

Regional Surface and Ground Water Management and Governance Study

Functions Required to Address Water Governance and Management Issues in the Cowichan Region

Function	Existing Scale	Existing Responsible Party	Proposed Scale	Proposed Responsible Party	Requires Delegated Authority?	Primary (Secondary) Focus Areas
Integrate previous strategies, policies, studies, reports, data, etc. with new initiatives as needed	n/a	n/a	Regional	Regional WE	No	Coordination
Work with the Province to develop regulations under the <i>Water Sustainability Act</i> (e.g., Water Sustainability Plans and environmental flow needs)	n/a	n/a	Regional	Regional WE	No	Coordination (governance, delegated authority)
Carry out a regional watershed risk assessment (across all watersheds) to identify priority watersheds	n/a	n/a	Regional	Regional WE	Pending regulations in WSA (see above)	Coordination (governance, delegated authority)
Establish water objectives for eligible watersheds	n/a	n/a	Regional	Regional WE	Pending regulations in WSA (see above)	Coordination (governance, delegated authority)
Develop a regional water strategy and action plan, including a shared vision, goals, water <i>objectives</i> , and measures for water quality, water quantity, and ecosystem health to guide planning and management activities at all levels	n/a	n/a	Regional	Regional WE	Not if done through CVRD. Regional WE will need authority to make strategy legislated / enforceable. Another mechanism could be a legislated regional Water Sustainability Plan.	Coordination (governance, delegated authority)
Develop and implement Water Sustainability Plans for priority watersheds	n/a	n/a	Watershed	Regional or local WEs	Pending regulations in WSA (see above)	Coordination (governance, delegated authority)
Provide oversight for decisions made at the regional level	Provincial, Federal	Senior government (depending on jurisdiction)	Regional	Senior government (depending on jurisdiction)	No	Oversight (governance)
Provide oversight to stakeholders responsible for annual action plan items (watershed and sub-watershed / local scale)	n/a	n/a	Regional	Regional WE	Not if done through CVRD. Regional WE or separate oversight body will need authority enforce the strategy.	Oversight (governance, delegated authority)
Report progress on overall water strategy and annual action plan to the public	n/a	n/a	Regional	Regional WE	No	Reporting (oversight, governance)
Report individual stakeholder progress on annual action plan to the overseeing party	n/a	n/a	Local, regional	All stakeholders / parties with action items	No but regional entity will need authority to enforce non-compliance with action plan	Reporting (governance)
Develop regional policies to guide planning and management activities at the watershed and local levels (including flood management, watershed management, supply and demand)	n/a	n/a	Regional	Regional WE	Not if done through CVRD. Regional WE will need authority to make policies legislated / enforceable. Another mechanism could be a legislated regional Water Sustainability Plan.	Coordination (governance, delegated authority)
Develop a regional drought management plan, including specific protocol for responding to various drought conditions (e.g., priority allocations)	n/a	n/a	Regional	Regional WE	Not if done through CVRD. Regional WE will need authority to make plan legislated / enforceable. Another mechanism could be a legislated regional Water Sustainability Plan.	Coordination (governance, delegated authority)

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Develop a water and environmental decision-making framework	n/a	n/a	Regional	Regional WE	Not if done through CVRD. Regional WE will need authority to make framework legislated / enforceable. Another mechanism could be a legislated regional Water Sustainability Plan.	Coordination (governance, delegated authority)
Develop environmental flow needs for priority watersheds	n/a	n/a	Watershed	Regional or local WE	Pending regulations in WSA (see above)	Coordination (governance, delegated authority)
Carry out land use planning in accordance with regional policies and objectives	Local	Municipalities, CVRD	Local	Municipalities, CVRD	No	Coordination (governance)
Provide oversight to ensure local land use planning is carried out in accordance with regional policies and objectives	n/a	n/a	Regional	Regional WE	Yes; another mechanism is through MOUs or legislated Water Sustainability Plans	Oversight
Provide oversight and enforcement of standards on private land that affect water quality, quantity and ecosystem health	Varies	Varies with jurisdiction	Varies	Varies with jurisdiction	No; full cost recovery for enforcement will come through sustainable funding model. In addition to existing authority, Water Sustainability Plans will outline responsibilities for enforcement.	Oversight (governance)
Develop and implement liquid waste management plans in accordance with regional policies and water objectives	Local	Municipalities, CVRD	Local	Municipalities, CVRD	No	Coordination (governance)
Inventory water sources and availability to support water allocation decisions and policy	n/a	n/a	Regional	Regional WE	No	Coordination (reporting)
Develop a regional cumulative effects assessment framework	n/a	n/a	Regional	Regional WE	No	Coordination
Monitor, assess and report cumulative effects on watersheds	n/a	n/a	Watershed	CVRD, municipalities, local watershed entities, NGOs	No	Coordination (reporting)
Establish and administer a central watershed database (to house cumulative effects data)	n/a	n/a	Regional	Regional WE	No	Coordination (reporting)
Develop and implement a strategy to collect and share traditional ecological knowledge	n/a	n/a	Regional	Regional WE	No	Coordination
Raise our collective watershed IQ (inform the public and each other)	Local, regional	NGOs, local government	Local	NGOs or Local watershed entities	No	Coordination
Establish a watershed protection service and set appropriate rates to recover regional costs for related activities (focus on water quality, ecosystem health)	n/a	n/a	Local, Regional	Municipalities, CVRD	No	Funding
Set water rates at appropriate value to recover costs for watershed protection activities (focus on water quantity)	Local, regional	Improvement districts, Municipalities, CVRD	Local, regional	Improvement districts, Municipalities, CVRD	No	Funding

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Supply and treat community water in accordance with regional policies and objectives	Local	Improvement districts, Municipalities, CVRD	Local	Improvement districts, municipalities, CVRD	No	Coordination
Lead ongoing discussions with First Nations on water co-governance	Regional	CVRD	Regional	Regional WE	No	Coordination (governance)