

**POSTED ON RDN GET INVOLVED PAGE for DRINKING WATER AND WATERSHED PROTECTION ACTION PLAN UPDATE:**

*Draft DWWP Action Plan (2020-2030) is ready for your review!*

*Please review the [near final draft of the updated DWWP Action Plan](#) for 2020-2030 and [share your comments in the forum below](#) or email the program coordinator at [waterprotection@rdn.bc.ca](mailto:waterprotection@rdn.bc.ca). We'd love to hear from you! Note that to add your comment to the forum, you must be registered and signed-in to this project page.*

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**EMAILS (2)**

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 29, 2020 12:37 PM

**Subject:** DWWP Action Plan 2.0 (2020-2030)

Hi

Sorry for the late response. Who knew January could be so busy.

I have read the RDN DWWP Action Plan 2.0 posted on December 13, 2019. I must congratulate the RDN for compiling this strategy, as I think this document provides a strong framework for the next ten years.

I do have a few comments that I would like to share:

In the Partnership section (3.0), I thought the role of the “not for profit” sector seemed to be mentioned as only an “interested party” in the DWWP program in the first 10 years. My impression is that the “not for profit” sector has provided considerable input into the DWWP program, through data collection, policy input on healthy watersheds and assisting the RDN with public education etc.. As the Action Plan 2.0 moves forward, the role of stewardship groups (and not for profits) are identified as helping to collect data, rehab aquatic ecosystems and raise community awareness (Table 2). Maybe these activities will be the core group of actions the DWWP will need assistance on, but I think the DWWP program will need to ensure the “not for profit” sector is aware, informed and engaged, especially in the Water Centric Planning and Policy support. My point is, if the DWWP program does not keep these groups informed and involved in actions that show how their data is being used, then you will lose their interest in assistance with your program and their input. Often times, a stewardship group may only hear from DWWP when sampling is desired, yet there are other activities they may like to hear about.

Under section 3.2, Watershed Governance, I thought this section is very weak. To identify the DWWP TAC as a watershed scale technical advisory board – to the RDN Board, is difficult for me to understand. I know the concept of Watershed Governance is getting a great deal of analysis by the academic community and the Province these days, so I would like to see a bigger commitment to pilot test watershed governance, at a local “watershed scale”, rather than at a regional scale (which is where the TAC currently operates). Perhaps there are links to Section 5.2.2.

I think Section 4.0 is well laid out, with the Vision, Goals and Objectives. Very good!

In section 5.0, I think the document is well laid out. The table 2.0 is helpful to see how various issues fit by theme.

Within item 5.1.3, “Target strategic sectors” – I would suggest the you have missed a group that has a major influence on surface water (drainage) by their actions, and that is land development sector, the building trades and excavation companies. I also think the consulting industry that support land development should also be included in any efforts to inform this sector of “Best Practices” to improve water quality at job sites.

In item 5.1.6, “Participate in Advisory Committees” I think is a critical deliverable, where RDN should be a “lead” (through the DWWP) to help support local information needs and decisions. DWWP should not just see themselves as having a supporting or advisory role.

Section 5.2.1 – seems to outline a strong program moving forward, but I wonder why there is no reference to the School network of climate stations. The DWWP should be promoting Climate monitoring stations and not waiting for senior governments.

Section 5.2.2 – I fully support the initiatives outlined in this section as the information is needed to inform land use decisions.

In Section 5.2.4, the Plan recommends developing performance targets and standards to mitigate impacts of Land development on watershed function. I fully support the concept, and suggest the RDN adopt a methodology like the Water Balance Model, which was used in an analysis of the hydrology of Shelly Creek near Parksville (<https://www.mvihes.bc.ca/current-initiatives/the-imbalance-of-the-shelly-creek-watershed>).

In section 5.3, the Plan describes the need to integrate water information into the “land planning process”. I fully agree, but I think the Plan needs to mention the role “not for profit – stewardship sector” must play in this process, as they can assist to inform the local community of the water related issues that need to be addressed.

In section 7.2 – concerning reporting structure, there is wording that focuses on the Experts and water stakeholders on the TAC as the primary agents to monitor progress with this Action Plan 2.0. I would hope that the Terms of Reference to the future TAC (and the DWWP website) will reflect on how best to keep the “stewardship - not for profit sector” engaged in the Plan’s outcomes.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on this important document.

Peter Law

[REDACTED]

Nanoose Bay BC

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**Sent:** Monday, January 20, 2020 1:03 PM

**Subject:** RDN call for comments on draft DWWP 10-year plan 2020-2030

With regard to the Call that was issued in mid December we would like to make the following suggestions for consideration and inclusion in the plan for the next ten years of the RDN's Drinking Water - Watershed Protection Program.

It is our considered view that the plan as drafted should be modified to focus on concrete actions and move on from activities like monitoring so as to make real changes "on the ground" that will improve the quality and quantity of water that is available for environmental function and "any surplus" be allocated to so-called development. It is our belief that there is enough information and technical talent to start formulating prescriptions to remediate and "enhance" the conditions respecting water in our regional district.

To that end we make the following suggestions:

1. The French Creek Watershed report presented to the community by Minister Joyce Murray in 2002 must be reviewed to consider the suggestions for improving watershed function. The lessons learned from that study should also be applied to all other watersheds in the RDN. Complete a Little Qualicum River watershed study that

was proposed by Faye Smith and others circa 2006. The purpose of such reports is to inform planners in consideration and decisions on proposed land-use and corrective action on problems in the watersheds.

2. All streams in the RDN should be reviewed to identify vulnerabilities and the DW-WP program should take the lead on creating the plan to deal with same in an organized fashion. Undertake a "failure mode" analysis of systems and structures that make up the watersheds.
3. Undertake a study and create the initial outline for increasing natural upland water storage features. Set in motion a construction plan.
4. Organize and set up the team to acquire senior government and NGO financial support for remediation and enhancement of watershed systems and structures.
5. Develop a plan to evaluate all estuaries, create a plan for any needed remediation and enhancement, and start a construction program.
6. Design and start a program to increase riparian tree and vegetation cover using plants that will survive as we move into the climate crisis.
7. Identify and ground-truth the boundaries of all watersheds - large and small, and correct/revise all RDN maps.
8. Focus like a light beam on considering the effects of climate change and set out the steps needed for adaptation
9. Participate intensely on the Area F OCP review with an emphasis on watershed function with the intent of requiring changes in land-use planning to slow the migration of surface water to the ocean. Encourage the RDN to adopt one OCP for the entire district as seems to be underway in Cowichan, before the first steps are taken to start a review of the severely outdated 2008 Area G OCP.
10. Plan, drill and complete more groundwater monitoring wells. Evaluate trends from current array of wells and provide recommendations to land-use planners.
11. Review all watercourses in the RDN to identify where they might have been "put in a pipe" with the goal of creating plans to daylight such streams in the near future.
12. Complete the preparation of several alternative watershed governance models for consideration by the RDN Board of Directors as ordered by the board in 2015.
13. Review and update the circa 1995 Water Allocation Plans prepared by George Bryden, P.Eng. for use by the regional district and for input to the provincial authorities.

We would be pleased to discuss more thoroughly.

Michael Jessen, P.Eng.  
Arrowsmith Watersheds Coalition Society

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**GET INVOLVED ONLINE FORUM (1)**

ANDYPICKARD 21 Dec 2019, 08:33PM

Comments on presentation: - a very pretty report, lovely pictures and graphics - glad to know that our water tax dollars are going to a good purpose! The actual text was turgid and really boring to read. If there are some good gems in the action plan, they are well hidden. - Please move into the 21st century with your report format. Two-column magazine style is fine for a hard-copy report - but hard to read on a monitor, going down one column and then back up for the second column. A few pages were single column - much easier to read on a screen. A question on terminology - is an "improvement district" your terminology for a "Water Works District"? My water is supplied by the 'Little Qualicum Water Works District'. If you actually want to do something useful for 'small water providers', help us get grants for the very expensive upgrades required by VIHA. - One glaring omission for water quality for the Little Qualicum River Watershed is the lack of attention to the significant risk of vehicular accidents leading to water contamination by all the traffic on Highway 4 into Cameron Lake. Three actions should be identified:- banning any vessels using fuels or lubricants on Cameron Lake to prevent water contamination.- short-term - a rapid response plan to get accident vehicles out of the lake quickly to minimize pollution which would degrade water quality for downstream users.- longer term - initiate discussion with the BC Ministry of Transportation to start work on a plan to divert Highway 4 traffic away from the current road beside Cameron Lake.

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