**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Year-In-Review Update - Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Program report be received for information.

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**BACKGROUND**

The Regional District of Nanaimo’s Drinking Water and Watershed Protection (DWWP) program action areas are organized into four related themes: Water Awareness and Stewardship; Water Information and Science; Water-Centric Planning and Policy Support; and Water Collaboration.

Highlights of the program accomplishments in 2020 under each theme are presented in **Attachment 1**, along with the associated progress indicators (for the full list of indicators please reference the *DWWP Action Plan 2020-2030 Section 7.1*[[1]](#footnote-1)*,* excerpted in the table below). The Attachment also includes a brief summary of program adaptations that were made related to COVID-19.



In 2021, the RDN DWWP program will continue to deliver key region-wide initiatives related to water stewardship, monitoring and planning – as detailed in the DWWP Action Plan, RDN Financial Plan, and RDN Operational Plan – and will report on progress four times a year via the DWWP Technical Advisory Committee as well as periodic report(s) to the Board. Highlighted workplan items in 2021 include:

* Develop an educational video series.
* Deliver a public benchmark survey.
* Complete and implement a redesign of outreach programs based on behaviour change principles.
* Update school programming for freshwater stewardship with curriculum connected modules and inquiry units, in partnership with education consultant and Nanaimo Area Land Trust.
* Increase rebate program funding and stewardship seed funding.
* Initiate the development of a regional rainwater management strategy.
* Continue water monitoring across the region.
* Advance groundwater data management and visualization tools.
* Complete a pilot project on watershed performance targets.
* Initiate work on the Phase 3 water budget study for the French Creek Water Region.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

N/A

**STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT**

This year-in-review informs the Board of progress against the recently updated Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Program Action Plan, a strategic priority under goal 2.0 Environmental Stewardship in the RDN Strategic Plan.

**ATTACHMENT**

1. 2020 DWWP Program Accomplishments - Highlights by Theme
1. https://rdn.bc.ca/dwwp-action-plan [↑](#footnote-ref-1)