

- Increase the level of knowledge regarding drinking water sources and the challenges to their long term sustainability with respect to development and land use pressures.
- Coordinate efforts of Provincial and Local governments and non-governmental organizations.
- Increase the level of public awareness and conservation regarding drinking water and watershed protection issues and RDN activities.

The DWWP Action Plan provides a roadmap for achieving the objectives through water resource awareness and education, water monitoring and science, and water policy and planning support. It addresses initiatives concerned with water quantity and water quality; for community needs and for ecosystem needs. It outlines key actions and activities and an accompanying budget. Most activities under the plan are understood to require partnership and collaboration for effective implementation.

The current DWWP Action Plan identifies 7 key programs with 26 discrete actions that fall into three general categories: 1) Water education & outreach; 2) Water science: data collection & monitoring; 3) Water policy advocacy and planning support. Many initiatives under these categories have been successfully implemented with several ongoing year-over-year.

As stated above, this *review* project precedes and will inform the DWWP Action Plan *update* project to take place in 2019, which will produce a revised DWWP Action Plan developed for the next 10 years. An updated plan will outline how the DWWP program should evolve to meet current needs, respond to the latest science, adapt to new challenges and acknowledge recent changes to the regulatory landscape, while building on the accomplishments in advancing regional water sustainability initiatives in the first decade. The Board, the public, several RDN departments, and key external stakeholders and rights-holders will be important informants during the Plan revision process next year.

ALTERNATIVES

This report is provided for information.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications of this staff report.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

The RDN Drinking Water and Watershed Protection program is a strategic function. It aligns with and acts upon the key Board Strategic Plan Focus Areas of “Economic Health”, “Environment” and “Relationships”, including the following strategic priorities:

We recognize the importance of water in supporting our economic and environmental health.

We will have a strong focus on protecting and enhancing our environment in all decisions.

We will include conservation of resources as a planning factor.

We look for opportunities to partner with other branches of government / community groups to advance our region.

We will facilitate / advocate for issues outside of our jurisdiction.

The project underway to complete the 10 Year Action Plan Review of the DWWP Program is a timely endeavour to ensure the RDN can best direct the delivery of the DWWP program as we progress into the future and build off of the foundational work done to date.



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Attachments

1. Econics Memo: Update on 10-Year DWWP Action Plan Implementation Review