

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO

MINUTES OF THE DRINKING WATER AND WATERSHED PROTECTION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, September 10, 2019 12:30 P.M. Board Chambers

In Attendance: R. Alexander Chair

V. Craig Director, Area B S. McLean Director, Area H

B. Geselbracht Director, City of Nanaimo R. Barlak BC Ministry of Environment

L. Cake Water Purveyors (Coastal Water Suppliers

Association)

A. Fiddick Environment Community Representative

P. Jorgenson Forest Industry Representative

P. Lapcevic BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural

Resource Operations

N. Leone Department of Fisheries and Oceans

L. Magee Island Health

J. Moore Cowichan Valley Regional District
H. Rueggeberg General Public Representative (South)

W. Shulba Islands Trust Representative

M. Squire City of Nanaimo

Regrets: O. Brandes Academic Community Representative (POLIS)

K. Epps Forest Industry Representative

A. Gilchrist Academic Community Representative (VIU)

K. Miller Cowichan Valley Regional District

B. Silenieks
F. Spears
B. Weir
G. Wendling
K. Fagervik
C. Cole
City of Parksville
District of Lantzville
Town of Qualicum Beach
Hydrogeologist Representative
Ministry of Transport & Infrastructure
General Public Representative (North)

Also in Attendance: N. Clements Island Health

S. De Pol Regional District of Nanaimo
L. Fegan Regional District of Nanaimo
S. Gourlay Regional District of Nanaimo
E. McCulloch Regional District of Nanaimo
J. Pisani Regional District of Nanaimo
C. Simpson Regional District of Nanaimo
M. Walters Regional District of Nanaimo

R. Graves Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order and respectfully acknowledged the Coast Salish Nations on whose traditional territory the meeting took place.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved and seconded that the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Summary Report from Action Plan Update Structured Decision - Making Workshops July 9, 2019

It was moved and seconded that the summary report of the Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Technical Advisory Committee workshops held May 16 and June 20, 2019, be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Technical Advisory Committee Meeting - April 25, 3019

It was moved and seconded that the minutes from the Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Technical Advisory Committee held April 25, 2019, be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PRESENTATIONS

Update on Area F Official Community Plan Water Study

J. Pisani presented to the Committee. The draft report for this study is expected in December 2019, in time for consideration with the OCP engagement proposed to take place in the first few months of 2020.

Update on Area E Phase Three Water Budget

J. Pisani presented to the Committee. This project scope has expanded due to funds allocated from the Province to assist with aquifer mapping and characterization in Area E.

Update on Vancouver Island University Wetland Research

J. Pisani presented to the Committee. This research partnership is in its 4th year and includes mapping, field data collection, and most recently, a proposal for long-term monitoring of key priority wetland sites in partnership with VIU as well as a wetland policy review study still underway.

Update on Monitoring Programs

L. Fegan presented to the Committee. This included an update on the Community Watershed Monitoring Network surface water quality program, the Volunteer Observation Well Network

groundwater monitoring program and hydrometric monitoring partnerships with the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development.

Update on Rebates

J. Pisani presented to the Committee. Current year rebate program allocations per area were shared.

Update on Team WaterSmart Activities

S. Gourlay presented to the Committee. Social media campaigns, events, irrigation checkups and workshops were reported on.

REPORTS

Ministry of Health's Drinking Water Officers Guide 2019: Rainwater Harvesting for Potable Use in BC

J. Pisani presented to the Committee and a roundtable discussion occurred.

Draft Drinking Water Watershed Protection Action Plan 2.0

J. Pisani presented the key actions as captured in the Draft Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Action Plan to the Committee and a roundtable discussion occurred on the actions and implementation priorities.

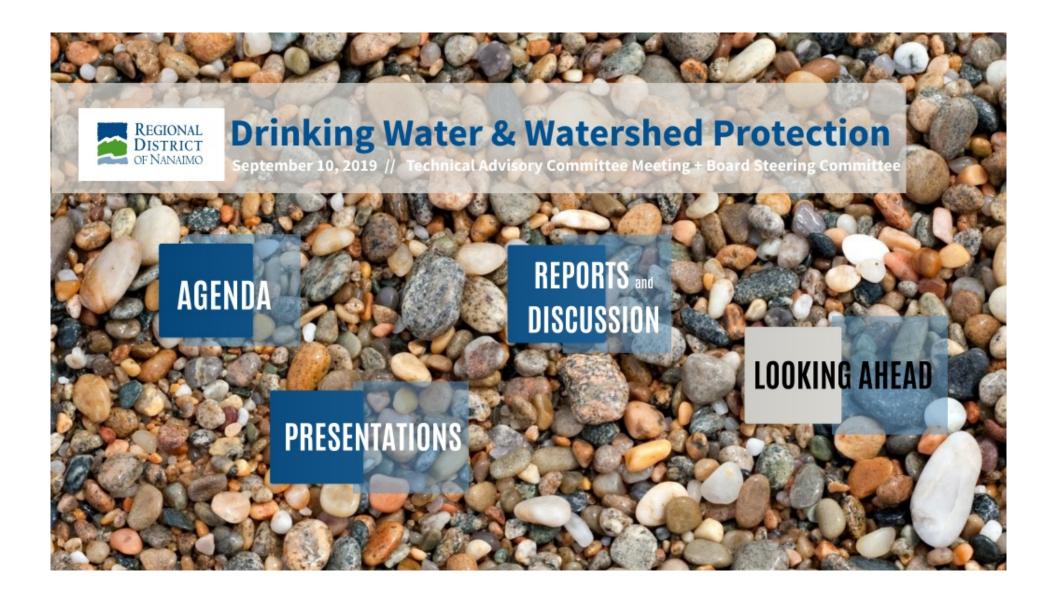
Committee feedback will be incorporated into a revised draft Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Action Plan intended to go to the Committee of the Whole in November.

ADJOURNMENT

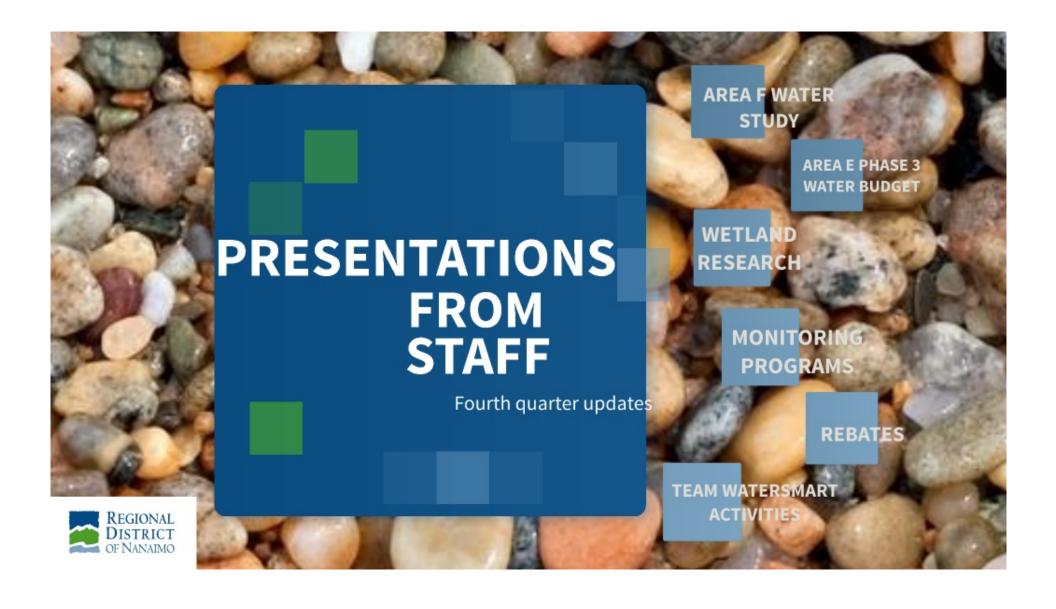
It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSL

TIME: 4:32 P.M.		
CHAIR		











WATER QUALITY + QUANTITY RISK CHARACTERIZATION

CONSULTING HYDROGEOLOGISTS: GW SOLUTIONS

- Data compilation
- Water quality exceedance analysis
- · Spatial and temporal evolution of water quality
- · Land uses and water quality links
- · Analysis of surface water flow, groundwater levels and precipitation
- · Identification of water quantity concerns
- Outline best practices, mitigation measures and policy recommendations for OCP
- · Submit maps and report

TIMELINE



Draft completed early December, finalized in January in time with OCP public engagement



Objective: to develop and calibrate a numerical water budget model to run scenarios to understand impacts of changes to climate, water demand and land cover

Additional scope supported by the Province:

Refinement of mapping and classification of Aquifers #219 and #1098

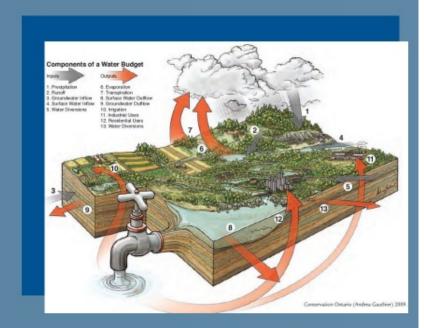
Update aquifer boundaries and descriptions

Funded through the ENV 2019/2020 Groundwater Science Program



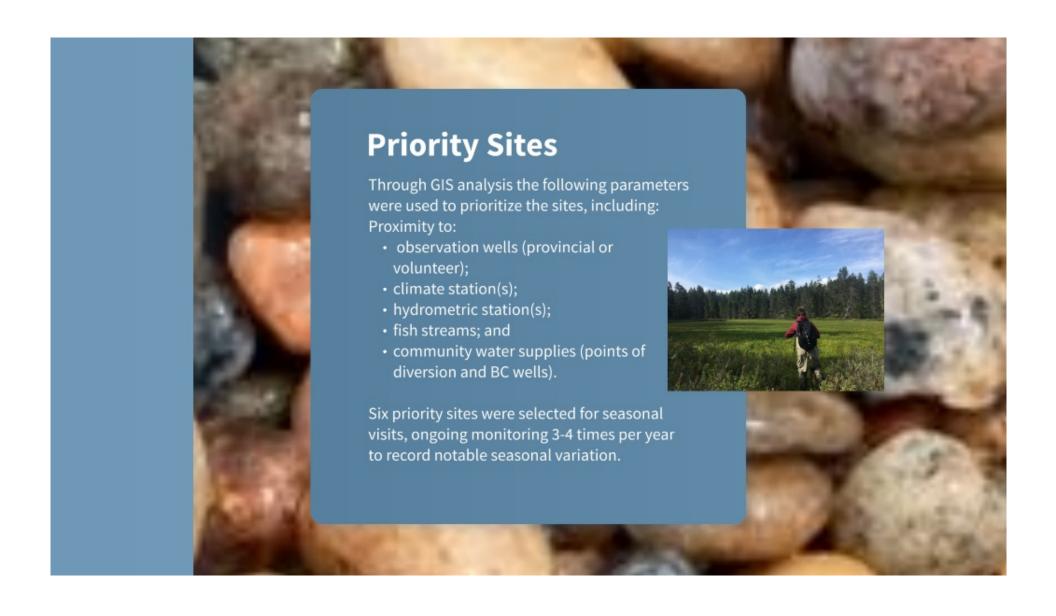
TIMELINE 🖹

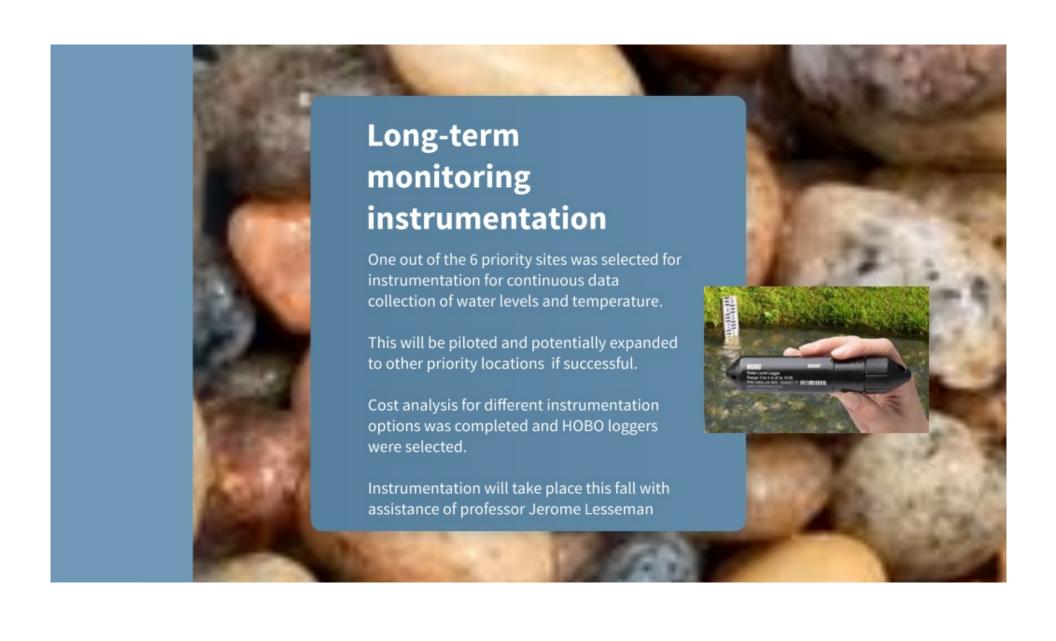
- Data Compilation, Extraction, Processing
- Model Development
- Model Calibration and Sensitivity Analysis 🔷 WE ARE HERE
- Milestone Meeting END OF SEPT
- Water Budget Analysis and Scenarios OCTOBER
- Draft Report NOVEMBER
- Final Report DECEMBER

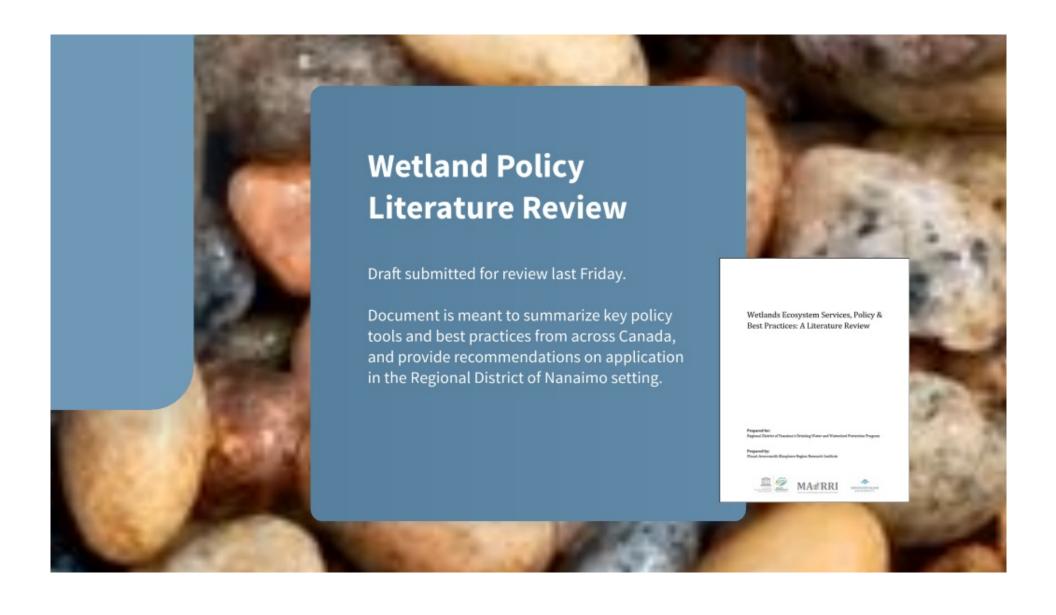












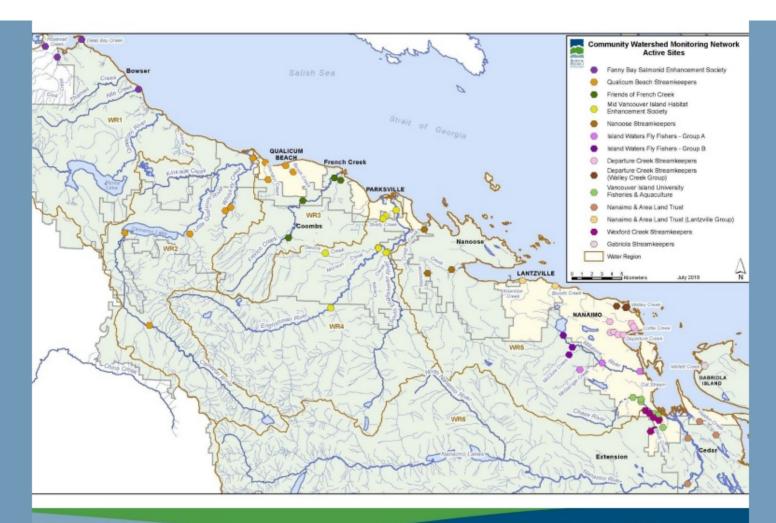


Surface Water Quality

- The Community Watershed Monitoring Network
- 2018 Trend analysis
 - CWMN data 2011 2017
 - Three analyses:
 - · Sites of concern,
 - · Changes over time,
 - Watershed characteristics & land uses.
 - Report recommendations:
 - · Additional lab analysis,
 - Biomonitoring,
 - · Riparian planting,
 - Targeted public education.



July 10, 2019 Little Qualicum River at Intake



The Community Watershed Monitoring Network in 2019

- 2019 Additional Lab Analysis:
 - Total Phosphorous:
 - Sites with >20% agricultural land use
 - Monthly samples May Sept
 - 12 sites
 - · Chloride:
 - Sites with >0.002m/m2 road density or adjacent stormwater outfall
 - 5 in 30 low flow
 - 9 sites



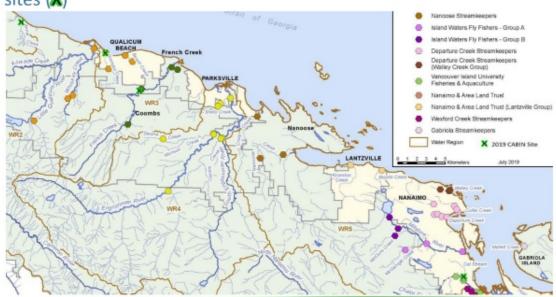
May 24, 2019 T-P sampling (L to R): Alana & Rosie ENV, Gord QBSS



CWMN 2019: Biomonitoring

- CABIN methodology
 - Indicator of watershed health
 - Assess effectiveness of restoration efforts
 - 4 sites (X)

- eDNA
 - University of Guelph STREAM pilot
 - · Similar collection method
 - Results later this year



Surface Water Quantity

- 2 lake level sites
 - Holden and Quennell Lakes
- Hydrometric Stations
 - Morningstar and Walley Creeks



June 13, 2019 Holden Lake site



July 31, 2019 Morningstar Creek hydrometric station

Groundwater Quantity

The Volunteer Observation Well Network

- 27 groundwater level sites
- Plus 3 Area E sites
- 2019 maintenance and removals
 - Updating logger housing
 - Removing one logger (straddles two aquifers)
- Addition of 4 barologgers



June 17, 2016 Northwind site







Water Stewardship Rebates

- RDN offers rebates to promote water stewardship through alternative water sources, watersmart gardening, and ground water protection
- Rainwater Harvesting, Irrigation Upgrades & Soil Improvements, Wellhead Upgrades, and Well Water Testing
- 3 step process to apply: Pre-approval Application, Work Completed, Claim Application

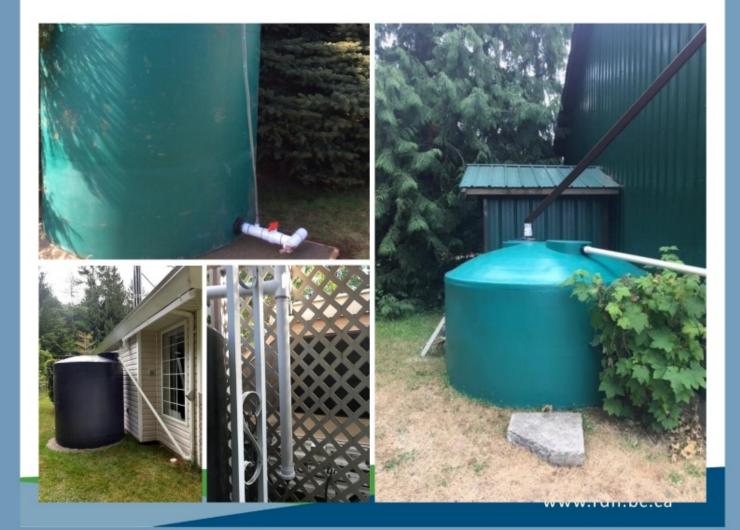
www.rdn.bc.ca

Rainwater Harvesting Rebate

- Rebate of up to \$750 for a minimum of 1000 imperial gallon cistern and other eligible costs
- Rebate is now closed for Area B, still open for all other Areas/Muni's
- Claim submission deadline by December 13th 2019

Total Allocated	Total Issued	# Applications	# Issued
\$20,250	\$11,127	27	15

		200000000000000000000000000000000000000	Area E	77.50	100000000000000000000000000000000000000	Area H	Nan	Lantz	Parks	QB
3	8	1	2	4	1	1	5	2	0	0



Irrigation Upgrades & Soil Improvements Rebate

- Rebate of up to \$675 for irrigation upgrades and/or the addition of compost, top soil, or mulch
- Rebate is still open and accepting applications
- Claim submission deadline of December 13th 2019

Total Allocated	Total Issued	# Applications	# Issued
\$9,125	\$5,637	44	34

				1000000000	Area G	0.000	Nan	Lantz	Parks	QB
2	1	1	1	0	10	2	22	0	3	2



Wellhead Upgrades Rebate

- Rebate of up to \$650 for secure well cap, well casing stick-up and surface seal upgrades. \$500 for well closure.
- Closed for Area B, open for all other Area's/Muni's
- Claim submission deadline is December 13th, 2019

Total Alloca	ted Total Issue	d # Application	s # Issued
\$4,550	\$2,818	9	7

4233310722	10.000000000000000000000000000000000000	Area C			2751000000000000000000000000000000000000	Area H	Nan	Lantz	Parks	QB
0	6	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0



Well Water Testing Rebate

- Voucher for 50% off of a full spectrum analysis from an accredited lab
- Rebate still open and accepting applications for 2019



Total Issued	# Applications	# Issued
\$5,775	63	58

		Area C					Nan	Lantz	Parks	QB
7	20	12	6	6	5	1	0	6	0	0

www.rdn.bc.ca



2019 Water to Earth Month







Protection Program 250.390.6560







3rd Annual Water to Earth Month series of events.

 Aims to promote water conservation, environmental education, RDN programs, and community stewardship.

- Over 10 individual events over a 1 month period.
- Many partners throughout the regional district.



is celebrating 2019

Water to Earth
Month MARCH 16
APRIL 27

Activities and events to celebrate both World Water Day and Earth Day!

Get Involved RDN!

getinvolved.rdn.ca/team-watersmart

www.rdn.bc.ca

Events

- Over 20 community events attended annually
- · Engage with residents and communities
- Offer expertise and educational material
- Promote conservation and awareness through kid's activities, native plant giveaways, surveys, contests and more!

City of Nanaimo	Family Fishing	Qualicum Beach	Cedar Farmers
Public Works Day	Day	Day	Market
Lighthouse	Bowser Summer	Rivers Never	Gabriola Ocean's
Country Fall Fair	Market	Sleeps	Day
Parksville Canada	VIU Sustainability	Nanaimo Earth	Coombs Fair
Day	Fair	Day	
Second Sunday	Islands Trust Well	Coombs Fair	Gabriola Farmer's
Market	Owner Workshop		Market
Errington Farmers	QB Farmer's	Lantzville Mine	+ more!
Market	Market	Town Day	



Social Media Campaigns

WaterSmart Word of the Week (10 weeks)

- Rain Garden
- Watershed
- Riparian

#WaterWiseWednesday (Ongoing)

- ➤ Short showers
- > Toilet water displacement
- Long lawns

Other

- Event promotions (Facebook and Twitter)
- Real time event posting (Instagram)
- Contest winner announcements (Facebook and Twitter)



www.rdn.bc.ca







STREAM BANK EROSION

Stream bank erosion occurs where streams begin cutting deeper and wider channels as consequence of increased pea flows or the removal of local protective vegetation within the riparian zone.

Stream bank erosion can cause many problems for streams, wildlife and residents such as an increase in stream sediment and turbidity. habitat destruction, channel widening and damage to infrastructure

Increased sedimentation and turbidity within a stream causes significant problems for salmon spawning habitat. Coho salmon do however love a nice undercut bank to hide from predators!



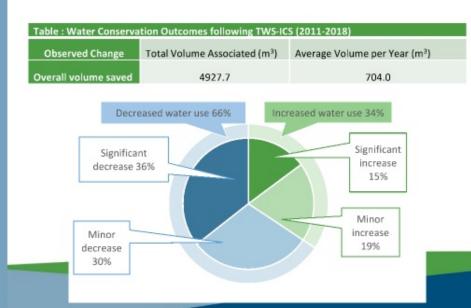


2019 Irrigation Checks

 Over 20 irrigation checks performed on high water user's homes within Regional District

Nanaimo (4), Qualicum Beach (5), Parksville (6), Nanoose Bay (4), Lantzville (2)

Educate homeowners on conservation







www.rdn.bc.ca

2019 Spring and Fall Watershed Field Trips

Spring 2019

• 1 trip for SD68, 1 trip for SD69

Fall 2019

- 3 trips for SD68, 3 trips for SD69
- > Fun and educational
- ➤ Work collaboratively with partners









2019 Workshops

WellSMART Workshops

- Free education on groundwater protection through proper well maintenance and operation
- Partnership with FLNRO and Island Health
- 3 workshops: Oct 8th in Area B, Oct 15th in Area E, and Oct 29th in Area C

Nanoose Gardening Club WaterSmart Workshop

 November 1st: Presentation on waterwise gardening and conservation tips that aid or restore watershed function in a changing climate

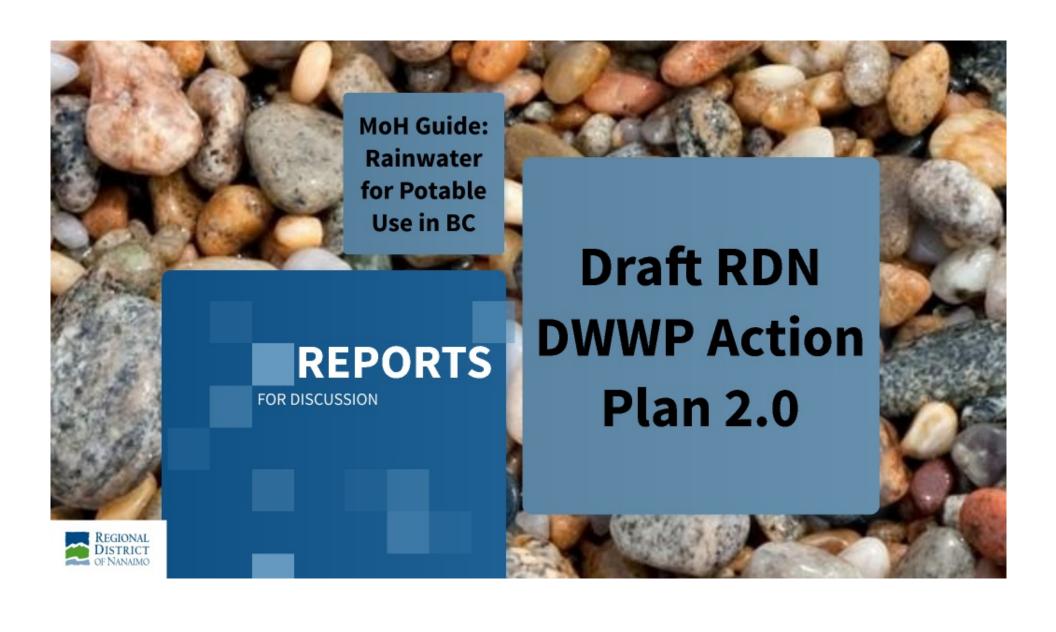
Pacific Gardens Wetlands Workshop

- November 16th: Wetland themed presentation by RDN, NALT & Alder Environmental at Pacific Gardens Co-housing in Nanaimo
- · Wetland native planting supported by RDN



Thank you!







HISTORY

The Regional District of Nanaimo originally brought this topic to UBCM in 2016, and again in 2017 and 2018 under the premise that:

- small water systems would benefit from utilizing rainwater as an alternate / additional source to reduce demand and stress on traditional water sources such as groundwater or surface water
- and, a comprehensive, research-based framework to guide rainwater source approvals would improve the prospect of rainwater being used as a safe alternative drinking water source for small water systems in BC.



Resolution on Rainwater as a Potable Water Source

© February 9, 2016 ► Featured, General Interest, News, Reports #AVICC, objectives, potable, Province, rainwater, resolution, treatment, VIHA, water & Water Smart

The Regional District of Nanaimo Board has forwarded a resolution regarding Roinwater as a Potable Water Source to the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AMICC) for consideration at their 2016 AGM and convention in April.

If the resolution is adpoted at the AVICC convention, then it is forwarded to the Union of BC Municipalities convention in September.

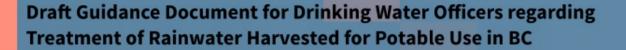
The resolution urges the Province via the Ministry of Health to develop rainwater-specific.

- · treatment objectives and standards
- source characterization protocols
- · infrastructure requirements

.. for small water systems in BC that are regulated under the Drinking Water Protection Act. Small water systems purvey water to the public, for example community centres, restaurants, mobile home parks etc. The need for this resolution comes from the fact that many small water systems that operate under the Act exist in water-stressed locations and would benefit from utilizing rainwater as an alternate / additional source of water to protect and reduce demand on traditional water sources, namely groundwater.

Because rainwater is a non-traditional water source, however, the risks are largely unknown. The quality is inherently variable as collection surfaces and environmental conditions differ from place to place. There are currently no provincial rainwater treatment objectives or standards for characterizing rainwater as a drinking water

KEY POINTS



- characterizes harvested rainwater as a type of surface water as defined in the Drinking Water Protection Regulation
- key document references are the BC Surface Water Treatment
 Objectives & the CSA Rainwater Standard
- rainwater harvested for use as potable water in any drinking water supply system must be disinfected and filtration is recommended (i.e. dual treatment)
- recommends min. 4-log reduction of Giardia and Cryptosporidium,<1
 NTU in turbidity and no detectable E.Coli, Fecal or Total Coliforms
- 3 stage risk assessment process
- specific sampling parameters and frequencies may be established by the DWO based on the risk assssment
- Detailed design considerations

Comments to MoH accepted until Oct. 31st 2019.

Does this help rural drinking water systems provide rainwater as a safe alternative potable water source?

Does it cover all the concerns? Does it offer enough flexibility?

Is it too onerous / should it be supplemented with grant fund availability?





Updating the WATERSHED PROTECTION **Action Plan**

Project Start up



Jan - March

Our vision is for healthy, safe and resilient water resources in the region, enabled through strong partnerships.

Our mission is to provide regional leadership at the watershed scale through coordination of water management, land-use planning and community outreach to support drinking water sustainability, climate adaptation, and healthy watershed ecosystems.

Issue Identification and April - May Idea Generation

Compilation and Prioritization

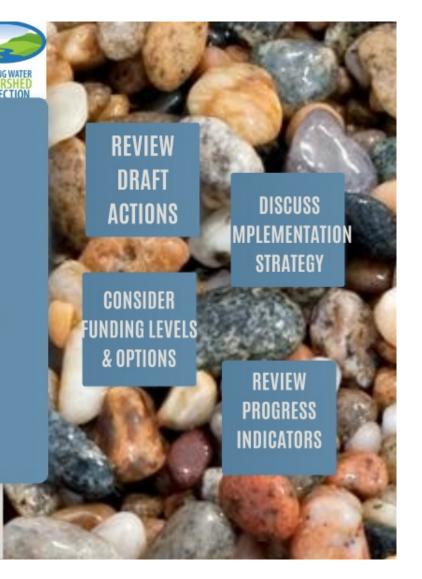
May - June "Structured **Decision Making** Workshops"

Drafting the Plan 🔷 WE ARE HERE



Finalizing the Plan

November CoW; Dec **Board Adoption**





Water Awareness and Stewardship

Objective:

To increase awareness and stewardship of watersheds and drinking water resources across the region.

DISCUSS: Are these actions complete, clear, consistent with the engagement, & impactful?

Theme	Action	Continuing Sub-Actions (*with enhancements)	New Sub-Actions	Key Implementation Partners (not exhaustive)
	5.1.1 Enhance Water Awareness Through Community- Based Team WaterSmart Outreach	Tours Community events Curriculum-connected school materials* Irrigation Check-ups Workshops	Market Research Community-based Social Marketing Multi-media engagement Interpretive signage and demonstration sites Youth water leadership projects	Municipalities RDN Parks Mosaic Forest Mgmt. Stewardship groups School Districts
1	5.1.2 Incentivize Sustainable Water Stewardship Practices (Rebates)	All current rebates	Explore new rebate options	N/A
WATER AWARENESS AND STEWARDSHIP	5.1.3 Create Team WaterSmart Campaigns to Target Strategic Sectors	N/A	 Agricultural water stewardship Commercial, Institutional, Industrial water stewardship 	Min. of Ag. BC Climate Action Initiative Municipalities
	5.1.4 Provide Support for Stewardship and Restoration Activities	 Seed funding for restoration* Tool lending library 	 Networking opportunities for water stewardship organizations 	Stewardship groups
	5.1.5 Coordinate with Water Service Providers	Support small water systems	Support regional water conservation plans	RDN Utilities Municipalities Improvement Districts Island Health
	5.1.6 Participate in and Coordinate Advisory Committees to Enhance Regional Capacity	Technical Advisory Committee coordination Participation in existing watershed roundtables	 Participate in new roundtables and committees that emerge as needed 	Various

Water Information and Science

Objective:

To support high quality and reliable long-term data collection, analysis, and science that generates information required to understand the region's water resources.

DISCUSS: Are these actions complete, clear, consistent with the engagement, & impactful?

Theme	Action	Continuing Sub-Actions (*with enhancements)	New Sub-Actions	Key Implementation Partners (not exhaustive)
WATER INFORMATION AND SCIENCE	5.2.1 Maintain Robust Regional Water Monitoring Networks	Community Watershed Monitoring Network Volunteer Observation Well Network Hydrometric and Climate Monitoring Partnerships Data Management Framework Implementation*	 Explore potential for biological monitoring (i.e. benthic invertebrates) to complement water quality chemistry data Explore long-term wetland monitoring and mapping options 	Min. of ENV / FLNR Stewardship groups VIU RDN IT & GIS
	5.2.2 Analyze and Interpret Data to Generate Richer Understanding of the Region's Water	Water Budget Modelling Trend Analysis Watershed / Aquifer Prioritization	Rainwater Management Modelling Quantifying Natural Assets and Ecosystem Services Supporting enhanced snowpack modelling	Consulting Professionals Municipalities Min. of ENV / FLNR Min. of TRAN VIU
	5.2.3 Communicate Water Information to Decision Makers	GIS Water Map* Publications*	 Data visualization through dynamic graphs Informing updates to provincial mapping and characterization 	RDN IT & GIS RDN Planning Min. of ENV / FLNR
	5.2.4 Develop Targets to Maintain High-functioning Watersheds	N/A	 Watershed performance targets and standards to mitigate the impacts of land development 	Consulting Professionals Municipalities Min. of ENV / FLNR Min. of TRAN RDN Planning

Water-Centric Planning and Policy Support

Objective:

To better integrate water management and land-use planning through the adoption of policies, plans, and practices that recognize water-related constraints.

To identify and advocate for internal and external regulations and policies that will enable efficient water use, water quality protection and maintenance or restoration of watershed function.

DISCUSS: Are these actions complete, clear, consistent with the engagement, & impactful?

Theme		Action	Continuing Sub-Actions (*with enhancements)	New Sub-Actions	Key Implementation Partners (not exhaustive)
CENT	TER-	5.3.1 Facilitate Integration of Water Information into Planning Processes	 Informing long term plans* Informing current operations* 	 Expand integration to RDN parks and emergency services planning processes, and municipalities as well. 	RDN Departments Municipalities
PLANNING AND POLICY SUPPORT	5.3.2 Advance Innovative Policies and Practices to Improve Water Sustainability	Review and advise on internal policy Strategic external advocacy	 Research to identify best policies and practices in North America 	RDN Planning Municipalities Various external agencies	



Theme	Action	Continuing Sub-Actions (*with enhancements)	New Sub-Actions	Key Implementation Partners (not exhaustive)
WATER AWARENESS AND	5.1.1 Enhance Water Awareness Through Community-Based Team WaterSmart Outreach 5.1.2 Incentivize Sustainable Water Stewardship Practices	Tours Community events Curriculum-connected school materials* Irrigation Check-ups Workshops All current rebates	Market Research Community-based Social Marketing Multi-media engagement Interpretive signage and demonstration sites Youth water leadership projects Explore new rebate options	Municipalities RDN Parks Mosaic Forest Mgmt. Stewardship groups School Districts N/A
	(Rebates) 5.1.3 Create Team WaterSmart Campaigns to Target Strategic Sectors	N/A	Agricultural water stewardship Commercial, institutional, industrial water stewardship	Min. of Ag. BC Climate Action Initiative Municipalities
STEWARDSHIP	5.1.4 Provide Support for Stewardship and Restoration Activities	Seed funding for restoration* Tool lending library	 Networking opportunities for water stewardship organizations 	Stewardship groups
	5.1.5 Coordinate with Water Service Providers	Support small water systems	Support regional water conservation plans	RDN Utilities Municipalities Improvement Districts Island Health
	5.1.6 Participate in and Coordinate Advisory Committees to Enhance Regional Capacity	Technical Advisory Committee coordination Participation in existing watershed roundtables	 Participate in new roundtables and committees that emerge as needed 	Various
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	5.2.4 Develop Targets to Maintain High-functioning Watersheds	N/A	 Watershed performance targets and standards to mitigate the impacts of land development 	Consulting Professionals Municipalities Min. of ENV / FLNR Min. of TRAN RDN Planning
WATER- CENTRIC PLANNING AND POLICY SUPPORT	5.3.1 Facilitate Integration of Water Information into Planning Processes	Informing long term plans* Informing current operations*	 Expand integration to RDN parks and emergency services planning processes, and municipalities as well. 	RDN Departments Municipalities
	5.3.2 Advance Innovative Policies and Practices to Improve Water Sustainability	Review and advise on internal policy Strategic external advocacy	Research to identify best policies and practices in North America	RDN Planning Municipalities Various external agencies



Evaluating success over time

Generally, continued participation of partners is an indicator of success. Progress is also gauged by **if / how our questions evolve over time...**

So, what are currently the key questions DWWP is attempting to address?

Will revisit as the next decade unfolds...



Progress Indicators Overall comments on Draft?

