



WATER SUPPLY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Monday, March 6, 2023
Via Zoom, 1975 Field Road, Sechelt, B.C.

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER **3:30 p.m.**

AGENDA

1. Adoption of Agenda

PRESENTATIONS AND DELEGATIONS

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

MINUTES

2. Water Supply Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of January 9, 2023 Annex A
Page 1-3

REPORTS

3. Draft Sunshine Coast Regional District Water Strategy
Manager, Strategic Initiatives Annex B
Pages 4-19

COMMUNICATIONS

NEW BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING May 1, 2023, in-person at 1975 Field Road

ADJOURNMENT

**SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT
WATER SUPPLY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

January 9, 2023

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE WATER SUPPLY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN PERSON IN THE CEDAR ROOM OF THE SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT
AT 1975 FIELD ROAD, SECHELT, BC

| | | |
|-----------------|------------|---|
| PRESENT: | Chair | V. Macfarlane |
| | Vice-Chair | J. Bell |
| | Members | B. Fielding S. Fitchell K. Freemantle M. Hennessy S. Leech G. Moore B. Thicke |

ALSO PRESENT:

| | | |
|-----------------|--|-------------|
| (Non-voting) | Manager, Strategic Initiatives | M. Edbrooke |
| | Strategic Planning Technician/Recorder | S. Rempel |
| | Director, Area A | L. Lee |
| | Director, Area B | J. Gabias |
| | Director, Area D | K. Backs |
| | Director, Area E | D. McMahon |
| | Public | 1 |
| REGRETS: | Members | L. Chivers |

CALL TO ORDER 3:30 p.m.

AGENDA The agenda was adopted as presented.

MINUTES

Recommendation No. 1 *Water Supply Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of November 7, 2022*

The Water Supply Advisory Committee recommended that the Water Supply Advisory Committee meeting minutes of November 7, 2022 be received.

PRESENTATIONS

Manager, Strategic Initiatives, presented the Terms of Reference and opened discussion regarding the scope of the Water Supply Advisory Committee (WASAC).

Discussion included the following:

- WASAC is different than other Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD) committees as they can provide recommendations to the Board and work on projects that have not yet been presented to the Board.
- It was discussed how to bring items to the agenda. Staff prepare agendas with input from the Chair and Vice Chair. Items should be in the scope the Terms of Reference. Once presented within the meeting, reports are open for discussion.
- Question was asked regarding the difference between WASAC Terms of Reference Section 2.1 and 2.2. Section 2.1 identifies what topics WASAC may provide recommendations on, and Section 2.2 further defines the mechanisms.
- Question regarding “Development and implementation of the Water Strategy.” Implementation is meant to describe the related Water Strategy Action Plans which further describe the strategy actions, not day to day operations.

REPORTS

Manager, Strategic Initiatives, presented the report titled “WASAC Water Supply Questions” for discussion.

- .
- Reviewed and discussed the ongoing Emergency Operations Centre, who is involved and the opportunities it affords the SCRD, such as specific use of funding, recovery, and coordination with outside jurisdictions and consultants.

Manager, Strategic Initiatives, presented the report and presentation titled “Water Strategy Engagement” for information and discussion.

- Overview of the Water Strategy 2022 engagement period, participation methods and general feedback received. Clarification that feedback received was not randomized but rather a chance for all members of the community to provide feedback. Feedback was summarized by staff.
- Question if there was much feedback on farms. Very little was heard regarding commercial farms and water use.
- Discussion regarding Water Rate Structure Review and possibilities of volumetric billing once all service areas have water meters. The recommendations of the Water Rate Structure Review will be brought to the Board and WASAC in late spring.
- Question regarding the timelines for the next engagement, what other input needs to be integrated into the draft Strategy and the cost of implementing it. The next engagement will be more focused than the spring engagement and the cost of implementing the entire Water Strategy will depend on Capital Plans, including long-term water supply source options.
- Staff noted that the Draft Strategy will be brought to the local elected officials, then to WASAC. Exact timing to be confirmed.
- Overall, WASAC found the engagement received positive feedback and thought there was a great amount of interest and feedback from interested members of the community.
- Commitment statement, Guiding Principles and Focus Areas were discussed.

- Other projects and studies that SCRD staff are currently working on were briefly discussed, such as water modelling, capital planning, the Water Demand Analysis, water meter installations, rate structure review, and review of Bylaws 422 and 320.
- Question regarding the SCRD's work on the Watershed Business Case. Staff to send out the past report regarding this scoping exercise.
- WASAC discussed bringing a recommendation to the Board to implement volumetric billing first on North Pender Harbour and South Pender Harbour Water Service Areas. It was concluded to be discussed again once the Rate Structure Review is completed (est. May 2023).

NEW BUSINESS

The Chair opened the floor to other questions the Committee may have:

Discussion included the following:

- Requested an update be sent regarding the Church Road Well Field progress
- Langdale Well drilling update

NEXT MEETING March 6, 2023, 3:30 p.m. via Zoom

ADJOURNMENT 5:09 p.m.

SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT STAFF REPORT

TO: Water Supply Advisory Committee – March 6, 2023

AUTHOR: Mia Edbrooke, Manager, Strategic Initiatives
Sierra Rempel, Strategic Planning Coordinator

SUBJECT: DRAFT SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT WATER STRATEGY

RECOMMENDATION

- (1) THAT the report titled Draft Sunshine Coast Regional District Water Strategy be received for information;**
 - (2) AND THAT staff incorporate feedback from the Water Supply Advisory Committee into the draft SCRD Water Strategy and Water Strategy engagement plan**
-

BACKGROUND

The Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD) provides drinking water to approximately 24,000 residents in the region. The SCRD has three Water Service Areas through which it provides treated drinking water for residential use, fire protection, commercial and industrial use, and irrigation:

- Regional Water Service
- North Pender Harbour Water Service
- South Pender Harbour Water Service

Within these service areas, the SCRD owns and operates seven water systems, using groundwater and surface water sources. Residents not serviced by the SCRD are supplied water by the Town of Gibsons, private community water systems, or through property water licences (e.g. private well).

The 2019-2023 SCRD Board Strategic Plan includes the review and development of water supply plans. The first step is to develop the Water Strategy to determine the strategic direction for the water services.

At the April 14, 2022 Infrastructure Services Committee meeting, staff presented a report titled “[Developing an SCRD Water Strategy](#)” that introduced the concept of a strategic plan for the SCRD Water Services. The Board directed staff to engage and seek feedback from the community on the development of an SCRD Water Strategy (103/22). Staff engaged the community in May and June 2022, and the feedback was incorporated into the draft Water Strategy. The [engagement summary](#) was presented to WASAC at the January 9, 2023 meeting.

The purpose of this report is to share the Draft Water Strategy for discussion. Staff will incorporate feedback from WASAC into the Draft Water Strategy.

EXISTING WATER SUPPLY PLANS

The SCRD has previously developed water supply plans outlined in Table 1. Water supply planning for each water system will build on these plans.

Table 1: SCRD Water Supply Plans (1996 to 2014)

| Plan | Water System | Status |
|--|--|--|
| North Pender Harbour 10-Year Master Plan | North Pender Harbour | Developed in 2014, never adopted. |
| South Pender Harbour 10-Year Master Plan | South Pender Harbour | Developed in 2014, never adopted. |
| 2013 Comprehensive Regional Water Plan | Chapman, Egmont, Eastbourne, Langdale, Soames, Granthams | Approved by the Board |
| 2012 Chapman Creek Source Assessment Response Plan | Chapman | Approved by the Board |
| 2007 Area A Water Master Plan | North Pender Harbour, South Pender Harbour | Approved by the Board, updated in 2011 |
| 1996 Chapman and Gray Creeks Integrated Watershed Management Plan | Chapman | Approved by the Board |

DEVELOPMENT OF A WATER STRATEGY

The Water Strategy is a strategic plan to guide SCRD water operations and communicate SCRD's priorities for providing drinking water. The Water Strategy has been developed with internal and public input. Staff worked to align the Draft Water Strategy with other work underway, including the Community Climate Action Plan, regional growth planning, and asset management plans. Technical studies, such as water system modelling and long-term water source studies are occurring in parallel and will inform water source expansion and improvements for each water system (Table 2). The Water Strategy sets the direction, while the Action Plans describe how the Water Strategy will be implemented.

Water Strategy Framework

The Water Strategy aims to achieve the Commitment Statement, "The Sunshine Coast Regional District is committed to providing a safe and reliable water supply." The Water Strategy is viewed through the lens of Guiding Principles. These are the values upon which the Water Strategy has been developed. The Water Strategy is supported by four Strategic Priorities, each with actions that guide initiatives, projects or studies to help achieve the Water Strategy.

Table 2: Technical studies to support Water Strategy action plans and implementation

| Strategic Priority | Study | Status |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| Water Supply & Water Infrastructure | Raw water reservoir feasibility (Phase 4) | Contract awarded to determine feasibility of Site B, including geotechnical field investigation and cost estimates that will be presented to the SCRD Board in 2023. |
| | Water System Modelling | Contract awarded in Sep 2022, estimated completion by May 2023. |
| | Long-term surface source study, including Water Demand Analysis update | Not started. |
| | Long-term groundwater source study | RFP drafted. |
| | Water System Action Plans | Budget proposal requested to complete water master plan implementation (project cost estimates and resourcing). |
| Water Efficiency | Water Rate Structure Study | Contract awarded in Dec 2022, work estimated completion by May 2023. |
| Source Water Protection | Watershed Business Case | Completed through a Healthy Watersheds Initiative grant, report presented to SCRD Board in Mar 2022. |

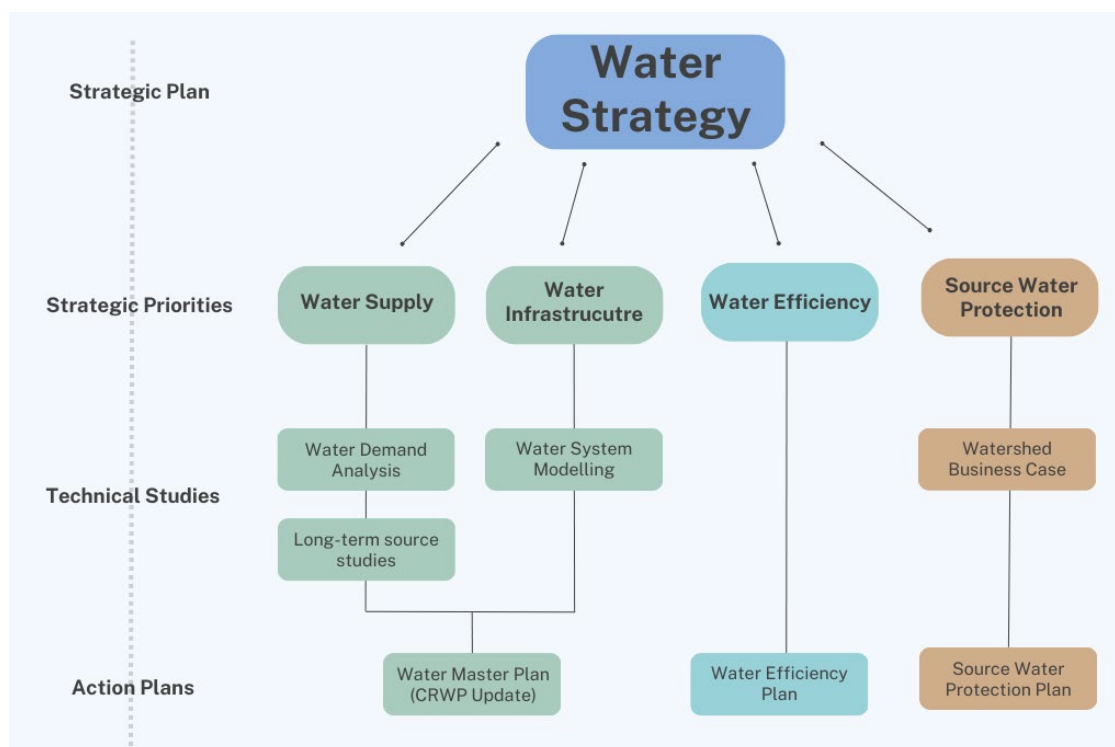


Figure 1: Water Strategy Framework and Implementation

Organization and Intergovernmental Implications

In parallel to the development of the SCRD Water Strategy, elected officials from local governments across the region are meeting to discuss additional collaboration for managing drinking water. The next Water Summit meeting will be held in Spring 2023.

Financial Implications

The Board approved a budget for this work for the Regional Water Service in 2021, and for North and South Pender Harbour Water Services in 2022. Several technical studies mentioned above have been approved in the 2021 and 2022 budgets. Staff have requested additional budget in 2023 to support the implementation of the Water System Action Plans, required to complete a water master plan, such as project cost estimates and resourcing.

Timeline for Next Steps

The SCRD Water Strategy will be brought to the Board for their consideration in Q2 2023.

Communications Strategy

Staff are considering:

- Posting the Water Strategy to the Let's Talk Water Strategy webpage (letstalk.scrd.ca/water-strategy).
- Advertising the Let's Talk Page through social media, newsletter and newspaper.
- Hosting events in different water systems to share the draft Water Strategy and information about water supply projects and water conservation programs. Staff will work to align with other departments pursuing community outreach (e.g. Climate Action Plan).
- Staff are open to suggestions of other engagement methods from WASAC.

Staff will continue to consider feedback until the SCRD Board adopts a final Water Strategy.

STRATEGIC PLAN

There are multiple areas where the SCRD Water Strategy supports the advancement of the SCRD 2019-2023 Board Strategic Plan. The main goals and tactics are as follows:

- The Engagement and Communications goal “to proactively engage with our residents, partners and staff in order to share information and obtain their input on issues and decisions that affect them.”
- The Asset Stewardship goal, specifically the strategy to have a “plan for and ensure year-round water availability now and in the future,” and the tactics to investigate and/or develop water supply plans and water supply sources for North and South Pender, Langdale, Soames, Granthams, Eastbourne, Cove Cay, Egmont and Chapman Creek water systems.

CONCLUSION

The SCRD has previously developed water supply plans that reviewed water supply infrastructure and conservation initiatives for the Water Service Areas, but many of these plans have not been updated in 10 years. In 2022, staff initiated the development of the Water Strategy, a strategic plan to guide SCRD water operations and communicate the SCRD's priorities and approach for providing drinking water over the long-term. Technical studies, such as water system modelling, and the long-term water source studies are occurring in parallel to inform water source expansion and improvements for each water system. The Water Strategy sets the direction, while future Action Plans describe how the Water Strategy will be implemented.

Staff are seeking feedback from the Water Supply Advisory Committee on the Draft Water Strategy and next steps for engaging the community. Staff will continue engaging internal staff and will consider feedback until the Board makes a decision about the Water Strategy.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – Draft SCRD Water Strategy

| | | | |
|--------------|------------------|-------------|--|
| Reviewed by: | | | |
| Manager | X – Mia Edbrooke | Finance | |
| GM | | Legislative | |
| CAO | | Other | |

Sunshine Coast Regional District 2023 Water Strategy

DRAFT

Introduction

Underlined words are key concepts defined in the Glossary on page 11.

The Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD) is located in the traditional territories of the shíshálh Nation and Skwxwú7mesh Nation, and serves residents from Port Mellon to Egmont on the lower Sunshine Coast. The SCRD is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of elected officials from local government and electoral areas, including:

- Area A – Pender Harbour and Egmont
- Area B – Halfmoon Bay
- Area D – Roberts Creek
- Area E – Elphinstone
- Area F – West Howe Sound
- District of Sechelt
- shíshálh Nation Government District
- Town of Gibsons

SCRD Water Services

Residents, businesses, schools, and hospitals rely on the SCRD to meet their daily water needs. The SCRD has three Water Service Areas made up of seven water systems, including:

- Regional Water Service Area: Chapman, Langdale, Eastbourne, Cove Cay, and Egmont Water Systems
- South Pender Harbour Water Service Area: South Pender Harbour Water System
- North Pender Harbour Water Service Area: North Pender Harbour Water System

Residents not serviced by the SCRD are supplied water by the Town of Gibsons, private community water systems, or through property water licences (e.g. private well).

Purpose of the Water Strategy

The Water Strategy identifies strategic priorities, objectives, and actions that will guide the future planning and delivery of SCRD Water Services. The Water Strategy supports SCRD Board priorities, provides context for policy making, and aligns with other SCRD strategies and management plans.

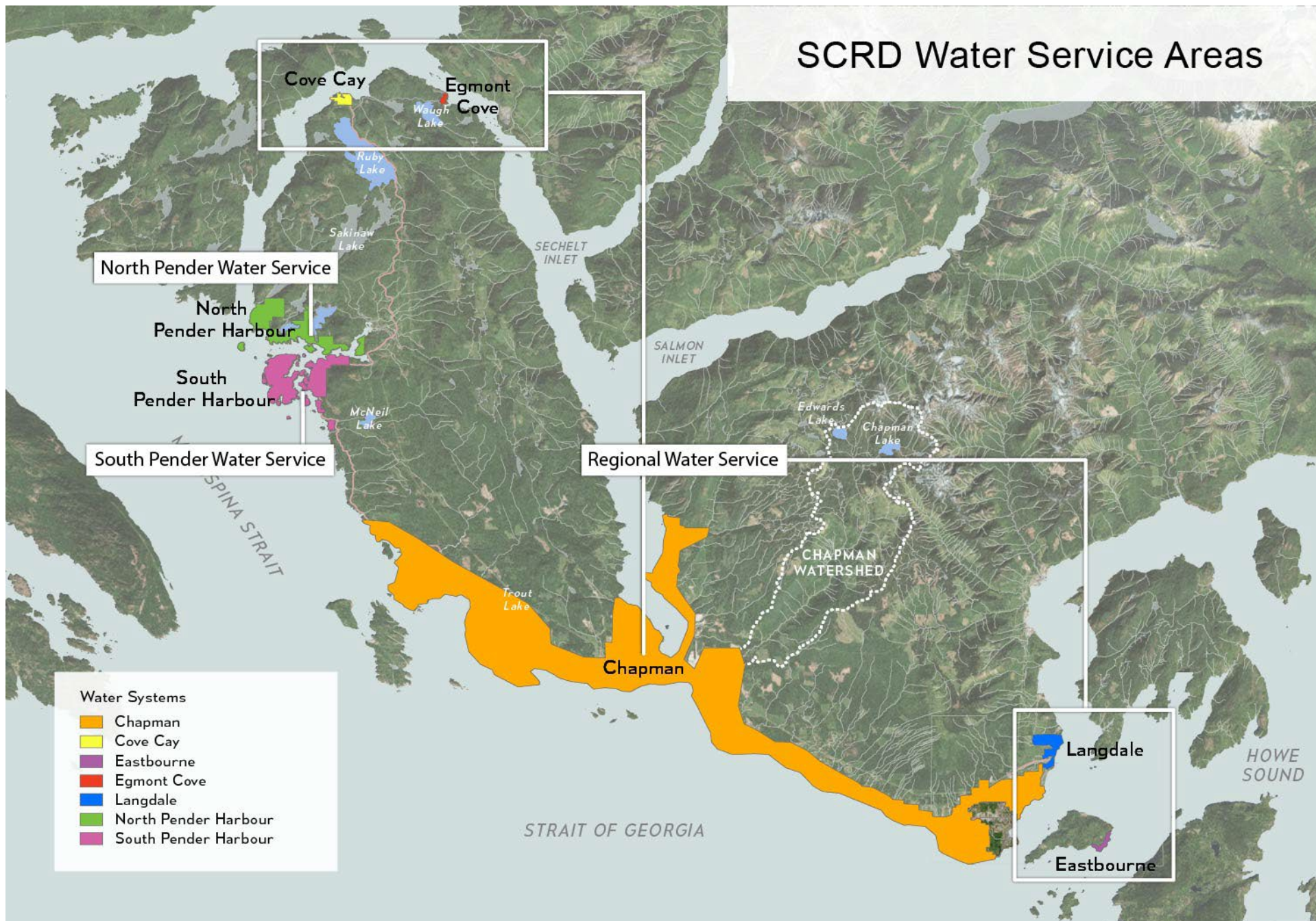


Figure 1: SCRD Water Service Areas and Water Systems

Strategy Context

The Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD) delivers treated drinking water to over 24,000 people in the region. This work includes protecting source water, treating drinking water, operating and maintaining the distribution systems and investing in new infrastructure. Despite living in a temperate rainforest, persistent drought conditions have intensified in recent years. Water Conservation Regulations have been necessary to preserve stored water supply through the dry months and ensure sufficient drinking water for essential purposes. The Water Strategy outlines the actions the SCRD is taking to meet community water supply, now and in the future.

Challenges

Climate change projections predict longer, drier, and hotter summers, warmer and wetter autumns, winter seasons with decreased snowpack, and more frequent and extreme weather events.

Aging infrastructure affects the performance and funding of the region's water systems. There is a high cost per capita to upgrade infrastructure due to the region's relatively small population.

Unique geography has water systems spread out across the region.

Land use pressures from upstream development and industrial activities can impact water quality and groundwater recharge rates.

Roles and Responsibilities

Several authorities and decision makers are involved in land and water management that influence the health and sustainability of freshwater resources. Some of the key stakeholders include:

Sunshine Coast Regional District owns and operates water treatment and distribution systems that deliver water to water service customers.

The **Government of Canada** sets out the water quality parameters and characteristics through Health Canada's *Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality*.

The **Province of British Columbia's Public Health Act** sets out the role of health officials and the requirements for planning, reporting, and regulating the provision of drinking water as it relates to public health. The *Public Health Act* and the *Drinking Water Protection Act* outline drinking water requirements.

The *Water Sustainability Act* sets out requirements such as water licencing, ensures sustainable access to fresh water sources.

BC Parks Act protects provincial parks where the SCRD's main drinking water sources, Chapman and Edwards Lakes, are located.

First Nations and the Province are together responsible for broader land-use planning, including the planning of watersheds. Free and informed consent is a requirement prior to the approval of any project affecting First Nation lands, territories and other resources, including water.

Vancouver Coastal Health administers and enforces the provincial legislation to ensure safe drink water.

The **community** uses water year-round and is responsible for following SCRD Water Conservation Regulations. Property owners maintain waterlines on their property and fix leaks when they arise.

Water Strategy Framework

The following framework has helped organize and prioritize the work the SCRD aims to achieve through the Water Strategy. The Water Strategy starts with a Commitment Statement as the ultimate goal.

Commitment Statement

The Sunshine Coast Regional District is committed to providing a safe and reliable water supply.

Guiding Principles

The Water Strategy is viewed through the lens of Guiding Principles. These are the values upon which the Water Strategy has been developed.

The connections to these guiding principles are highlighted beside each action in the subsequent sections.

Action Oriented: Actions identified in the Water Strategy will be laid out along with an implementation timeline to achieve results in a timely manner.

Resilience: Reduce vulnerability from external factors contributing to uncertainties and increased pressures on water systems including the harmful effects of climate change.

Cost-effective: Plan to maintain infrastructure, assess and compare long-term source options, set appropriate rates for long-term cost recovery, and avoid excessive debt to achieve sustainable service levels.

Partnership Based: The SCRD will continue working together with First Nations, residents, businesses, governing authorities, and other organizations in the community to deliver water services in a coordinated and collaborative manner.

Think and Act like a Region: Make decisions about water system planning and policy that are in the best interest of the Sunshine Coast community as a whole.

Strategic Priorities

There are four areas of focus that the SCRD would like to work and improve: Water Supply; Water Infrastructure; Water Efficiency; Water Quality and Source Protection.

Actions

Within each Strategic Priority, actions describe how the SCRD will achieve the Water Strategy.



Figure 2: Water Strategy Framework

Strategic Priority – Water Supply

Goal

Increase drinking water supply across the region through diverse water sources.

Why?

Existing water sources are not sufficient to provide reliable drinking water supply through extended periods of drought. By identifying current and future water supply needs and understanding the impacts of climate change on water supply, the SCRD will work towards providing a safe and reliable water supply all year round.

| Objectives | Actions | Guiding Principle |
|---|---|-------------------|
| Increase and diversify new water supply sources | Conduct groundwater and surface water source studies to identify potential new long-term drinking water sources. | AO R |
| | Confirm the technical feasibility of building a raw water reservoir to increase storage volume to the Chapman Water System. | AO R |
| Expand existing water supply sources | Investigate the potential to increase existing <u>water licence</u> volumes in all water systems where feasible and seek Provincial approval. | AO PB CE |
| | Confirm the technical feasibility of expanding existing sources, such as Langdale Well Field, Gray Creek, Cove Cay and North Pender Water Systems, to increase all water supply systems. | AO CE |
| Review scope of water services | Evaluate the use of SCRD drinking water for purposes such as irrigation, commercial, institutional and agricultural use, where non-potable water could be used instead. | AO TAR |
| | Review existing or consider establishing <u>fire flow</u> targets in all water systems to support the SCRD Community Wildfire Protection Plan recommendations. | TAR R |
| Plan and prepare for future water supply needs | Update 2018 Water Demand Analysis that estimates future water supply needs, incorporating climate change projections and future water supply sources, and incorporate recommendations in operating and capital plans. | AO R |

Guiding Principles: Action Oriented – AO, Resilience – R, Cost-effective – CE, Partnership Based – PB, Think and Act like a Region – TAR

Strategic Priority – Water Infrastructure

Goal

Maintain, replace and upgrade water infrastructure to ensure the system performs reliably.

Why?

Managing existing infrastructure proactively can ensure a cost-effective and reliable water supply. It is necessary to also plan for new infrastructure related to water treatment, supply, and distribution. An asset management program helps account for the required cost of infrastructure replacement and upgrades over its service life

| Objectives | Actions | Guiding Principles |
|---|---|--------------------|
| Prepare for emergency water supply | Review and update emergency and post-disaster response plans, water supply procedures and assess readiness to respond. | R TAR |
| | Explore connection options for North and South Pender Water Systems to increase redundancy during drought or infrastructure failure. | R TAR |
| | Ensure seismic risk evaluations of critical infrastructure assets, such as dams and intakes and water mains, are completed regularly. | R |
| Update infrastructure and foster best practices | Complete water system modelling to support capital planning and water system functionality. | R CE |
| | Develop, update, and implement Capital Plans to ensure appropriate investment in water infrastructure and sustainable service levels. | CE R |
| | Complete Water System Modelling for all SCRD water systems to guide infrastructure upgrades. | |
| Infrastructure investment | Update bylaws for cost recovery, including funding infrastructure improvements. | CE |
| | Identify life cycle costs of new infrastructure and asset replacement to estimate the complete cost of delivering water services. | CE |
| | Continue pursuing grant funding opportunities such as grants to fund infrastructure improvements. | CE |
| | Review and set appropriate capital reserve levels to cover replacement costs of capital infrastructure. | R CE |
| Enhance service delivery and operational efficiencies | Develop a succession plan to ensure key skills are backfilled by experienced and knowledgeable employees, and that system knowledge is preserved. | |
| | Update infrastructure site security plan to protect infrastructure assets. | |

Guiding Principles: Action Oriented – AO, Resilience – R, Cost-effective – CE, Partnership Based – PB, Think and Act like a Region – TAR

Strategic Priority – Water Efficiency

Goal

Encourage and support the adoption of efficient water use and conservation practices amongst SCRD water users through education and outreach.

Why?

Water efficiency is a cost-effective approach to water supply management as it optimizes existing water supply. This defers the need to increase water supply, treatment, and distribution capacity in the water systems. With longer, drier summers, SCRD will continue to ensure and encourage the efficient use of drinking water year-round.

| Objective | Action | Guiding Principles |
|--|--|--------------------|
| Reduce use of drinking water outdoors | Continue Water Conservation Regulations, community outreach and escalate the enforcement of known instances of repeat non-compliance and high water use. | TAR |
| | Continue providing residential rebates, for example rainwater harvesting, to reduce reliance on drinking water for non-potable uses such as gardening. | TAR R |
| Measure water use and equitably charge | Install water meters on water service connections in the District of Sechelt. | AO TAR |
| | Review SCRD Water Services rates to encourage fairness and efficient water use. | TAR CE |
| | Promote year-round leak resolution to reduce the loss of drinking water due to private property leaks. | |
| Effective education and outreach | Share information about water supply sources, infrastructure investments, and user fees. | TAR R |
| | Continue to deliver education focusing on efficient and mindful use of water in the home and in the garden. | TAR |
| | Provide property owners with monthly water use updates to increase water use awareness. | PB RTAR |
| | Support tourism sector to share Water Conservation Regulations and best water use practices with visitors and associated businesses. | PB TAR |
| | Encourage high volume users to reduce their water use by providing guidance and access to their detailed meter data. | |
| | Conduct SCRD facility audits to improve efficiencies and opportunities for retrofits. | TAR CE |
| | Improve data tools supporting water-efficient irrigation practices at SCRD parks and greenspace. | AO TAR |
| | Improve non-revenue water management, such as water used in utility operations, and repairable watermain leaks. | AO TAR |
| | Improve water use data and accounting methods including water production and consumption data management. | TAR CE |
| Adopt water efficiency-centric Policy and Planning | Update Official Community Plans, bylaws, and development permits to require efficient water use in new developments. | AO TAR R |

Guiding Principles: Action Oriented – AO, Resilience – R, Cost-effective – CE, Partnership Based – PB, Think and Act like a Region – TAR

Strategic Priority –Source Water Protection

Goal

Provide high quality drinking water.

Why?

Protecting lakes, streams, and aquifers that the SCRD uses for drinking water sources ensures the SCRD can provide safe and reliable drinking water to all residents and businesses in the region and can also lower water treatment costs.

As a regional district, the SCRD does not have jurisdiction in broader land-use planning, including watershed protection. The shíshálh Nation and Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw are long-standing stewards of watersheds and freshwater ecosystems in the region. The SCRD seeks to support shíshálh Nation and Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw to achieve their watershed protection goals within the scope of SCRD services.

| Objectives | Action | Guiding Principles |
|--|--|----------------------|
| Protect community drinking water sources through policy, planning and education. | Protect identified recharge areas of aquifers used for SCRD drinking water supplies and maintain their quality and quantity through education, advocacy, policy, and land use planning. | R AO TAR |
| | Incorporate a source water protection and climate change lens into updates of capital and operating plans, bylaws, policies and Official Community Plans. | AO R TAR |
| Advance watershed protection in the region through partnership and advocacy | Advocate for improved stormwater management to reduce flooding that can damage infrastructure increase infiltration, maintain integrity of drinking water watersheds and minimize impacts on aquatic ecosystems. | CE TAR R PB |
| | Continue the dialogue to learn about the interests of the shíshálh Nation and Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw in conjunction with water supply planning and watershed protection approaches, to explore opportunities to partner in advancing them. | PB TAR |
| | Continue advocating to the Ministry of Forests and other land managers to reduce logging and other potentially damaging activities in watersheds used for drinking water. | R TAR CE |
| | Work with governing authorities in the region to initiate a more collaborative and coordinated approach to water management and watershed protection in the region. | PB TAR |
| Improve Data Collection and Management | Develop through collaboration a regional framework for data collection and sharing to improve understanding of ecological function of drinking watersheds. | PB TAR |
| | Continue and expand the SCRD's collection of local snowpack, precipitation, and weather data to build long-term data sets to understand climate change impacts on drinking watersheds and aquifers. | R TAR |
| | Pursue opportunities for mutually beneficial, collaborative partnerships to carry out drinking watershed and aquifer research, monitoring, restoration and/or stewardship initiatives in the community. | PB R TAR |

Guiding Principles: Action Oriented – AO, Resilience – R, Cost-effective – CE, Partnership Based – PB, Think and Act like a Region – TAR

Action Plans

The next step is to develop Action Plans focused on the step-by-step actions required to implement the Water Strategy. The objectives of the Action Plans will be presented and monitored in a transparent way to ensure the Water Strategy's implementation.

Three Action Plans will be developed.

| Water Strategy Strategic Focus Area | Associated Action Plan |
|--|---|
| Water Supply Water Infrastructure | Water Master Plan which will detail the technical, operational, and financial actions and practices required to meet the water needs for SCRD Water Services over the next 10 Years. The Water Master Plan will update the Comprehensive Regional Water Plan (2013), Area A Master Plan (2011), North Pender Harbour 10-Year Waterworks Upgrading Plan (2012), and the Pender Harbour 10-Year Waterworks Upgrading Plan (2011). The SCRD will complete water modelling for all water systems, long-term source studies, and update the 2018 Water Demand Analysis to build a new regional Water Master Plan. |
| Water Efficiency | Water Efficiency Plan will describe programs and initiatives to promote efficient use of drinking water supply. This is an opportunity to evaluate and improve various water conservation and water efficiency initiatives, such as rebate programs, education and outreach, and increasing understanding about water use across the region. |
| Source Water Protection | Source Water Protection Plan will build upon the 2021 Watershed Business Case and will focus on watersheds that we depend on as drinking water sources. |

Annual reporting

Staff will report annually on the SCRD's progress to the SCRD Board and the public so that we can track successes and areas for improvement.

Sunshine Coast Regional District

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Glossary

Drinking water is water that has been treated to drinking water standards as outlined in the *Drinking Water Protection Act, Drinking Water Protection Regulations, and Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality*.

Drinking watersheds are watersheds where water from all or part of the drainage area is diverted for human consumption by a licensed waterworks.

Drought is a recurrent feature of climate change where deficient precipitation over an extended period results in a water shortage for communities and aquatic ecosystems. Locally, drought may be caused by combinations of insufficient snow accumulation, hot and dry weather, or a delay in rainfall.

Fire flow refers to the quantity of water available for fire protection purposes at a given location in a water system.

Sustainable service levels means the measurement of service delivery considering regulatory compliance, performance, and customer satisfaction. A sustainable service level is typically one that balances the environmental, social, and economic considerations with the overall cost of the service.

Water Service Areas are the three areas for billing and funding purposes. These areas are North Pender Harbour, South Pender Harbour and the Regional Water System.

Water Conservation Regulations are in place from May 1 to September 30 each year for outdoor water use. Regulations may escalate at any time if there is significant stress on the drinking water supply due to hotter and drier weather, or other unforeseen circumstances.

Water licence is issued by the Province under the *BC Water Sustainability Act* and identifies how much water a licensee is permitted to divert, store, and use for an approved purpose.

Water sources are bodies of fresh water, such as lakes, creeks, and aquifers, from which water is diverted to supply water systems.

Water system is a network of water supply treatment and distribution components that together provide drinking water. A water system is made up of one or more water sources which distributes water to multiple properties.

Water treatment is a facility that treats raw water to meet drinking water standards. All water treatment facilities chlorinate raw water to kill bacteria and viruses, however, some treatment facilities consist of additional treatment processes such as filtration to remove debris, and/or ultraviolet (UV) to sterilize bacteria and viruses.