

ATTACHMENT 3

Description of the engagement process to update the Drinking Water and Watershed Protection (DWWP) Action Plan in 2019

A full third-party review of DWWP Program implementation took place in 2018. This review examined the achievements within the first 10-years against the actions outlined in the original Action Plan, and highlighted opportunities for the DWWP Program to evolve and improve. Using this review as a springboard, the RDN set out to renew its 10-year DWWP Action Plan in 2019, as committed to in the Board Strategic Plan for 2019-2022. The Action Plan update process involved the following elements:

- developing a project charter;
- establishing a Board Steering Committee for the project;
- engaging key partners and the public;
- summarizing current status and linkages to other plans;
- identifying issues and generating ideas in conjunction with the public and stakeholders;
- compiling and prioritizing ideas through a structured decision-making workshop process with key stakeholders;
- formulating goals, objectives and metrics for success; and,
- reviewing the draft updated Action Plan with technical experts.

Key informants to the process included: the RDN DWWP Board Steering Committee; the multi-stakeholder DWWP Technical Advisory Committee; an RDN Interdepartmental Working Group; public survey respondents online (RDN Get Involved page) and attendees at community events; attendees at the April 4th Water Stewardship Symposium in Parksville; and, technical experts from Econics and Compass Resource Management.

First Nations were also approached to encourage engagement in this Action Plan update. Engaging with First Nations on Drinking Water and Watershed Protection actions and strategies will be an ongoing focus in the implementation of this updated Plan, recognizing that the extent and nature of participation from First Nations will be defined by the various Nations' needs and perspectives.

Specific to the Action Plan update, there were a total of eight various in-depth committee meetings / workshops; 16 interactive booth displays at community events; one symposium where a focused public consultation session took place; and, 10 weeks of online survey access and promotion which generated 104 responses.

At the committee level, different options for overall effort and scale of the DWWP Program were weighed using a Structured Decision-Making process. This included contemplating whether to scale-down by 25%, remain at status quo, and scale up by varying levels of increased effort. The advisory group's response was in line with the sentiments from the public engagement, as follows, summarized by Compass and Econics in their Summary Report "[Updating the Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Action Plan](#)" (2019, p. 1-2):

- widespread support for scaling up effort in the updated Action Plan, subject to available resources;

- strong support for continued efforts to improve water efficiency through Team WaterSmart Initiatives;
- widespread recognition of the need to operationalize data despite associated technical and capacity challenges;
- a strong desire for more integration of water constraints into land-use planning and related policy; and,
- recognition of the importance of collaboration with partners and between departments at RDN to successfully achieve goals in all three thematic areas of education, science, and planning.

For more information and documents from the engagement process, please visit www.getinvolved.rdn.ca/dwwwp-action-plan-update-2019