

Beyond the Guidebook: The New Business As Usual Create Liveable Communities & Protect Stream Health

2008 Comox Valley Learning Lunch Seminar Series

Organized by:

Convening for Action on Vancouver Island
Leadership in Water Sustainability



In partnership with:



And in collaboration with:



An initiative under the umbrella of the Water Sustainability Action Plan for British Columbia

Beyond the Guidebook: The New Business As Usual

Change the Way We Develop Land to Create Liveable Communities & Protect Stream Health

Learning Lunch Seminar #3 – Nature Knows No Boundaries Agenda for November 21

Building on the common understanding developed in the first two seminars, a framework for ‘bringing it all together’ will be introduced. Seminar participants will explore a regional team approach that ensures consistency in *doing business differently* to achieve a shared vision.

The focus will be on a performance target approach to land development that makes sense, meets multiple objectives, is affordable, and results in net environmental benefits at a watershed and/or regional scale.

A desired outcome is that participants will understand **how** they can champion a Design with Nature approach to rainwater management; and make *green choices* that create liveable communities and protect stream health.

Before Lunch	Establishing Expectations – This is what we want our region to look like!
1100 - 1230	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PART ONE: <i>Nature Knows No Boundaries - Context for a Regional Team Approach</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Derek Richmond and Kim Stephens will provide a bridge from the first two seminars, reinforce key messages, and introduce a mind-map for the day. 2. PART TWO: <i>Moving Towards a Vision for Living Water Smart</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nature without Borders - Vision for Comox Valley Regional Conservation Strategy: First, Jack Minard will provide a community values perspective when he presents a framework for science-based planning. He will explain why a watershed governance council is needed to translate consensus into policy that results in action on-the-ground. ▪ Nature Knows No Boundaries - Living Water Smart: Then, Ron Neufeld will follow with a regional district infrastructure perspective and explain what it means to establish and then meet performance targets. He will connect the dots between provincial policy and actions on the ground.
Lunch	Take a break and start a conversation!
After Lunch	Delivering on Expectations – This is how we can/will get there!
1300 - 1500	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PART THREE: <i>Nature Knows No Boundaries - Making Green Choices</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Brooklyn Creek Case Study: Derek Richmond and Glen Westendorp will elaborate on a 1999 precedent that illustrates what can be accomplished through inter-municipal collaboration. ▪ A Guide to Green Choices: Laura Tate of the Ministry of Community Development will explain why and how this new provincial document is meant to assist communities of all types - large, small, rural, resort-based, urban and suburban – maximize both creativity and adaptability to changing conditions. 2. PART FOUR: <i>Nature Knows No Boundaries - Table Topic Group Exercise</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tell us what you have learned from this series that will now help you do what you could not have done before: Each table will have 15 minutes to brainstorm this topic, and then each table will choose one individual to report out on the #1 item identified by the table (<i>Note: this will be a 25-minute plenary segment</i>). 3. PART FIVE: <i>Doing Business Differently in the Comox Valley – Now What?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Creating Liveable Communities & Protecting Stream Health – How we can work together to achieve the shared vision: After reflecting on what they heard in the reporting out segment, a number of Comox Valley representatives will be called on to both identify and commit to specific actions that will align local government efforts and facilitate regional collaboration. (<i>Note: this will be a 30-minute plenary segment</i>). ▪ Bridging to the Comox Valley Sustainable Development Strategy: Andrea Tower will share the insights she will take from the Learning Lunch Series to inform the current regional process.

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Learning Lunch Seminar Series: Pilot for Local Government Capacity-Building

CONTEXT: Vancouver Island is the pilot region for rollout of *Beyond the Guidebook: The New Business As Usual* through an innovative and precedent-setting approach to practitioner continuing education, namely the Learning Lunch Seminar Series. This provincial initiative builds on the foundation provided by *Stormwater Planning: A Guidebook for British Columbia*, published in 2002, and incorporates lessons learned over the past six years.

Beyond the Guidebook advances a performance target methodology for correlating green infrastructure effectiveness in protecting stream health. To support Beyond the Guidebook, the Province has funded integration of the *Water Balance Model* with a hydrologic engine known as *QUALHYMO*. The web-based *Water Balance Model powered by QUALHYMO* is unique, bridges engineering and planning, links the site to the stream and watershed, and enables local governments to establish watershed targets.

Session	Theme	Scope
1	Today's Expectation are Tomorrow's Standards EVOLUTION	<p>Session #1 will trace the evolution of rainwater/stormwater management policies and practices over the past two decades. This will provide a frame-of-reference and a common understanding for subsequent sessions.</p> <p>The <i>2002 Stormwater Guidebook</i> and the <i>Water Balance Model</i> will be introduced so that participants have an understanding of the purpose and application of performance targets.</p> <p>A desired outcome is that participants will understand why drainage practice comprises a continuum of paradigms, and communities progress at different rates along the continuum.</p>
2	Legal and Policy Strategies to Support Green Infrastructure TOOLS	<p>Session #2 will introduce the extensive and very specific tools available under the Local Government Act so that they can proactively manage the complete spectrum of rainfall events: from light showers to heavy rain to extreme storms.</p> <p>The <i>Green Infrastructure Guide</i> will be explained so that participants will know how to use it effectively as a resource.</p> <p>A desired outcome is that participants will understand what bylaw and policy tools enable incorporation and retrofitting of engineered green infrastructure into development plans.</p>
3	Nature Knows No Boundaries TARGETS	<p>Session #3 will elaborate on a performance target approach to land development that makes sense, meets multiple objectives, is affordable, and results in net environmental benefits at a watershed and/or regional scale.</p> <p>A framework for 'bringing it all together' will be introduced so that participants can explore a regional team approach that ensures a common understanding and consistency at the front counter.</p> <p>A desired outcome is that participants will understand how a Design with Nature approach to rainwater management (i.e. using infiltration and trees) will influence the greening of the built environment and protect stream health.</p>

Members of APEGBC and PIBC who participate can count the seminar series towards their Professional Development credits.

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Learning Lunch Seminar Series: Pilot for Local Government Capacity-Building

Themes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “We can create our future” ▪ “What happens on the land matters” ▪ “To get to the big picture, start with the smallest pieces”
Purposes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide an inter-departmental learning opportunity for collaborative exploration ▪ Enable local government practitioners to obtain professional development credits ▪ Rollout <i>Beyond the Guidebook: The New Business As Usual</i>
Structure:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Organize three 3½ -hour teaching sessions held at four-week intervals ▪ Conduct the series as a cumulative process, from philosophy to tools ▪ Provide information in an interactive way that triggers reflection, strategizing and action ▪ Incorporate roundtable segments and provide a challenge for subsequent sessions
Context:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Vancouver Island landscape is being transformed by settlement and economic growth. ▪ While the island has been experiencing a development boom, mitigation of environmental impacts has provided a driver for a ‘Design with Nature’ movement that is founded on a natural systems approach to rainwater management and green infrastructure. ▪ The desired outcome is human settlement in balance with ecology.
Guidebook Vision:	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create Liveable Communities and Protect Stream Health </div> <div style="width: 45%; text-align: center;"> <p>A ‘Design with Nature’ approach to community design means...</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop compact, complete communities ▪ Increase transportation options ▪ Reduce the loads on water, waste and energy systems ▪ Protect and restore urban ‘green’ space ▪ Strive for a lighter ‘hydrologic footprint’ ▪ Achieve higher levels of stream, wetland and lake protection </div> </div>
Goal:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Help practitioners make informed land development decisions that meet multiple objectives, result in Green Value, and add up to <i>A Positive Settlement Strategy for VI</i>.
Objectives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local government practitioners will have a common and consistent understanding of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. watershed performance targets and how they can establish them; 2. how they can integrate good planning and innovative engineering designs; and 3. the importance and maintenance of green infrastructure watershed performance targets (as they relate to land use and rainwater/stormwater management)
Resources:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Stormwater Planning: A Guidebook for British Columbia</i>, published by the Province in 2002 ▪ <i>Develop with Care: Environmental Guidelines for Urban and Rural Land Development in British Columbia</i>, published by the Ministry of Environment in March 2006 ▪ <i>The Green Infrastructure Guide: Issues, Implementation Strategies and Success Stories</i>, published by West Coast Environmental Law in 2007 ▪ <i>Beyond the Guidebook: Context for Rainwater Management and Green Infrastructure in British Columbia</i>, jointly released by the Green Infrastructure Partnership and Inter-Governmental Partnership in June 2007
Tools:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Water Balance Model powered by QUALHYMO</i>, an online decision tool at www.waterbalance.ca