow-up report is then provided to the homeowner, outlining the findings.

The checks are completed in the late spring/early summer and help to:

- Support proactive drought preparation
- Directly reduce water use of residents
- Educate residents about their water use and irrigation practices
- Provide one-on-one opportunities to discuss water usage and conservation with motivated residents

IRRIGATION INITIATIVES
RESIDENTIAL IRRIGATION CHECKS

Relaunched and restructured the program after having it on pause last season

- Consulted with *the Partnership for Water Sustainability in BC / IIABC alumni representative* for program updates and recommendations
- Redesigned report & fieldnote template to better streamline process and communicate findings
- Integration of BC Landscape Water Calculator in reporting

Conducted 9 Checks in June and July

Anticipating launching the program with full capacity in 2027 (20+ checks across regional participants)

IRRIGATION INITIATIVES
STRENGTHS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Strengths

- Received positive feedback for 2026 checks from participants and irrigation professionals
- Significant uptake in Irrigation and Soil Rebate Program for 2026
  - *Currently at 62 applications and 40 issued rebates, compared to a total of 18 rebates issued in 2025, 31 issued in 2024*

Opportunities

- Low uptake in IIABC Irrigation Certificate Stipend program
  - *Wider promotion needed to increase awareness of this resource*
- Lack of uptake in BC Landscape Water Calculator
  - *Coordination with other LG's on use of Landscape Calculator could prove useful*
- Low registration for Smart Irrigation Workshop with IIABC speaker in April 2026 - workshop cancelled
- Partnership with IIABC could be strengthened to enhance awareness of RDN support and focus on water conservation in training programs
  - *IIABC Provincial Forum occurring in Nanaimo November 25-27*
- Additional partnerships with water purveyors in Irrigation Check-Up program
  - *Address potential barriers to participation*

TEAM WATERSMART INITIATIVES
2026 SOCIAL MEDIA

Water Saver Contest

Communicating water conservation levels

Campaign to encourage water conservation

TEAM WATERSMART EVENTS
SUMMER OUTREACH

Increased outreach events in 2026

Tried to vary types of events and audience: events included Farmer's Markets, Community Events (big and small), Health Fair and children's day camps.

Presented at seven RDN children's daycamps

TEAM WATERSMART EVENTS
RECENT EVENTS

Attended 18 events from May 30-September 30

Events chosen based on location and opportunity to reach residents in every Electoral Area and municipality.

Assessing effectiveness for 2027 outreach.

Qualicum Beach Family Day	May 31, 2026
NALT Climate Change & Water Resilience	June 10, 2026
Canada Day	Jul 1, 2026
MABR QB Night Market	Jul 9, 2026
Qualicum Beach Beach Day	Jul 12, 2026
Gabriola Farmer’s Market	Jul 25, 2026
Coombs Fair	Aug 8, 2026
Errington Hi Neighbour/ Farm Market	Aug 15, 2026
Island Roots Farmer’s Market	Aug 19, 2026
Sacred Water, Sacred Children	Aug 21, 2026
Cedar Farm Market	Aug 30, 2026
Lighthouse Fall Fair	Sep 5, 2026
Lantzville Minetown Days	Sep 12, 2026
Nanoose Community Day	Sep 12, 2026
Englishman River Walk	Sep 22, 2026

TEAM WATERSMART EVENTS
UPCOMING EVENTS

- MABR Climate Resilience at Home -September 26
- Rivers Day - September 27
- Nanaimo River Walk - September 29
- NALT School Stewards
- WellSMART - October 21
- BC Groundwater Association VI Regional Meeting - October 23
- Cedar Farmer’s Market - October 25
- Epcor Open House - November 7
- Rock City Neighbourhood Association (TBC)

TEAM WATERSMART EVENTS
WATERSHED FIELD TRIPS

School Watershed Field Trips

- 3 field trips to the Nanaimo River
  - Partnership with MOSAIC, City of Nanaimo
  - One trip currently open, others booked

- 2 field trips to the Englishman River
  - Partnership with RDN Parks
  - Hopeful that we may be able to tour water treatment facility with City of Parksville
  - Both trips booked

TEAM WATERSMART EVENTS

2026 Q3– 2027 Q1 PROGRAM PRIORITIES/ UPDATES

- Team WaterSmart Booth adaptations / additions
- Outreach events and locations - assess and change
- Outreach asset evaluation - brochure consolidation / updates
- Social media stragies - water saver contest adaptations / videos / reels / broader audience engagement
- Upcoming Freshwater Perspectives Survey – will inform sub-region specific, topic targets outreach next year

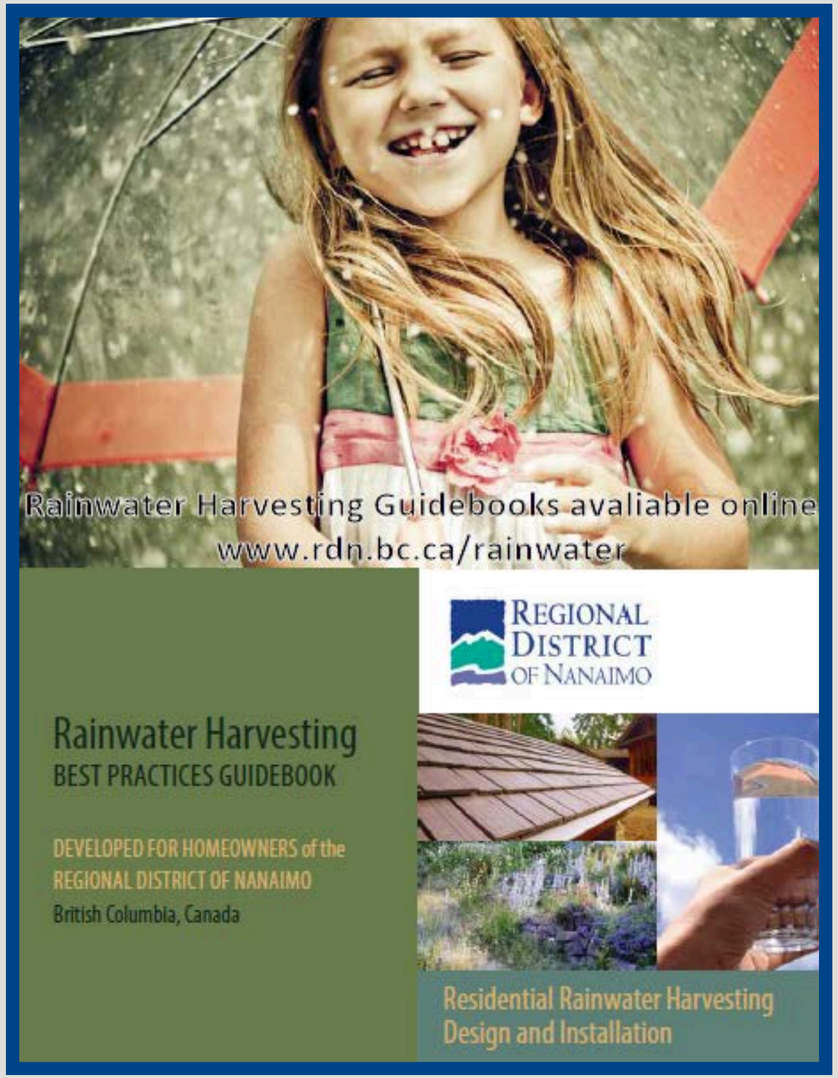
Target specifically within regions?

Change or fine-tune our approach?

How else can we improve?

RESIDENTIAL RAINWATER GUIDEBOOK UPDATE

2012 EDITION

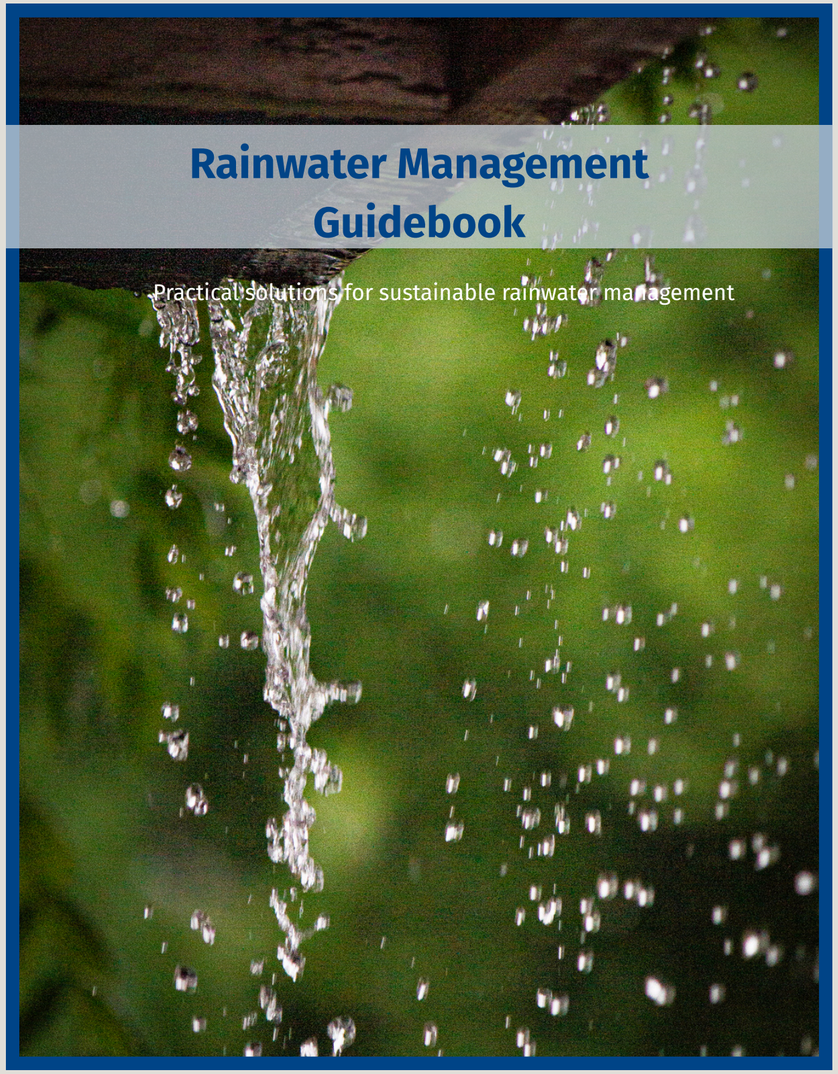


2012 Guidebook Specifications

- Length: 108 pgs
- Focus on rainwater collection & cistern installation
- The guidebook outlines collection solutions for both potable and non-potable set ups
- Heavy focus on technical guidance with diagrams that guided acceptable standards for installation
- Limited integration with newer RDN resources
- Technical language with limited visual variation, resulting in a very text heavy manual

RESIDENTIAL RAINWATER GUIDEBOOK UPDATE

2027 EDITION



2027 Guidebook Specificaitons

- Under 50 pgs
- Understanding rainwater management as an interconnected system
- Development of new chapters – exploring new methods of rainwater management (rain gardens, infiltration, compounding small solutions)
- The new guidebook will provide a decision pathway for homeowners for each rainwater solution and help them understand the boundaries of DIY and Professional intervention
- Visually engaging for the modern reader with updated graphics

RESIDENTIAL RAINWATER GUIDEBOOK UPDATE

Deliverables

- Updated guidebook (PDF-ready), online accessible
- Improved graphics, figures and visual style to appeal to the modern reader
- Updated reference guide to connect home-owners with technical resources and bylaw information outside of the scope of this guidebook

Timeline

- August-Setember: Post RFSQ, review candidates, develop contract
- October - November: Technical review of resource materials, refine framework of homeowner pathway, establish rain water management solutions, develop visual identity, decision tools, technical graphics
- December: Review the first draft complete with test typologies that help homeowners align their property with viable solutions
- January - February: Finalization of technical information, homeowner decision pathways and visual layout

EST. COMPLETION: LATE FEBRUARY 2027

BUDGET: $45,000

TOOL LENDING LIBRARY UPDATE

- The tool lending library supports environmental stewardship work within the region by offering stewards an online portal to borrow field equipment

- Equipment includes tools such as: shovels, rakes, loppers, shears, hoses, waders…etc

- Not all stewardship work requires field equipment of this nature. We've received increased interest in stream mapping activities which would require highly accurate GPS equipment called GNSS

- The addition of this technology fills a gaps in our monitoring equipment and will help to offset lags in updated data reflected on RDN maps and potentially provincial maps as well

TOOL LENDING LIBRARY UPDATE
NEW EQUIPMENT: EMLID REACH RS4

- Entry level professional grade unit with user friendly software and functionality
- cm level accuracy
- Base and Rover with LoRa/UHF radio provide greater flexibility for areas with limited service
- Great customer support materials already available
- Free software for all basic functions

TOOL LENDING LIBRARY UPDATE
NEW EQUIPMENT: EMLID REACH RS4

EQUIPMENT PACKAGE

- RS4 Base
- RS4 Rover
- Survey Pole w/ Mount
- Quick Release Adapters
- Tripod
- Tribrach and Adapter
- Extension Pole
- Training Materials

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Submit Form
- Get Approved
- Receive Training Session
- Start Mapping

BENEFITS

- Increased Capacity for Stream Mapping
- Updated Datasets
- Building Community skillset
- Restoration/Ecological Monitoring Applications

MONITORING UPDATES

COMMUNITY WATERSHED MONITORING NETWORK

- Community Watershed Monitoring Network (CWMN) collects summer low-flow and fall flush surface water quality data in over 40 streams
- Annually, the collected data undergoes statistical analysis with the results reported at a public event
- Events originally discussed only CWMN data analysis results; over time evolved to include information sharing and stewardship experiences
- Results session event updated in 2026 to *Water Data and Dialogue*
- Volunteers were directly invited and the public event was advertised at RDN events, with partners, on our website, and on social media

MONITORING UPDATES

WATER DATA AND DIALOGUE EVENT

- 43 people in attendance
- Representatives from stewardship organizations across the region, private forestry, the province, PSF, VIU, Nanaimo Science, and RDN Parks, RDN GIS
- Guest presentations focused on monitoring, restoration, and low-barrier green infrastructure to improve stream health
- Afternoon discussions occured over 5 tables, each with their own focus
  - Attendees rotate between tables; each table with one RDN staff to record discussions on map tool development and monitoring equipment priorites
  - Table topics: what goes on the map (layers); how do we use maps (applications); how can mapping data be made accessible; data management and sharing; and, tool lending library

MONITORING UPDATES

WATER DATA AND DIALOGUE EVENT: DISCUSSION SUMMARY

- Strong interest in a centralized mapping platform that reduces the need to switch between multiple websites and data sources
- Users emphasized the need for a tool that is simple, intuitive, requires minimal training, with short webinars, FAQs, or quick-reference resources
- Data quality and currency are critical; concerns were raised about outdated imagery, data gaps, update frequency, and GPS accuracy
- Interest in mobile-friendly and field-ready functionality, including printable maps, georeferencing, integration with Avenza, and live location features
- Participants highlighted the importance of data sharing, stewardship contributions, and long-term knowledge management to prevent data loss and improve coverage across the region

Next Steps:

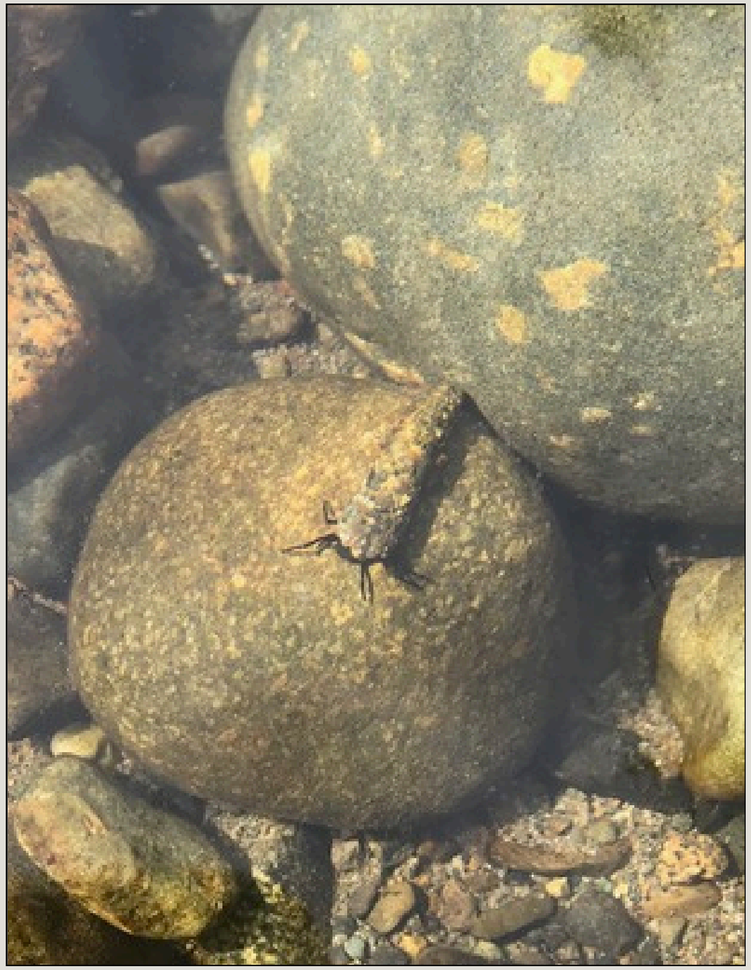
- Interactive map (Phase 1) development with RDN GIS department
- Purchase and roll out shared mapping tool for stewardship partners

MONITORING UPDATES

BENTHIC INVERTEBRATE SAMPLING

Benthic macroinvertebrates (bottom-dwelling small aquatic insects and animals)

- Longer living, can show impacts of pollutants months after introduction
- Nationally standardized methodology used: Canadian Aquatic Biomonitoring Network (CABIN)
- Ministry of Environment (ENV) periodically sampled - i.e., during attainment and regulatory monitoring
- Began sampling in partnership with ENV in 2019 at CWMN priority sites, continued annually until 2023
- In 2021, CABIN analysis model started to undergo updates for Vancouver Island
- ENV completed initial review of data in 2024 and presented at public CWMN event
- CABIN sampling increased our understanding of the health of waterways and watersheds over a longer time period



www.rdn.bc.ca/cwmn

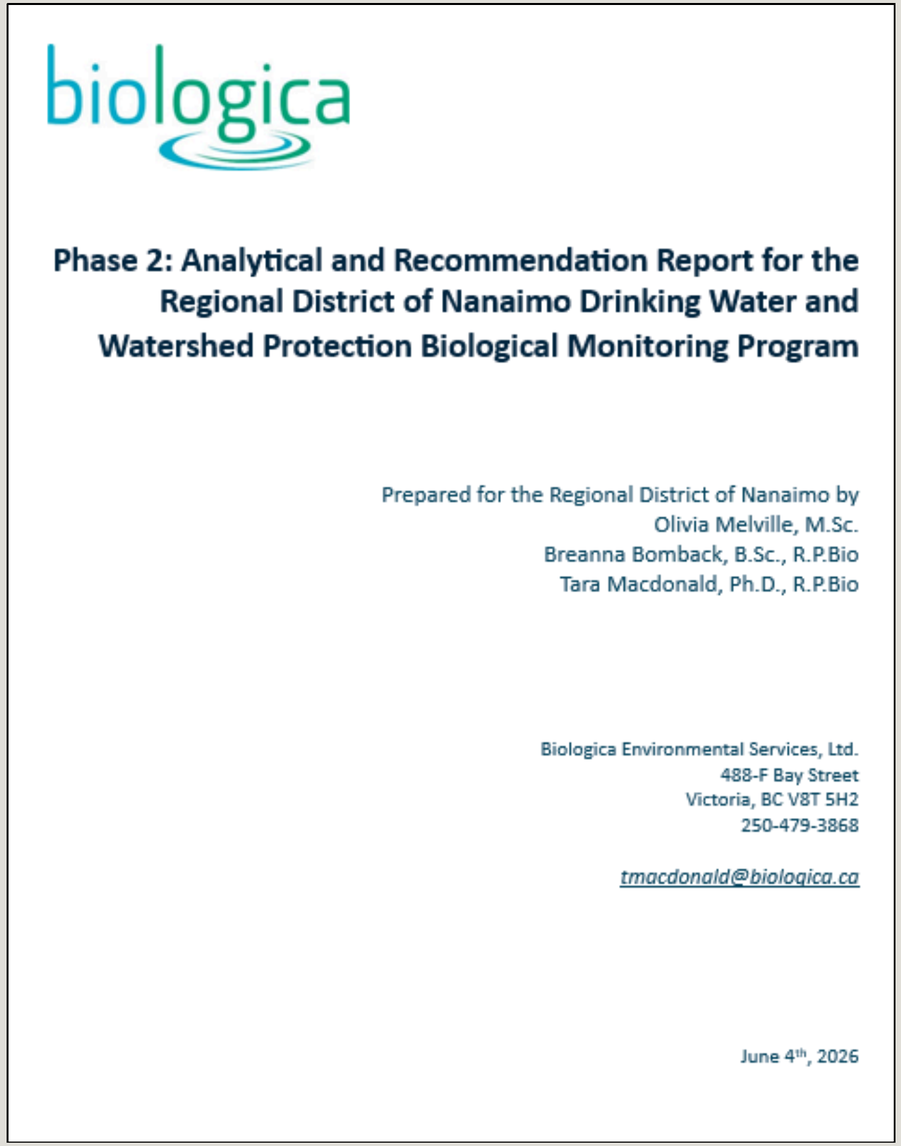
MONITORING UPDATES

BENTHIC INVERTEBRATE SAMPLING

- In 2025, Biologica Environmental Services Ltd. (Biologica) was contacted to investigate and propose a scope for analyzing biological data collected in the region (phase 1)

- In 2026 Biologica was engaged to complete an in-depth analysis of the CABIN data collected in the RDN, to recommend best practices for future biological monitoring, and to provide advice for remediation (phase 2)

- Report has been reviewed by ENV and RDN, and would like to send to those on TAC that have an interest in reviewing and providing comment



biologica

Phase 2: Analytical and Recommendation Report for the Regional District of Nanaimo Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Biological Monitoring Program

Prepared for the Regional District of Nanaimo by
Olivia Melville, M.Sc.
Breanna Bomback, B.Sc., R.P.Bio
Tara Macdonald, Ph.D., R.P.Bio

Biologica Environmental Services, Ltd.
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June 4th, 2026

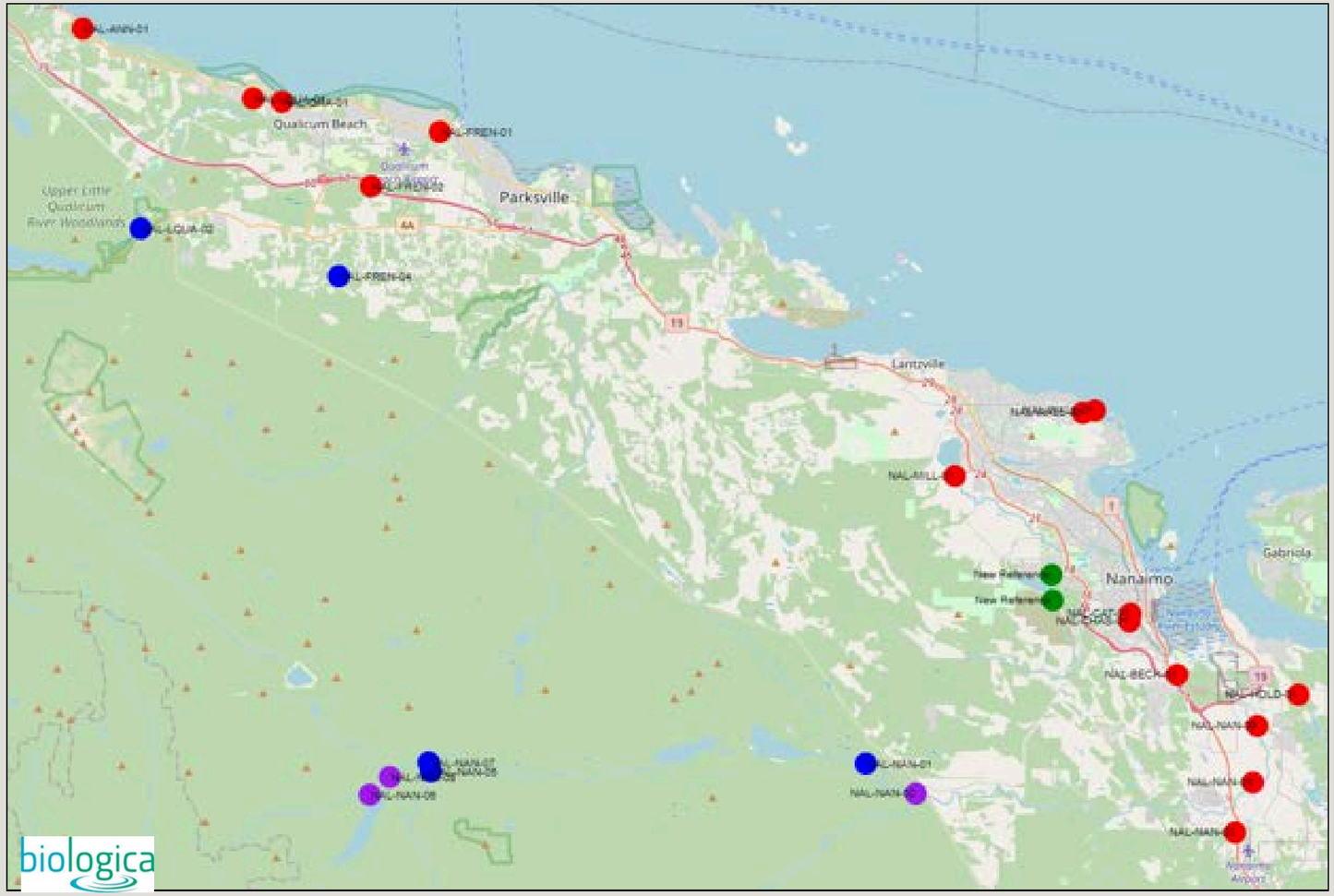
MONITORING UPDATES

CANADIAN BENTHIC INVERTEBRATE NETWORK

CABIN uses a reference condition approach model to categorize test sites into levels of divergence from the conditions at a reference site

Map of sites (2006 - 2023)

- red = close in proximity to anthropogenic activities
- blue = potential reference sites; upstream from anthropogenic activities with high abundance of Ephemeroptera, Plecoptera, Trichoptera (EPT)
- purple = potential reference sites; upstream from anthropogenic activities with low abundance of EPT
- green = potential addition of a reference to better represent city streams (Morrell Nature Sanctuary)



MONITORING UPDATES

CANADIAN BENTHIC INVERTEBRATE NETWORK

- To confirm the validity of the CABIN results and increase the understanding of stream health it was recommended to
  - Establish stream-specific reference sites for priority monitoring locations
  - Complete quantitative sampling at least once per site in conjunction with CABIN sampling
  - Prioritize repeat monitoring at sites with low %EPT or unusual community composition
  - Align biological monitoring with consistent environmental measurements
  - Add additional chemical parameters (i.e., Total Organic Carbon, pH, total phosphorus) and physical assessments (i.e., smolt counts, land-use survey, stream bank erosion) to the core parameter suite
- Defer remediation until monitoring confirms persistent, human-caused impacts

MONITORING UPDATES

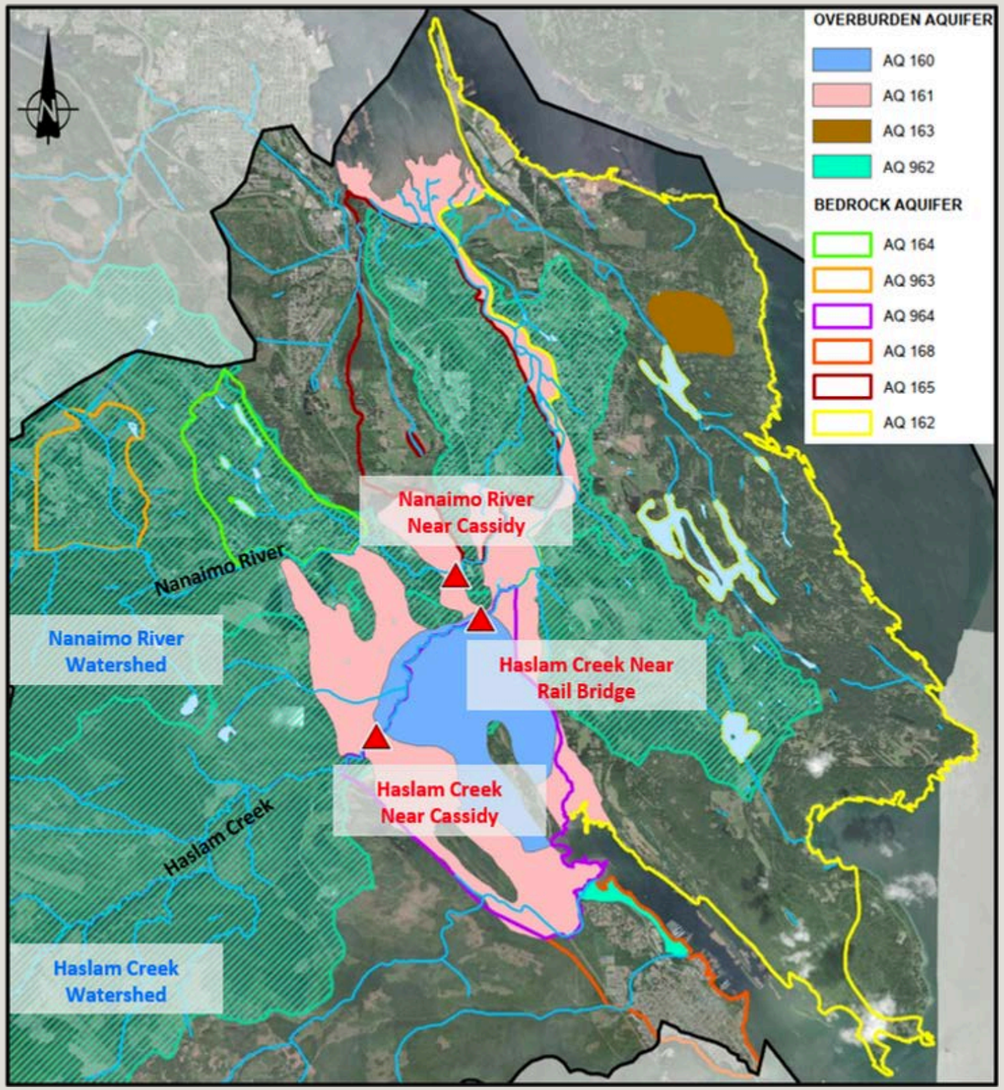
CANADIAN BENTHIC INVERTEBRATE NETWORK

Next Steps

- Finalize the report and recommendations
- Develop a risk-based monitoring framework
- Confirm priority test and candidate reference sites in the field
- Pilot pairing quantitative and CABIN sampling
- Standardize biological, water-quality and habitat data collection needed for consistent analysis
- Define thresholds for investigation and management response
- Use pilot results to prepare a phased, costed implementation plan
- Analyze results to identify correlations in collected parameters and prioritize restoration at sites and in streams that show a large decline in abundance of bethic invertebrates

CEDAR-YELLOWPOINT WATER BUDGET – PROJECT STATUS

- Groundwater is a primary water source for residents, agriculture, industry, and community water systems throughout the Cedar-Yellowpoint-Cassidy area
- Existing water budget assessments (Phase 1: RDN-wide conceptual model and CVRD Yellowpoint Water Budget) identified several aquifers as potentially stressed, but were based on relatively coarse-scale methods
- Increasing drought frequency, seasonal water shortages, and growing demand have elevated the need for a more detailed understanding of water availability in a dynamic hydrogeological system
- This project provides an integrated assessment of groundwater, surface water, and aquifer stress at a “water region” scale
- Results will help inform future watershed protection, water management, monitoring, and land use planning priorities



CEDAR-YELLOWPOINT WATER BUDGET – PROJECT STATUS

- External technical review completed, with partner feedback received on the draft (incorporated comments from TAC members and other external reviewers – *thank you for your feedback*)
- Consultant responses have been prepared to respond to reviewer comments, including proposed report revisions and technical clarifications
- Staff review of responses underway, with the majority of comments appearing to be satisfactorily addressed; revised report to be submitted detailing responses
- Targeted follow-up with reviewers will occur as needed to resolve any remaining technical questions, avoiding a full second review cycle
- Final report anticipated later this year, with findings and recommendations to be presented to the Board upon project completion

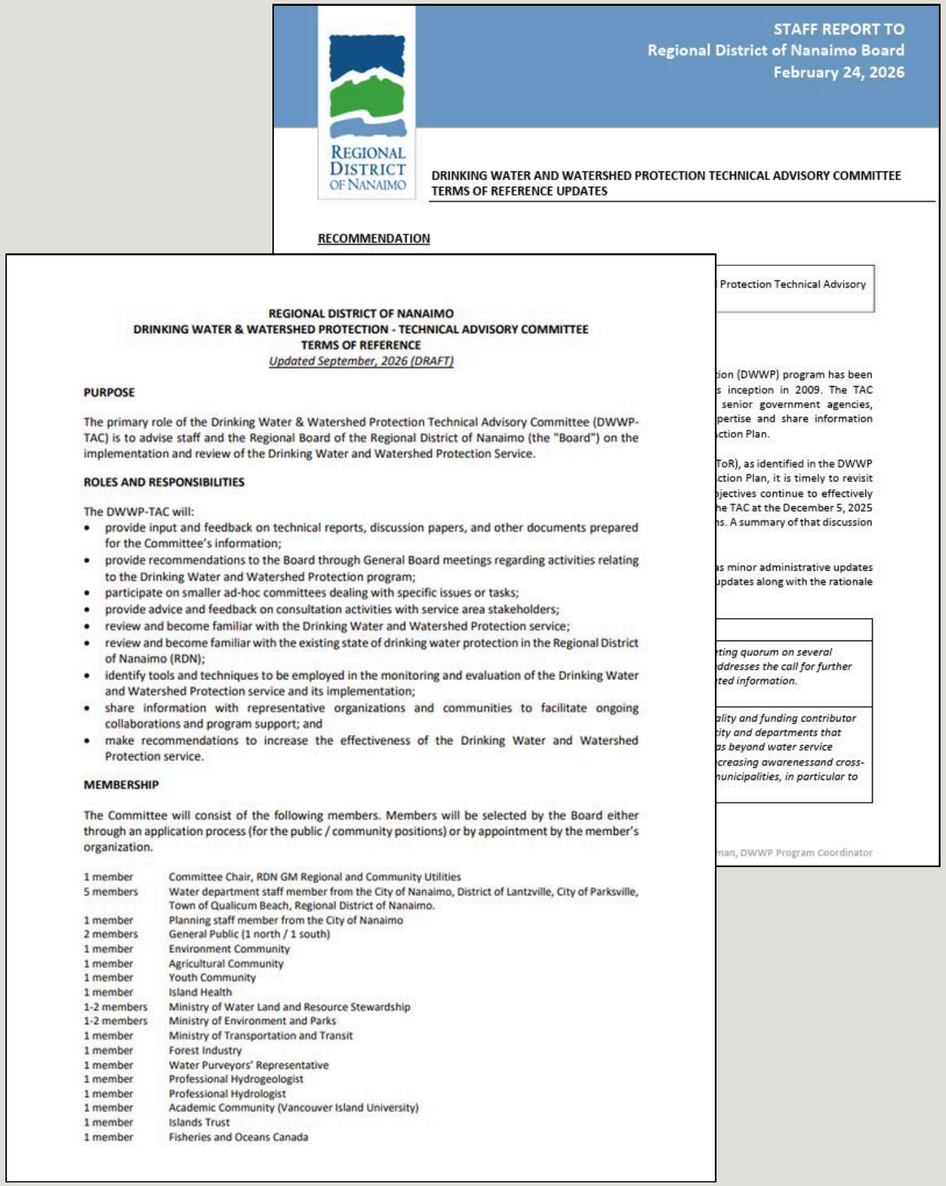
Key comments and responses focused on:

- Editorial and technical clarifications
- Assumption in surface water assessment and hydrometric station selection for proxy records
- Land-use planning implications
- Groundwater-surface water interactions
- Baseflow methodology and calibration
- Aquifer stress interpretation
- Articulating a clear “line of sight” from conceptual understanding, model assumptions, calibration approach, and model results

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP & TERMS OF REFERENCE UPDATES

Updates to the Terms of Reference been approved and are being implemented. Key changes include:

- Committee members are now required to formalize alternates
- Professional hydrologist and professional hydrogeologist postions will be posted (not appointed)
- Community youth representative postion to be posted age confirmed (18-30)
- Additional member from City of Nanaimo (Planning/Sustainability Department)
- Three committee seats to be shared between Ministry of WLRS and Ministry of Environment
- RDN Water Service Manager now on committee



STAFF REPORT TO
Regional District of Nanaimo Board
February 24, 2026

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO

DRINKING WATER AND WATERSHED PROTECTION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TERMS OF REFERENCE UPDATES

RECOMMENDATION

Protection Technical Advisory

ion (DWWP) program has been
s inception in 2009. The TAC
senior government agencies,
pertise and share information
ction Plan.

ToR), as identified in the DWWP
ction Plan, it is timely to revisit
jectives continue to effectively
he TAC at the December 5, 2025
ns. A summary of that discussion

s minor administrative updates
updates along with the rationale

ting quorum on several
addresses the call for further
ted information.

ality and funding contributor
ity and departments that
s beyond water service
creasing awarenessand cross-
unicipalities, in particular to

man, DWWP Program Coordinator

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO
DRINKING WATER & WATERSHED PROTECTION - TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TERMS OF REFERENCE
Updated September, 2026 (DRAFT)

PURPOSE

The primary role of the Drinking Water & Watershed Protection Technical Advisory Committee (DWWP-TAC) is to advise staff and the Regional Board of the Regional District of Nanaimo (the "Board") on the implementation and review of the Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Service.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The DWWP-TAC will:

- provide input and feedback on technical reports, discussion papers, and other documents prepared for the Committee's information;
- provide recommendations to the Board through General Board meetings regarding activities relating to the Drinking Water and Watershed Protection program;
- participate on smaller ad-hoc committees dealing with specific issues or tasks;
- provide advice and feedback on consultation activities with service area stakeholders;
- review and become familiar with the Drinking Water and Watershed Protection service;
- review and become familiar with the existing state of drinking water protection in the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN);
- identify tools and techniques to be employed in the monitoring and evaluation of the Drinking Water and Watershed Protection service and its implementation;
- share information with representative organizations and communities to facilitate ongoing collaborations and program support; and
- make recommendations to increase the effectiveness of the Drinking Water and Watershed Protection service.

MEMBERSHIP

The Committee will consist of the following members. Members will be selected by the Board either through an application process (for the public / community positions) or by appointment by the member's organization.

1 member	Committee Chair, RDN GM Regional and Community Utilities
5 members	Water department staff member from the City of Nanaimo, District of Lantzville, City of Parksville, Town of Qualicum Beach, Regional District of Nanaimo.
1 member	Planning staff member from the City of Nanaimo
2 members	General Public (1 north / 1 south)
1 member	Environment Community
1 member	Agricultural Community
1 member	Youth Community
1 member	Island Health
1-2 members	Ministry of Water Land and Resource Stewardship
1-2 members	Ministry of Environment and Parks
1 member	Ministry of Transportation and Transit
1 member	Forest Industry
1 member	Water Purveyors' Representative
1 member	Professional Hydrogeologist
1 member	Professional Hydrologist
1 member	Academic Community (Vancouver Island University)
1 member	Islands Trust
1 member	Fisheries and Oceans Canada

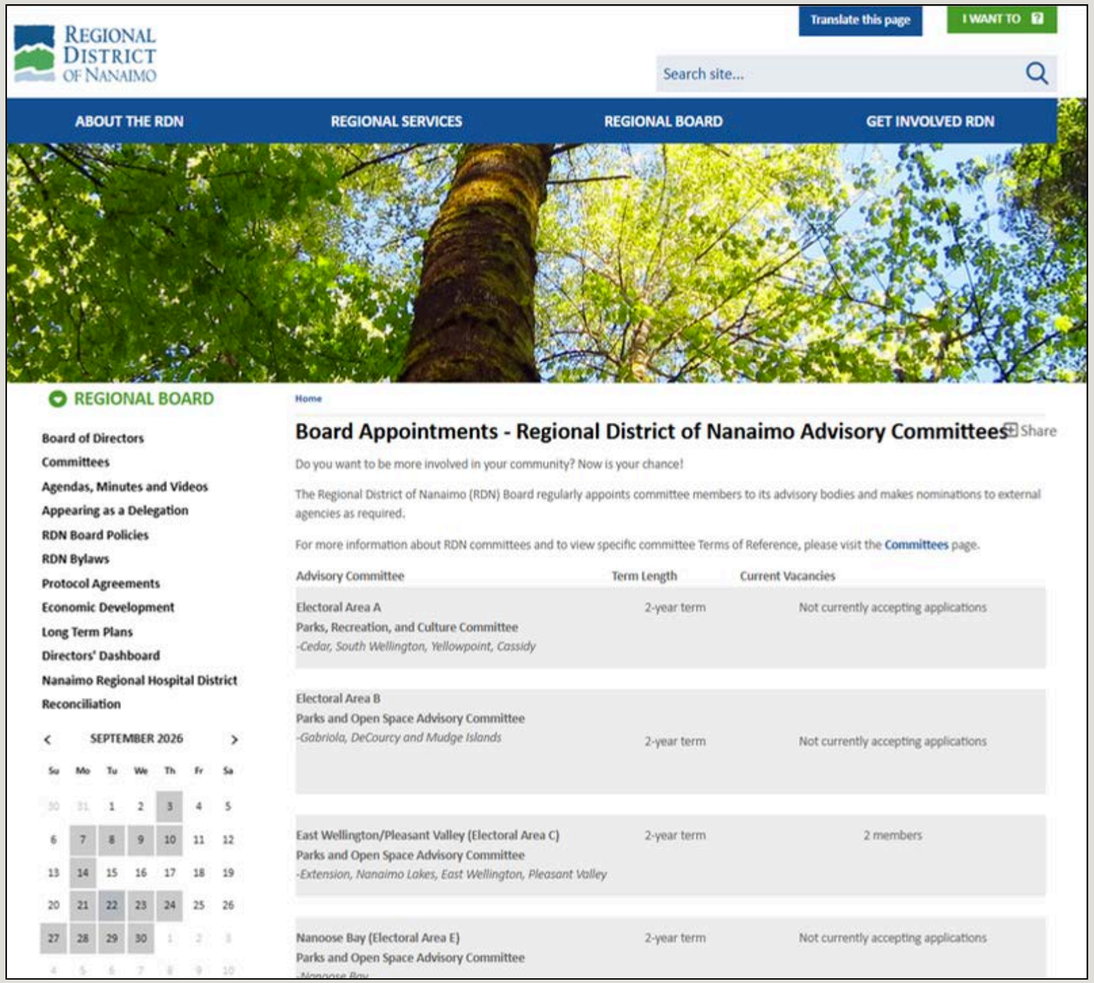
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP & TERMS OF REFERENCE UPDATES

Postings for at-large members to released this week:

- **General Public (District 68)** – *2 year term*
- **General Public (District 69)** – *2 year term*
- **Professional Hydrogeologist** – *2 year term*
- **Professional Hydrologist** – *2 year term*
- **Youth Community member** – *1 year term*

rdn.bc.ca/board-appointments-rdn-advisory-committees

information on board appointments and application forms can be found here



THANK YOU!

Next Meeting: December 2, 2026