
Regional District of Nanaimo
Drinking Water & Watershed Protection
December 1, 2021 // Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
AGENDA
REPORTS
PROJECT UPDATE PRESENTATIONS
ROUNDTABLE
NEW BUSINESS


AGENDA
Approval of the agenda
Adoption of minutes
• Minutes from Sept. 29, 2021
Roundtable Updates
Reports
Project Update Presentations
New Business
Adjournment
REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO

ROUNDTABLE UPDATES

All committee members

Year in review reflections

Welcome to New Committee Member - **Josh Wilson, Snuneymuxw Capital Projects Coordinator**

Welcome to New Committee Member - **Michael Recalma, Chief of the Qualicum First Nation**

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO


Regional District of Nanaimo
Drinking Water & Watershed Protection
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REPORTS
Rainwater Performance Targets for French Creek Water Region
Regional District of Nanaimo

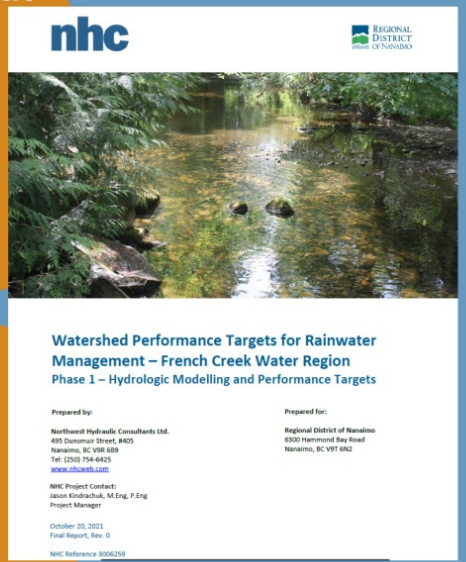
Rainwater Performance Targets for French Creek Water Region - Final Report

Four performance targets are defined to help replicate the natural water balance and control flood peaks:

- Baseflow release rate (L/s/ ha of impervious area)
- Retention volume (m3/ha of impervious area)
- Infiltration area (m2 / ha of impervious area)
- Flood detention volume (m3 / ha of developed area)

The **performance target objectives** have been defined as:

- No increase in the magnitude of flood events (2-year to 50-year flows)
- No increase in the duration of the 2-year event, and similar performance below the 2-year duration on a flow duraton curve
- Maintain the ground water component of the water balance.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Regional District of Nanaimo

Watershed Performance Targets for Rainwater Management – French Creek Water Region

Phase 1 – Hydrologic Modelling and Performance Targets

Prepared by:

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Prepared for:

Regional District of Nanaimo
6300 Hammond Bay Road
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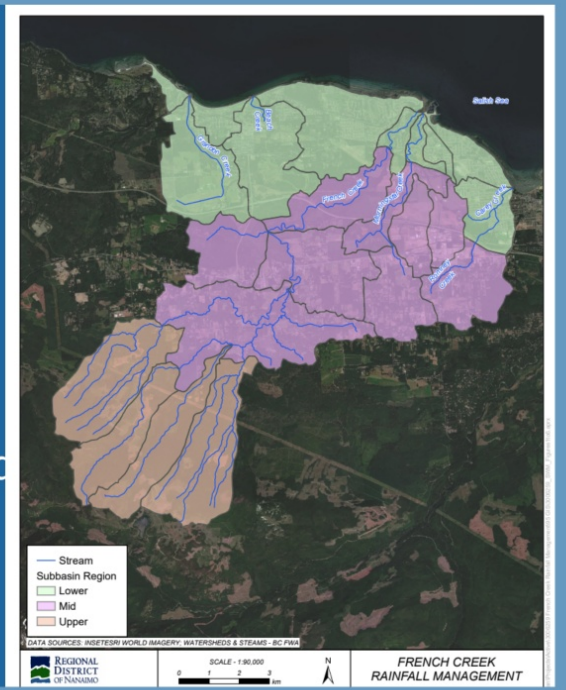
October 20, 2021
Final Report, Rev. 0

NHC Reference 3006259

Rainwater Performance Targets for French Creek Water Region

Performance Targets Notes:

- one set of performance targets for mid-region & one set for lower-region.
- only applied to flow from impervious areas.
- set assuming all existing development is eventually redeveloped or retrofitted instead of only mitigating impacts based on future impervious areas.
- a series of performance targets were developed to understand the stress land use development on its own and land use development coupled with climate change.



Rainwater Performance Targets for French Creek Water Region

Table 4.1 Performance targets for mid region scenarios

Target	Mitigate future land use to pre-development	Mitigate future land use and climate change to pre-development	Mitigate future land use to current	Mitigate future land use and climate change to current
Baseflow Release Rate (L/s/ha)	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Retention Volume (m^3/ha)	450	900	150	850
Infiltration System Area (m^2/ha)	120	60	75	30
Flood Detention Volume (m^3/ha)	750	3000	450	1750

Table 4.2 Performance targets for lower region scenarios

Target	Mitigate future land use to pre-development	Mitigate future land use and climate change to pre-development	Mitigate future land use to current	Mitigate future land use and climate change to current
Baseflow Release Rate (L/s/ha)	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12
Retention Volume (m^3/ha)	350	550	75	200
Infiltration System Area (m^2/ha)	100	60	30	10
Flood Detention Volume (m^3/ha)	650	1800	250	470

Ideally, performance targets would be applied that would mitigate future land use and climate change impacts to pre-development conditions to negate changes to hydrology across the water region. However, this can result in onerous requirements for developers, which may not be implemented because they are too stringent. Ultimately, targets selected should balance improvements to watershed health with the practicality of implementing them widely within the context of development. The balance between practicality and watershed health will be explored during Phase 2 of this study. At that time, performance targets will be selected from the range of results developed in this study.

Rainwater Performance Targets for French Creek Water Region

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Rainwater Performance Targets for French Creek Water Region

Peak flows and flow durations from the **future development scenario** can be mitigated back to pre-development and current levels. However, peak flows and flow durations from the **climate change** scenario are not fully mitigated to pre-development levels, nor current levels, especially in the mid-watershed.

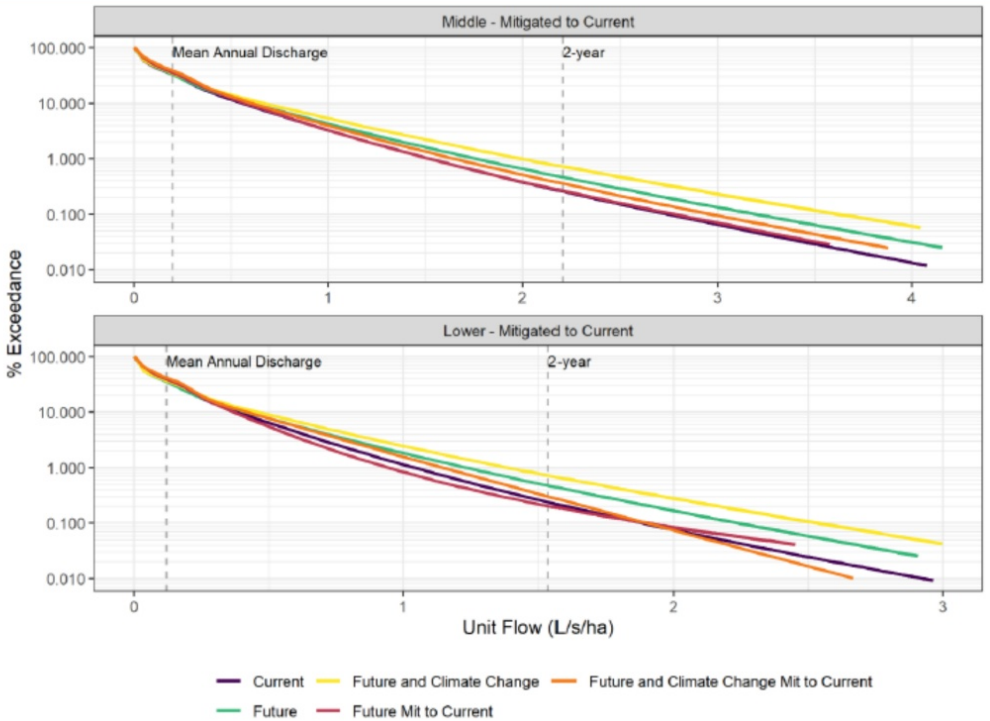

Figure 4.2 **Flow duration curves for mid and lower water region showing mitigation to current conditions**

Rainwater Performance Targets for French Creek Water Region

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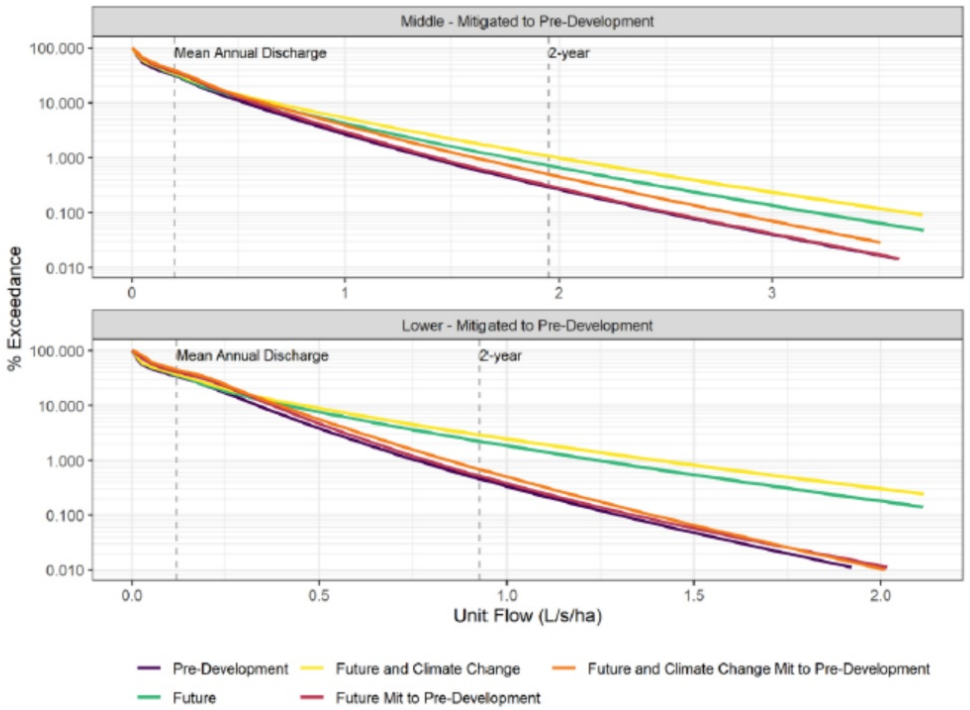


Figure 4.1 **Flow duration curves for mid and lower water region showing mitigation to pre-development conditions**

Rainwater Performance Targets French Creek Water Region

Bottom line: Mitigation measures need to be applied to runoff from both pervious and impervious areas to meet pre-development conditions.

To do so, other mitigation and adaptation measures should be explored in conjunction with the performance targets for impervious surfaces, to address climate change impacts for rainwater management on a watershed scale. **This includes maintaining natural assets (forests, wetlands), retaining and restoring riparian areas, integrating flood management into all land uses (incl. agricultural, parks).**

Implementation, monitoring and adaptive management of the performance targets will be explored in Phase 2 of the project in 2022, following the adoption of the Regional Strategy for Rainwater Management.


Awareness & Stewardship
Information & Science
Policy & Planning Support
Action Plan Progress Indicators
PROJECT UPDATES
PRESENTATIONS
REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO


DWWP
Video Series
Stewardship
Seed Funding
Awareness &
Stewardship
IIABC
Training
Sponsorship
Rebates
School
Programs
Water Purveyor
Working Group

DWWP Educational Video Series

- The Drinking Water & Watershed Protection program is engaged a with a communications and video production team, *ZINC Communication Strategies* and *Fox & Bee Studios* to create a freshwater awareness video series.

- The video series will be used to reach broader audiences with DWWP key messages and materials, promote initiatives, and inspire water awareness and stewardship in the region.

We are creating 6 educational short videos, 3 - 4 minutes in length, with themes including:

- What is a watershed, the source of your drinking water, water connects us, water challenges, water science and stewardship, and the water sustainable future.

- **Project timeline:**
  - **March – April:** Draft scripts revised and edited ✔
  - **May – June:** Scripts finalized and filming schedule developed ✔
  - **June – October:** Filming, video and graphics production and delivery of draft videos ✔
  - **October – November:** Final video review & editing **ONGOING**
  - **December 14th –** Final series delivery and launch! Online/social media/school distribution

Revised: Contract extension and revised budget, updated scope of work.

2021 Stewardship Seed Funding Program

Seed funding of up to **$5,000** for up to 3 consecutive years for projects within the RDN that:

- Are led by a non-profit organization,
- Involve volunteers,
- Are jointly funded by other partners, donors, and/or in-kind contributions,
- Acquire all necessary permissions/permits,
- Actively enhance stream, river, lake, estuary, wetland health, hydrology, or function.

Priority given to stewardship groups involved in the Community Watershed Monitoring Network program

Since 2016, DWWP has supported 19 habitat assessment, monitoring, and riparian and wetland restoration projects!

Photo credit: Qualicum Beach Streamkeeper Society (Little Qualicum River Estuary 2020)

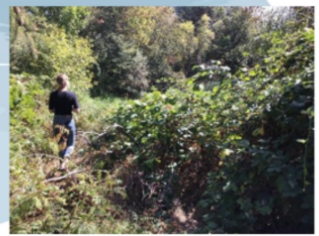
SSF Program Summary (2016 – 2020)

Year	Group	Project	SSF
2016	Departure Creek	Habitat Assessment	$ 1000
2016	MVIHES	Shelley Creek Water Balance Model	$ 2000
2016	Walley Creek	Riparian Planting Phase 1	$ 1000
2017	Departure Creek	Bank Stabilization	$ 1000
2017	Walley Creek	Riparian Planting Phase 2	$ 1000
2017	Fly Fishers	Millstone River Vegetation Fencing & Tool Library	$ 475
2017	NALT	Plum Creek Wetland Restoration	$ 1340
2018	MVIHES	Shelley Creek Signage Support	$ 560
2018	NALT	Chase River Slope Restoration	$ 2100
2018	NALT	Knarston Creek Riparian Restoration	$ 2350
2019	NALT	Holden Creek Riparian Restoration Reach 2	$ 2100
2019	MVIHES	Englishman River Estuary Water Quality Monitoring	$ 2033
2019	NALT	Chase River Wetland Restoration & TWS Workshop	$ 826
2019	Fly Fishers	Millstone River Bioengineered Bank Stabilization	$ 1179
2019	NALT	Lower Knarston Creek Provincial Permit	$ 250
2020	NALT	Lower Knarston Creek Riparian Restoration	$ 3000
2020	Qualicum Beach	Beach Creek Flow Monitoring Station	$ 2000
2020	NALT	Chase River Wetland Riparian Restoration	$ 3068
2020	Qualicum Beach	Little Qualicum River Estuary Restoration	$ 1200
		Program Total	**$ 28,481**

2021 Stewardship Seed Funding Program

1. **Departure Creek - off-channel enhancement and restoration**
   - Departure Bay Neighbourhood Association with partners City of Nanaimo, Snuneymuxw First Nation, Nanaimo & Area Land Trust.
   - Construction of new intake pipe and riparian planting to enhance side-channel water quality and habitat.
   - $5000 allocated, $4012.84 issued so far.
2. **French Creek Estuary - water quality and quantity monitoring**
   - Save Estuary Land Society with partners MABRI, Friends of French Creek Conservation Society, MVIHES, Community Salmon Program.
   - Water quality and quantity monitoring of creek flows to inform an estuarine restoration plan.
   - $1000 allocated.

3. **RDN Swim Lakes – UV filter contamination monitoring**
   - British Columbia Conservation Foundation with VIU, BC Ministry of Environment, and local streamkeepers.
   - UV filter contamination investigation at several swim lakes within the RDN.
   - $5,000 allocated.
4. **Cat Stream – invasive species control and restoration planting**
   - Cat Stream Streamkeepers with partners Nanaimo & Area Land Trust and Snuneymuxw First Nation
   - Removal and control of invasive species, including Himalayan blackberry, English Ivy, and Reed Canarygrass.
   - $3361.12 allocated.



Stewardship Seed funding now closed for 2021, will re-open for applications early 2022!

For program status and details, visit www.rdn.bc.ca/stewardship-seed-funding

Water Stewardship Rebates

Rainwater Harvesting Rebate

- Maximum rebate of up to **$750** off the installation of 1000 imperial gallons or more of rainwater storage
- Currently closed due to full subscription and no longer accepting applications for 2021
- Notification List for 2022 Rainwater Harvesting Rebate
- 3-step application process: Pre-approval, 90-day completion of work, Claim application

Rebate Applications:	Total Allocated:	Rebates Issued:	Total Issued:
38	$28,387.50	20	$14,809.17

Issued Rebate Distribution by Electoral Area/Municipality:

A	B	C	E	F	G	H	Nan	Lantz	Parks	QB
4	12	2	3	6	4	1	4	1	0	1

Application forms and program details available at **RDNrebates.ca**

Water Stewardship Rebates

Irrigation Upgrades & Soil Improvements Rebate

- Maximum rebate of up to **$675** for irrigation upgrades (sensors, control timers, drip irrigation, & MP rotators) and soil improvements (mulch, top soil, compost).
- Currently open and accepting applications for 2021 projects
- 3-step application process: Pre-approval, 90-day completion of work, Claim application

Rebate Applications:	Total Allocated:	Rebates Issued:	Total Issued:
33	$7,600	29	$5,106.26

Issued Rebate Distribution by Electoral Area/Municipality:

A	B	C	E	F	G	H	Nan	Lantz	Parks	QB
0	1	1	2	1	2	2	14	2	3	5

Application forms and program details available at **RDNrebates.ca**

Water Stewardship Rebates

Wellhead Upgrades Rebate

- Maximum rebate of up to **$650** for wellhead upgrades (secure well cap, well casing stick-up, surface seal). Up to **$500** for the well closure.
- Currently open and accepting applications for 2021 projects
- 3-step application process: Pre-approval, 90-day completion of work, Claim application

Rebate Applications:	Total Allocated:	Rebates Issued:	Total Issued:
11	$4,150	7	$1,650

Issued Rebate Distribution by Electoral Area/Municipality:

A	B	C	E	F	G	H	Nan	Lantz	Parks	QB
3	3	3	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0

Application forms and program details available at **RDNrebates.ca**

Water Stewardship Rebates

Well Water Testing Rebate

- Maximum rebate of up to **$175** for full spectrum analysis from accredited lab.
- Currently open and accepting applications for 2021 projects
- 2-step application process: Pre-approval, sample drop-off upon receival of voucher.

Rebate Applications:	Rebates Issued:	Total Issued:
99	71	$7,375.69

Issued Rebate Distribution by Electoral Area/Municipality:

A	B	C	E	F	G	H	Nan	Lantz	Parks	QB
10	40	15	7	13	5	1	1	7	0	0

Application forms and program details available at **RDNrebates.ca**

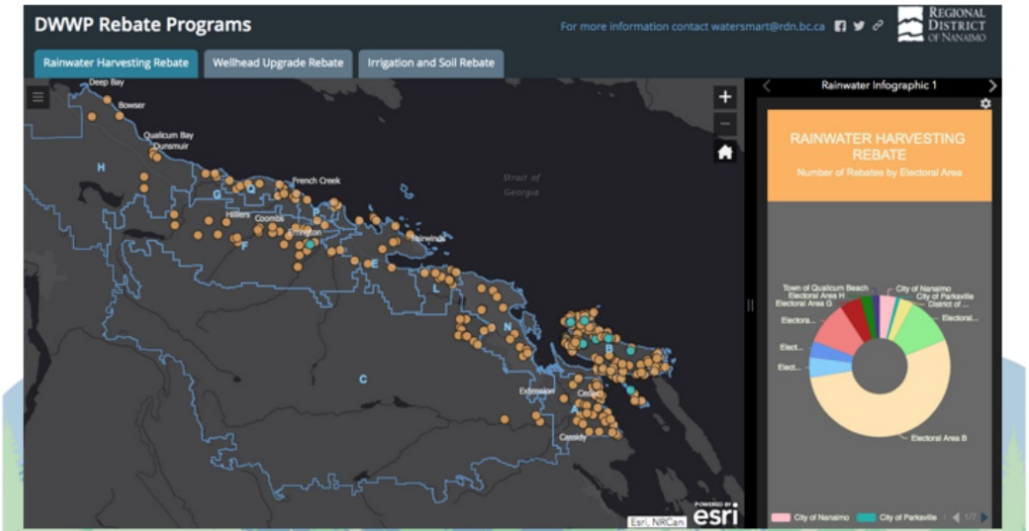
Water Stewardship Rebates

NEW! Water Stewardship Rebate Uptake Mapping App

Objective: to meet community-based social marketing strategy as suggested by *Beyond Attitude* in recent program review and aid in internal/external rebate program reporting.

Interactive webmap that highlights rebate uptake distribution and stats for the Rainwater Harvesting, Wellhead Upgrades, and Irrigation & Soil rebates:

- Includes infographics that visually depict rebate distribution by Electoral Area/municipality, year, and type, as well as the total funding issued so far and more!
- Rebate data will be updated quarterly moving forward
- Easily customizable to grow with the rebate programs and encourage public interest



Coming soon! Access the map on the rebate webpages through **RDNrebates.ca**

School Program Update

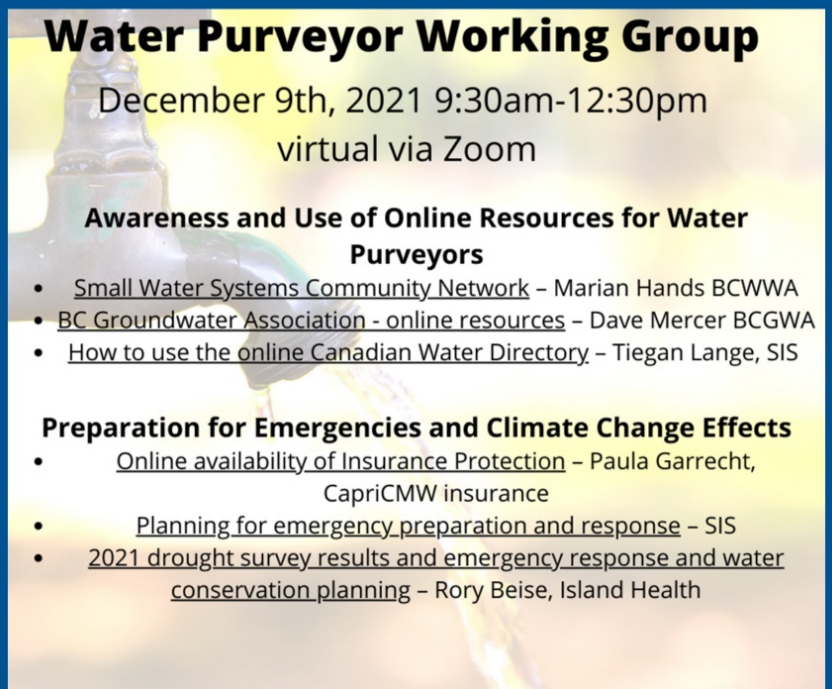
- Teachers at Coal Tyee Elementary are testing the materials in classrooms and will provide feedback by mid-December

- Learning Coordinators in both D68 & 69 are reviewing materials and sharing with interested teachers

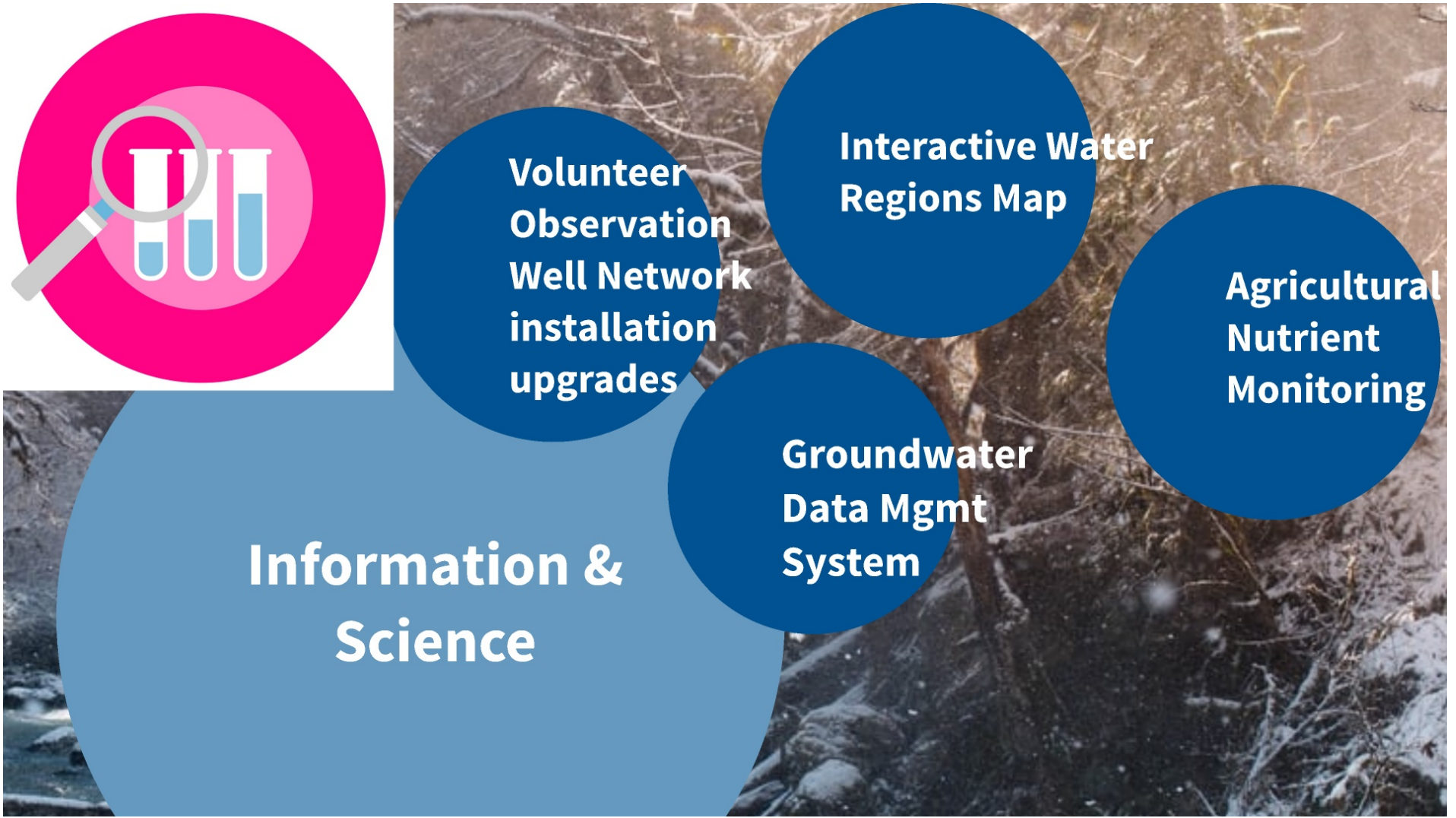
- Applications for Feb 2022 Pro-D days have just opened and are in progress

- NALT and RDN signed contract for delivery of in-classroom & on-stream School Water Steward Program for 2022

Water Purveyor Working Group



Irrigation Industry Association of BC - Training Sponsorship


Volunteer Observation Well Network installation upgrades
Interactive Water Regions Map
Agricultural Nutrient Monitoring
Groundwater Data Mgmt System
Information & Science


Volunteer Observation Well
Installation Upgrades

Volunteer Observation Well Installation Upgrades

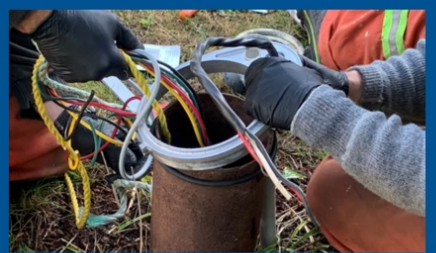
Project:
- Upgrade VOW logger housing set-up

Purpose:
1. Safety improvements
2. Data validity

Sounder tube

Volunteer Observation Well Installation Upgrades

BEFORE



Purpose (continued):

3. Equipment security
4. Best practices

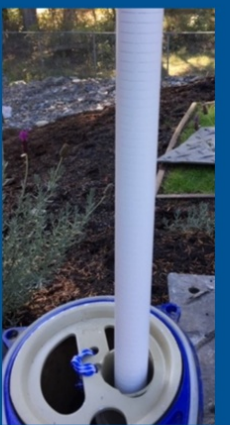
Sites:

- 2021 - 10 sites
- 2020 - 3 sites
- 2019 - 3 sites

Water Quality Lab Analysis:

- Before - full spectrum analysis
- After - microbiology sample

AFTER



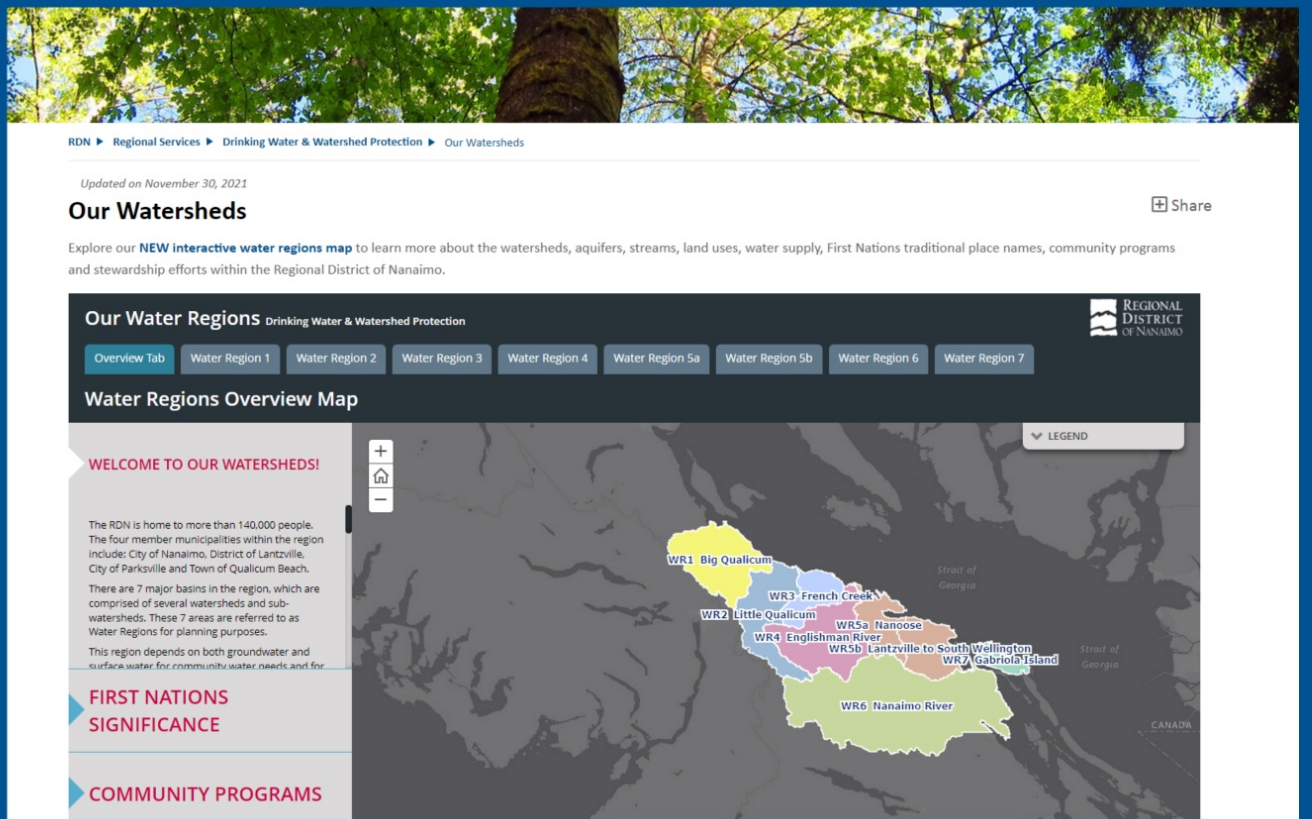
Groundwater Data Management System

Update from Antonio Barroso, Hydrogeologist

GW SOLUTIONS
ASSESSMENT & PROTECTION OF GROUNDWATER

ArcGIS Online - Interactive Water Regions Map

https://www.rdn.bc.ca/watersheds



Agricultural Nutrient Monitoring Partnership

Update from Kyle Fukui, Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy


Rainwater Working Group Items
French Creek Phase 3 Water Budget
Area F OCP Update
Policy & Planning Support

Rainwater Working Group Items

2 main projects this year :

- Rainwater Performance Targets for French Creek Water Region

- Regional Strategy for Rainwater Management

Regional Strategy for Rainwater Management

Regional Strategy for Rainwater Management

Have your say on rainwater management in the region!

WHAT IS RAINWATER MANAGEMENT? It's the management of precipitation and associated strategies to protect the health of watersheds and maintain a predevelopment water balance. Synonymous with '*Stormwater Management*'. Focused on managing all rain events, not just storms; looks at managing on a watershed scale, for cumulative effects.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

- To maintain groundwater recharge
- To mitigate flooding
- To protect water quality
- To enhance climate resilience

WHERE DOES THE REGIONAL STRATEGY COME IN?

The objective of the Regional Strategy for Rainwater Management is to provide a collaborative framework to coordinate actions across jurisdictions to effectively use rain as a resource, promote the maintenance of natural hydrologic function and protect the quality of water. This is a regulatory commitment for the RDN, under the Liquid Waste Management Plan. The RDN's Drinking Water and Watershed Protection program provides the implementation mechanism for strategy and other rainwater related commitments.

HOW CAN YOU GET ENGAGED?

- **Register** using the tab at the top of this page
- First: Watch our two **videos** introducing the project
- View our **background documents** to learn more
  - For more in-depth reviewers: the recommendations PDFs contain fillable areas to

REGISTER to get involved!

Timeline

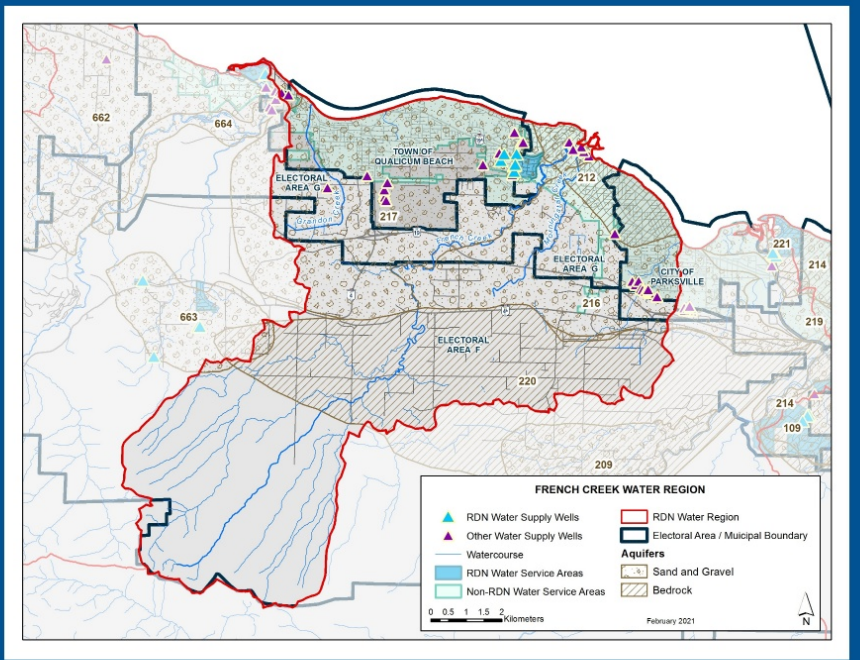
- **Document Review**
- **Technical Workshop #1 (July 2021)**
- **Jurisdictional Review**
- **Technical Workshop #2 (October 2021)**
- **Public Engagement (Nov 2021 - Jan 2022)**
  The project is seeking public review and input.
- **Draft Strategy Refinement (February - March 2022)**
  Feedback from partners and public reviewers incorporated into the final strategy + Reporting out on what we heard.
- **Final Strategy Presented to RDN Board for Endorsement (March - April 2022)**
  Following endorsement will be implementation of the strategic recommendations across the partners that are involved with rainwater management in region.

Videos

FRENCH CREEK WATER REGION - WATER BUDGET PHASE 3

Update:

- Engaged Golder Associates as the lead consultant
- Next: Meetings with First Nations to initiate project
- Data sharing taking place over the next couple months
- Model development this spring
- Water budget analysis to follow



Area F Official Community Plan Update

- The Board has passed a motion to restart the Electoral Area F Official Community Plan Review and resume public engagement after being on hold due to COVID

- Policy options are currently being drafted by Planning staff. DWWP staff and reports will be consulted to ensure up-to-date water information is considered and included.

- Examples of policy options include:
  - Aquifer Protection Development Permit Areas
  - Stormwater Management Development Permit Areas
  - Natural Asset Management Bylaws

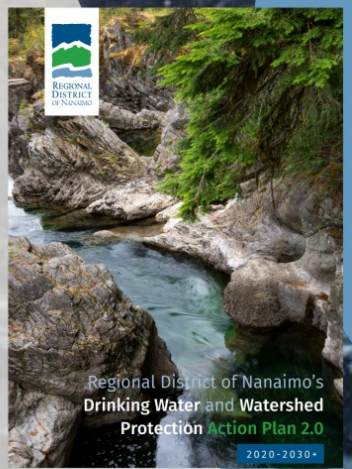
Public engagement to resume winter 2022

Review of 2021 Workplan

Action Plan Progress Indicators

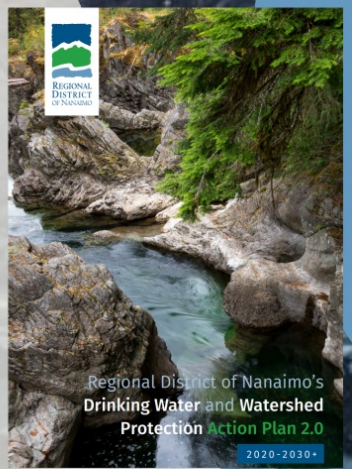
DWWP Theme	DWWP Initiative (* = continuing; ^ = new)	Action Detail 2021	Complete	2022	Comment
Water Awareness and Stewardship	5.1.1 Community Based Social Marketing (CBSM) review / redesign of outreach programs ^	Complete & Implement	✓		
	5.1.1 Public research survey for benchmarking on water behaviours, perspectives and priorities ^	**Benchmark survey**	✓		
	5.1.1 Multimedia outreach^	**Video series**	✓		
	5.1.1 Demonstration sites / interpretive signage^	**Admin building, Craig Creek, Millstone**		✓	
	5.1.1 Youth water leadership engagement^	Pilot		✓	
	5.1.1 Team WaterSmart tours, community events, workshops, school materials, irrigation check-ups*	With CBSM re-design	✓	✓	
	5.1.2 Expand existing rebate programs*^	Another increment increase	✓		
	5.1.2 Explore new rebate for water flow meters for wells^	Push out to 2022 or 2023 >>		✓	
	5.1.3 Agricultural sector outreach^	Develop			Supported other agri prgms
	5.1.3 ICI sector outreach^	-	-	-	-
	5.1.4 Expand seedfunding for restoration projects*^	15% increase	✓		
	5.1.4 Water stewardship organizations networking opportunities^	Pilot		✓	
	5.1.5 Support regional water conservation plans*	-	-	-	-
	5.1.5 Coordinate regional watering restrictions communications	Staff Time	✓		
	5.1.5 Support small water systems with annual working group session*	Annual Event	✓		
	5.1.6 Participate in and coordinate advisory committees*	Update Terms of Ref.	✓		
Water Science and Information	5.2.1 Maintain regional surface water (CWMN) and groundwater (VOW) monitoring*	Equip. replacement plan	✓		
	5.2.1 Hydrometric and climate monitoring partnerships*	>>	✓		
	5.2.1 Data management *^	GW Data Management System	✓		
	5.2.1 Explore potential for Benthic Invertebrate Monitoring (ie. CABIN)^	**Cont. pilot**	✓		
	5.2.1 Wetland monitoring and mapping *^	**Citizen science transition**	✓		
	5.2.2 Water budget phase 3*	French Creek Phase 3 WB / Oceanside 100 Year Water Strategy		✓	
	5.2.2 Surface water trend analysis*	**Trend Update**	✓		
	5.2.2 Groundwater trend anaylsis*	-	-	-	-
	5.2.2 Quantifying ecosystem services via ecological accounting pilot (in partnership with PWSBC)^	-	-	-	-
	5.2.2 Snowpack modelling^	Yr 2	✓		
	5.2.2 Water balance modelling (rainwater management) Linked to 5.2.4	See below in 5.2.4			
	5.2.3 Interactive water map(s)*^	Update DWWP Website watershed map	✓		
	5.2.3 Data visualization through dynamic graphs^	Groundwater level graphs	✓		
	5.2.3 Publications*^	Push out 1 yr >>			Bumped to 2023
	5.2.4 Develop watershed perfomance targets for priority water region^	**Start and Finish Project for French Creek**	✓		
Water-centric Planning	5.3.1 Integrating water information into key long-range planning processes*^	Ongoing Area F OCP, RGS	✓		
	5.3.1 Provide regional water information to inform referrals from Current Planning and the Province*	Staff Time	✓		
	5.3.1 Provide regional water information to inform Emergency Services operations*	Staff Time	✓		
	5.3.1 Develop a regional rainwater management strategy^	Develop	✓	✓	
	5.3.2 Best practices and policy research*^	Water governance			Ongoing dialogue, participation in working groups, part of other projects etc.

DWWP Progress / Performance Indicators



Theme	PI #1	2021 Comments	PI #2	2021 Comments
Water Awareness and Stewardship	Reduction of metered water use over time	*Across 9 RDN Water Service Areas, a 5.8% reduction in average water use was observed from 2019 to 2020. Summer water use from 2019 to 2021 increased by 0.17%*	Number of Restoration project completed	*Four this year*
Water Information and Science	Number of sites with long-term (>3 years) datasets hosted on open Provincial platforms	*Same as last year*	Completion of numerical water budget models for priority watersheds and aquifers	*French Creek Water Region initiated*
Water-centric Planning and Policy Support	Number of planning documents and processes informed by DWWP actions / information	*Parks & Trails Strategy; Regional Strategy for Rainwater Management*	Number of watershed performance targets developed	*French Creek Water Region Targets Developed*

DWWP Progress / Performance Indicators



Theme	PI#3	2021 Comments	PI #4	2021 Comments	
Water Awareness and Stewardship	Market research survey response indicating improved awareness	*Completed in 2021 providing benchmark*	Improving trends in groundwater level and surface water quality	*GW Level: Regional analysis identified improving or stable trends in 8 / 18 aquifers; 4 / 18 aquifers had spatially variable trends but some wells were either increasing or stable.*	*SW Quality: 1 site improving turbidity; 4 sites improving DO; 78% of sites with 10 years of data stable or improving.*
Water Information and Science	Continued participation of community volunteers in citizen science efforts	*Wetland Monitoring - 3 groups; CWMN - 1 new group, 14 continuing groups.*	Number of publications communicating water science	*Educational video series; Factsheet on FireSmart/WaterSmart; School Freshwater Education Modules*	
Water-centric Planning and Policy Support	Implementation of innovative rainwater managment policies and practices	*Regional Strategy for Rainwater Management - under development during 2021 to be completed March 2022*	Successful advocacy with outside agencies	*ENV creating a "Stewardship Framework" to formalize support for community based water quality monitoring, modelled after our multi-year partnership*	


NEW
BUSINESS
2022
Workplan

2022 DWWP Proposed Workplan Highlights

NEW PROJECTS

- Riparian Restoration Spatial Analysis
- Implement rainwater performance targets for French Creek Water Region (along with Regional Strategy for Rainwater Management)
- Water Supply Resilience Study (support; led by LRP dept.)
- Environmental Flow Needs Study for Nanaimo R (proposed; requires partnerships to proceed)

NEW OPERATIONS

- Replace turbidity meters (CWMN)
- Water Steward Ambassadors - develop pilot
- Research options for new rebate for well flow meters
- Rainwater management related outreach / education

In addition to ongoing projects & operations.....

2022 TAC Meeting Dates

2022 DWWP TAC Meeting Dates

Thurs. Feb 17th 2022 12:00 - 3:30 pm

Thurs. May 12th 2022 1:00 - 4:30 pm

Tues. Sept 20th 2022 1:00 - 4:30 pm

Thurs. Dec 8th 2022 12:00 - 3:30 pm

** start times assume in-person for lunch*