

At the December 10, 2019 Board Meeting, the Board adopted the following resolutions:

That the Board endorse, in principle, the updated DWWP Action Plan, and;

That following public engagement, a final Action Plan, including a refined workplan, be presented to the Board.

The draft updated DWWP Action Plan document was posted on the *RDN Get Involved* website for final public engagement and review on Dec. 12, 2019. A Facebook post directing people to the DWWP Action Plan Update Get Involved page reached 2,652 people (number of views) and had 180 engagements (where people clicked on the link). The DWWP Action Plan Update project page was visited 181 times between Dec. 12, 2019 and Jan. 20, 2020. There were three individual engagements in the online forums, including one written comment, and four downloads of the draft document. Two email responses were submitted. The comments received during this period have been considered in the finalization of the Action Plan. These comments are compiled in Attachment 3 for reference.

This followed a year-long engagement process in 2019 that included: 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.

Overall, the public and committee engagement provided the following direction:

- 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 water data;
- a strong desire for full integration of water constraints into land-use planning and related policy; and,
- recognition of the importance of collaboration with the community, external partners and between departments at RDN to successfully achieve goals in all three thematic areas of education, science, and planning.

A refined workplan (Attachment 2) has been developed by staff, driven by the direction, actions and priorities that have been identified. It is a best estimate of timing and emphasis based on current available information; it is subject to partnerships and guidance from the DWWP Technical Advisory Committee and other partners. Revision and refinement of the workplan will continue to occur as the Action Plan is implemented, and is updated to reflect outcomes from previous years efforts, and evolving resources and priorities. The refined workplan also identifies interactions between RDN departments.

Key new priority actions to initiate in 2020 and beyond include:

- Snowpack modelling.
- Increased support for watercourse restoration projects.
- Pilot ecosystem services accounting for watershed natural assets.

- Partner on demonstration sites and interpretive signage for water stewardship best practices.
- Public survey to provide quantitative data on water priorities, behaviours and perspectives.
- Enhance water stewardship incentives (rebates).
- Develop watershed performance targets in on priority water region.
- Re-design Team WaterSmart outreach initiatives to optimize effectiveness.

ALTERNATIVES

1. That the Board endorse the final updated RDN DWWP Action Plan for 2020-2030.
2. That the Program's workplan be incorporated into the operational plan.
3. Provide alternate direction.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

To fully implement important organizational obligations related to water and sustainability, an increase in resources is proposed. Details have been presented in the 2020 Budget Proposal and 5-year Financial Plan.

The items that emerged as new priorities during the Action Plan development amount to an increase in effort of approximately 50% and require a corresponding increase of resources of approximately \$250,000 annually to fully implement. To advance these priority actions starting in 2020, a rise in the regional parcel tax from \$8 to \$12 is proposed for consideration in the 2020 budget process. There are no additional increases proposed in the remainder of the 5-year Financial Plan.

From a historic context, the 2008 referendum to establish the RDN's DWWP service was based on \$25 as the parcel tax requisition amount. The DWWP Program started with a \$12 parcel tax in 2009 in Electoral Areas, which was lowered to \$8 when the member municipalities joined the service. Before the DWWP Action Plan update process began, the 2019 5-year Financial Plan proposed a parcel tax increase to \$9 in 2020 to maintain the status quo.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Stewardship - Update the Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Program Action Plan.

Environmental Stewardship - Protect and enhance the natural environment, including land, water, and air quality for future generations.

Growth Management - Provide effective regional land use planning and responsible asset management for both physical infrastructure and natural assets.

People and Partnerships - Seek opportunities to partner with the provincial and federal governments, other government agencies, and community stakeholder groups in order to advance strategic plan goals and objectives.



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Reviewed by:

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- R. Alexander, General Manager, Regional and Community Utilities
- P. Carlyle, Chief Administrative Officer

Attachments

1. Final – RDN Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Action Plan 2.0 – 2020-2030
2. 10-Year Workplan Summary_DWWP_2020-2030_Jan2020
3. Public Comments Received Dec.12 2019 to Jan. 29 2020