

2022 DWWP Program Accomplishments – Highlights by Theme



Water Awareness and Stewardship (WAS)

- Supported **four community-led watercourse restoration and monitoring** projects via stewardship seed funding: Little Qualicum Estuary, Gabriola watersheds, Deep Bay Creek, and a pilot Regional Tire Wear Toxicant Survey. *(Progress Indicator WAS-2)*
- Offered **virtual and in-person workshops and activities** to engage the community in water stewardship education:
 - 10+ events for Water to Earth Month plus online contests and activities;
 - a WellSmart webinar for well owners;
 - one virtual workshop for small water system operators via the annual Water Purveyor Working Group.
 - Re-started in-person Watershed Field trips in partnership with City of Nanaimo, City of Parksville and Mosaic Forest Management
 - Brought the Team WaterSmart booth and education materials to over 10 community events across the region after the RDN Board approved a return to in-person events in April 2022
- Resumed **Irrigation Check-ups** to top water users across the region, providing 11 in-person irrigation checks and distributing education material to additional residents who observed high water use on their properties *(Progress Indicator WAS-1)*
- Provided **over 130 rebates** to residents including rainwater harvesting, wellhead upgrades, well water testing, irrigation and soil improvements.
- Developed and launched the **Stewardship Network Get Involved Page** and hosted a **Community Watershed Monitoring Stewardship Event** to facilitate networking among water stewardship organizations to build capacity and promote better coordination of watershed protection activities. *(Progress Indicator WIS-3)*
- Delivered curriculum connected **School Modules for Freshwater Stewardship** with educators in SD68 & SD69 in partnership with Nanaimo Area Land Trust to over 40 classrooms across the region.



Water Information and Science (WIS)

- Completed the **French Creek Water Region - Phase 3 Water Budget Model** (final report to the Board in early 2023) which will help to quantify water availability given climate change, water demand and land use change scenarios. *(Progress Indicator WIS-2)*
- Completed the second year of **snowpack modelling** with Ministry of FLNRO and VIU in the Englishman River Watershed.

- Completed a **regional Riparian Spatial Analysis** of 47 waterways across the RDN to understand the state of riparian cover and guide prioritization of future restoration and enhancement efforts.
- Supported Vancouver Island University (VIU) / Mt. Arrowsmith Biosphere Region Research Institute continue the multi-year **wetland monitoring** research project, transitioning to a citizen science approach. *(Progress Indicator WIS-3)*
- Completed the 12th year of **surface water quality sampling with the RDN Community Watershed Monitoring Network (CWMN)**; this includes 14 trained stewardship groups in over 20 watersheds. *(Progress Indicator WIS-1 & WIS-3)*
- Completed the 9th year of **groundwater monitoring** via the RDN Volunteer Observation Well Network; upgraded the equipment installations in 10 wells for safety and data quality improvements. *(Progress Indicator WIS-1 & WIS-3)*
- Reported on **Regional Groundwater Level Trends Pre-Summer 2022** and shared the analysis with the Board and Water Purveyors. *(Progress Indicator WIS-4)*
- Initiated a **lake monitoring equipment upgrade** for Holden and Quennell Lake to support future data collection and water budget studies in the Cedar-Yellowpoint region.
- Developed a **Depth2Water online application** portal to support volunteer access to well data and encourage Volunteer Observation Well Network participants in site-level groundwater management
- Partnered with the BC Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy to sample and analyze five priority sites as a part of the **Canadian Aquatic Biomonitoring Network (CABIN)**



Water-centric Planning and Policy Support (WPS)

- Completed the **Regional Strategy for Rainwater Management** and continued to convene the **RDN Rainwater Working Group**, a multi-department / agency group focused on the implementation of regional rainwater actions under the LWMP/ DWWP. *(Progress Indicator WPS-3)*
- Completed the development of **Rainwater Performance Targets** for French Creek Water Region to help replicate the natural water balance and control flood peaks with a second project phase that focused on target implementation, monitoring and adaptive management. *(Progress Indicator WPS-2)*
- Supported Long Range Planning in assessing **Water Supply Resiliency** for a changing climate and identifying where additional planning could be focused through a set of best practices for climate-informed water supply planning.
- Initiated a collaborative **Ecological Accounting Process Partnership** that brings together various regional partners to begin a process of embedding the EAP within Vancouver Island University and Mount Arrowsmith Bioregion Research Institute (MABRRI).
- Supported the RDN's Long Range Planning division in review of the updated **Area F OCP** with inclusion of draft DPAs for Aquifer Protection and Freshwater and Fish Habitat.
- Supported **review of 10+ development referrals for Planning** with water related information. *(Progress Indicator WPS -1)*



Water Collaboration

- Participated on **Nanaimo River Watershed Roundtable** monthly meetings with multiple stakeholders.
- Participated on the **Nanaimo River Watershed Interagency Partnership** in collaboration with DFO, Ministry of ENV, Snuneymuxw First Nation, City of Nanaimo.
- Convened monthly check-in meetings with **regional water purveyors** between April – October to communicate about watering restrictions etc.
- Participated on **Mid Island Stewardship Caucus** monthly meetings in collaboration with multiple environmental stewardship groups within the RDN.
- Engaged with the **BC Agricultural Adaptation Climate Action Initiative for Vancouver Island**, in focus groups on agricultural water monitoring and watershed planning.
- Engaged with the Ministry of ENV on the ongoing development of a new **Provincial Watershed Security Strategy and Fund**

Adaptation for COVID-19

- Continued to deliver outreach (public engagement, workshops, school activities) in a virtual or hybrid format.
- Hosted meetings (DWWP TAC, CWMN Data Results Session, Rainwater Working Group) online or in a hybrid format.
- Maintained volunteer training for CWMN in a small group format, with COVID protocols in place for the water sampling activities.