

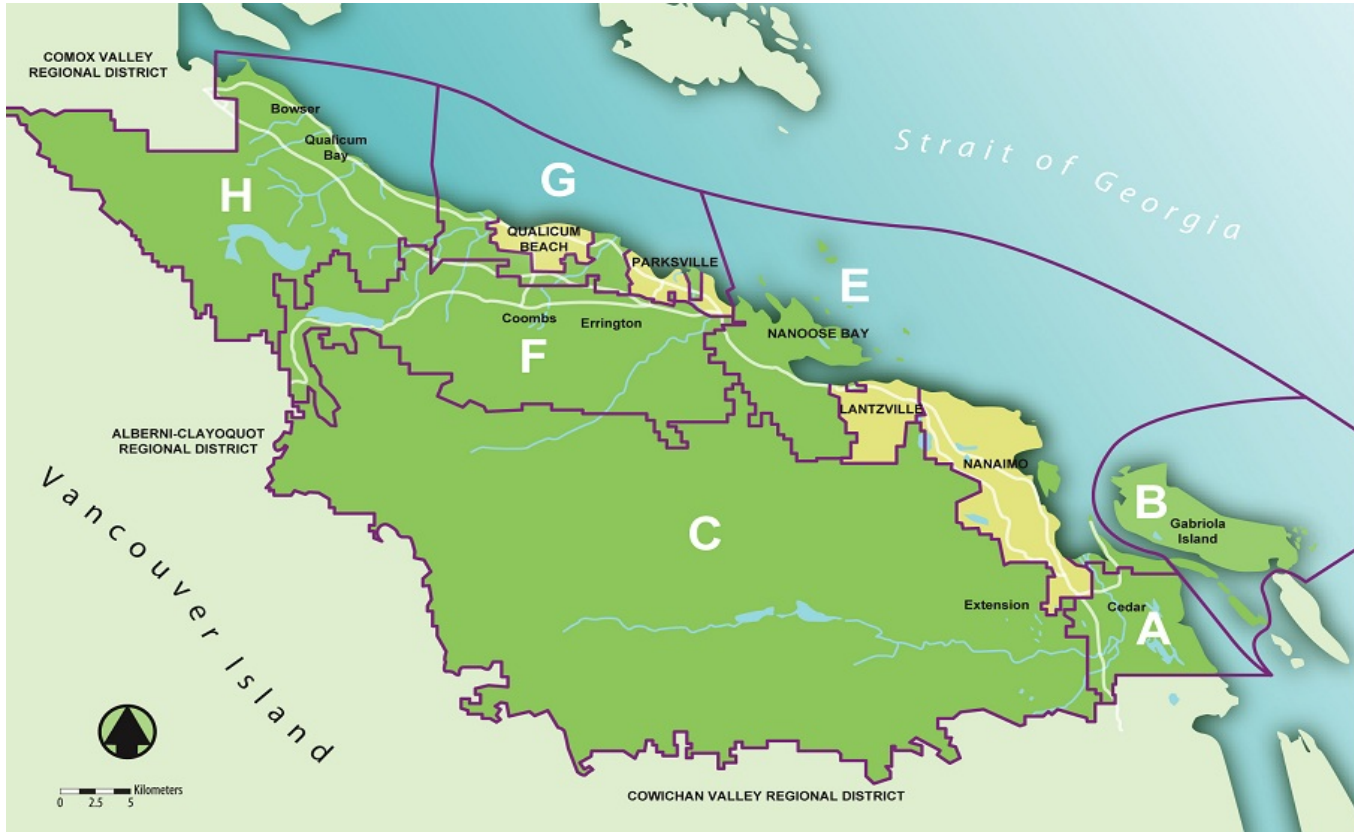
Drinking Water & Watershed Protection in the RDN – Sustainable Partnerships

presented by Julie Pisani

OUR REGION

Traditional territory
of Coast Salish
peoples

- 7 electoral areas
- 4 member municipalities





Map credit: MABRRI

WATER REGIONS

- Water is not confined to political boundaries
- Important to manage water on a regional, watershed scale.

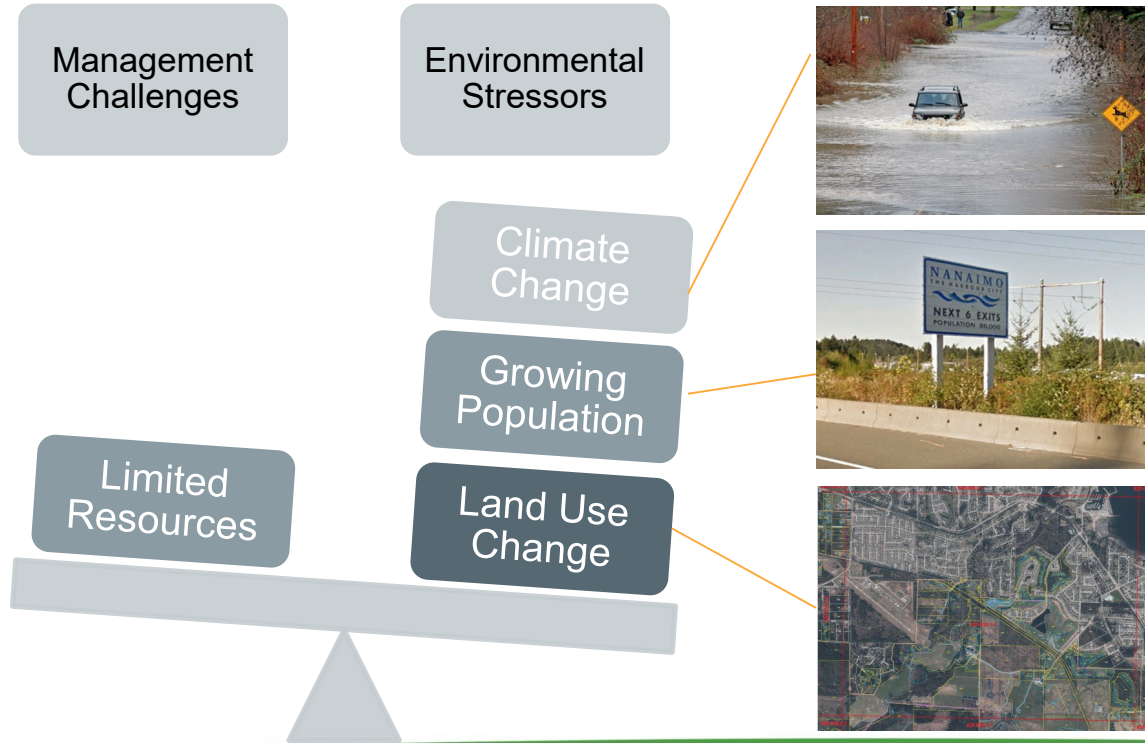
WATERSHEDS ARE ASSETS



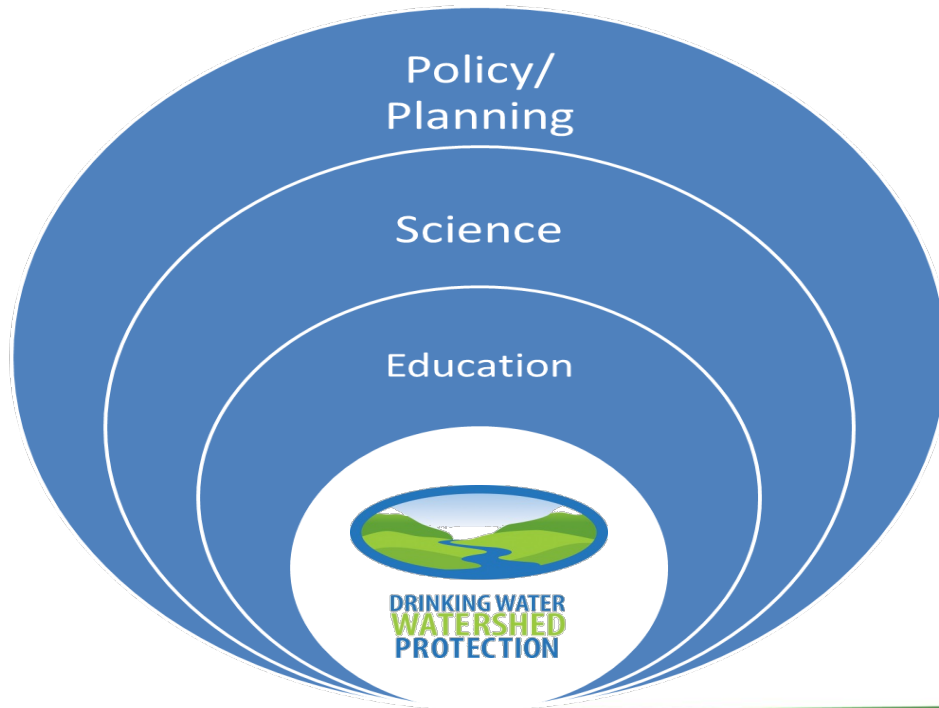
- ◆ Water supply
- ◆ Ecosystem services
- ◆ Recreational, cultural values

*We live in
a beautiful
Region.*

WATERSHED STRESSORS



DRINKING WATER & WATERSHED PROTECTION



- a parcel tax funded regional service
- three main nested program areas: Education, Science, Planning
- long term funding support and staffing to coordinate regional efforts in water sustainability
- approaching 10 years of implementation; first of its kind in BC

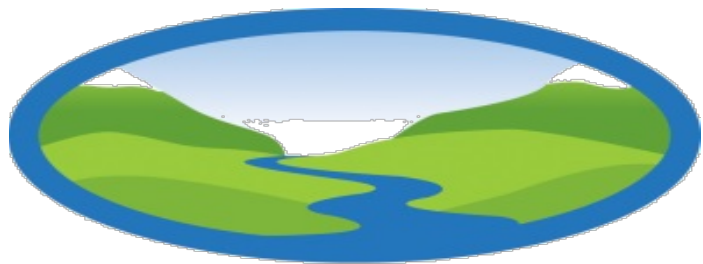
EDUCATION: Outreach and awareness building

SCIENCE: Data collection and monitoring

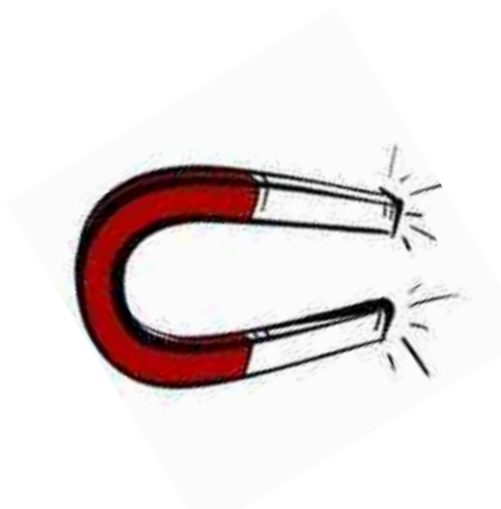
PLANNING: Inform policy and provide decision support

...for water sustainability in our region

MAGNET FOR PARTNERSHIPS



**DRINKING WATER
WATERSHED
PROTECTION**



- ✓ Commitment demonstrated through long-term reliable funding source.
- ✓ Leverages in-kind and financial support from partners.
- ✓ Allows for sustainable and durable partnerships and a forum for collaboration.

Provincial gov.

Stewardship / Community
Groups

Municipalities

Industry i.e. Forestry

Federal gov. i.e. DFO, GSC

Academia

School Districts



Our Watersheds



Our water resources are impacted by climate and land-use change.

What we do on the land matters for the water!

And involves many parties.

To get to restorative development, we need to restore (or establish) healthy working partnerships.

These partnerships will provide the foundation for implementing and maintaining a more sustainable and restorative way of developing our land base, centered on water protection.

COLLABORATION SUCCESS STORIES

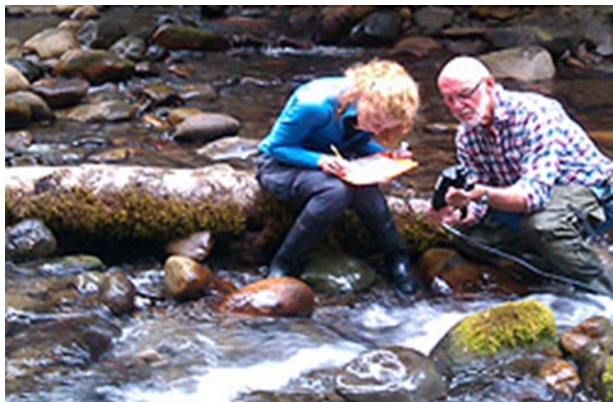
DWWP Steering Committee	Bring together diverse stakeholders
Community Watershed Monitoring	Empower stewardship community; track indicators of stream health; get data to the decision makers;.
Groundwater Monitoring	Engage private well owners; track groundwater levels over time; get data to the decision makers.
Outreach & Education	Teach stream stewardship, groundwater stewardship; inspire next generations; provide resources to enable behaviour change; cultivate awareness that may lead to support of innovative policy.
Policy advocacy and planning support	Use foundational awareness and local data to inform land use planning, water allocations, emergency management etc.

DWWP STEERING COMMITTEE / ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- Community reps (x3)
- Island Health
- DFO
- Ministry of FLNRO
- Ministry of Environment
- Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure
- Private Forestry reps (TimberWest & Island Timberlands)
- City of Nanaimo water
- District of Lantzville water
- City of Parksville water staff
- Town of Qualicum Beach water staff
- Coastal Water Suppliers Association rep.
- Cowichan Valley Regional District environment staff
- Academic reps (VIU and UVIC)
- Islands Trust freshwater specialist
- Professional Hydrogeologist rep

SCIENCE & MONITORING

Surface Water Quality Monitoring: *Community Watershed Monitoring Network*



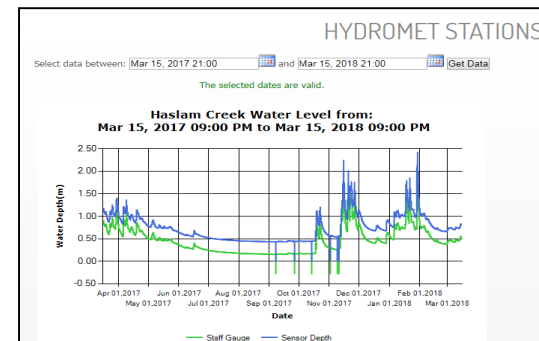
Observation Well Network: *Volunteer & Provincial*

- *Supported the expansion of the BC Observation Well Network in our region, adding 16 monitoring wells.*
- *Established monitoring in 30 volunteer private wells to expand reach.*



Hydrometric & Climate Monitoring:

- *Partner with FLNRO, DFO, Island Timberlands & private landowners*
- *Added 4 new streamflow monitoring sites; 2 new climate monitoring sites*



EDUCATION & OUTREACH



Engagement through:

- Field Trips
- Online Resources
- Workshop Series
- Community Events

Educational workshop for well owners:

- Since 2010.
- Organized by RDN DWWP & presented by Provincial Staff.
- Information on well construction, maintenance, water testing, groundwater protection.

Rebates for:

- Well head upgrades
- Rainwater Harvesting
- Well Water Testing
- Efficient Irrigation upgrades



PLANNING SUPPORT & POLICY ADVOCACY

Apply local science and public awareness to directly inform water related decision-making and provide local land-use planning support:

- Regional Growth Strategy
- Official Community Plans
- Development Permit Areas
- Policies and Bylaws
- Targeted Outreach
- Coordinating with other agencies and jurisdictions



POLICY ADVOCACY

Province is freshwater regulator; makes decisions based on best available information

If local governments have the capacity to develop a better understanding of water resources in their region, this should translate into better decisions made at the Provincial level that affect local communities.

DWWP program advocates for water sustainability in our region by improving the information / data on our local water resources

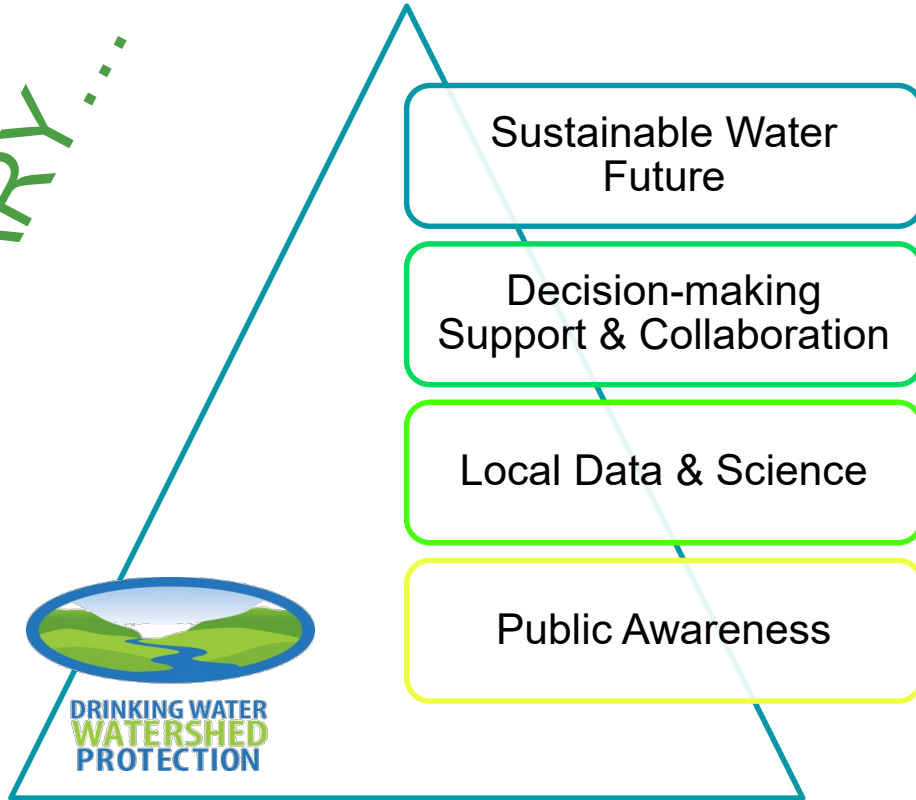


Water Sustainability Act

- Groundwater Protection
- Groundwater Licensing
- Environmental Flow Needs
- Water Objectives
- Water Sustainability Plans (Area Based Plans)



IN SUMMARY...



Protect water quality & quantity

Local & provincial gov.; industry

Groundwater, Surface water, Climate, Demand etc.

Resources to promote action; support for innovative policy.



THANK YOU! QUESTIONS?

Julie Pisani

Regional District of Nanaimo

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