



Water Highway BC

Preserving and Promoting BC's Water Information Highway

- ~ PUBLIC SAFETY
 - ~ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
 - ~ RESOURCE PROTECTION
-

Announcing the Water Highway BC Society

27 May 2005

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Overview: WHBC and Its Mission

Membership Form



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Announcing Water Highway BC

Victoria and Vancouver, British Columbia 27 May 2005

The founding members and directors announce the formation of the Water Highway BC Society (WHBC). Representatives of several industry associations have formed this non-profit, non-partisan society to preserve and promote BC's water information highway—the water quantity (hydrometric), snow survey, weather and groundwater data needed to ensure public safety, economic development and water resource sustainability.

The mission of Water Highway BC is to:

- ➔ promote the maintenance of existing levels of funding for the BC water information highway, in particular, the core BC hydrometric network
- ➔ encourage the expansion of the BC water information highway, in particular, the core BC hydrometric network
- ➔ encourage the establishment of a program to capture and share the non-formal water data collected in BC
- ➔ promote the creation of, and participate in the governance of, a joint public sector/private sector water information management organization

An immediate and serious funding crisis is facing the BC/Canada hydrometric program and active support is required to ensure the ongoing viability of this essential data network. Membership in Water Highway BC is open to associations, businesses, organizations and various levels of government who require water-related data to make important business decisions. Membership is also open to individuals who appreciate the importance of data as a foundation for water-related public safety, economic development and resource protection business decisions. A membership form is included in this package.

The inaugural general meeting of WHBC will be held in Vancouver during the afternoon of June 21, 2005 (venue to be determined).

An overview of WHBC is provided on the following pages. For a more detailed information package, please contact WHBC by e-mail at: waterboy@waterhighwaybc.org or call (250) 595-3407.

WHBC

Water Highway BC

2630 Avebury Avenue, Victoria, BC, Canada V8R 3W2

Tel: (250) 595-3407 Fax: (250) 595-0305

E-mail: waterboy@waterhighwaybc.org



Water Highway BC

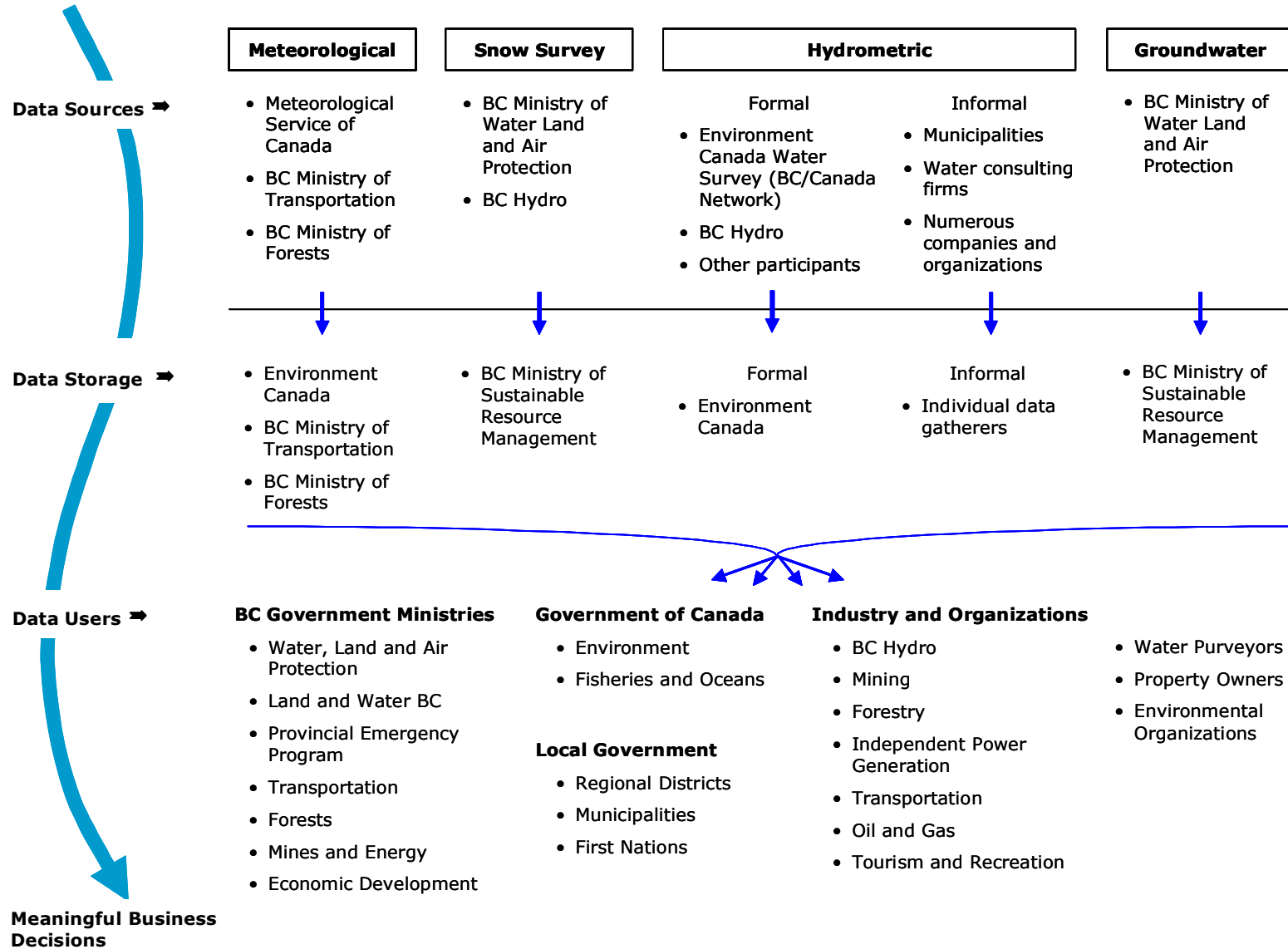
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Overview: WHBC and Its Mission

- Water Highway BC Society was formed to preserve and promote the water quantity (hydrometric), weather, snow survey and groundwater networks—BC's water information highway—that provide the foundation data for water-related public safety, economic development and resource protection business decisions.
- The data support decisions affecting hundreds of millions of dollars in investment annually in such areas as flood prevention and protection, drought forecasting, domestic water supply, power production, forestry, mining, agriculture, real-property development, transportation infrastructure, recreation and tourism.
- While declines in weather data are a concern, **there is a pending funding crisis facing the hydrometric network**. The provincial government is preparing to cut close to \$2 million from network funding. Effective long-term public safety, economic growth and natural resource protection requires a minimal investment in the neighbourhood of \$3 million for collecting hydrometric data. This investment has an estimated benefit/cost ratio of 19:1
- The position of some government ministry officials is that the data user community should pay for the cost of the networks. WHBC's position is that the user community is already paying for the network through direct contributions, taxes and fees.
- Representation must be made to the premier and cabinet ministers by September 2005 to ensure sufficient funds are earmarked in budget instructions to ministries.
- Effective representation will require the involvement of the presidents and CEOs of: associations representing industry and other user groups; major companies; regional districts, municipal and first nations governments. This representation will have the most impact if it is channeled and focused through WHBC.
- Your membership in WHBC and your participation in our inaugural general meeting and strategy session during the afternoon of June 21, 2005 are essential. (Venue to be determined.)
- The attached information package will provide you with a good overview understanding of WHBC and the issues facing the users and beneficiaries of water data. For more information please contact your WHBC liaison person or waterboy@waterhighwaybc.org.

BC's Water Information Highway





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Application Form

**To: Water Highway BC
2630 Avebury Avenue
Victoria, BC, Canada V8R 3W2**

Organization Name and Address

Principal Contacts: Name, Title, Telephone, Fax, E-mail

Principal contact:

Other contact:

Membership Category (Indicate one)	Donation
Association:	\$
Organization or Company:	\$
Individual:	\$

Please make cheques payable to: Water Highway BC

How would you like to participate (Board, committees, campaigning, in-kind support, etc.)?

Additional Information or Comments

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