



**REPORT TO CORE AREA LIQUID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY 28 JULY 2010**

SUBJECT INTEGRATED WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PROGRESS REPORT

ISSUE

To consider revising the existing core area stormwater program towards an Integrated Watershed Management (IWM) program.

BACKGROUND

IWM was identified in the 2009-2011 Capital Regional District (CRD) Strategic Plan as an outcome for the CRD. The CRD currently provides a Stormwater, Harbours and Watersheds Program (SHWP) which delivers a stormwater monitoring, reporting and education program on behalf of eleven municipalities and three electoral areas (EA). This work is primarily focused on working cooperatively with municipalities and electoral areas to characterize and reduce stormwater-carried contamination at the shoreline.

The stormwater quality program provides support and information related to environmental impacts and protection of municipal infrastructure through identification of contamination sources, undertaking investigative work, educational initiatives and tools to educate businesses and residents on protection of stormwater and the environment.

Authority for this work comes from liquid waste management plans (Core Area and Saanich Peninsula) and/or establishing bylaws (Core Area, Saanich Peninsula, Juan de Fuca EA, Sooke, Salt Spring Island EA and the Southern Gulf Islands EA).

Under this authority, some basic watershed protection functions are delivered, in addition to coordination of individual watershed initiatives such as the Bowker Creek Urban Watershed Renewal Initiative, a program that has resulted in a 100-year action plan for the community and municipalities to protect and enhance the Bowker Creek watershed.

At the 28 October 2009 Environmental Sustainability Committee meeting, staff presented an IWM progress report stating that they would report back to the committee with the results of a consultant's report and options related to the implementation of a regional integrated watershed management program. Staff worked with a facilitator and consultant to explore the scope of an IWM service and prepare a proposed IWM program plan (Appendix A). The plan presents a vision of what is possible for a complete IWM service and forms a framework for what the CRD can do to support member municipalities and electoral areas in watershed protection. Some of the strategies in the plan are currently being performed by SHWP and others can be performed by reallocating resources as establishing bylaws allow.

Full implementation of an IWM service as presented in Appendix A is beyond the scope of existing authority, resources and staffing levels. Such a service would require a new establishing bylaw, cost-sharing formula, long-term commitment and planning at the municipal/electoral area level and require creation of a new service.

As a first step towards a regional service, staff propose that the core area stormwater quality program be refocused to an IWM program. This change would involve re-allocating resources to incorporate components of the attached plan (where possible under establishing bylaws, staffing and budgetary

levels) but also maintaining the existing key functions of the program at an appropriate level to support municipal efforts to locate and repair sources of stormwater contamination.

ALTERNATIVES

1. That the core area stormwater quality program continue status quo and staff coordinate watershed issues within the core where appropriate and as establishing bylaw and budget allow.
2. That staff present to the Core Area Liquid Waste Management Committee in fall 2010 an implementation strategy for an Integrated Watershed Management program for the core area.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Both alternatives can be delivered within existing core budgets.

SUMMARY

Issues of watershed and receiving environment protection are regional by definition. The attached plan represents what could be done to protect and enhance the region's watersheds and receiving environment. Some tasks from the plan could be performed under existing budgets but full implementation of an IWM service, as presented in Appendix A, is beyond the scope of existing authority, resources and staffing levels. In order to explore the options available under an IWM plan, components of the plan can be undertaken in the core area.

RECOMMENDATION

That staff present to the Core Area Liquid Waste Management Committee in fall 2010 an implementation strategy for an Integrated Watershed Management program for the core area.

Glenn Harris, PhD, RPBio
Senior Manager, Environmental Protection

Larisa Hutcheson, PEng
General Manager, Environmental Sustainability
Concurrence

DG:kam/cam
Attachment: 1

**Proposed Integrated Watershed Management
Program Plan**

attach HDM#346700