


2007 GAINING GROUND SUMMIT CONFERENCE IN VICTORIA

Program for Pre-Conference Workshop Session on June 3rd organized by the Convening for Action on Vancouver Island Partnership

THEME:	Creating Our Future: What will Vancouver Island look like in 50 years?	
ABSTRACT:	<p>The Vancouver Island landscape is being transformed by settlement and economic growth. While the province has been experiencing enhanced social and economic well-being, the need to mitigate pressures on land and water resources has provided a driver for a 'green infrastructure' movement that is water-centric and is founded on a natural systems approach.</p> <p>Infrastructure design is changing. Cumulative benefits are achievable, one property at a time, through changes in the policies, programs, practices and standards that determine how land is developed and water is used. By implementing design with nature infrastructure practices and regulation, the 'convening for action' vision is that Vancouver Island will be well on the way to achieving water sustainability by 2010.</p> <p>The objective when 'convening for action' is to influence practitioners to learn about and use practices that better balance the necessary relationships of settlement activity and ecological assets in local and regional landscapes. Practitioners are defined as those whose professions, vocations and volunteer tasks relate to use and conservation of water, land and real estate.</p>	
MODERATOR:	Kim Stephens, Program Coordinator, Water Sustainability Action Plan for British Columbia	

SLOT	SPEAKERS	PRESENTATION TITLE	SYNOPSIS OF WHAT WILL BE PRESENTED
1	Kim Stephens Tim Pringle & John Finnie Chris Corps	<i>Defining a Common Vocabulary:</i>	<p>There is a plethora of 'green' vocabulary that we now hear on a daily basis. At the end of the workshop, the intent is that participants will be much more comfortable with terms such as 'designing with nature' and 'green value' and have a better understanding of 'water sustainability' and 'green infrastructure'. In the opening segment, the following vocabulary hierarchy will be introduced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Green Value is an over-arching concept; and encompasses market, social and environmental values. ▪ Design with Nature is one approach to achieve Green Value, and is supportive of community goals that relate to building social capacity. ▪ Green Infrastructure is the on-the-ground application of Design with Nature standards and practices. ▪ Water Sustainability is achieved through Green Infrastructure practices that reflect a full and proper understanding of the relationship between land and water. <p>We start by simply presenting the above list. Then we outline why workshop participants should be interested in Green Value, and introduce the Showcasing Innovation Series to underscore that local governments are already dealing with Green Value even though they may not be explicitly using that term. Finally, we explain why clients are requiring valuers and appraisers to develop a methodology for generating reliable numbers to support moving forward with Green Value.</p>
		1. Creating Our Future One Site at a Time: Challenge, Inform, Enable	What the cell is to the body, the site is to the region. The way land is developed determines how water is used, and how water runs off the land. Over time, will it be cumulative impacts or cumulative benefits? Doubling the population will require changes in the way we develop land.
		2. Why We Are Convening for Action: To Move Green Value from Concept to Practice	The Real Estate Foundation is interested in Green Value as a theme, has a strategy for Vancouver Island, and is funding groups that can make it happen. We are convening for action so that we can provide practitioners with the tools and experience to implement Design with Nature standards and practices. This process involves research and education. The <i>Showcasing Innovation on Vancouver Island Series</i> in September/October 2007 will celebrate on-the-ground successes in water sustainability and green infrastructure in three regional districts.
		3. What is Green Value, Really?	If sustainability is to move from awareness to action on-the-ground, then arguably it will be driven by the business case. At the heart of the business case is the valuation methodology. Sustainable investment and development are often discounted or ignored because quite simply, cost has little or nothing to do with value. Emerging changes to accounting and valuation standards, combined with reconciliation of short-term versus long-term thinking related to risk and profit, mean that Green Value can be quantified and incorporated in the business case. In turn, this can help engage profit motivation.

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2	Facilitated by Cori Barraclough	Roundtable Sharing: Celebrating Innovation on Vancouver Island – Who is Doing What	Many Vancouver Island communities are implementing infrastructure policies and practices that embody a <i>design with nature</i> way-of-thinking and acting. The objective in undertaking the Showcasing Innovation Series is to facilitate networking and sharing of information so that Vancouver Island communities can learn from and build upon the experience of other communities.
3	Tim Pringle	Green Value: Designing with Nature at Different Scales	Residents of growth communities think of themselves as being rural places, but people want urban services. Furthermore, the Province is now promoting resort municipality designations which would allow major developments to be undertaken as local government areas. In short, this means nature is becoming commoditized. So, how does a community weigh the benefits and liabilities of change driven by demand for land use? What will determine long-term wellbeing for a community or region? In a nutshell, 'wellbeing' is about sustainability of what communities allow or prevent happening on the land. Wellbeing is about balancing settlement activity and ecology. Green Value has many interpretations, and communities are finding the one that resonates with them.
4	Tom Anderson	Convening for Action on Vancouver Island Case Studies: 1. Cowichan Basin Water Management Plan: Water for Life & Livelihoods' – from awareness to action	The workshop is a consultation opportunity for Vancouver Island local governments that are interested in implementing infrastructure practices and regulation that result in Green Value . The workshop is also about celebrating and building on success. Case studies encompass a range of situations, urban and rural, from the shoreline to the watershed, and from the development site to the municipality. No one wants to run out of water. That is why the Cowichan Basin Water Management Forum has been working to establish a basin-wide <i>Water Management Plan</i> . The plan will ensure that there is enough water – for people and ecosystems – now and in the future. The vulnerability of supply is a driver for change in the way water is managed at a watershed scale and used at the site scale.
	John Manson	2. City of Langford: Managing Risk, Learning by Doing, and Adapting	From its incorporation in 1992, the City of Langford embraced a philosophy of managing risk and learning by doing. This has become the corporate culture. A corporate culture that is willing to accept and then manage risk with regards to infrastructure standards can open the door to creativity, innovation – and its rewards. The Langford experience is a case study application of how to implement Adaptive Management as envisioned in <i>Stormwater Planning: A Guidebook for British Columbia</i> .
	Brian Emmett	3. Green Shores: Looking at Standards for Shoreline Development & Conservation	The Green Shores project is developing a voluntary rating and certification program to encourage sustainable approaches to shoreline development, avoiding cumulative impacts resulting from seawall construction and disruption of coastal sediment processes.
	Patrick Lucey	4. Nature's Revenue Streams: Turning 'Green' into 'Gold'	Nature's Revenue Streams is a 3-year public-private partnership that links rainwater infrastructure to the restoration of stream and watershed function. The principle underpinning the program is 'time is money'. By expediting the development approval process for environmentally responsible organizations, the savings on financing costs can be used to fund stream restoration work. Everyone wins.
5	Facilitated by Cori Barraclough	Group Feedback: What will you now do differently as a result of what you learned today?	In the morning roundtable introductions, participants will be asked to state their expectations in attending. At the end of the day, they will be asked: <i>what is the single most important 'gem of wisdom' that you are taking away from the workshop?</i>
6	John Finnie	What Next: Green Infrastructure Forum for Mayors & Chairs	By listening to what elected officials have to say, we provide an informed basis for moving forward with changes in the way we develop land and use water. A key message arising from interviews with Okanagan and Greater Vancouver elected officials is that alignment at a regional scale will help individual Mayors and Board Chairs lead the move from awareness (interest) to local action (practice) on-the-ground.
An Initiative under the Water Sustainability Action Plan for British Columbia			