

2022 YEAR IN REVIEW – DRINKING WATER & WATERSHED PROTECTION





RECOMMENDATION

That the Board receive the 2022 Year in Review – Drinking Water and Watershed Protection report for information.

BACKGROUND

The Regional District of Nanaimo's (RDN) Drinking Water and Watershed Protection (DWWP) program action areas are organized into four related themes: Water Awareness and Stewardship; Water Information and Science; Water-Centric Planning and Policy Support; and Water Collaboration.

Highlights of the program accomplishments in 2022 under each theme are presented in **Attachment 1**, along with the associated progress indicators (for the full list of indicators please reference the *DWWP Action Plan 2020-2030 Section 7.1¹*, excerpted in the table below).

	Theme	Progress Indicator 1	Progress Indicator 2	Progress Indicator 3	Progress Indicator 4
Water Collaboration 	 Water Awareness and Stewardship	Reduction of metered water use over time	Number of restoration projects completed	Market research survey response indicating improved awareness	Improving trends in groundwater level and surface water quality
	 Water Information and Science	Number of sites with long-term (>3 years) datasets hosted on open Provincial platforms	Completion of numerical water budget models for priority watersheds and aquifers	Continued participation of community volunteers in citizen science efforts	Number of publications communicating water science
	 Water-centric Planning and Policy Support	Number of planning documents and processes informed by DWWP actions/information	Number of watershed performance targets developed	Implementation of innovative rainwater management policies and practices	Successful advocacy with outside agencies

In 2023, the RDN DWWP program will continue to deliver key region-wide initiatives related to water stewardship, monitoring, and planning – as detailed in the DWWP Action Plan, RDN Financial Plan, and RDN Operational Plan

– and will report on progress four times a year via the DWWP Technical Advisory Committee as well as periodic report(s) to the Board. Highlighted workplan items in 2023 include:

- Initiate the Phase 3 Water Budget for the Cedar-Yellowpoint region
- Initiate the Ecological Accounting Process Partnership
- Develop communication material for Water Supply Resiliency Project (in partnership with LRP dept.)
- Initiate a Regional Climate Change Assessment (in partnership with LRP dept.) as per recommendations in the Regional Strategy for Rainwater Management
- Continue water monitoring and reporting across the region.
- Expand the Demonstration Site and Interpretive Signage Program
- Refine Lake Site Monitoring through equipment upgrades and staff training
- Expand Watershed Field Trips to pre-COVID attendance
- Continue equipment upgrade program
- Deliver curriculum connected school programming for freshwater stewardship with community partners.
- Replace 10-year old turbidity meters as part of asset management plan for the Community Watershed Monitoring Network.
- Continue offering water stewardship rebate funding and stewardship seed funding.
- Continue facilitating implementation of regional watering restrictions framework with water purveyors.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications of this report.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

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

REVIEWED BY:

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ATTACHMENT

2022 DWWP Program Accomplishments – Highlights by Theme