



DISTRICT OF PORT HARDY

AGENDA REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL 7:00 PM TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2012

MUNICIPAL HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Mayor: Bev Parnham
Councillors: Janet Dorward, Jessie Hemphill, Al Huddleston, Rick Marcotte,
Nikki Shaw, John Tidbury

Staff: Rick Davidge, Chief Administrative Officer
Gloria Le Gal, Director Corporate Services
Allison McCarrick, Acting Director Financial Services
Trevor Kushner, Director of Operations

**DISTRICT OF PORT HARDY
AGENDA FOR THE REGULAR MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEETING
7:00 pm TUESDAY OCTOBER 23, 2012
Council Chambers - Municipal Hall**

A. CALL TO ORDER

Time:

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AS PRESENTED (or amended)

Motion required

1.

2.

C. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1-6

1. The minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held October 9, 2012.

Motion required

1.

2.

D. DELEGATIONS AND REQUEST TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

No delegations.

E. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7

1. Council Action items. For information.

F. CORRESPONDENCE

8-9

1. Email from Iris Hesketh-Boles, Executive Director, Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (Oct 11/12) re: 2013 AVICC AGM and Convention Planning. For information.

10

2. Marylyn Chiang, Policy Analyst, Union of British Columbia Municipalities (Oct.2/12) re: Thank you to Mayor Parnham for participation at Regional Community Poverty Reduction Strategy session at Union of British Columbia Convention. For information.

G. NEW BUSINESS

11-16

Mayor Parnham re: Referral of Vancouver Island Health Authority Report of June 25, 2012 to the Community Consultative Committee.

Motion / direction

1.

2.

H. COUNCIL REPORTS

Verbal reports from Council members.

I. COMMITTEE REPORTS

No Committee reports.

J. STAFF REPORTS

17-58

1. Memo from G. Le Gal, Director Corporate Services (Oct.18/12) re: Strategic Watershed Management Plan.

Motion / direction

1.

2.

K. CURRENT BYLAWS AND RESOLUTIONS

- 59 1. District of Port Hardy 2013 Permissive Exemption from Taxation Bylaw 17-2012. For Adoption.

Motion required

1.

2.

L. PENDING BYLAWS

1. Bylaw 18-2012 District of Port Hardy User Rates and Fees For 2013.

M. INFORMATION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

October 22-26 Zoning Bylaw Review by Urban Systems

- ♦ October 22 Staff Briefing, 10:30 am Council Chambers
Council Briefing, 1:00 pm Council Chamber
Community Stakeholders, 6:00 pm Council Chambers
- ♦ October 23 Coffee Talk, 3:00-5:00 pm, Cafe Guido
- ♦ October 24 Drop In 3:00-5:00pm, Council Chambers
- ♦ October 25 Community Open House, 6:30-8:30 pm, Council Chambers
- ♦ October 26 Council / Staff briefing, 9:00 am (confirmed) Council Chambers

- October 24 Operational Services Committee, 9:00 am Fire Hall #1
- October 25 Occupational Health & Safety Committee, 8:30 am, Fire Hall #1
- October 26 Career Expo 2012 9:00 am, Civic Center
- October 29 Community Consultative Committee, 7:00 pm Council Chambers
- October 30 Downtown Revitalization Committee, 10:00 am Council Chambers
Emergency Planning, Noon Council Chambers
- November 7 Port Hardy Heritage Society, 7:00 pm Council Chambers
- November 11 Remembrance Day Ceremony, 11:00 am Cenotaph
- November 12 Municipal Hall Closed, Statutory Holiday for Remembrance Day
- November 13 Regular Council Meeting, 7:00 pm Council Chambers

N. NOTICE OF IN-CAMERA MEETING

No In-Camera Meeting scheduled at this time.

O. ADJOURNMENT

1.

Time:

MINUTES OF THE DISTRICT OF PORT HARDY
REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL OCTOBER 9, 2012

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Bev Parnham Time: 7:00 pm

PRESENT: Mayor Parnham, Councillors Dorward, Hemphill (by telephone), Huddleston, Marcotte, Shaw, Tidbury

REGRETS: Rick Davidge, Chief Administrative Officer

ALSO PRESENT: Gloria Le Gal, Director Corporate Services
Allison McCarrick, Acting Director Financial Services
Leslie Driemel, Recording Secretary

Media: North Island Gazette

Citizens: 5

2012-198
APPROVAL OF AGENDA
AS AMENDED

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Parnham advised of an addendum to the agenda under Delegations: Mr. George Kearey, Fort Rupert Legion re: 2013 Poppy Campaign and presentation of first poppy to Mayor Parnham.

Moved/Seconded/Carried
THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

2012-199
COMM OF WHOLE
MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 11, 2012
APPROVED AS
PRESENTED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- 1. The minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held September 11, 2012.

Moved/Seconded/Carried
THAT the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held September 11, 2012 be approved as presented.

- 2. The minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held September 11, 2012.

2012-200
REGULAR COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 11, 2012
APPROVED AS
PRESENTED

Moved/Seconded/Carried
THAT the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held September 11, 2012 be approved as presented.

DELEGATIONS

- 1. Mr. George Kearey, Royal Canadian Legion, Br.237 re: 2013 Poppy Campaign.

ROYAL CANADIAN
LEGION BR 237 POPPY
CAMPAIGN

Mr. Kearey advised Council that the Legion colour party would not march in the Remembrance Day parade but will be at the cenotaph. The first poppy of the 2012 Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 237 Poppy Campaign was presented to Mayor Parnham. Mr. Dale Parker was introduced to Council as Mr. Kearey's successor.

RCMP QUARTERLY
REPORT

2. Staff Sgt. G Brownridge, RCMP re: Quarterly Report

Staff Sgt. Brownridge reviewed the RCMP quarterly report for July, August and September 2012. Discussion with Council included the marked increases in case files, the 'Letters of Expectations' the RCMP is working on with the local First Nations and staffing levels at the detachment.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Council action items were received as information.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Thomas W. Barnes, Chief Executive Officer & General Counsel, Municipal Association of BC (Sept. 14/12) re: Municipal Insurance Association of BC Dividend Cheque (\$4,700) was received as information.
2. Susan Farlinger, Regional Director General, Pacific Region, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (Sept 11/12) re: Correspondence regarding amendments to the *Fisheries Act* was received as information.

STAFF TO CONTACT F&O
RE: COMMUNITY
INFORMATION
MEETINGS

Staff was directed to contact Fisheries and Oceans and inquire about the schedule of community information meetings.

3. Derek R. Corrigan Mayor, City of Burnaby, (Aug.30/12) re: Correspondence from the Canadian Federation of Independent Business and Business Property Tax Report was received as information.
4. Community Living British Columbia re: Start with HI 2 Initiative was received as information.
5. Email from Haley Dato, Planning Officer, BC Parks, (Sept13/12) re: Draft Burdwood Group Conservancy Management Plan.

Council discussed the many marine strategies and processes currently underway, who oversees them all as well as funding to maintain the areas. Mayor Parnham requested Council members direct any comments or concerns directly to Haley Dato at BC Parks.

2012-201
R&F BURDWOOD GROUP
CONSERVANCY MGMT
PLAN

Moved /Seconded/Carried

THAT the information regarding the Draft Burdwood Group Conservancy Management Plan be received and filed.

6. Karen Leibovici President, Federation of Canadian Municipalities (Sept.24/12) re: Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal was received as information.
7. Yana Hrby, Executive Director, Port Hardy & District Chamber of Commerce (Sept 28/12) re: The Great Pumpkin Patch Walk, request for use of seawall and lights turned out.

2012-202
CH OF COMM USE OF
SEAWALL FOR GREAT
PUMPKIN PATCH WALK
NOV 1/12 APPROVED

Moved /Seconded/Carried

THAT the request by the Chamber of Commerce to use the seawall and turn off the lights for the Great Pumpkin Patch Walk on November 1, 2012 be approved as requested.

8. Correspondence re: Late Grant-in-Aid applications / donation requests

a. Yana Hrды, Executive Director, Port Hardy & District Chamber of Commerce (Sept 28/12) re: Great Annual Pumpkin Patch Walk, request for prize donation of swim passes for a school class.

b. Rotary Clubs of Port Hardy and Port McNeill (Sept.19/12) re: Donation to 26th Annual Rotary Radio Auction.

Memo from A. McCarrick, Acting Director Financial Services (Oct.3/12) re: Late Grant-in-Aid applications.

Mayor Parnham commented that both the Great Annual Pumpkin Patch Walk and the Rotary Radio Auction are important and successful community events.

2012-203
CH OF COMM PUMPKIN
PATCH DONATION &
ROTARY CLUB AUCTION
DONATION

Moved /Seconded/Carried

THAT the Chamber of Commerce request for prize donation of swim passes for a school class for the Great Annual Pumpkin Patch Walk be approved (\$89); AND THAT the District donate two Annual Resident Launch and Parking passes, (\$160); one recreation adult punch card and one recreation child punch card (\$72); one hour adult ice rental (\$99.00) to the 26th Annual Rotary Radio Auction.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Parnham re: Council Appointments to Community Consultative Committee

Mayor Parnham advised there were two positions available as Council representatives to the Community Consultative Committee. Councillors Tidbury, Dorward, Marcotte and Hemphill put their names forward to serve on the committee.

Mayor Parnham thanked the Councillors for volunteering and advised she will make a decision shortly on the appointments to the Committee.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councillor Tidbury reported on:

- Attending the 2012 UBCM Convention in Victoria and advised it was interesting and informative.
- Attending the Downtown Revitalization Committee meeting .

Councillor Huddlestan reported on:

- Attending Thursday and Friday sessions of the 2012 UBCM Convention.
- Attending Marine Area Planning Process (MAPP) meetings
- Upcoming Regional District tours of the Kokish run of the river hydro project and suggested partnering with the District to arrange other project tours.
- Upcoming Regional District meetings with Vancouver Island Health Authority.

COUNCIL
APPOINTMENTS TO
COMMUNITY
CONSULTATIVE
COMMITTEE

COUNCIL REPORTS

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councillor Dorward reported on:

- Chairing the recent Downtown Revitalization Committee meeting and advised there was good feedback from those present and that progress is being made in revitalization plans.

Councillor Marcotte reported on:

- Attending meetings at the 2012 UBCM Convention, the Council of Senior Citizens Convention, Hardy Bay Seniors Society and Port Hardy Fire Department. Council was advised the Fire Department Open House is Saturday October 13, 2012.
- United Way coming to Port Hardy to offer home care programs.
- The need for community education on recycling programs. Councillor Huddleston advised Patrick Donaghy of the Regional District of Mt. Waddington could be contacted to speak to groups on recycling.

Councillor Shaw reported on:

- Attending the 2012 UBCM Convention and advised it was very informative.
- Upcoming meetings for Vancouver Island Regional Library board and the Mt. Waddington Health Network.

Councillor Hemphill reported on:

- Attending the 2012 UBCM Convention and meeting with the various Ministers and provincial staff was very interesting and informative.
- Attending the Downtown Revitalization Committee meeting.

Mayor Parnham reported on:

- Attending the Mayor's Caucus prior to the 2012 UBCM Convention and advised discussions included the need for senior government to move away from the grant funding process and return to stable infrastructure funding.
- Attending the 2012 UBCM Convention and advised that the meetings with Ministers and senior provincial government staff were interesting and worthwhile. Discussions included a tax exemption scheme similar to the Northern Living Allowance, highways maintenance, BC Parks and conservation officer staffing and post secondary education opportunities.
- Attending recent meetings for the Port Hardy Hospital Local Working Group.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Downtown Revitalization Committee, Minutes of the Special Meeting held September 18, 2012, Note: Three recommendations to Council.

Memo from G. Le Gal, Director Corporate Services (Sept.26/12) re:
Recommendations of Downtown Revitalization Committee.

Recommendation #1:

That the current colour swatch be adopted as the guideline for acceptable colour schemes in the Downtown Development Area.

Moved/Seconded/Carried

THAT the recommendations of the Downtown Revitalization Committee regarding color scheme be adopted as presented, namely the current color swatch be adopted as the guideline for acceptable colour schemes in the Downtown Development Area.

DOWNTOWN
DEVELOPMENT AREA
FEES

Recommendation #2

That Council review all current rates and fees to determine where opportunities exist to support downtown revitalization initiatives.

Gloria Le Gal, Director Corporate Services reviewed the current requirements and fees in development permit areas and advised Council that most property revitalization efforts are less than \$50,000 which are exempt or are of other works that are also exempt from development permit fees.

The painting of murals on buildings was discussed and it was suggested that the Revitalization Committee review all proposed mural art.

Moved/Seconded/Carried

THAT the Downtown Revitalization Committee be authorized to review and approve all mural art in the Downtown Development Permit Area.

2012-205
DOWNTOWN
REVITALIZATION
COMMITTEE TO
APPROVE MURAL ART IN
DOWNTOWN DEVEL
PERMIT AREA.

Recommendation #3

THAT Council write a letter to business owners to include information about the committee, the scope of its work, educational materials around Development Permit Areas and any incentives, a sample of the colour schemes, a thank you to businesses who have already made improvements, and a request for business owners to provide feedback with their ideas.

Council reviewed the draft letter prepared by Gloria Le Gal, Director Corporate Services.

Moved/Seconded/Carried

THAT the draft letter to businesses regarding the Revitalization Committee, scope of work, development permit areas, incentives, colour schemes and thank you, be approved with the following changes:

-the letter be a summary of the information with detailed attachments included.

-an invitation to a public meeting included that advises dates and times will be posted on the District website.

-that thanking businesses for improvements done be continued.

2012-206
DOWNTOWN
DEVELOPMENT AREA
LETTER TO BUSINESSES

STAFF REPORTS

1. Accounts Payable September 2012 was received as information.
2. Memo from A. McCarrick, Acting Director Financial Services (Sept. 18/12) re: Amendment Council Policy CP 3.10 Expenses Incurred by Employees on Municipal Business.

2012-207
COUNCIL POLICY CP3.10
AMENDMENT APPROVED

Moved/Seconded/Carried

THAT the Amendment Council Policy CP 3.10 Expenses Incurred by Employees on Municipal Business be approved as presented namely, the addition of item 8: Employees shall receive mileage equal to the mileage rate set by the Treasury Board of Canada from time to time and will be calculated at the rate in effect at the time of booking.

BYLAWS

1. District of Port Hardy 2013 Permissive Exemption from Taxation Bylaw 17-2012. For First, Second and Third Reading.

2012-208
BYL17- 2012 PERMISSIVE
EXEMPTION FROM
TAXATION FOR 2013, 1ST
2ND 3RD READINGS

Moved/Seconded/Carried

THAT District of Port Hardy 2013 Permissive Exemption from Taxation Bylaw 17-2012 receive First, Second and Third Reading.

Councillor Tidbury presented a model of the interpretive signage planned for the seawall by the Chamber of Commerce.

ADJOURNMENT

2012-209
ADJOURNMENT

Moved

THAT we adjourn.

Time: 8:15 pm

CORRECT

APPROVED

DIRECTOR OF
CORPORATE SERVICES

MAYOR

ITEM	ACTION – REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 9, 2012	WHO	STATUS /COMMENTS
F&O Re Amendments fo Fisheries Act.	Staff to inquire re schedule and location of community information events	GL	Done
Ch of Commerce re: Great Pumpkin Patch walk: Use of seawall, turn off of lights Donation of swim passes	Approved. Advise Chamber and Public Works Approved. Advise Chamber	GL GL	Done Done
Rotary Club re: Donation to 26 th Rotary Auction 2 harbour passes, recreation punch cards adult/child and one hour adult ice time.	Approved. Advise Rotary	GL	Done
Council appointments to Community Consultative Committee	Mayor Pamham to advise appointments	MP	Done
Downtown Revitalization, minutes of Sept 18/12 1. colors in development permit area 2. Development permit rates and fees reduction and murals 3. letter to business owners	Colors approved as presented. Advise Committee Rates to remain same, murals to be approved by Committee. Advise Committee Letter with additions, approved. Write letter as directed. Advise committee of letters	PS PS GL PS	Done Done
ITEM	ACTION – REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 22, 2012	WHO	STATUS /COMMENTS
G. Le Gal, Director Corporate Services (May 17/12) re: Carnarvon Place Park	Prepare a report detailing all options for Council	TK	Report: Ongoing
ITEM	ACTION – REGULAR MEETING OF APRIL 24, 2012	WHO	STATUS /COMMENTS
R.Scott School/SD 85 Commercial rentals	Review zoning issues with the upcoming zoning bylaw review	GL	In progress
ITEM	ACTION – REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 13, 2012	WHO	STATUS/COMMENTS
Sustainability Committee - recommendation for public consultation on neighbourhood zero emission vehicles	Refer to new Community Consultative Committee to do	GL	Done

From: avicc@ubcm.ca
Sent: Thursday, October 11, 2012 11:19 AM
To: rickd@porthardy.ca
Cc: ldriemel@porthardy.ca
Subject: 2013 AVICC AGM & Convention Planning Your Assistance is Requested
Attachments: Presentation Proposal Form.doc

Dear Rick Davidge,

Please distribute the following to the Mayor or Chair and CAO.

Two of the most highly rated sessions this past year were the Role of Local Governments During Oil Spill Response and the Implementation of the Maa-nulth Treaty Within the ACRD. Thank you to Islands Trust and the Alberni Clayoquot Regional District respectively for your initiative in bringing these proposals forward and your participation.

Having local governments submit session proposals is a very successful way in which to develop a program that is relevant to the needs of our members with speakers that are both knowledgeable and dynamic. We would like to encourage you, our members, to help us in this way.

Some ideas may have arisen as a result of the work that was done at the UBCM Convention last month. Other areas of interest may be generated from resolutions that your local government will be forwarding through the resolution process, issues that you are dealing with that others may also be facing, or from innovative programs, policies or practices you are using/undertaking that other members would benefit from learning about.

Attached is a presentation proposal form. Much of the program for the April Convention is set by early January. Please forward your proposals by Friday, December 14, 2012.

I look forward to hearing from you. Thank you in advance for your contributions.

Iris Hesketh-Boles
AVICC Executive Coordinator
525 Government St, Victoria, BC V8V 0A8
Tel: 250-356-5122 Fax: 250-356-5119
EM: iheskethboles@ubcm.ca
www.avicc.ca

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2013 AGM & Convention
April 12-14, 2013
Prestige Oceanfront Resort, Sooke, BC

PRESENTATION PROPOSAL

Name of Organization:

Contact Person:

Phone:

Mailing Address:

E-mail:

Title of Session:

Subject:

Session Description:

Proposed Presenter(s):

Proposed Session Length:

A/V Requirements:

Please attach a bio and photo for each presenter listed (digital format preferred).

Proposal is due by **Friday, December 14, 2012**. Please forward to:

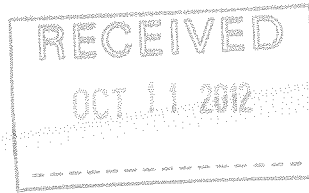
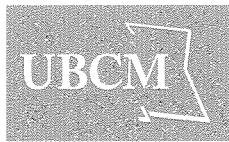
EM to avicc@ubcm.ca

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Representing Local Government on Vancouver Island, Sunshine Coast, Powell River and Central Coast



Union of BC Municipalities
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Email: ubcm@ubcm.ca

Agenda

October 2, 2012

Mayor Bev Parnham
District of Port Hardy
Box 68
Port Hardy, BC
V0N 2P0

Dear Mayor Parnham,

RE: UBCM Convention

I wish to thank you on behalf of the UBCM Executive and membership for your participation at the *Regional Community Poverty Reduction Strategy* session at the UBCM Convention.

As a thank you gift, UBCM has donated a Savings and Loans group launch in an impoverished country in your honour through CARE Canada, a charity that strives to serve individuals and families in the poorest communities of the world through initiatives that strengthen capacity for self-help, provide economic opportunity and deliver relief in emergencies.

We are grateful that you were able to take time to participate. The success of our Convention depends on the assistance received from many individuals, and your contribution was a notable factor in our having a very successful event.

Again, thank you for your support and participation.

Sincerely,

Marylyn Chiang
Policy Analyst

The Local Working Group formed by VIHA to tackle the issues of closures at Port Hardy Hospital Emergency was also tasked with reviewing and providing recommendations to improve the level of medical service in the entire Mt. Waddington region. You can view the entire report on the VIHA website at http://www.viha.ca/about_viha/community/mt_waddington.htm . I have attached the response letter from VIHA and want to bring your attention to Recommendations 3 and 13.

These recommendations deal with one of the biggest issues we have on the North Island and one that is particularly evident here in Port Hardy – the recruitment and retention of physicians. VIHA is doing their part – they are spending more money on recruitment specifically for Port Hardy and have put us at the top of the priority list for Vancouver Island for need.

Many communities in BC, Canada and the US are working aggressively to attract physicians and other health care practitioners. Some are offering financial incentives, others are spending their own funds to recruit, and some are simply rolling out the welcome mat and helping new arrivals adjust to the community. As part of the physician recruitment strategy, we have committed as a community to find ways we can help to attract and retain physicians and other health care practitioners.

Council would like the committee to meet with some of our local health care providers to identify the issues they face when they arrive in Port Hardy, study some of the successful models of community recruitment strategies and provide council with a recommendation moving forward.

Mayor Bev Parnham



June 25, 2012

Ref #13534

Mount Waddington Health System Stabilization Local Working Group
c/o Alison Mitchell & Dr. Richard Scragg, Co-Chairs
Mount Waddington Health Services Administration
Box 548
Port McNeill BC V0N 2R0

Dear Alison and Rick:

As promised, we are writing in follow up to your articulate and engaging group presentation to Howard Waldner and ourselves, as well as your follow-up electronic mail to Howard on May 29, 2012 in which you highlighted the health service challenges we are facing in the "true" North Island and your Report's recommendations in response to them. Please accept our apology for the delay in responding.

We would like to formally thank all members of the Mount Waddington Health System Stabilization Working Group (Local Working Group). The many meetings, the deep, sometimes difficult conversations, and the passion the members have shown for improving health services are outstanding.

As Howard indicated to you in his response to your electronic mail, we have had discussions with, and received endorsement from, our Board of Directors as to the approach we shall collaboratively undertake in response to these recommendations over the coming months.

VIHA is committed to providing resources to realize the short-term Mission Critical recommendations within your Report. In addition, VIHA is committed to dedicating resources for developing a new service model for the North Island and realizing the Paradigm Shift recommendations you have outlined.

To provide more detailed information, we have listed your defined "Mission Critical" as well as "Paradigm Shift" recommendations as well as our proposed approach moving forward with you:

Mission – Critical Recommendations

Recommendation 1: We have presented in this report our mission-critical recommendations for which funding needs to be committed now if we have any hope of stabilizing the system. We also need commitments that planning can commence on our other recommendations and that VIHA and partners are committed to support these activities going forward. We are prepared, as a group, to continue to work on this important initiative if a VIHA commitment of new resources is extended to address our immediate needs.

We acknowledge and appreciate your ongoing commitment to improve the health of residents of northern Vancouver Island. To that end VIHA commits \$100,000 in 2012/13 for the Local Working Group to develop an implementation plan for the mission-critical recommendations, to include the development of integrated primary and community care service models and sites in Port Hardy and Port McNeill. We will also be looking for additional staffing support opportunities through provincial funds as they become available (e.g. provincial Accelerated Integrated Primary and Community Care initiative).

.../2

Executive Office

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mailing address: 1952 Bay Street, Victoria, B.C., Canada V8R 1J8

Our Vision: Healthy People, Healthy Island Communities, Seamless Service

Timelines for this service model planning are key to leveraging additional resources from other partners. Given this, we would suggest having the service model complete within the next six months.

Recommendation 3: *VIHA, partners represented at the LWG table and others that share the LWG's goal commit to develop a renewed, targeted recruitment and retention strategy for medical professionals for the Mt. Waddington Region.*

VIHA acknowledges and commits to working with local physicians and community members to actively recruit physicians into Mount Waddington. VIHA Medical Affairs has identified the need to develop a long-term strategy for recruitment and retention of rural and remote physicians as part of its Physician Engagement Strategy.

As an interim strategy VIHA will commit \$30,000 to engage with expert recruiters to hire up to an additional three family physicians for Mount Waddington. VIHA also recommends that the physicians in Mount Waddington work to build a flexible Community of Practice through its emerging Division of Family Practice.

Recommendation 14: *VIHA contract dedicated regional ER physicians – to address the current ER crisis and to address gaps in coverage in both the Port Hardy and Port McNeill hospitals. Contract commitments should extend to a minimum of one year and be seen as a transitional measure that will help evolve the change required to support a more sustainable system.*

VIHA commits to continue to assist in the recruitment of emergency room locums. As mentioned at our meeting, this current model seems to be providing some relief in Port Hardy at present.

VIHA also recommends local physicians look at creative ways of utilizing REEF funding at the three emergency department sites. VIHA would strongly endorse a further "paradigm shift" recommendation involving co-location of practices. For example, with the upcoming known departure of physicians in Port Hardy all remaining physicians could co-locate into a single practice with the Nurse Practitioners to improve practice coverage during emergency department on-call.

Recommendation 23: *The LWG recommends for VIHA to support the blended-care model and proceed with the recruitment of two Nurse Practitioners in Port Hardy to meet current health care needs. The Nurse Practitioner placements should preferably be established in the community, within existing physician practices. The Nurse Practitioners should have separate patient rosters of appropriate complexity. Also, VIHA should provide funding to cover additional Medical Office Assistant support and overhead costs associated with Nurse Practitioners.*

VIHA has posted these two positions for Port Hardy to include standardized overhead contributions. We expect to have recruited successful candidates and have them begin work by mid-summer 2012. We anticipate these positions, along with the two existing Nurse Practitioners in Port Hardy, will increase access to primary health care services and reduce reliance on emergency departments for primary health care needs (almost 70% of current visits).

Recommendation 24: *Two further Nurse Practitioner positions should be hired and instated in the region. These roles would assume a call duty of 1:6, with options for physician backup – i.e. through phone consultation to the on-call doctor in the next closest community or via patient transfers for direct consultation with GPs.*

VIHA fully supports the addition of Nurse Practitioner positions for Port McNeill and Cormorant Island. We will be submitting a funding request to the Ministry of Health for these positions.

Recommendation 45: *VIHA, together with the Mt. Waddington Health Network and partners, should expand its public education efforts in the region to promote a better understanding of how the regional health care system works and can be more effectively utilized. Begin now to profile immediate challenges and solutions and continue to support fundamental systems changes as they are planned, readied and introduced.*

VIHA commits a part-time dedicated Communications Advisor to work with the Local Working Group to develop a public communications strategy that would reflect local knowledge and communications infrastructure. We would seek the guidance of the Local Working Group as to when this work should commence, with early thinking being we wait for the service model design completion.

Recommendation 47: First Nations and Community Engagement: *Under the aegis of the VIHA-First Nations Health Council Partnership Accord, VIHA should share the LWG's recommendations at the earliest possibility, and in an ongoing process, so that both partners can get to work on implementing and subsequently on continuing the solutions the LWG is recommending.*

VIHA commits to building relationships through interim First Nations Health Authority and our existing First Nations Health Council through living the deliverables in our new Accord. Our VIHA Aboriginal Health Plan lays out specific actions we are undertaking over the next three years.

Paradigm Shift Recommendations

Recommendation 2: *VIHA work with system funding partners to recalibrate the service funding formula for remote communities such as Mt. Waddington so that funding can be targeted on the basis of local need, acuity and circumstances rather than through per capita allocations based on populations.*

VIHA is interested in modeling a population health needs funding approach. We commit to undertaking this work and sharing it with the Local Working Group.

Recommendation 8: *VIHA work with system funding and delivery partners to create a new classification for support and subsidy programs that distinguishes Mt Waddington as a "remote" region rather than a "rural" region, to ensure that remote communities have access to the most advantageous subsidy and support rates.*

VIHA commits to write a letter of support in this regard to both the British Columbia Medical Association and provincial Ministry of Health by fall 2012. We will be in touch shortly with physician members of the Local Working Group to ensure our messaging is aligned with the intent of this recommendation.

Recommendation 9: *Develop new ways of supporting and funding professional education and development.*

VIHA commits to providing a part-time dedicated Professional Practice Office resource to work with all VIHA Rural Health Managers to develop a rural/remote professional education and development approach. Initial discussions have already occurred with Managers in May and work will be brought to the LWG for further discussion. In addition, VIHA has also committed \$76,000 for clinical professional development in 2012/13 for Rural Health Services.

Recommendation 12: *The LWG encourages VIHA to reduce the impact of distance and advance local care delivery capability. Serve as a working pilot for VIHA's efforts to deploy technology solutions such as Telehealth and mobile diagnostic and laboratory equipment to improve service to patients and reduce pressure on the existing system.*

VIHA has made significant infrastructure investments in the area of Telehealth on the North Island. That being said, we also understand the infrastructure (equipment) is not being used to its full capacity. Therefore, VIHA commits to developing a strategy to expand Telehealth opportunities in the rural and remote areas within our geography.

Recommendation 13: *Ultimately, recruitment efforts must focus on attraction and selection of fully qualified, deployment-ready practitioners in all fields and move away from the current model of part-time transfers, locums, or under prepared practitioners - which shores up immediate needs rather than contribute to predictable, high-quality services.*

VIHA commits to a part-time dedicated resource from our Human Resources department to work with Rural Health Managers and the LWG to develop a rural/remote recruitment and retention approach by March 31, 2013. As well, we commit to enacting the subsequent recommendations that arise from this work.

Recommendation 15: *VIHA work with local physicians and explore the introduction of an Alternative Payment Model (APP) in the region.*

VIHA Medical Affairs has started exploratory discussions with physicians in both Port McNeill and Port Hardy in May. VIHA will advocate for more flexible, population-based remuneration models through the Ministry of Health.

Recommendation 32: *The LWG recommends for VIHA to support the creation of two Integrated Community Care Facilities in the region, starting with Port Hardy, in order to meet present and future health care needs, and possibly other such facilities subsequently. Commit to working with LWG members to assess the model, take it to the next level of facility design and work with local representatives and prospective private sector contractors to develop a "business case" to attract support required to make these facilities an economically-viable reality.*

As per our response to Recommendation 1, VIHA wholeheartedly endorses this recommendation and has committed \$100,000 in 2012/13 to begin facility planning in earnest. We anticipate using additional provincial Integrated Primary and Community Care as well as provincial Nurse Practitioner investments to start the creation of virtual teams even prior to a new integrated site being realized.

Recommendation 33: *Review the issues and adopt recommendations for improvement specified in the concurrent, parallel review of mental health and addictions services in order to align efforts between the two initiatives. (Mt. Waddington Addiction and Recovery Services Plan – MWARSP)*

VIHA recognizes the health disparities and service gaps for this population, especially in rural and remote communities. We are building a VIHA Mental Health and Addiction Services (MHAS) plan that will focus on making investments to close these gaps in care.

To augment the existing MHAS resources in the Mount Waddington area, we have developed a formal proposal through the provincial Integrated Primary and Community Care initiative. The proposal seeks funding for additional intensive case management and community supports specific to the Mount Waddington area. We anticipate receiving all necessary approvals to proceed by the end of July.

As outlined above, VIHA is fully committed to working with all partners that comprise the LWG. Our commitments, both financial and in-kind, speak to the commitment we experienced in your passionate presentation to us in May.

Thanks again to the members of the Local Working Group for collaborating on this thoughtful road map to stabilize services in the North Island. Together we can build a more responsive health care system for our populations.

Sincerely,



Catherine Mackay
Executive Vice-President/
Chief Operating Officer

Sincerely,



Dr. Brendan Carr
Executive Vice-President/
Chief Medical Officer



**DISTRICT OF PORT HARDY
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

TO: Rick Davidge, CAO
FROM: Gloria Le Gal, DCS
SUBJECT: Strategic Watershed Management Plan
DATE: 18 October, 2012

Attached is the Strategic Watershed Management Plan prepared by the Tsulquate Watershed Working Group (TWWG).

The TWWG requires Council's approval of the Plan.

Recommendation

That Council approve the Strategic Watershed Management Plan 2010 as presented.

Respectfully submitted,

I agree with the recommendation.

Gloria Le Gal, DCS

Rick Davidge, CAO

District of Port Hardy Strategic Watershed Management Plan 2010



Produced by:

**EPCOR Utilities Inc. on behalf of the District of Port Hardy in consultation
with the Tsulquate Watershed Working Group**



Executive Summary

This document is a Strategic Watershed Management Plan for the Tsulquate watershed from the DPH's perspective. It is meant to be used as a guiding document to make management decisions in the best interest of preserving the Tsulquate Watershed as a drinking water resource. Decisions should be made consistent with the vision, mission, goals, principles and critical issues and strategies outlined in this document. This document suggests that a strategic plan be updated every five years for the Tsulquate Watershed and that Annual Work Plans are based on the prioritized critical issues and strategies outlined in this document. The Strategic Plan was developed in consultation with the Tsulquate Watershed Working Group, who represent stakeholders in the watershed. It is intended that future watershed planning will be done in consultation with this group.

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1. Introduction

The District of Port Hardy (DPH) is a community of approximately 5500 people, including the Gwa'Sala- 'Nakwaxda'Xw Nation and the Kwakiutl Nation, near the northern end of Vancouver Island, British Columbia. Drinking water for the town is obtained from the Tsulquate River, a fourth-order stream with a total length of 19.77 km that drains into Hardy Bay near the town of Port Hardy. The Tsulquate River has an artificial impoundment along it which forms Kains Lake. A man-made dam controls the level of the water in Kains Lake and, subsequently, the flow in the Tsulquate River downstream of the lake.

The DPH uses the Tsulquate River as its sole source of drinking water and its watershed is designated as a community watershed. In November 1993, when the Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act was proposed, it was decided to incorporate many of the Community Watershed Guidelines relating to forestry activities into the Forest Practices Code. The designation of 'community watershed' means that activities within the community watershed boundaries are subject to special provisions. For example, the Community Watershed Guidebook, which is a Forest Practices Code document, guided forest activities in the Tsulquate Watershed as well as other designated community watersheds until 2004. Since then, the Forest and Range Practices Act (2004) and its regulations replaced the Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act and regulations. Under the FRPA, community watersheds are areas identified for the purpose of protecting water quality, quantity and timing of water flow and preventing cumulative hydrological impacts caused by forest and range activities in watersheds where water is diverted for human consumption. Many principles found in the Forest Practice Code document remain intact and guide forest management in community watersheds.

The designated watershed area for the Tsulquate is 44.8 square kilometers (km²) in area and includes the upper reaches of the Tsulquate River above the Port Hardy water intake, which is located approximately 2.5 km upstream from its confluence with Hardy Bay. Land-use in the watershed includes forest operations, recreation, and a transportation and power-line corridor linking the communities of Port Hardy and Holberg. The Tsulquate River community watershed is located primarily on Crown Land, and is part

of Kingcome Timber Supply Area (TSA) 33. There are no licensed discharges within the watershed. Recreational use is generally limited to seasonal activities such as hunting, and there are no sanctioned camping areas within the watershed. Therefore, the primary concerns of anthropogenic impacts on water quality in the Tsulquate River are associated with forestry activities and transportation corridors.

Watershed management of the Tsulquate Watershed has been ongoing since the late 1990s. On January 1, 2000, the District and EPCOR entered a public-private partnership where EPCOR was contracted to operate the District's water system for 20 years and for 5 years to operate the District's wastewater system. As part of EPCOR's operational strategy, a watershed management plan for the Tsulquate Watershed was proposed. In 1999, before the operation contracts were signed, EPCOR conducted a preliminary assessment of the Tsulquate River watershed. The key conclusions and recommendations from the Watershed Assessment were:

- There is limited human activity within the Tsulquate River Watershed and therefore, risks to water quality, including contamination by *Giardia spp.* and *Cryptosporidium spp.*, appear to be low.
- The primary sources of water quality contaminants are wildlife. Natural vegetation also natural affects water quality through high inputs of organic material, which can be a challenge for water treatment.
- The District has an opportunity to keep that risk low, as the watershed is small in size and undeveloped.
- The DPH should take active steps towards developing and implementing a watershed protection plan.

Based on these recommendations and conclusions, EPCOR, on behalf of the DPH, developed a Strategic Watershed Management Plan (SWMP) in 2001 for the Tsulquate Watershed. Although the writing of the plan was led by EPCOR, stakeholder engagement was a critical component of the plan. Relevant stakeholders were invited to a working group meeting to outline critical issues and threats to the Tsulquate Watershed. Both vision and mission statements for the DPH watershed protection program were developed and, based on these, goals and principles of the watershed

protection program were established. Centred on the 2001 Strategic Plan, a work plan was developed and was intended on being updated yearly. The focus of the Strategic Watershed Management Plan in 2001 was on public education, developing expertise and monitoring. The initiatives completed that aligned with this plan are discussed further on in the current strategic plan. It was intended that this SWMP be updated every five years. However, due to various logistical constraints and timing the current plan (2010) will be the first revision to the 2001 plan.

2. Process

The process for developing the 2010 Strategic Plan was similar to that done for the 2001 plan. In 2001, EPCOR invited stakeholders to be involved in a working group put together to provide input into the development of the plan update. The stakeholder list was developed through consultation with District administrators and Councillors, water treatment plant employees and members of the Ministry of Environment. Relevant stakeholders were defined as those parties who had ownership of the land, regulated or used water in the watershed and those who can effect change. The stakeholder group was then identified as the Tsulquate Watershed Working Group. The 2010 plan is built upon discussions and priorities outlined in all Tsulquate Watershed group meetings held since its inception. In addition,, during October 2009 and May 2010 meetings, the working group met to revisit outstanding risks in the watershed and to update watershed protection goals, principles and critical issues and strategies. The working group meeting provided additional direction and input necessary to formulate the 2010 Strategic Plan.

The following is a list of working group agent members (stakeholders) that have been in attendance at TWWG meetings and / or received TWWG meeting minutes:

- BC Ministry of Environment, Land and Parks (now Ministry of Environment)
- BC Ministry of Forests and Range
- BC Ministry of Transportation and Highways
- Environment Canada

- Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Northern Vancouver Salmonoid Enhancement Association
- Upper Island / Central Community Health Society
- Mount Waddington Regional District
- Gwa'Sala-Nakwaxda'Xw First Nation
- Kwakwiltl First Nation
- Chevron
- District of Port Hardy
- Local Fish and Wildlife Club
- EPCOR

Since the inception of the Tsulquate Watershed Working Group, the following is list of dates of the previous TWWG meetings:

- Tuesday, September 26, 2000 – 22 members attended
- Tuesday, September 16, 2003 – 15 members attended
- Tuesday, September 14, 2004 – 16 members attended
- Wednesday, October 21st, 2009 – 16 members attended
- Wednesday May 4th, 2010 – 15 members attended

More specifically, the 2010 Strategic Plan for Tsulquate Watershed was completed through the following steps:

- All minutes and documents from previous working group meetings since the last Strategic Plan was developed were reviewed and incorporated into the plan.
- Relevant stakeholders were identified and invited to a working group meeting in October 2009 to obtain input from stakeholders on critical issues and threats to the Tsulquate Watershed. The current state of knowledge on the watershed was also discussed.
- Based on the above information and the past strategic plan, a draft strategic plan was developed and included: a vision and mission statement for the DPH watershed protection program and subsequent general goals that align with the vision and mission. From there, critical issues and strategies to address those issues were outlined. The vision, mission, and goals were similar to those found in the 2001 Strategic Plan given that current pressures in the watershed

are similar. Subsequently, *critical issues and strategies* were also similar and headings were retained to maintain consistency between the two strategic plans.

- The draft 2010 Strategic Plan was presented to stakeholders in May 2010 in order to obtain feedback and garner consensus on the document.
- The draft document was refined and presented to Council for approval in August 2010.
- The current document represents the final Strategic Plan for which Council approval was obtained.

Future work stemming from the 2010 strategic plan includes the development of an annual work plan for proposed management activities for critical issues identified based on the 2010 meeting.

3. Purpose and Scope

This is a strategic watershed management plan for the Tsulquate Watershed, which supplies water to the DPH. When approved by the District, this Plan will constitute the basis for more detailed watershed implementation plans as well as related activities such as the preparation of water use plans.

The plan is based upon the overall input of the Tsulquate Watershed Working Group. The Tsulquate Watershed is important to both community health, through its water supply, and to the integrated ecological system of the North Vancouver Island. This plan applies to the Tsulquate Watershed, as shown in Figure 1.

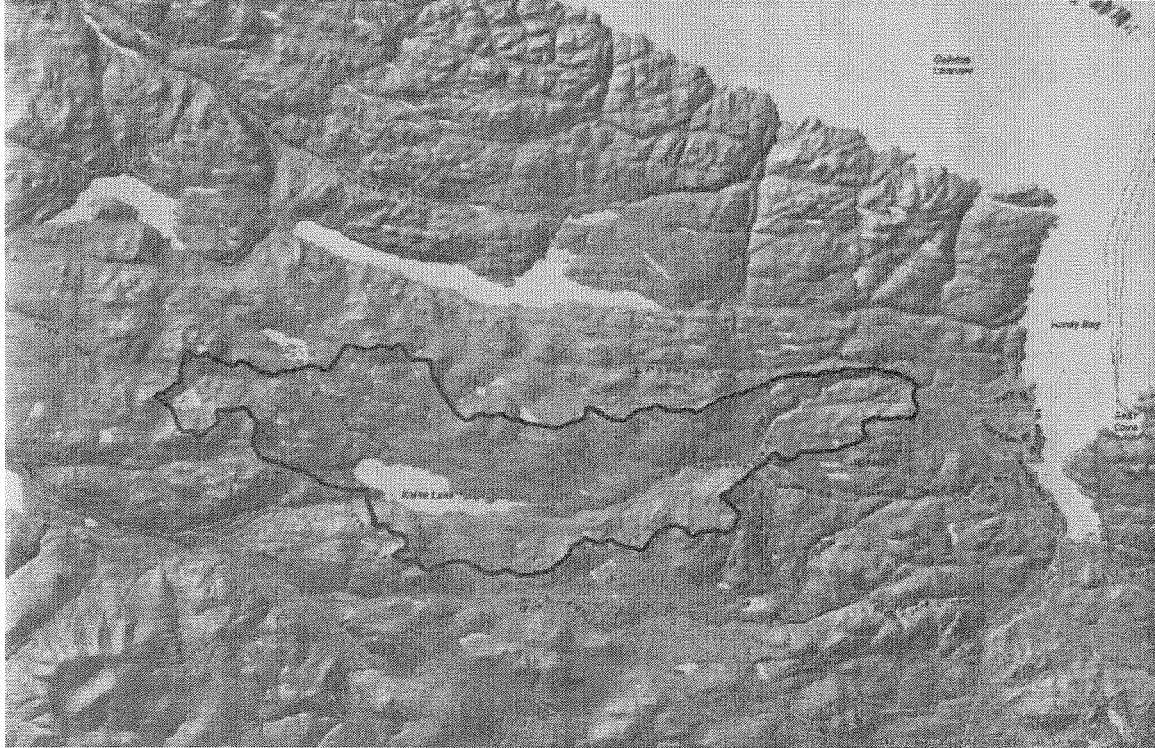


Figure 1. Tsulquate River Community Watershed. Map taken from Campbell 2010.

4. Vision

The DPH is committed to safeguarding the health of its customers and will protect the source of its drinking water supply. It will participate in a cooperative effort with the stakeholders within the Tsulquate River Watershed to ensure environmental integrity of the Tsulquate River Watershed without compromising on the economic well-being of its multiple users. The DPH will be an active participant in all river watershed planning activities and will influence water management decision making by being a knowledgeable and credible source on water quality issues related to the Tsulquate River Watershed.

5. Mission

The DPH acknowledges that watershed protection is a more economical and effective means of protecting safe drinking water than depending on mitigation, including water treatment, to respond to activities that occur in the watershed. To accomplish this objective the DPH, in conjunction with EPCOR, will:

- Seek to develop awareness and concern about water quality issues among those sharing the Tsulquate River Watershed.
- Acquire an intimate knowledge of the Tsulquate River Watershed and water quality issues associated with it.
- Be a resource and leader regarding water quality issues in the Tsulquate River Watershed.
- Form a network of stakeholders that can work cooperatively on watershed issues including development of strategies to protect the watershed as a drinking water resource.
- Respond quickly and effectively to developing water quality issues in the Tsulquate River Watershed.
- Rapidly detect water quality changes in the Tsulquate River, which would have an impact on drinking water quality.
- Promote strategies that will enhance water quality in the Tsulquate River Watershed.

6. Goals

Based on the scope of the vision and mission, the overall goal of the DPH's Strategic Watershed Management Plan is:

“To manage and protect the source of its drinking water, the Tsulquate Watershed, as a natural asset of the highest importance to the District of Port Hardy.”

The following are the DPH goals of watershed management initiatives in the Tsulquate Watershed:

- Develop technical knowledge of the Tsulquate River Watershed.
- Increase public's awareness of watershed issues and priorities.
- Identify, communicate and liaise with relevant stakeholders.
- Develop and/or promote a monitoring program that will assess the state of the Tsulquate River and the variability of the water quality.
- Develop a process to identify and respond to water quality issues in the Tsulquate River Watershed.
- Identify opportunities to enhance water quality in the Tsulquate River.

- Capitalize on public awareness and resources of other groups or government agencies.
- Demonstrate leadership in the promotion and protection of water quality in the Tsulquate River Watershed.

7. Principles

The strategic plan will be based upon the Principles endorsed by the Tsulquate Watershed Working Group in the 2000, 2001, 2002, 2004, 2009, and 2010 meetings.

7.1 The DPH's primary purpose in managing the Tsulquate Watershed is to provide clean, safe water.

Minimizing risks to water quality in the watershed has the potential to reduce treatment costs and risks to public health. Dealing with water quality issues where they originate in the watershed is more proactive, cost effective and environmentally responsible than relying on water treatment alone.

7.2 The watershed will be managed to reflect and advance the District's commitment to environmental stewardship and protection of land and its ecological integrity and biological diversity.

Management strategies will strive to include watershed considerations in land-use planning, forest conservation and environmental stewardship initiatives to support fish, wildlife and biodiversity.

7.3 The SWMP will set continued monitoring as a priority, as outlined in the working group's objectives.

Monitoring and establishing a baseline for the watershed is important to future decision making and is a cost-efficient means to manage water resources. Strategies will focus on monitoring as a requirement for decision making. The DPH will strive to make decisions involving intervention strategies after monitoring clearly identifies a need for intervention. Intervention will be continuously monitored to gauge the environmental performance of management activities. Knowledge gained from the monitoring will allow for adaptive management approaches to be implemented.

7.4 The SWMP will contain policies to mitigate the effects of areas disturbed by human activities on water quality and quantity by ensuring that those areas emulate pre-disturbance conditions as much as possible. Disturbances in the watershed initiated by human activities can result in impacts to water quality. Management activities will include approaches that mimic ecosystem processes with limited to no impact on water quality and quantity in the Tsulquate watershed. The focus will be on maintaining water quality within the water quality objectives proposed by the Ministry of Environment (2009).

7.5 The decision making process will be transparent and open to the public.

The public will be invited to participate in community watershed stewardship initiatives. This will include the involvement of interest groups and education and research organizations to engage in activities such as monitoring programs. Information regarding the management activities will be discussed openly and made widely available.

7.6 Cost-effective management

The DPH will plan and implement its watershed management program in a way that balances the achievement of the Goal with the financial priorities of the DPH.

8. Critical Issues and Strategies

This Strategic Watershed Management Plan (SWMP) will guide the direction of the subsequent watershed programs and initiatives and land use planning activities. Programs will be conducted thoughtfully by utilizing an adaptive management approach. Ongoing monitoring will be used to measure the effectiveness of the watershed program and will be adjusted accordingly to meet the management objectives. This will ensure that best management practices are continually employed and revised as necessary. Key issues facing the DPH that will affect the ability to meet its overall vision and mission, strategies and activities needed to address these issues and progress since the 2001 SWP was released are all outlined.

Need for a Focused Monitoring Program

In the 2001 Strategic Plan, water monitoring and forecasting was identified as a priority for the Tsulquate River. It was thought to be critical to assess short-term impacts and long-term trends to the water resource and assist watershed management decision-making. Key components of a suitable water monitoring program were outlined and included details on the timing of sampling, locations of sampling. Further, it was intended that water monitoring and forecasting would attempt to provide essential data to forecast water supply quantities, determine water quality at various sources throughout the watershed and evaluate the effectiveness of management activities.

Since the 2001 Strategic Watershed Management Plan was published, the Ministry of Environment (MoE) has completed a comprehensive assessment of water quality in the Tsulquate River and established ambient water quality objectives. The ambient water quality guidelines are summarized in the 2009 *'Water quality assessment and objectives for Tsulquate River Community Watershed'* report. This assessment included occasional collection of water samples at a single site located upstream from the main water intake in 1998 and 1999 and then on approximately a monthly basis between June 2002 and May 2005. The sampling frequency increased to 5 weekly samples within 30 days during summer low-flows and during fall peak-flows. Water samples were sent to a laboratory for analyses of fecal coliforms, *E. coli*, turbidity, non-filterable residue, temperature, true colour, specific conductivity, pH, nitrate and nitrite, total phosphorus, and metals concentrations. As part of this program, attainment sampling is scheduled to occur every 3-5 years. In 2009, the first round of attainment sampling was completed.

The Tsulquate Watershed Group supports the adoption of these objectives and that future watershed management initiatives and activities in the watershed align to ensure these objectives are met in the long-term.

The objectives are summarized below:

Parameter	Objective Value
Fecal Coliform Bacteria	≤60 CFU/100 mL (90th percentile based on a minimum of 5 weekly samples collected over a 30-day period)
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	≤60 CFU/100 mL (90th percentile based on a minimum 5 weekly samples collected over a 30-day period)
Turbidity	2 NTU average (based on a minimum 5 weekly samples collected over a 30-day period) 5 NTU maximum
pH	6.0 – 8.5 pH units
Temperature	≤15°C (long-term) with hourly rate of change not exceeding 1°C
True Colour	≤ 108 TCU (90th percentile based on a minimum of five weekly samples collected over a 30-day period)
Total Suspended Solids	26 mg/L maximum in a 24-hour period 6 mg/L average (based on a minimum of five weekly samples collected over a 30-day period)
Total Organic Carbon	≤ 12 mg/L (90th percentile based on a minimum of five weekly samples collected over a 30-day period)

Monitoring remains a priority for the TWWG. Future monitoring work in the Tsulquate Watershed should support the attainment monitoring program done by the MoE. However, a more comprehensive monitoring program should be considered for select parameters, based on the pressures in the watershed. This includes total organic carbon and sediment (turbidity) monitoring, which have the greatest effect on water treatment processes and could be affected by forestry and road network use. An effort should be made to move towards weather, hydrometric and sediment monitoring stations within the watershed which would provide valuable information for watershed management decision-making. This

effort should be coordinated through the Tsulquate Watershed Working Group stakeholders. As well, an effort should be made to establish permanent hydrometric stations on the river and on key tributaries (aligned with water quality monitoring stations).

Water Survey Canada (WSC) has not operated a hydrometric station on the Tsulquate River. However, hydrometric data was collected as part of the automated monitoring program between 2003 and 2005. Hydrometric stations provide information on water inflow to reservoirs (Kains Lake), sediment input from various sub-drainages within the watershed, and early warning of high turbidity and colour events. Sediment stations examine water quality issues and assist in determining if mitigation measures are warranted.

STRATEGY: Focused monitoring program

ACTIVITIES:

A water quality monitoring program should be developed which will supplement the MoE's attainment monitoring. Data from all monitoring should be incorporated into subsequent strategic planning documents. Due to increased forestry activity in the watershed, a monitoring program that focuses on sediment, nutrients, and flow should be undertaken for reaches in the upper watershed. Tributaries expected to be affected by forestry and several control tributaries should be selected for long-term study. The monitoring program will be designed to detect long term changes in water quality and to investigate the effects of forestry and roadways on water quality. Sampling prior to forest harvesting to obtain baseline data is recommended as it would allow the future determination of forestry effects and allow risk assessment. As well, coordinated efforts will continue to be made for sampling amongst different agencies to avoid duplication.

- Evaluate existing data and monitoring program and determine how this can be supplemented.
- Evaluate watershed access points and determine where and how to monitor, focusing on forested and non-forested tributaries. This project will allow for better assessment of impacts in the future.
- Develop, in consultation with working group, a monitoring plan to address and enable evaluation of critical issues.

- Encourage this to be a cooperative undertaking, with vast stakeholder involvement.

ISSUE NO. 2: Increase Public Awareness

In the 2001 Strategic plan, the need for a communication and education program that disseminated information on the watershed management program and provided opportunities for the public to become involved in watershed stewardship activities was noted. It was intended that the program would act to develop and maintain the confidence and trust of the public that the DPH is managing the watershed resources in an environmentally responsible and cost-efficient manner. Activities that occurred under the 2001 SWMP and subsequent work plan included the distribution of watershed pamphlets and the installation of signs identifying the boundaries of the watershed, notifying to the public that they are “in” the watershed. The Ministry of Transportation and Highways volunteered to help place the signs in the watershed. Although these initiatives were informative and useful, it is imperative to maintain momentum and ensure that the education and awareness program is sustainable.

Management activities should be implemented with the participation of the public via input fed through the TWWG. There are many considerations to an effective communication and education program. Some specific issues related to the Tsulquate Watershed include the following:

- Need detailed communications plan targeting upstream users, logging companies, and general public.
- Need to define or identify the approach to be taken to promote public awareness (target audiences and/or general public).
- Need an accessible forum in which information about the watershed and planning initiatives can be disseminated and input can be received due to a limit in the public’s knowledge of watershed issues.

STRATEGY: Increase public awareness

ACTIVITIES:

The following is a list of activities that will facilitate public involvement in the management of the Tsulquate Watershed:

- Create and introduce “What’s Happening in Your Watershed” annual newsletter for distribution to residents in Port Hardy and in the watershed.
- Create a Tsulquate Watershed Working Group website where activities of the TWWG are posted as well as information and reports about the water quality in the Tsulquate River and land use in the watershed. This should include a forum in which the public can comment on watershed issues.
- Guided public tours of the watershed as part of community programs.

ISSUE NO. 3: Need for a Network of Tsulquate River Stakeholders

In 2001 it was identified that a strong network of stakeholders would help identify issues critical in the watershed and ensure that the needs of the public are met in an environmentally and cost-efficient manner. Since the 2001 Strategic Plan, progress has been made in outlining key stakeholders in the watershed and forming the Tsulquate Watershed Working Group, as well as creating a database of stakeholders, contacts and other jurisdictions in the Tsulquate River Watershed. This includes technical experts whom the DPH may later draw upon for advice. Moreover, working relationships with other jurisdictions, utilities, and governments have been established. However, improvements still need to be made to strengthen the network of Tsulquate River stakeholders and ensure its sustainability. Some specific issues related to the Tsulquate Watershed network include the following:

- Representation has been sporadic and roles and responsibilities are often not clear.
- The network of stakeholders has not met regularly to ensure relationships continued to be fostered and planning initiatives are aligned.

STRATEGY: Strengthen the stakeholder network**ACTIVITIES:**

The following is a list of activities that will facilitate the increased effectiveness of a stakeholder network in the Tsulquate Watershed:

- Update the database of stakeholders, contacts and other jurisdictions in the Tsulquate River Watershed annually and encourage their attendance at all Tsulquate Watershed Working Group Meetings.
- Develop a Terms of Reference for the TWWG and its members by 2011.
- Establish a local representative (ideally a District of Port Hardy representative) to coordinate and lead the stakeholder group and oversee the initiatives outlined in the work plan.
- Ensure that annual meetings of the TWWG occur and that the minutes are distributed to all stakeholders and are available to the public.
- Conduct ongoing surveys among stakeholders through the newsletter and use the results to evaluate the watershed protection program.
- Establish a TWWG website that is accessible to the public and current stakeholders.

ISSUE NO. 4: Increase Knowledge of Watershed

Increasing the DPH's knowledge of the Tsulquate Watershed will enable the District to conserve the watershed resource to the greatest extent possible and protect it as a source of drinking water. This was a key issue outlined in the 2001 SWMP. Since 2001, the TWWG has been an effective forum in which critical watershed issues can be voiced and knowledge of watershed activities shared. As such, the knowledge of the watershed has increased substantially. Collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Forests and Range has facilitated resource sharing which includes quality maps that can be used for decision making. Additionally, this network has brought to light current and emerging issues associated with general water quality and quantity in the watershed. However, there are still many knowledge gaps that limit decision making abilities in the watershed. The two main knowledge gaps include the correlation between land use (e.g.

forestry, erosion from road ways) and water quality and the knowledge of weir maintenance, flow control and level fluctuation and those effects on water quality and quantity and fish habitat.

STRATEGY: Increase knowledge of the watershed

ACTIVITIES:

- Design water quality monitoring program to investigate the relationship between forestry activities and in-stream water quality and quantity. Research whether similar studies in other watersheds are applicable to the Tsulquate Watershed.
- Determine the operational plan for the weir and the effect on the natural flow regime in the Tsulquate River in coordination with Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

ISSUE NO. 5: Need for Integrated Management

Integrated management will facilitate, to the greatest extent possible, effective watershed management and protection in the Tsulquate Watershed, which continues to be a primary objective for the DPH. It is also critical for addressing the cumulative impacts of multiple land uses within the watershed. However, integrated management is challenging given that: the Tsulquate River watershed is multijurisdictional; watershed protection is largely housed with the Ministry of Forestry and Range, Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, and Ministry of Environment; and there are no existing agreements between other regional districts or towns with regards to activities in a watershed.

The DPH should communicate and participate in the integrated management with the Mount Waddington Regional District and the Provincial Government at large as well as other identified stakeholders, particularly forest companies currently active in the area.

To facilitate integrated management and communication, it is also important to understand existing land use planning initiatives, objectives, and publishing organizations. For example, the BC government's Integrated Land Management Bureau (under Ministry of Agriculture and Lands) has developed a Vancouver Island Land Use Plan (British Columbia, 2001). This plan outlines that the Nahwitti-Tsulquate region falls under the *General*

Management Zone and has an emphasis on maintaining the fish/wildlife and recreational/tourism values associated with the major riparian systems and maintenance of community watershed integrity. Forestry Objectives outlined in the plan are simply that the Tsulquate is managed as a community watershed.

Lower level planning also exists for the Tsulquate Watershed. The Integrated Land Management Bureau and Lands has outlined a series of Land Use Objectives (LUOs) for the Tsulquate, and include proposed objectives for Old Growth Management Areas (OGMAs) (British Columbia, 2010). Figure 2 shows OGMAs that within the Tsulquate Watershed.

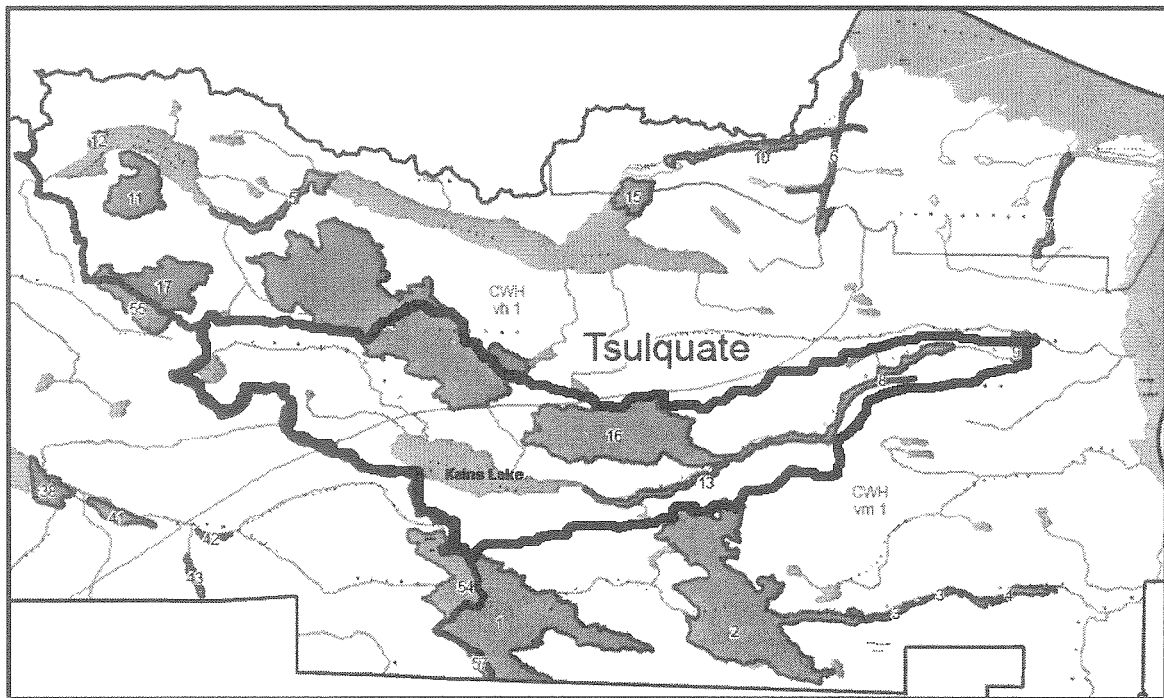


Figure 2. Green areas represent proposed Old Growth Management Areas. Map is adapted from British Columbia, 2010.

LUOs are to maintain or recruit old growth forests within the proposed Old Growth Management Areas. It is noted that timber harvesting and road or bridge construction are permitted within OGMAs, provided that certain requirements are met. These are available in the original document and include the following:

- a restriction that timber harvesting and road or bridge construction does not exceed the greater of one hectare or 10% of the total area of the OGMA

- replacement forest is identified which is biologically suitable, of equivalent age, structure and area, and is situated in order of priority, either immediately adjacent to the OGMA, or adjacent to another OGMA within the same variant and landscape unit as the existing OGMA
- road or bridge construction, if applicable, is required to access resource values beyond or adjacent to the OGMA and no other practicable option for road or bridge location exists.

It is expected and encouraged that activities in the watershed (forestry or otherwise) align with these higher level planning objectives, where applicable.

As well, individual forestry companies operating in the Tsulquate Watershed (Richmond Plywood and British Columbia Timber Sales (BCTS)) need to complete landscape unit planning to guide their harvesting activity. Landscape unit planning is an important component of the Forest Practices Code of BC Act (FPC) and the Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA). The authority of the Land Amendment Act enables legal establishment of objectives to address landscape level biodiversity values. These plans align with higher level plans from the Integrated Land Management Bureau and Lands.

Richmond Plywood has developed a sustainable resource management plan within the Tsulquate Landscape Unit, which is applicable to both tenure holders (Richmond Plywood, 2006). The strategic planning done by Richmond Plywood is intended to help maintain certain biodiversity values through the delineation of OGMAs. Managing for biodiversity through retention of old growth forests is considered important not only for wildlife, but can also provide important benefits to ecosystem management, protection of water quality and preservation of other natural resources. The updated Tsulquate Landscape Unit boundary and the landscape unit objectives will be legally established under the authority of the Land Act and as such will become Higher Level Plan objectives. Other operational plans must be consistent with these objectives.

Understanding that multiple planning initiatives are occurring in the Tsulquate Watershed at various levels, and with multiple stakeholders, is key to facilitating integrated management of the watershed. It is essential to incorporate higher level objectives and these planning agencies in the SWMP development.

STRATEGY: Encourage integrated management

ACTIVITIES:

The following is a list of activities that will encourage the cooperative action of integrated management of the watershed through land-use planning:

- Distribute and present 2010 Strategic Plan for comments from DPH Administrators and Councillors as part of the Tsulquate Watershed Working Group.
- Distribute current Strategic Plan to all watershed stakeholders and higher level planning organizations (e.g. Ministry of Agriculture and Lands) and encourage land use planning to consider the current Strategic Plan in planning process.
- Ensure that all stakeholders are represented as members of the TWWG.
- Encourage the District of Port Hardy to work cooperatively with Mount Waddington Regional District, Ministry of Forests and Range, Ministry of Agriculture and Lands and Ministry of Environment in future planning and development in the watershed through the TWWG.
- Stay aware of current land use planning initiatives and objectives developed by the Integrated Land Management Bureau and include these objectives into the Tsulquate Strategic Watershed Management Plan.
- Investigate if delegation of responsibilities under the Water Conservation and Management Act will increase the DPH's control over the watershed of the Tsulquate River and evaluate the cost/benefits associated with increased responsibilities.

ISSUE NO. 6: Watershed Land Use and Access

As outlined in the "Need for Integrated Management" section above, the Tsulquate River watershed is covered by the Vancouver Island Summary

Land-Use Plan (British Columbia, 2000) and is part of a General Resource Management Zone. The intent of General Management Zones (GMZ) are to identify areas with a wide range of resource values, and manage in accordance with legislative requirements and the principles of integrated resource management. Within the GMZ framework, a Community Watershed Management Regime is identified for the Tsulquate River. The intent of this regime is to maintain integrity of designated community watersheds through the strategy of applying the Forest Practices Code and other pertinent legislation to the designated community watershed.

It is clear that the activities that occur in the watershed have the potential to affect water quality and quantity in the Tsulquate River. This includes recreational use, road densities and maintenance, contaminant spills, and forestry activities. Through integrated watershed management, land use planning can mitigate the effects and potential effects of these activities on receiving water bodies. Each of the major land use and activities that can affect water quality and quantity in the Tsulquate River are outlined in the following sections. Also outlined are relevant strategies and activities to mitigate the risks posed by these activities and/or land uses.

Recreation/Public Access

There was a strong interest in limiting public access to the watershed at the most recent TWWG meetings. Limiting access to the watershed may result in reduced risk of microbiological contamination, erosion, fires, and general introduction of contaminants to the Tsulquate River. It was thought that public access should be encouraged but that it should be done in a formal way, such as through public watershed tours, to prevent misuse of trail systems. Rather than promoting extensive trail development, the TWWG agreed that a trail system should not be considered due to the increased risks to the Tsulquate River. It was stated that there were a multitude of other accessible trails near the town of Port Hardy and limiting trails in the Tsulquate would not significantly affect recreational opportunities in the region. Therefore the TWWG cannot support the development of a trail to the Tsulquate Falls nor the goal of connecting the North Coast Trail from Cape Scott to Port Hardy (should the trail enter the watershed). If it is decided at a regional level that the North Coast Trail will be extended into the Tsulquate Watershed the TWWG would expect that criteria for trail development be in place to prevent motorized use of the trail, limit the

number of users on the trail, and monitor for responsible use of the trail system.

Controlling general public access into the watershed needs to be discussed with the public and other stakeholders on an ongoing basis. Education is the preferred approach though other regulatory means should also be utilized. Signs identifying the boundaries of watershed are in place and should be maintained over the long-term.

STRATEGY: Develop a policy for public access into the Tsulquate Watershed with public and stakeholder support

ACTIVITIES:

The following steps are recommended:

- Limit use of power boats in the watershed – this could be a complete ban on power boats, or a number limit (for working group to discuss, town council to discuss, and municipal by-laws investigation).
- Educate the general public on what is a watershed, why a healthy watershed is beneficial, and how one can reduce their individual footprint in the watershed while recreating in the watershed. This program should focus on the multi-use nature of the watershed.
- Determine what permits/regulations currently exist (e.g. boating restrictions), whose jurisdiction they are in, and encourage enforcement. If no permits/regulations exist relating to access into the watershed, then encourage the development of policy and enforce permits/ regulations through the appropriate organizations.
- Work with the TWWG to develop a policy on public access in the Tsulquate Watershed.

Road Network

Erosion from roads has the potential to decrease water quality in the Tsulquate River and road-related sediment production is likely a major source of anthropogenic fine-sediment in the Tsulquate. In the 2001 Strategic Plan roads were identified as a potential risk to source waters and subsequent collaboration with the Ministry of Transportation was initiated in order to reduce erosion potential through culvert upgrades on Holberg

Road. However, it is not clear which culverts were upgraded and the current status of the road maintenance is unknown.

Although the overall non-deactivated road density of 0.4 km/km² (0.7 km/km² if deactivated roads are included) is considered low in terms of potential impacts to flow or sediment supply, poor management could lead to high erosion during wet weather events and impacts on water quality. Currently, the major road that runs through the Tsulquate Watershed and makes up the bulk of the road density is Holberg Road. At several locations the road is directly connected, or in close proximity, to Kains Lake or the mainstem channel of the Tsulquate, increasing the potential for sediment to enter into the Tsulquate River.

In a recent Watershed Assessment completed by the Ministry of Forests in March 2010, the Holberg Road was noted to represent the major source of development-related sediment and impact within the watershed, which includes all road users (including logging and industrial traffic). Though this disturbance is potentially low due to low road density, it does highlight that Holberg Road is an important component of the watershed's sediment budget and work should focus on mitigating erosion from this road. Road management and maintenance is the responsibility of the Ministry of Transportation and Highways.

Ideally, a long-term road network will be comprised of essential roads providing vehicle access to:

- Water supply and water quality monitoring sites.
- Site developments for water system infrastructure.
- BC Hydro right of way.
- Forestry access.

All new roads should be constructed to minimize the effect and potential effect on downstream waterbodies. This includes minimizing length of road in the watershed, using existing roads where possible, and using best practices for erosion control.

It should be noted that BC Timber Sales has indicated that "any road construction will be conducted under the BC Timber Sales Environmental

Management System, which has Environmental Field Procedures to guide our Contractors and Licensee's operations." BCTS will conduct annual ocular inspections on the constructed roads either (1.) for the first 5 years after construction, or (2.) until the roads are deactivated, whichever comes first. If the inspections note significant sources of sedimentation (e.g. landslides, surface erosion, etc.), BCTS will undertake Best Management Practises to mitigate the sedimentation source. These steps are important components of managing cumulative effects of the road network and would aid in developing a comprehensive road monitoring plan for the entire watershed.

STRATEGY: Develop an action plan for the management of the road network in the Tsulquate Watershed

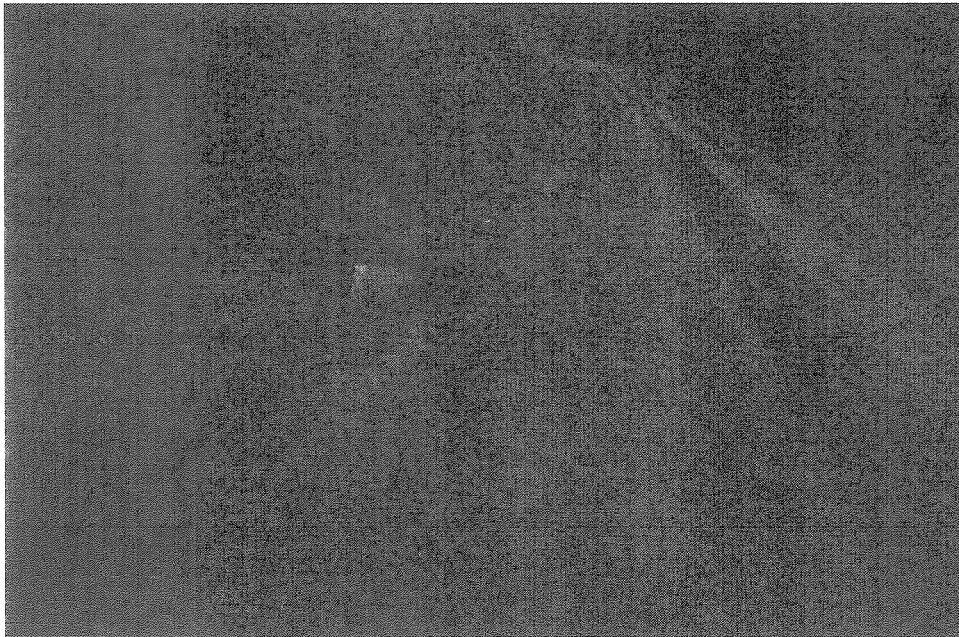
ACTIVITIES:

The following steps are recommended in the Tsulquate Watershed:

- It is a priority to work with the Ministry of Transportation and Highways to determine what culvert upgrades have been completed to date and to upgrade the remaining undersized culverts on Holberg Road
- Establish a road monitoring/assessment program for the road network which includes an assessment of sediment production and sediment delivery from roads and other soil disturbance sites. The intention is to ensure that erosion from the road network is minimized. This could be done using the Forest and Range Evaluation Program's (FREP) Water Quality Management Routine Effectiveness Evaluation (WQEE) and would include an initial assessment and then follow up assessment on a pre-determined schedule (e.g. once every three years). Areas of focus for this assessment include high-use roads, new roads, and roads in close proximity and/or connectivity to the Tsulquate River drainage. This includes the following activities:
 - Determine the need for barricades along roads to manage and control runoff, leading to a silt retention pond prior to Kains Lake

- Determine which roads are essential roads and are to be maintained to avoid the initiation of landslides and surfaces erosion.
- Determine which roads are non-essential and may be deactivated to minimize sources of erosion and reduce long-term maintenance costs.
- Conduct regular road inspection and maintenance (in partnership with the Ministry of Transportation and Highways). Priority areas would be highlighted through the inspection/monitoring program, or areas with high-use (e.g. hauling) or new construction
- Where possible, utilize dry weather periods or dry seasons for construction and hauling. Where possible, avoid construction or hauling during the wet season (October to February)
- Discuss paving Holberg Road with stakeholders to reduce erosion potential.
- Employ Best Management Practices to limit the potential for impacts. These should include:
 - limiting, if possible, new road construction and the number of stream crossings.
 - increased frequency of ditch cross-drainage structures, and if possible limit ditchwater connectivity to stream channels
 - armouring culvert intakes, and outlets, particularly on steeper grades
 - armouring road approaches to crossings to prevent erosion, particularly if the crossing is at a low point in the road
 - using erosion control measures, such as grass seeding or silt fences, for disturbed areas with easily erodible soils as well as on steeper grades.
 - erosion control measures should be monitored for performance. Grass seeding is most effective if allowed an appropriate amount of time to establish prior to the wet fall period
 - using check-dams in ditches (haybales or rip-rap) to capture sediment and reduce erosion by limiting down-cutting of ditchline

- limiting the removal of established vegetation from ditchlines during maintenance and re-opening roads, so long as the hydrological function of the ditches (e.g. diverting flow away from the road and effectively conveying water) is maintained
- de-activating roads as soon as possible after they are no longer being used
- Additional strategies for BMP's can be found in *Erosion and sediment control practices for forest roads and stream crossings: A practical operations guide* (Gillies, 2007).



Holberg Road (taken from Campbell, 2010)

Spill Management and Emergency Preparedness

An emergency management program, as required under the *Drinking Water Protection Act*, should be executed to minimize potential threats and to address concerns involving the watershed and adjacent lands. The emergency management program will be based upon a solid foundation of threat identification, risk assessment and impact analysis. The foundation of the emergency management program will be site specific to reflect the geography, topography and land uses pertinent and adjacent to the watershed.

The issues to consider in the Tsulquate Watershed before an emergency preparedness plan is put in place include the need to identify and compile a

list of the organizations (Ministry of Environment, Land and Parks, Ministry of Forests and Range, Chevron, etc.) that have their own emergency response or contingency plans in place at present to handle spills within the watershed. An initial attempt was made to do this based on the 2001 Strategic Plan and the DPH and EPCOR North Island were added to the list of emergency contacts with several organizations that have an emergency response or contingency plan in place. However, the current status of this initiative needs to be determined. Forest operations are the dominant industry in the watershed and currently BC Timber Sales has effectively addressed these issues in their Environmental Management System (BC Timber Sales, 2009b), including an Emergency Response Plan. However, there is need for all organizations to send DPH and EPCOR North Island the updated portions of their emergency response plan.

STRATEGY: Develop an emergency preparedness program

ACTIVITIES:

The emergency management program will include the following activities:

- Ensure that DPH and EPCOR North Island are added to the list of emergency contacts with each organization that has an emergency response or contingency plan in place for spills in the watershed. Encourage organizations to send DPH and EPCOR North Island the updated portions of their emergency response plan to visually recognize where they fit in the process.
- Produce a complete list of threats identified from potential hazards and conduct risk analysis to determine the likelihood of an occurrence.
- Complete an impact analysis to describe the consequence of any event occurring.
- Develop a mitigation strategy to reduce the threat likelihood in a cost-efficient manner.
- Increase the level of preparedness with contingency and response planning.
- Create a recovery plan to bring the watershed back to productive use based on the identified threats. The emergency management program will guide the development of more specific emergency

preparedness plans involving operations within and adjacent to the watershed.

Forestry

Current forest management within the Tsulquate River Watershed is subject to the Forests and Range Practices Act (FRPA). The watershed is designated a community watershed under this act. The Forest Planning and Practices Regulation of FRPA specifies that for water being diverted for human consumption through a licensed waterworks in a community watershed, the objective is to prevent the cumulative hydrological effects of primary forest activities with the community watershed from resulting in 1) a material adverse impact on the quantity of water or the timing of the flow of the water to the waterworks, or 2) the water from the waterworks having a material adverse impact on human health that cannot be addressed by water treatment under an enactment, or the license pertaining to the waterworks.

The current licensees working within the Tsulquate River watershed include BC Timber Sales and Richmond Plywood Corporation Ltd and both of these groups are members of the TWWG. Activities are outlined in Figure 3.

Primary forest activities undertaken by BC Timber Sales are managed under a Forest Stewardship Plan for the Seaward (Tlasta) Business Area (Amendment #4, BC Timber Sales, 2009a). This Forest Stewardship Plan provides specific results or strategies for forest activities in community watersheds, including the Tsulquate River. These include that “before the FSP holder carries out or authorizes timber harvesting or road construction in a community watershed, a hydrological assessment will be carried out by a qualified professional to assess and make recommendations regarding whether cumulative hydrological effects of proposed primary forest activities will result in a material adverse impact” and that “recommendations... guides the design for cut-blocks or roads and the design is implemented” (BC Timber Sales, 2009a). BC Timber Sales and the Ministry of Forests and Range completed a report entitled “Tsulquate River Watershed Assessment” in March 2010 with the intention of fulfilling the hydrological assessment component of this strategy for proposed forest operations. As well the assessment supports the Seaward-Tlasta Business

Area Forest Stewardship Plan strategy to prevent cumulative hydrologic effects resulting in material adverse impacts on water quantity, timing of flow or water quality in community watersheds. In the assessment it was thought that given the limited amount of current and historic development in the watershed, forestry activities are unlikely to be having much of an influence on current water quality conditions. However, because forestry activities can affect water quality through increased delivery of fine sediment subsequent to water bodies, as well as increasing temperature, nutrients, dissolved solids and dissolved oxygen, monitoring should continue and development should remain low. As suggested by the assessment completed by BC Timber Sales, effective clearcut area (ECA) in the watershed should remain below 20%. The Tsulquate Watershed Assessment completed by BC Timber Sales may provide guidance to Richmond Plywood as well, although the report was written exclusively for BC Timber Sales. To limit hydrology effects associated with development it may be better to focus on road construction, road use, and potential impacts to sediment supply rather than on ECA alone.

Forestry activities have the potential to introduce contaminants through application of synthetic chemicals. As such, BC Timber Sales have indicated that as per the Forest Planning and Practises Regulation section 63(2), the only anticipated fertilizer use within the proposed blocks is spot treatment using fertilizer “tea bags” inserted into the soil with each planted seedling, and any residual fertilizer remaining in the seedling “plug” from sowing at the nursery. Although there may also be residual pesticide on the seedlings from the nursery, it is anticipated to be negligible. No herbicides will be used on these blocks, any vegetation control will be done through manual or mechanical means. To abate fire hazard after harvesting, controlled burning may be employed. To ensure this activity is carried out in a safe and effective manner, BCTS will assume this obligation from our TSL holders on these blocks, and will mitigate the need for any fire suppression activities by burning during appropriate “weather windows”.

Richmond Plywood, has also developed a Sustainable Resource Management Plan within the Tsulquate Landscape Unit, which is applicable to both tenure holders (Richmond Plywood, 2006).

The Tsulquate River Watershed Assessment completed by BC Timber Sales and Sustainable Resource Management Plan completed by Richmond Plywood are excellent examples of ensuring forestry activities do not have a significant negative effect on water resources and watershed health in the Tsulquate Watershed. However, in order to continue to mitigate the effects of forestry in the watershed as a whole, additional steps that should be taken are outlined below.

STRATEGY: Minimizing cumulative forestry impacts to water quality and quantity

ACTIVITIES:

- Ensure that both Richmond Plywood and BC Timber Sales continue to work together to cumulatively assess the impacts of forestry activities on both hydrology and water quality and plan activities accordingly.
- Conduct a monitoring exercise to determine if forestry is impacting water quality in Tsulquate River during different flow regimes.
- Work cooperatively with the Ministry of Forests and Range to better understand the effects in the watershed due to logging at different ECA thresholds.
- Align forestry policies and activities to ensure that the Water Quality Objectives outlined by the Ministry of Environment are considered and met.
- Establish the TWWG as the relevant stakeholder group for consultation with the Ministry of Forests and Range and Ministry of Environment when reviewing activities in the watershed.
- Work cooperatively with the Mount Waddington Regional District Administration, Planning Departments and the Ministry of Environment to identify mitigation measures.
- Encourage principles outlined in the Forest Practices Code Community Watershed Guidebook.

Transmission Lines

There is a proposal moving forward for a transmission line near the Tsulquate Watershed. The Seabreeze Transmission line will cross the Tsulquate River downstream of the WTP intake but it should be recognized as a new disturbance in the vicinity of the watershed (Figure 4).

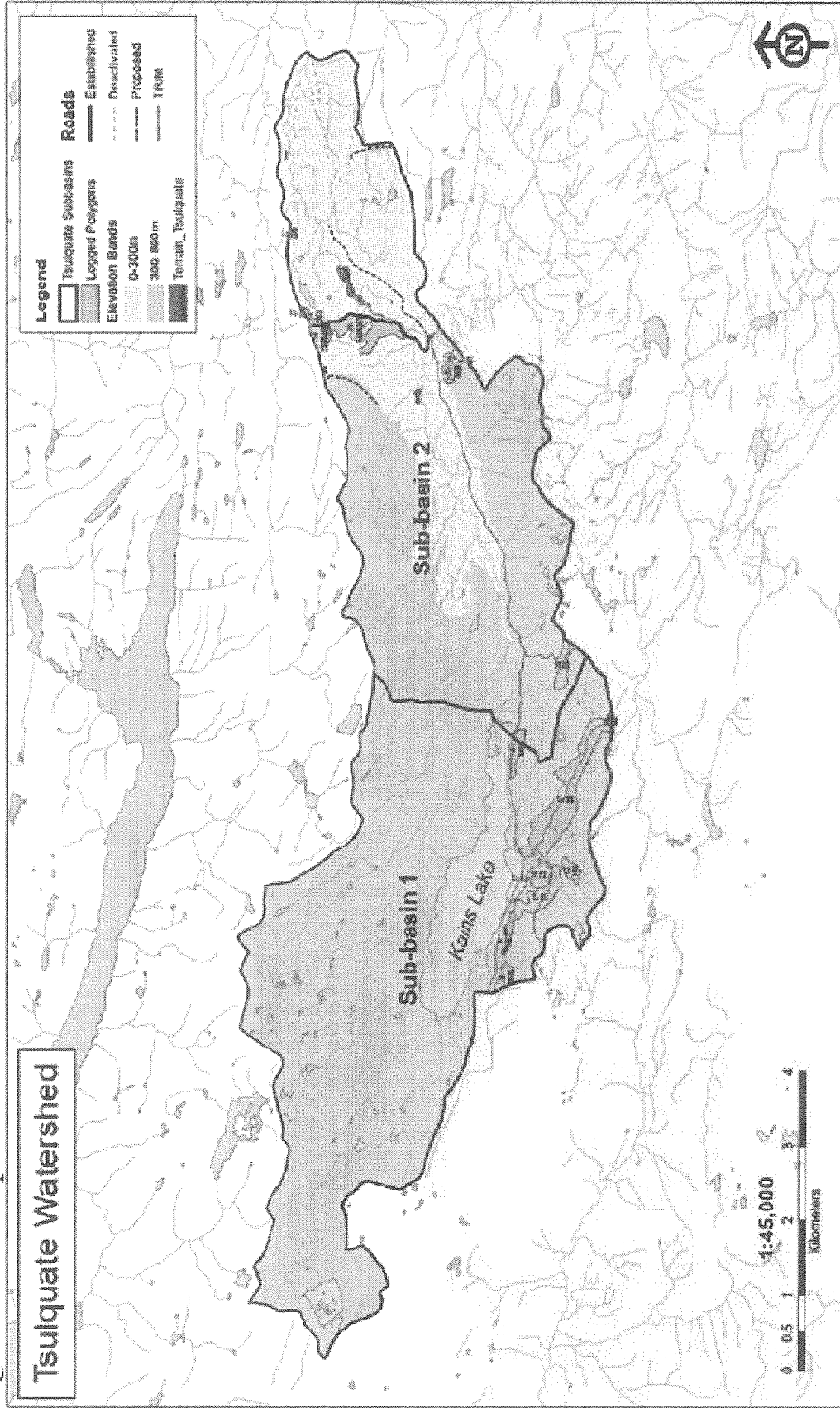


Figure 3. Forestry activities in the Tsulquate River Watershed. Map taken from Campbell, 2010.

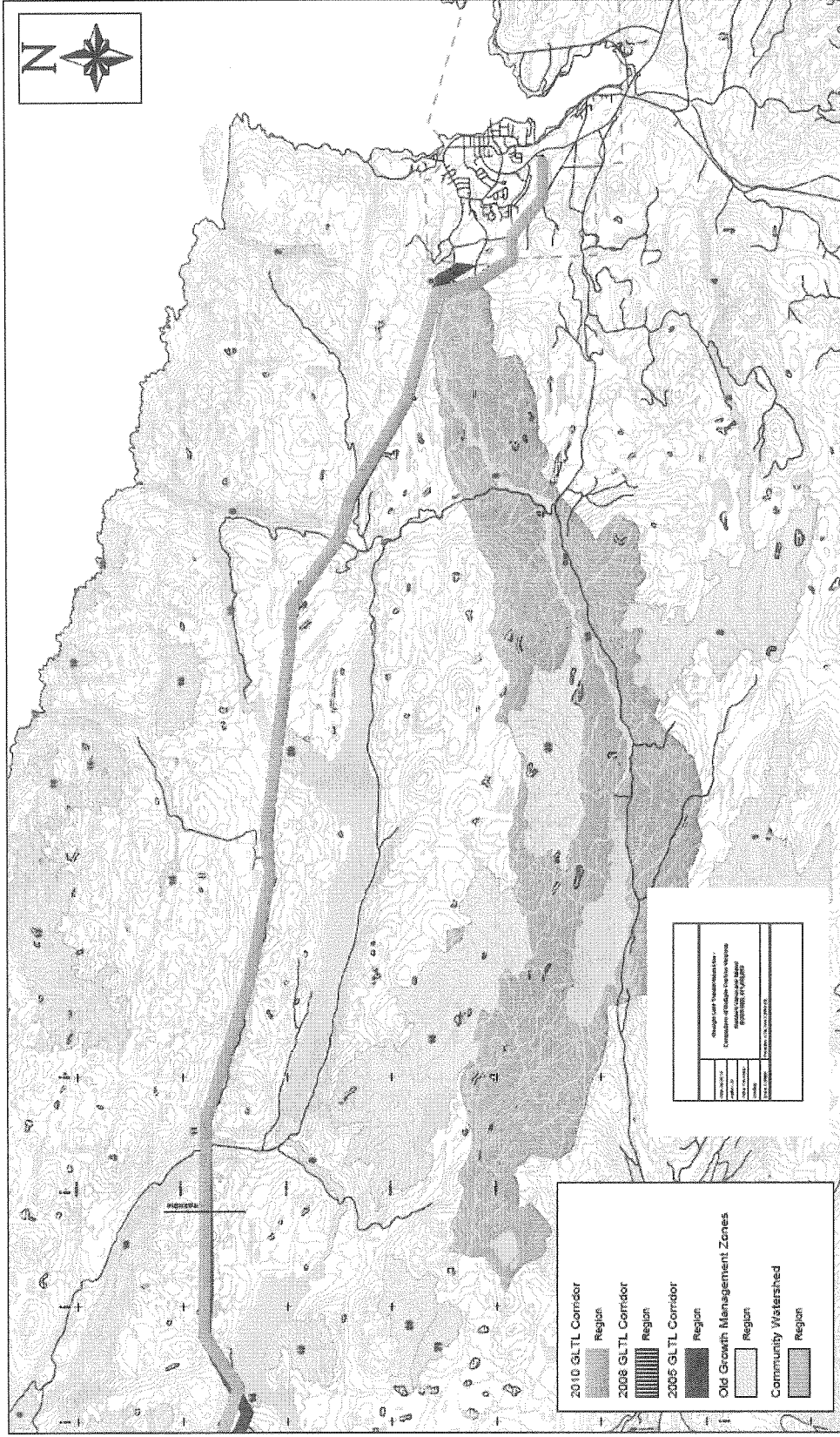


Figure 4. Proposed transmission Lines near the Tsulquate River Watershed. Map provided by DPH, 2010.

ISSUE NO. 7: Expert Advice and Response

Expert time and resources are required to respond to inquiries and review technical information from the following sources:

- Councillors.
- Customers.
- Stakeholders.
- Technical information requests.
- Planning and Development.

STRATEGY: Allocate time and resources to respond to inquiries

ACTIVITIES:

- Develop working relationship with the Ministries of Environment, Land and Parks, and Forestry to complete requests. Establish an email list for Tsulquate Watershed Working Group members to participate provide feedback.
- Increase in-house technical background knowledge in order to respond to inquiries.

ISSUE NO. 8: Limited Resources

- Priorities not determined.
- Limited budget.

STRATEGY: Quantify and prioritize activities and match resources to priorities

Prioritization of issues was identified as an important component that should be included in this Strategic Watershed Management Plan during TWWG meetings. Several stakeholders provided input onto which issues and activities are of priority, though all actions are important in the long-term. It was indented that further prioritization would occur during the annual work plan. Below is the list of prioritized issues and associated actions which will guide near term work plans.

Identified Issues	Prioritized Actions
ISSUE NO. 1: Need for a Focused Monitoring Program	Develop, in consultation with the TWWG, a water quality monitoring plan that addresses critical issues, evaluates existing data and monitoring programs, determines how these can be supplemented, considers watershed access points, and outlines where and how to monitor. It is suggested that monitoring should focus on forested and non-forested tributaries.
ISSUE NO. 2: Public Awareness	Educate the general public with the focus on what a watershed is, the importance of maintaining healthy watershed, how to be an informed citizen in the watershed, and what management activities are occurring in the Tsulquate Watershed. This includes the development of a TWWG website and production of a newsletter outlining activities in the watershed and of the Tsulquate Watershed Working Group.
ISSUE NO. 3: Need for a Network of Tsulquate River Stakeholders	Update the database of stakeholders, contacts and other jurisdictions in the Tsulquate River Watershed and encourage their attendance at all Tsulquate Watershed Working Group Meetings. Develop a Terms of Reference for the TWWG and its members. Finally, establish a local representative (ideally a District of Port Hardy representative) to coordinate and lead the stakeholder group and oversee the initiatives outlined in the work plan.
ISSUE NO. 5: Need for Integrated Management	Distribute and present 2010 Strategic Plan for comments from DPH Administrators and Councillors as part of the TWWG. Ensure that all stakeholders are represented as

	<p>members of the TWWG.</p> <p>Encourage higher level land-use planning to consider the Strategic Plan in planning process. This includes ensuring that all new activities in the watershed are assessed by the TWWG in a timely matter to make sure that activities align with this strategic plan, and that watershed protection is considered.</p>
<p>ISSUE NO. 6: Watershed Land Use and Access</p>	<p>Develop an emergency preparedness program. Ensure that DPH and EPCOR North Island are added to the list of emergency contacts with each organization that has an emergency response or contingency plan in place. This should include a complete list of threats identified from potential hazards or perils and conduct risk analysis to determine the likelihood of an occurrence.</p> <p>Evaluate status of erosion on Holberg Road and upgrade undersized culverts. Encourage this to be a cooperative effort with wide stakeholder involvement.</p>
<p>ISSUE NO. 8: Limited Resources</p>	<p>Prioritize among watershed issues and approaches during each annual meeting and subsequent work plans. From there, develop Strategic Plan to allocate manpower and resources.</p> <p>Investigate cooperative funding of projects of mutual interest with provincial and federal governments, industries and other municipalities. Also, work with Administrations and Planning Departments and utilize their expertise and determine if other agencies can provide technical advice/support to land users/industries of concern.</p>

9. Proposed Watershed Planning Process

The watershed planning process involves the public, stakeholders, DPH staff, government agencies, Mount Waddington Regional District and other members of the Tsulquate Watershed Working Group. The watershed planning process will be on a recurring basis, with Strategic Plans prepared on a five-year cycle and project work plans prepared annually by EPCOR. At that time goals will be reviewed and potentially revised. However, the long-term goal of protecting the Tsulquate River and its watershed for drinking water purposes and aquatic ecosystem health are steadfast.

During the development of the 2010 Strategic Watershed Management Plan, it is intended that an annual project plan also be developed to describe the proposed management activities for each of the critical issues identified. This plan should be produced with consultation with the Tsulquate Watershed Working Group. The project plan will provide the necessary guidance to ensure the management activities will be implemented reflecting the management strategies described in this Strategic Plan.

An annual report will be prepared describing the results of the various management activities in the watershed. It will identify issues and will summarize the results of management activities that are designed to resolve issues in the watershed. The annual report will be prepared with input provided by the working group.

10. Project Plan for the Year 2011

The following is a list of projects proposed for the year 2011. This falls into 2011 because the Strategic Watershed Management Plan was being revised throughout 2010. Implementation of these and future projects will be subject to funding approval from stakeholders, including the DPH. These projects were chosen as the top priorities based on the input received at the working group meeting. Before some of the more major projects can be undertaken, a strong stakeholder group needs to be developed. Therefore, the need to develop a strong stakeholder group was also brought into consideration in the ranking of projects.

10.1 Develop a Monitoring Plan for the Tsulquate Watershed

- Evaluate existing data and monitoring program and determine how this can be supplemented.
- Evaluate watershed access points and determine where and how to monitor, focusing on forested and non-forested tributaries. This project will allow for better assessment of impacts in the future.
- Develop, in consultation with working group, a monitoring plan to address and enable evaluation of critical issues.
- Encourage this to be a cooperative undertaking, with vast stakeholder involvement.

10.2 Increase Public Awareness in the Watershed

- Put into motion the formulation a website to be housed on the DPH website outlining the activities of the Tsulquate Watershed Working Group.

10.3 Strengthen Stakeholder Network

- Hold annual Tsulquate Watershed Working Group meeting and ensure a comprehensive list of stakeholders are in attendance or receiving minutes.
- Between meetings, communicate with stakeholders through regular emails.
- Work cooperatively with associations/organizations/government agencies (e.g. Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Northern Vancouver Island Salmonid Enhancement Association, Trout Unlimited Canada, Ducks Unlimited, BC Ministry of Environment, BC Ministry of Forests and Range, etc.) and tie into their existing water quality programs where possible. Encourage these associations/organizations/government agencies to establish peer advisory groups for relevant land users and industries.
- Encourage monitoring to be a cooperative effort with participation from the BC Ministry of Environment, BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the BC Ministry of Forests, North Vancouver Island Salmonid Enhancement Association, Community Health Services, the BC Ministry of Transportation and Highways, the Mount Waddington Regional District and the DPH.

- Encourage culvert upgrades to Holberg Road to be a cooperative effort with participation from the BC Ministries of Transportation and Highways, Environment, Land and Parks, and Forests, Forest Companies utilizing the watershed, the District and any other relevant agency.

10.4 Emergency Preparedness

- Have the DPH and EPCOR North Island be added to the list of emergency contacts with each organization that has an emergency response or contingency plan in place for spills in the watershed.
- Produce a complete list of threats identified from potential hazards or perils.

10.5 Watershed Land Use Planning

- Ensure that all new activities in the watershed are assessed by the TWWG in a timely matter to ensure that activities align with this strategic plan and that watershed protection is considered. In 2011, this includes creating a summary document of near future watershed plans for the area.
- Encourage public commentary for activities and establish a member list for TWWG members.
- It is a priority to work with the Ministry of Transportation and Highways to upgrade the remaining two undersized culverts on Holberg Road in the Tsulquate Watershed. For 2011, the goal is to establish contact and determine what has been done on the road to date. Encourage this to be a cooperative effort with wide stakeholder involvement.

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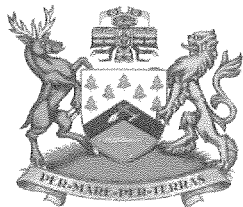
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**DISTRICT OF PORT HARDY
BYLAW 17-2012**

**A Bylaw to Exempt Certain Properties from
Taxation for the Year 2013**

WHEREAS, Section 224(2)(a) of the *Community Charter* exempts from taxation land, improvements or both owned or held by a charitable, philanthropic or other not for profit corporation that are used for a purpose that is directly related to the purposes of the corporation;

NOW THEREFORE, the Council of the District of Port Hardy, in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

1. That the following lands and improvements thereon, are hereby exempted from taxation imposed under Section 197(1) of the *Community Charter* for the year 2013:
 - a) Lot 1, Plan VIP52750, Sections 16 & 21, Township 6, Rupert District
5935 Bronze Road
PID: 017-432-561, Roll No. 27508.506
Owned by: Her Majesty the Queen in Right of the Province of British Columbia
Leased by: Tri Port Motorsport Association
2. This bylaw may be cited as the "2013 Permissive Exemption from Taxation Bylaw No. 17-2012."

Read a first time the 9th day of October, 2012.

Read a second time the 9th day of October, 2012.

Read a third time the 9th day of October, 2012.

Adopted the _ day of _, 20__.

Director of Corporate Services

Mayor

Certified to be a true copy of District of Port Hardy
2013 Permissive Exemption from Taxation
Bylaw No. 17 - 2012

Director of Corporate Services