REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO

STAFF REPORT

то:	Committee of the Whole	MEETING:	November 20, 2018
FROM:	Julie Pisani Drinking Water & Watershed Protection Program Coordinator	FILE:	5600-07
SUBJECT:	Final Report – 10 Year Action Plan Protection	Review for [Drinking Water and Watershed

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Board receive the final report on the 10 Year Action Plan Review for the Drinking Water and Watershed Protection program for information.

SUMMARY

A status review on the implementation of the RDN's Drinking Water and Watershed Protection (DWWP) Action Plan was performed by third-party water strategy experts – Victoria-based consultants Econics. The purpose of the review, given that 2018 is the 10th year of program implementation, was to assess the program implementation against the commitments identified in the DWWP Action Plan (www.rdn.bc.ca/action-plan). The final September 2018 report from Econics, entitled *Regional District of Nanaimo Drinking Water & Watershed Protection Program: 10 Year Action Plan Implementation Review* (Attachment 1) will inform the upcoming comprehensive update to the DWWP Action Plan, scheduled to take place in 2019

BACKGROUND

Since the early 2000s, the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) Board has identified drinking water and watershed protection as key factors for the long term resilience and prosperity of the region. The current RDN Drinking Water and Watershed Protection (DWWP) Action Plan was adopted by the RDN Board in 2008, and first implemented in 2009 with a 10-year scope. In 2018, the RDN initiated a third-party review of the DWWP program implementation to examine the achievements of DWWP against the actions outlined in the Plan and evaluate program effectiveness in the first decade. Econics, the external consultant, gathered data via in-depth interviews, workshops, literature review, meetings and discussions with staff and stakeholders.

Program implementation has been characterized by numerous accomplishments, as documented in the review. The focus has generally advanced from an initial emphasis on education and outreach, proceeding to expanded effort in water science and data collection. More recently, as the program has progressed, policy and planning and refining science processes and data management has been given more attention.

The review identified the key accomplishments and challenges in the three main program areas of water resource awareness and education, water monitoring and science, and water policy

and planning support. The table below summarizes the findings, directly quoted from the consultant report. For further important details and relevant context, please refer to the final report in full (Attachment 1).

Program Area	Accomplishments	Challenges
Water Education and Outreach	 ✓ Impressive water conservation and sustainability resources ✓ Innovation in regionally relevant education programs ✓ Successful partnerships for regional service delivery 	 Outreach campaigns are often highly information intensive Branding review Market research and program evaluation Opportunities for innovative demand management program delivery
Water Monitoring and Science	 ✓ Many data gaps have been filled ✓ Vulnerable water sources and systems have been prioritized 	 Improving data management Further attention to operationalizing data
Water Policy and Planning	 ✓ Foundation laid for future success ✓ Specific successes in land use planning and informing policy 	 Land use and watershed planning objectives have not yet been fully realized

The review revealed opportunities for the DWWP program to evolve and improve in the next operational period. These findings will serve as a useful springboard to the Plan update scheduled to take place in 2019. The Econics report concluded in summation that "the work of the program to date has been nothing less than remarkable and highly successful" (p.34). That is attributed in large part to the vital partnerships with other agencies, industry and not-for-profit sector, the sustainable funding model in place for the program and the unique and integrated nature of the program.

ALTERNATIVES

- 1. That the Board receive this report for information.
- 2. That the Board provide alternate direction.

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 including the following strategic priorities:

Focus On Economic Health- We Recognize The Importance Of Water In Supporting Our Economic And Environmental Health

Focus On The Environment- We Will Have A Strong Focus On Protecting And Enhancing Our Environment In All Decisions

Focus On The Environment- We Will Include Conservation Of Resources As A Planning factor

Focus On Relationships- We Look For Opportunities To Partner With Other Branches Of Government/Community Groups To Advance Our Region

Focus On Relationships- We Will Facilitate/Advocate For Issues Outside Of Our Jurisdiction

The 10 Year Action Plan Review of the DWWP Program provides valuable insight to ensure the RDN can best direct the delivery of the program into the next decade and effectively continue to build on the foundational work implemented to date.

Julie P=-

Julie Pisani jpisani@rdn.bc.ca Oct. 29, 2018

Reviewed by:

- M. Walters, Manager, Water Services
- S. De Pol, Director, Water and Wastewater Services
- R. Alexander, General Manager, Regional and Community Utilities
- P. Carlyle, Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment

1. Econics – Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Program: 10 Year Action Plan Implementation Review