

## **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

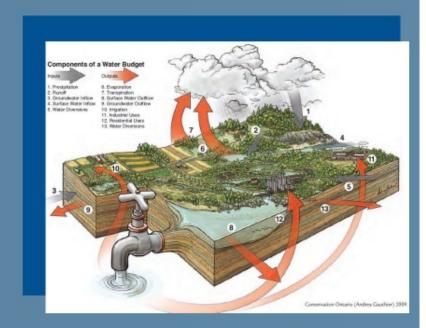
Update aquifer boundaries and descriptions

Funded through the ENV 2019/2020 Groundwater Science Program



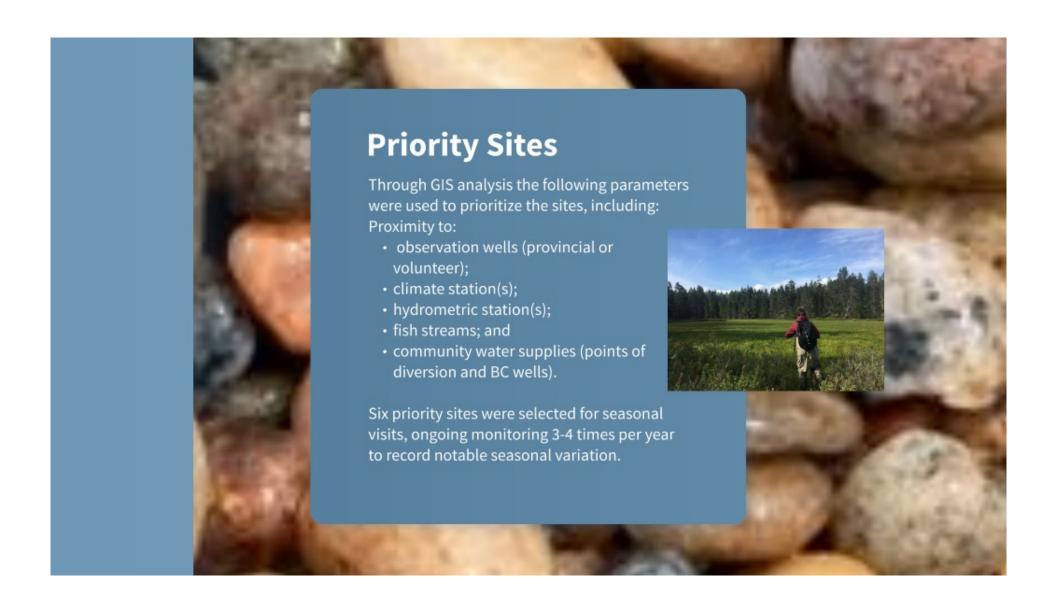
## TIMELINE 🖹

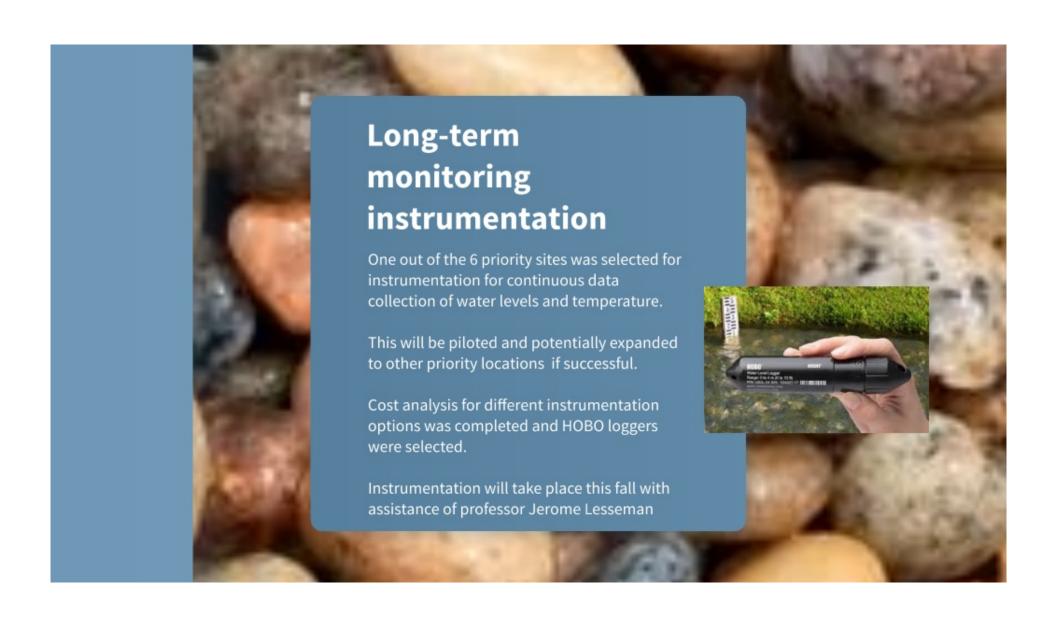
- Data Compilation, Extraction, Processing
- Model Development
- Model Calibration and Sensitivity Analysis 🔷 WE ARE HERE
- Milestone Meeting END OF SEPT
- Water Budget Analysis and Scenarios OCTOBER
- Draft Report NOVEMBER
- Final Report DECEMBER













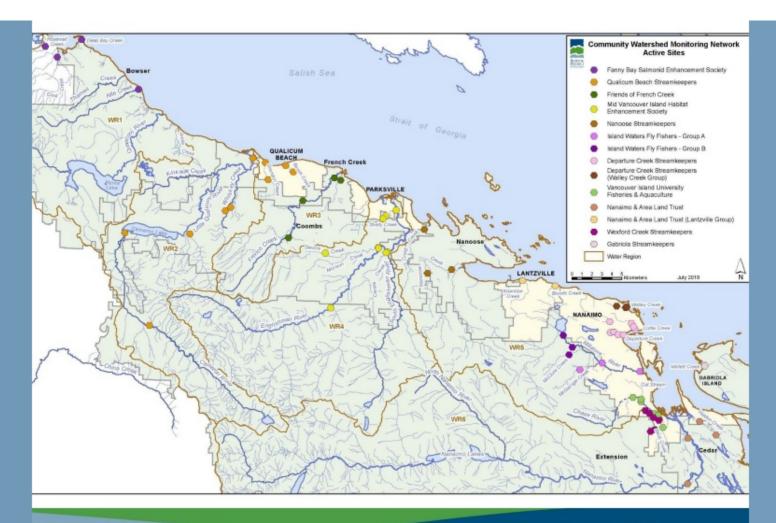


## Surface Water Quality

- 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



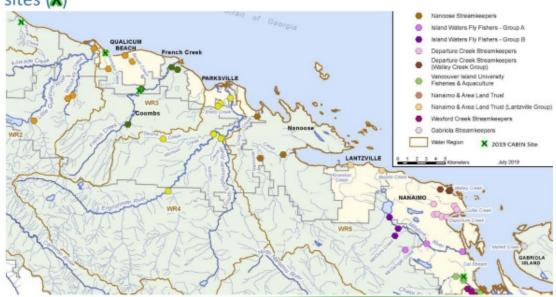
May 24, 2019 T-P sampling (L to R): Alana & Rosie ENV, Gord QBSS



### 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

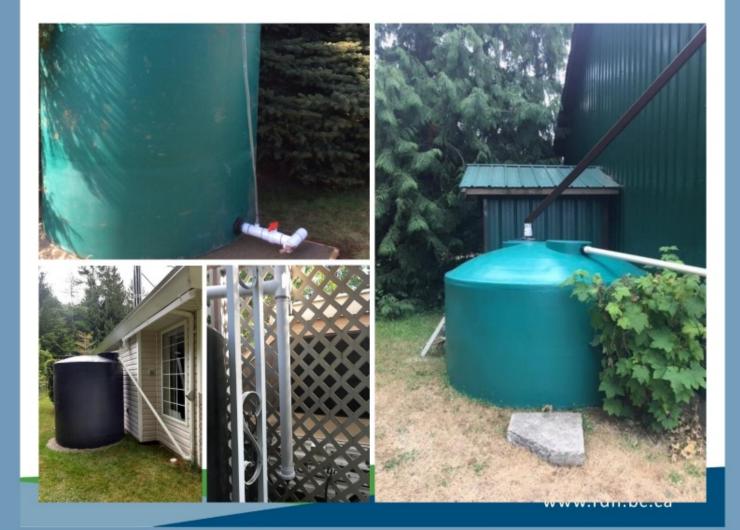
- RDN offers rebates to promote water stewardship through alternative water sources, watersmart gardening, and ground water protection
- Rainwater Harvesting, Irrigation Upgrades & Soil Improvements, Wellhead Upgrades, and Well Water Testing
- 3 step process to apply: Pre-approval Application, Work Completed,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

#### 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	76.000	100000000000000000000000000000000000000	Area H	Nan	Lantz	Parks	QB
3	8	1	2	4	1	1	5	2	0	0

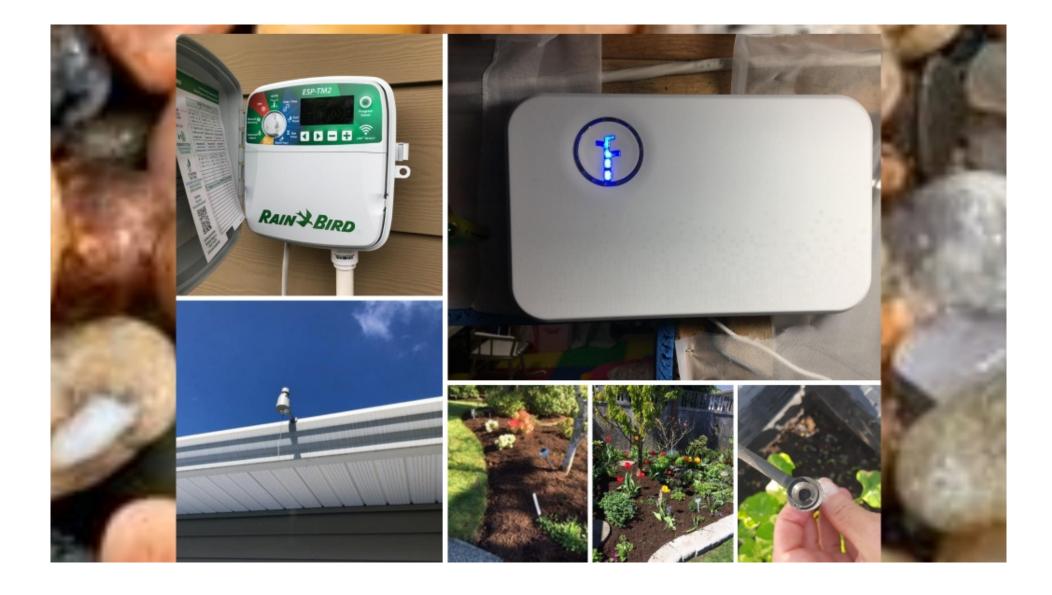


## Irrigation Upgrades & Soil Improvements Rebate

- 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		

				100000000000000000000000000000000000000	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 Allocated	Total Issued	# Applications	# Issued
\$4,550	\$2,818	9	7

400000000000000000000000000000000000000		Area C	300000000000000000000000000000000000000	200000000000000000000000000000000000000	22212	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				Area H	Nan	Lantz	Parks	QB
7	20	12	6	6	5	1	0	6	0	0



## 2019 Water to Earth Month







Protection Program 250.390.6560







3<sup>rd</sup> 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

## **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)









#### STREAM BANK EROSION





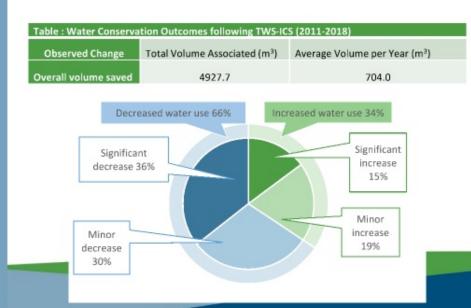
D. Post

## 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 8<sup>th</sup> in Area B, Oct 15<sup>th</sup> in Area E, and Oct 29<sup>th</sup> in Area C

## Nanoose Gardening Club WaterSmart Workshop

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

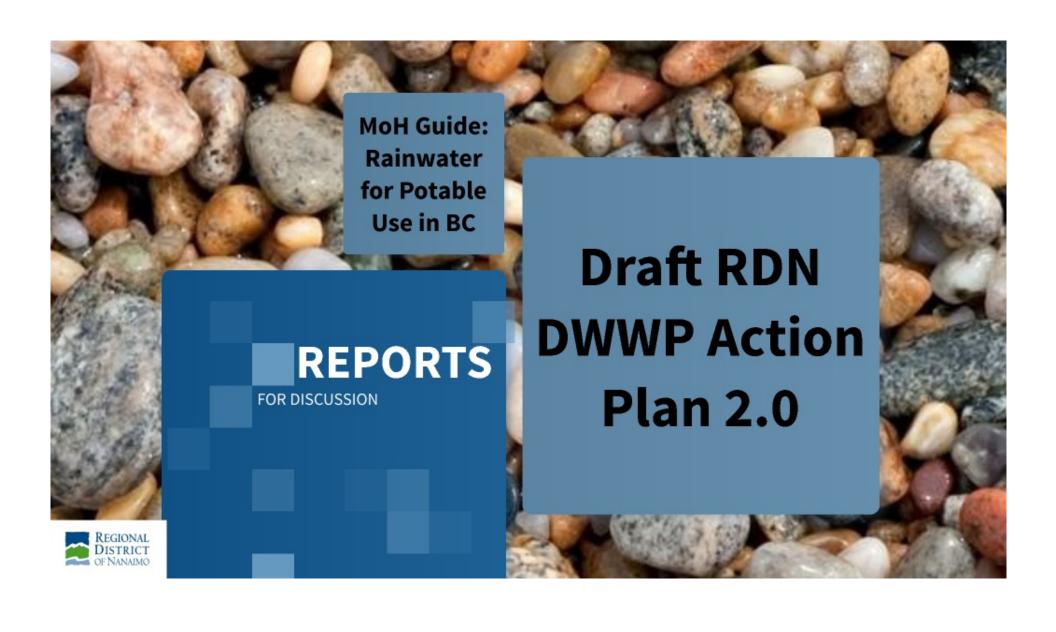
#### Pacific Gardens Wetlands Workshop

- November 16<sup>th</sup>: 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

## Draft Guidance Document for Drinking Water Officers regarding Treatment of Rainwater Harvested for Potable Use in BC

- 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</li>
   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

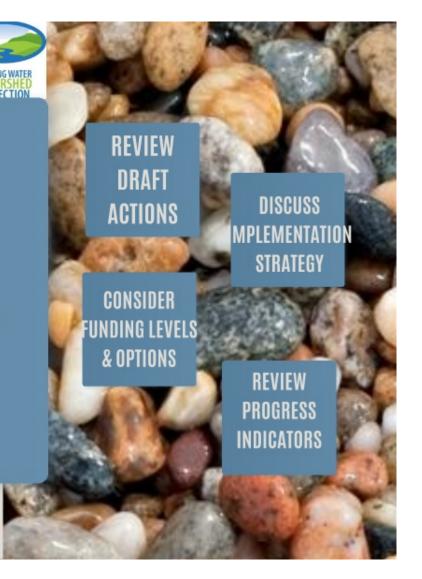
May - June "Structured **Decision Making** Workshops"

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)
WATER AWARENESS AND STEWARDSHIP	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
	5.1.2 Incentivize Sustainable Water Stewardship Practices (Rebates)	All current rebates	Explore new rebate options	N/A
	5.1.3 Create Team WaterSmart Campaigns to Target Strategic Sectors	N/A	<ul> <li>Agricultural water stewardship</li> <li>Commercial, Institutional, Industrial water stewardship</li> </ul>	Min. of Ag. BC Climate Action Initiative Municipalities
	5.1.4 <b>Provide</b> Support for Stewardship and Restoration Activities	<ul> <li>Seed funding for restoration*</li> <li>Tool lending library</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Networking opportunities for water stewardship organizations</li> </ul>	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	<ul> <li>Participate in new roundtables and committees that emerge as needed</li> </ul>	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*	<ul> <li>Explore potential for biological monitoring (i.e. benthic invertebrates) to complement water quality chemistry data</li> <li>Explore long-term wetland monitoring and mapping options</li> </ul>	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*	<ul> <li>Data visualization through dynamic graphs</li> <li>Informing updates to provincial mapping and characterization</li> </ul>	RDN IT & GIS RDN Planning Min. of ENV / FLNR
	5.2.4 <b>Develop</b> Targets to Maintain High-functioning Watersheds	N/A	<ul> <li>Watershed performance targets and standards to mitigate the impacts of land development</li> </ul>	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)
WATER- CENTRIC PLANNING AND POLICY SUPPORT	5.3.1 Facilitate Integration of Water Information into Planning Processes	Informing long term plans*     Informing current operations*	<ul> <li>Expand integration to RDN parks and emergency services planning processes, and municipalities as well.</li> </ul>	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



Theme	Action	Continuing Sub-Actions (*with enhancements)	New Sub-Actions	Key Implementation Partners (not exhaustive)
WATER AWARENESS AND STEWARDSHIP	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
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# 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?

