

**REPORT TO ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2018**

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**SUBJECT**     **Board Support for Partnership for Water Sustainability in BC Grant Applications**

**ISSUE**

The Partnership for Water Sustainability in BC (PWSBC) is requesting a letter of support from the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board for its funding request to the Province of BC.

**BACKGROUND**

PWSBC has requested that the CRD Board provide a letter of support for its funding request to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Union of BC Municipalities asset management grants.

The Province and the Union of BC Municipalities have asked PWSBC to work with local governments to undertake demonstration applications using a variety of watershed scenarios in Ecological Accounting Process (EAP) development. PWSBC approached four local governments: Town of Gibsons (lead applicant), Capital Regional District, Regional District of Nanaimo, and the District of North Vancouver. A brief summary of the project is included in Appendix A.

The CRD has worked closely with the PWSBC since 2009 and is a partner in its Inter-Regional Education Initiative, which brings together four Vancouver Island regional districts (CRD, Comox Valley, Cowichan Valley and Nanaimo) and Metro Vancouver to discuss watershed-based strategies and programs.

The project is consistent with inter-regional collaboration, environmental protection, asset management processes and directives for the CRD, and previous projects with PWSBC.

**ALTERNATIVES**

*Alternative 1*

That the Environmental Services Committee recommend to the CRD Board:

That the Board Chair write a letter in support of the Partnership for Water Sustainability in BC funding request to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and Union of BC Municipalities endorsing the Capital Regional District's participation.

*Alternative 2*

That the letter of support from the Board for the funding request not be recommended.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Participation in the EAP project will complement and support existing workplans and will provide valuable information to the Bowker Creek and Elk Beaver Lake initiatives. The resulting information will complement the “Bowker Creek Daylighting Feasibility Study” and is strongly aligned with the initial implementation phases of The District of Saanich’s Shelbourne Valley Action Plan. Similarly, the valuation of the Elk Beaver Lakes watershed through EAP will provide complementary information to the business case for active management of these lakes.

### **INTERGOVERNMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

The PWSBC and the CRD are planning a local government workshop for spring 2019 to provide a forum to discuss how integration of service, natural asset and financial sustainability (sustainable service delivery) can be implemented to achieve watershed health goals.

### **ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS**

There is no financial contribution required beyond existing budgets. The PWSBC is applying for grants through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Union of BC Municipalities. In-kind staff resources from the CRD participation and provision of mapping and GIS data for the project are estimated at approximately \$7,000 and will be covered through existing budgets.

### **CONCLUSION**

The project with PWSBC allows the CRD to support initiatives around (natural) asset management through inter-regional collaboration that will benefit other regionally relevant projects. There are no new funds requested for the project and the project is consistent with existing service delivery and overall corporate goals and objectives.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Environmental Services Committee recommend to the Capital Regional Board:

That the Board Chair write a letter in support of the Partnership for Water Sustainability in BC funding request to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Union of BC Municipalities endorsing the Capital Regional District’s participation.

Submitted by:	Glenn Harris, Ph.D., R.P.Bio., Senior Manager, Environmental Protection
Concurrence:	Larisa Hutcheson, P.Eng., General Manager, Parks & Environmental Services
Concurrence:	Robert Lapham, MCIP, RPP, Chief Administrative Officer

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Attachment: Appendix A – Project Summary – Ecological Accounting Process