



**NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING
UTILITIES COMMITTEE**

9:00 a.m.

Wednesday, May 9, 2012

Annacis Wastewater Centre, 1400 Lindsey Place, Delta, British Columbia.

A G E N D A

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1.1 May 9, 2012 Regular Meeting Agenda

That the Utilities Committee adopt the agenda for its regular meeting scheduled for May 9, 2012 as circulated.

2. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

2.1 April 11, 2012 Regular Meeting Minutes

That the Utilities Committee adopt the minutes of its regular meeting held April 11, 2012 as circulated.

3. DELEGATIONS

3.1 Kim Stephens, Executive Director, The Partnership for Water Sustainability in BC

4. INVITED PRESENTATIONS

No items presented.

5. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE OR STAFF

5.1 Water Supply and Water Consumption Update for Summer 2012

Designated Speakers: Dan Donnelly and Stan Woods

That the Board receive for information the report dated April 16, 2012, titled *Water Supply and Water Consumption Update for Summer 2012*.

5.2 Lions Gate and Iona Island Secondary Wastewater Treatment Plants – Project Update

Designated Speakers: Fred Nenninger and Marie Griggs

That the Board:

- 1) Receive for information the report dated April 27, 2012 titled “Lions Gate and Iona Island Secondary Wastewater Treatment Plants – Project Update”; and
- 2) Direct staff to submit an application for the Lions Gate Secondary Wastewater Treatment Plant Project Definition Phase to the Union of BC Municipalities’ Gas Tax Agreement Innovations Fund.



DATE: April 26, 2012
TO: Metro Vancouver Utilities Committee
FROM: Kim A Stephens, M.Eng., P.Eng., Executive Director
SUBJECT: **RAINWATER MANAGEMENT IN A WATERSHED SUSTAINABILITY CONTEXT**
Delegation Request to Present at May 9 Meeting

PURPOSE

On May 9, we will:

1. Describe how the *Partnership for Water Sustainability in BC* (i.e. “the Partnership”) has leveraged the \$50,000 grant that we received from Metro Vancouver to enhance the capabilities of the **Water Balance Model for British Columbia**.
2. Introduce the benefits of an **Inter-Regional Educational Initiative for ‘Rainwater Management in a Watershed Sustainability Context’** that the Partnership has launched on Vancouver Island.

Looking ahead, participation in the Inter-Regional Education Initiative would result in opportunities for the Metro Vancouver region to better deliver on member commitments pursuant to the rainwater management component of Metro Vancouver’s *Integrated Liquid Waste and Resource Management Plan*.

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The Partnership is a not-for-profit organization with its membership drawn from government, business and academia. Its objectives are to foster the sustainability of water resources in British Columbia, including the sustainability of healthy urban streams. Attachment A provides background information about the Partnership.

The Georgia Basin bioregion is a hot-bed of progressive ideas and provincially significant initiatives. Regional districts and municipalities are advancing watershed-based strategies and programs for “*integrating rainwater management at the site level with the watershed and stream*” (see Figure 1):

- The Partnership has brought together four regions on Vancouver Island to align their efforts and implement an *Inter-Regional Education Initiative*. These regions represent 90% of the Vancouver Island population.
- The initiative creates opportunities for knowledge sharing and transfer on both sides of the Georgia Basin so that together everyone can go farther, more efficiently and effectively.
- The web-based Water Balance Model is a unique, scenario comparison tool; and is a foundation block for the Inter-Regional Education Initiative.

Collaboration among Vancouver Island local governments, Metro Vancouver, and member municipalities has grown steadily since 2007. This June, for example, the City of Surrey and District of North Vancouver will be adding value to inter-regional educational events hosted by the Capital Regional District and Regional District of Nanaimo, respectively. Everyone benefits from sharing information and experiences.

WATER BALANCE MODEL

Metro Vancouver has provided \$50,000 to assist the Partnership to leverage co-funding to further develop the Water Balance Model (WBM). The further development of the WBM will improve the tools available to Metro Vancouver's members so that they will be able to more effectively and efficiently fulfil their rainwater and stormwater management actions under the *Integrated Liquid Waste and Resource Management Plan*.

The \$50,000 has already leveraged almost \$250,000 in co-funding; and this total will continue to grow in 2012. Starting in April, the Partnership is rolling out these new modules: climate change, rainwater harvesting, tree canopy interception, stream erosion and drainage infrastructure screening. North Vancouver District and the City of Surrey case study applications are validating WBM enhancements.

BENEFITS OF INTER-REGIONAL COLLABORATION

While Metro Vancouver's *Stormwater Interagency Liaison Group* (SILG) provides a forum for Metro Vancouver members and senior government regulators to share information on rainwater and stormwater management issues, there is no formal mechanism to enable inter-regional collaboration. The Partnership fills this gap by bringing together local governments, regulators and businesses around the Georgia Basin to address shared issues with consistent, workable solutions.

Through collaboration, the Inter-Regional Education Initiative will advance a consistent approach to rainwater management and green infrastructure practices on both sides of the Georgia Basin. Table 1 lists key principles for inter-regional collaboration. Note that:

- In particular, local governments and the development community will learn WHY and HOW to "integrate the site with the watershed and stream". Attachment B is a Briefing Document.
- The Boards of four Vancouver Island regional districts have formally endorsed the initiative. Attachment C includes the staff reports and recommendations ratified by these four Boards: Capital Region, Cowichan Valley, Nanaimo and Comox Valley.
- Recognizing that each region has already established its 'vision and goal' through a community consultation process, the initiative emphasis is on the "what would it look like" details of **implementation and integration**.

Metro Vancouver and its members also benefit through access to tools developed by the Partnership (e.g. Water Balance Model; Waterbucket website; Water Conservation Calculator) and the experience of other initiative partners. This access helps Metro Vancouver and its members to be efficient and effective in moving forward with implementation of the rainwater management component of the *Integrated Liquid Waste and Resource Management Plan*.

NEXT STEPS

The Partnership's ultimate objective is to obtain Metro Vancouver and member participation in the Inter-Regional Educational Initiative. This initiative can help fulfil specific Metro Vancouver actions in the *Integrated Liquid Waste and Resource Management Plan* regarding performance standards, codes of practice, certification and guidelines for on-site rainwater management - i.e. green infrastructure.

To identify roles and opportunities, the Partnership will obtain input from three Metro Vancouver technical municipal advisory groups --- Regional Engineering Advisory Committee (REAC), Regional Planning Advisory Committee (RPAC), and SILG --- and ask for their support for the initiative.

The Partnership would like to report back to the Utilities Committee in September 2012 with a progress update on the Water Balance Model enhancements and the Inter-Regional Educational Initiative.



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Inter-Regional Education Initiative

Figure 1

Explanatory Notes – Provincial Significance

1. The Province intervened in the Comox Valley to both create a new regional district and mandate regional plans. The *Comox Valley Sustainability Strategy* and *Comox Valley Regional Growth Strategy* provide the planning framework for implementing **An Integrated Watershed Approach to Settlement**.
2. The Nanaimo Region's **Drinking Water & Watershed Protection Plan** created a drinking water and watershed protection service area with taxation authority in the region's electoral areas. Because the scope has been expanded to include the member municipalities, this means the plan has more of a regional function.
3. The **Cowichan Basin Water Management Plan** is a provincial case study for watershed governance changes being contemplated as part of *Water Act Modernization*.
4. In the Capital Region, the Bowker Creek Watershed Blueprint and District of Sooke Rainwater Management Plan are demonstration initiatives for **Integrated Watershed Management**. Both are founded on partnerships that have enabled community groups and municipal staffs to coalesce around a shared vision: *What do we want this watershed to look like in 100 years, and what steps will we take to get there?*
5. Metro Vancouver's **Integrated Liquid Waste & Resource Management Plan** established the framework for moving beyond regulatory compliance to transitioning the region to an approach where management of liquid discharges and rainwater resources is planned and implemented within a broader, sustainability framework.

Table 1

Key Principles for Inter-Regional Collaboration

The Partnership's approach in bringing together the regions is shaped by these considerations:

1. All have over-arching plans in place.
2. All have funded activities that they are planning to do in 2012 and beyond.
3. Those activities can leverage a Gas Tax grant to help implement the educational program.
4. The Partnership has asked the partner regional districts for initiative endorsement, not money.
5. While the regions are linked by common interests, they are not dependent on each other.
6. Collaboration, alignment and consistency will create opportunities for everyone to be more effective.
7. The educational program will align with regional priorities and workloads, not add to workloads.
8. The inter-regional program will link activities so that everyone can share experiences, benefit from lessons learned, and align efforts with the Living Water Smart and Green Communities initiatives.
9. The inter-regional program will increase the effectiveness of local government decision processes vis-à-vis land development and conservation of water assets.
10. Each region may host up to four "learning and sharing" events during the 2-year period 2012-2013.

Attachment A

About the Partnership for Water Sustainability

Attachment B

Briefing Document for Inter-Regional Educational Initiative

Attachment C

Staff Reports Recommending Endorsement by Vancouver Island Regional Boards

- Capital Regional District
- Regional District of Nanaimo
- Cowichan Valley Regional District
- Comox Valley Regional District