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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Carol Mason  
Chief Administrative Officer

**DATE:** February 19, 2010

**FROM:** John Finnie, P. Eng.  
General Manager  
Regional & Community Utilities

**FILE:** 0360-20-CAVI

**SUBJECT: Convening for Action on Vancouver Island: 2009 Activities**

### PURPOSE

To provide the Board information on the 2009 Learning Lunch series activities facilitated by the *Convening for Action on Vancouver Island – Leadership in Water Sustainability* (CAVI) initiative.

### BACKGROUND

CAVI is a partnership program under the Water Sustainability Action Plan for British Columbia. CAVI's activities bring together land use planners and regulators (local government), developers and builders and those who provide legislative framework and system support (the Province). CAVI's vision is that water sustainability will be achieved through implementation of green infrastructure policies, standards and practices. CAVI provides leadership, coordination and education for practitioners to plan and implement sustainable water management strategies in the context of increasing settlement activity.

The British Columbia Water & Waste Association (BCWWA), The Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia (REFBC), BC Ministry of Environment (BCMOE) and the BC Ministry of Community and Rural Development comprise the CAVI partnership and provide support for CAVI activities.

Formally launched in September 2006, CAVI's activities are guided by a team of individuals that represent government, private and academic sectors. Currently chaired by the RDN General Manager of Regional & Community Utilities, the CAVI Leadership Team consists of representatives from the province, local governments on Vancouver Island, BCWWA, REFBC, the development and academic communities and the consulting sector. The team meets periodically to organize and facilitate activities and initiatives on Vancouver Island that support CAVI's goals.

One of CAVI's focal initiatives is the Learning Lunch Seminar Series, a program that brings various sector representatives together to share ideas about water sustainability initiatives and practices and learn from example. The 2009 Learning Lunch Series was hosted by the Comox Valley Regional District and was a collaboration of the four local governments in the Comox Valley, the Comox Valley Land Trust, REFBC, the Water Sustainability Action Plan and the province. The series comprised a set of three seminars dealing progressively with the dynamics of settlement change, water sustainability and designing with nature, and introducing an integrated watershed approach to settlement facilitated through regional team building.

## ALTERNATIVES

1. Receive the report on CAVI's 2009 Learning Lunch Seminar Series activities for information, and continue to support staff participation in CAVI and at CAVI learning activities associated with promoting water sustainability thinking and action.
2. Do not support staff participation in the 2010 CAVI Program.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Limited direct financial support for CAVI's activities has been provided by the REFBC with indirect and staff support provided by the Ministries of Environment and Community and Rural Development. Learning Lunch seminar series events are supported by REFBC and also by funds from host local governments and/or partially by registration fees collected from participants. The Comox Valley Regional District funded the 2009 series events. The costs for these events are related to venue rental, tour transportation, printed materials and lunch expenses.

RDN Water Services and Wastewater Services departments have included a nominal allocation in their 2010 budgets (\$3,000 total) to assist with staff training at events that CAVI may facilitate locally.

## SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

CAVI initiatives support water sustainability and compliment the RDN's strategic goals, particularly those related to collaboration, working relationships, sustainability and the goals and objectives of the RDN Drinking Water Watershed Protection program.

## CONCLUSIONS

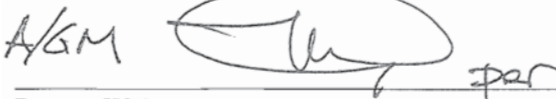
CAVI activities are of interest to staff involved in development reviews and approval, development and infrastructure construction, provision of utility services and drinking water and watershed issues. Another Comox Valley area Learning Lunch Seminar Series is planned for 2010 to be hosted by the Town of Comox. The proposed series theme, which will be of interest to a range of stakeholders on Vancouver Island, is intended to deal with watershed issues of climate change with a focus on the practical aspects of climate change adaptation. Also being considered for 2010 is a series or one-day workshop hosted by the Regional District of Nanaimo with topics on the Water Act Modernization and water supply conservation pricing strategies. Regional & Community Utilities and Development Services staff benefit from participating in these CAVI learning events.

CAVI is supported by the Ministries of Environment and Community and Rural Development, both of whom provide logistical and periodic funding assistance for selected CAVI activities. Local governments on Vancouver Island jointly organize and participate in CAVI learning opportunities and events thereby providing opportunities for cross-jurisdictional exchange and cooperation.

CAVI activities compliment the RDN's strategic goals and the objectives of the Drinking Water Watershed Protection program. Staff are recommending continued Board support for staff participation in CAVI learning events.

## RECOMMENDATION

That the Board continue to support staff participation in CAVI and attendance at CAVI learning activities associated with promoting water sustainability.

  
Report Writer

  
CAO Concurrence