



News Release

1450 K.L.O. Road
Kelowna, B.C. V1W 3Z4
Telephone: (250) 763-4918
Fax: (250) 763-0606
www.regionaldistrict.com

August 11, 2004

Trepanier Landscape Unit Water Management Plan Presented

The first extensive analysis of Westside surface water supplies has been released. The Trepanier Landscape Unit Water Management Plan was produced in a partnership between the Regional District of Central Okanagan and the B.C. Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management. The plan was prepared over the past year by Summit Environmental Consultants Limited of Vernon. It looks at the five main watersheds supplying the Westside (Lambly, McDougall, Powers, Trepanier and Peachland Creeks) and makes projections for the next 20 and 50 years, based on current water management and demands.

The study suggests that in light of current high rates of water use and climate change, we won't sustain the water needs that are projected for the future. In order to ensure the sustainability and supply of surface water, the plan suggests several steps be taken over the next five to ten years.

It recommends that the major water purveyors on the Westside form a Leadership Group to administer the water plan and champion the improved management of water resources. As well, the plan urges the use of water conservation and public education programs to reduce consumption, which is among the highest of any area in the province. The plan also suggests that water meters be installed to better monitor water use and encourage conservation. In addition, the plan recommends regulatory changes to require water conservation fixtures and water use restrictions during periods of peak demand.

In light of continued urban growth and agricultural expansion, the plan recommends the identification and development of additional water supplies and storage capability, especially for those utilities relying on surface water sources. The study also urges the use of planning techniques to encourage development that demands less water, such as smaller lawns and the use of xeriscape landscaping.

The Regional District Director of Engineering Services says, "As one of the water purveyors on the Westside, the plan offers tremendous value in assessing water hydrology, while considering the interests of stakeholders such as the forestry and agricultural communities and projecting the impact of future growth and climate change." Hilary Hettinga adds, "My department will be recommending that we begin implementing the recommendations of the Trepanier Water Management Plan, in order to protect water resources for future generations."

.2.

The Regional District is already taking action on several fronts. Hettinga adds, "Preliminary discussions are underway with local water purveyors on the formation of the recommended Leadership Group. The Central Okanagan has been working with other water utilities in the valley to raise public awareness and encourage water conservation through participation in the Water Hog television and radio advertising campaign. As well, the Regional District is keeping customers of its seven water utilities aware of conservation and water issues through publication of the bi-annual Water Talk newsletter."

On behalf of the Regional District, the Director of Planning Services expressed appreciation to the provincial agencies that participated in the valuable initiative. Ken Arcuri says, "The participation of many stakeholders in watershed planning was a key recommendation of the Okanagan Shuswap Land and Resource Management Plan and the desire to link water resource and land-use planning was emphasized through the Central Okanagan Regional Growth Strategy." Arcuri notes, "Planning Services staff is pleased to report that findings of the Trepanier Landscape Unit Water Management Plan are being incorporated into the update of the Westside Official Community Plan."

For more information on the Trepanier Landscape Unit Water Management Plan and Regional Growth Strategy, please visit What's New on the Regional District website (www.regionaldistrict.com).

-30-

Contact:

Bruce Smith
Communications
979-7339

Leah Hartley
Regional Planner
868-5227