

Early Adopters

Four cities in four regions – Chilliwack (Fraser Valley), Surrey (Metro Vancouver), Kelowna (Okanagan) and Courtenay (Vancouver Island) – were early adopters in embracing the paradigm-shift and were Water Balance Model founding partners in 2002. Also, Chilliwack and Surrey were original members of the Inter-Governmental Partnership steering committee. All four played key roles in helping to deliver early outreach.

During the two-year period preceding release of Stormwater Planning: A Guidebook for British Columbia in 2002, three of these cities – namely Chilliwack, Surrey and Kelowna - each contributed case study experience that facilitated development and verification of the water balance methodology.

Launch of WBM in 2003: “The City of Kelowna assisted with the rollout of the Guidebook and pre-launch of the WBM in Spring 2003 in communities such as Penticton and Prince George,” recalls Ted van der Gulik. “The participation of the City’s Alan Newcombe (Drainage Manager) in our road show added credibility; and City case study experience provided on the ground examples that reassured participants about the paradigm-shift.”

“The WBM pre-launch created awareness and interest that led UBCM to provide the IGP with a platform for the formal launch of the WBM at their September 2003 Annual Conference. The support of two mayors was key: Mayor Barry Janyk of the Town of Gibsons and Mayor Clint Hames of Chilliwack were the WBM champions.”

“Mayor Janyk, Dipak Basu (City of Chilliwack) and Kim Stephens tag-teamed to tell the WBM story at the UBCM Urban Forum. Dipak provided the core content; he showcased Chilliwack examples.”



Mayor Barry Janyk



Mayor Clint Hames

WBM Forums in 2004: “Chilliwack and Surrey each hosted a forum in early 2004. The objective of the forums was to foster broad-based provincial support for commonsense improvements in rainwater management practices at the site level,” continues Ted van der Gulik.

“Led by Dipak Basu, the Chilliwack Forum was designed to help stakeholders in the Eastern Fraser Valley understand what ‘thinking outside the pipe’ and ‘designing with nature’ actually mean on the ground.”

“Led by Rémi Dubé, the Surrey Forum was part of the City’s commitment to providing green infrastructure leadership. The Forum provided the City with an opportunity to report out on the East Clayton Sustainable Community.”



WBM Events in Thompson-Okanagan: “In 2005, the City of Kelowna (John Vos) was the catalyst for a series of events that broadened the reach of the WBM. First, the City connected us with the EMCO Corporation (Keith Lumby). This industry collaboration provided us with access to a new audience when EMCO organized a trade event in Kelowna. Success led to an event in Kamloops.”

“Capitalizing on the momentum created by this success, the City and APEGBC jointly sponsored a WBM seminar. In turn, this set the stage for 4-way collaboration with UBC-Okanagan University. Thanks to Dean Bernie Bauer, we held a training workshop at the university in February 2006. This reinforced the early support that the City’s John Vos provided,” concludes Ted van der Gulik.