

CITY OF BURNABY

ENVIRONMENT AND WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS

RE: WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Council support the actions on Watershed Management taken by the GVWD Administration Board as outlined in the GVWD letter dated 1993 April 15 (Attachment 1).
2. THAT with respect to the Greater Vancouver area watersheds, Council endorses the following:
 - a) THAT the protection and enhancement of a quality water supply be the guiding principle in the management of the watersheds.
 - b) THAT where practical, any competing interest be minimized or eliminated within the watersheds.
 - c) THAT the GVRD continue to exercise strict control over access and security within the watersheds.
3. THAT a copy of this report be sent to the following:
 - a) Technical Advisory on Community Watersheds
c/o B.C. Environment
Second Floor - 780 Blanshard Street
Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4
 - b) Greater Vancouver Water District
4330 Kingsway
Burnaby, B.C. V5H 4G8

<p>: COPY - CITY MANAGER - DIR. ADMIN. & COMM. SERV. - DIRECTOR ENGINEERING - DIRECTOR PLANNING & BUILDING - MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICER - CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICER</p>
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R E P O R T

The Environment and Waste Management Committee, at its meeting of 1993 May 11, received and adopted the attached staff report providing a response to the Provincial Discussion Paper on Community Watershed Management Guidelines.

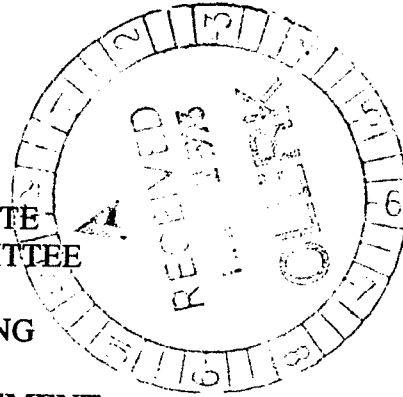
The Committee therefore submits the report on the response to the Provincial Discussion Paper on Community Watershed Management Guidelines for Council's endorsement.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor L. Rankin
Chair

Councillor D. Lawson
Member

Councillor C. Redman
Member



TO: ENVIRONMENT & WASTE
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: 1993 04 30

FROM: DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

FILE: 42-01-07

SUBJECT: WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

PURPOSE: To provide the Committee with a response to the Provincial Discussion Paper on Community Watershed Management Guidelines.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

THAT the Environment and Waste Management Committee recommend to Council:

1. **That** the City of Burnaby supports the actions on watershed management taken by the GVWD Administration Board as outlined in the GVWD letter dated 1993 April 15 (Attachment 1).
2. **THAT** with respect to the Greater Vancouver area watersheds, the City of Burnaby endorses the following:
 - a) **THAT** the protection and enhancement of a quality water supply be the guiding principle in the management of the watersheds.
 - b) **THAT** where practical, any competing interest be minimized or eliminated within the watersheds.
 - c) **THAT** the GVWD continue to exercise strict control over access and security within the watersheds.
3. **THAT** a copy of this report be sent to the following:
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REPORT

1.0 BACKGROUND

The Committee at its meeting of 1993 April 13 received the Provincial Discussion Paper on Community Watershed Management Guidelines. The Committee, however, deferred response on the discussion paper pending:

- referral and review of the Drinking Water Discussion Paper received by Council on 1993 April 13; and
- receipt of the GVWD response to the Provincial Discussion Paper.

The Drinking Water Discussion Paper appears elsewhere on the Committee Agenda. The GVWD response dated April 15, 1993 is included in this report as Attachment 1.

The deadline for responses to the Provincial Discussion Paper was 1993 March 22 and has obviously passed, however it is felt that it would still be appropriate to provide a response on behalf of the City.

2.0 PROVINCIAL DISCUSSION PAPER-COMMUNITY WATERSHED GUIDELINES

A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) with representation from several B.C. Government ministries has been formed to develop new technical guidelines for land management in B.C.'s community watersheds.

The TAC solicits input to these guidelines. The discussion paper identifies the TAC's understanding of public concerns important to community watersheds. These concerns include:

- Maintaining Water Quality
- Maintaining Stream Flow Quantity
- Water Monitoring
- Watershed Access Control
- Cost of Watershed Management
- Defining Classifications of Watersheds
- Establishing Liability
- Contingency (Emergency) Planning

The TAC will consider these concerns together with watershed research results to develop the new guidelines.

3.0 DRINKING WATER DISCUSSION PAPER

The staff discussion paper which Council received on 1993 April 13 was intended to provide a synopsis of the various outstanding issues facing the GVRD's drinking water supply. A section of the report addressed Watershed Management. This section provides the context in which the GVWD has undertaken its various watershed management strategies. It further outlines the adopted motions of the GVWD Administration Board which pertain to watershed management. Several of these motions address the concerns raised by the TAC. In particular the motions have addressed the areas of:

- Water Quality
- Water Monitoring
- Watershed Access Control
- Contingency Planning

4.0 GVWD RESPONSE TO THE TAC

As the Committee is aware, the GVWD manages the region's watersheds on behalf of its member municipalities.

At the request of the Regional Engineers Advisory Committee, the GVWD prepared a response (Attachment 1) to the TAC. The response, in a similar fashion to the City staff report, outlines the actions of the GVWD Administration Board with respect to watershed management.

The response also correctly points out that the Provincial Discussion Paper is written from the perspective that land use is shared by a variety of competing interests. Fortunately, this is not the case in the Greater Vancouver area where the watersheds are under the total control of the GVWD.

5.0 DISCUSSION

The City of Burnaby has on many occasions demonstrated its commitment to sustainable development and preservation of the environment. These values can readily be applied to watershed management.

The GVWD has adopted a position on watershed management which reflects these goals. The GVWD actions are captured in the GVWD response to the TAC dated 1993 April 15. It is recommended that the Environment and Waste Management Committee and Council lend support to the GVWD motions. More specifically with respect to the Greater Vancouver area watersheds, it is recommended that the Environment and Waste Management Committee and Council endorse the following concepts:

- a) **THAT** the protection and enhancement of a quality water supply be the guiding principle in the management of the watersheds.
- b) **THAT** where practical, any competing interest be minimized or eliminated within the watersheds.
- c) **THAT** the GVWD continue to exercise strict control over access and security within the watersheds.


DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

WCS:mp
Attachment

cc: A/Director Planning & Building Inspection
Director Administrative & Community Services
Chief Public Health Inspector

Greater Vancouver Water District

File: WD 60.00

ESTABLISHED 1924

April 15, 1993

Technical Advisory Committee
on Community Watersheds
c/o B. C. Environment
Second Floor - 780 Blanshard Street
Victoria, B. C.
V8V 1X4

4330 KINGSWAY
BURNABY, B.C.
CANADA V5H 4G8
PHONE (604) 432-6200
FAX (604) 432-6251

COPY

Dear Sirs:

Re: Community Watershed Guidelines - Discussion Paper

I am writing in response to your invitation to comment on the referenced background discussion paper which was also sent to many of our member municipalities. The Regional Engineers' Advisory Committee, which is composed of the municipal engineers of each of our member municipalities, has requested that the District also respond on their behalf. Please accept our apologies for not responding by your deadline.

The proposed guiding principles represent a good beginning for integrated resource management in many community watersheds and should provide a mechanism to begin to resolve some of the conflicts in these sensitive areas. The discussion paper is written from the perspective that land use is shared by a variety of competing interests. This is the situation that is undeniably prevalent in much of British Columbia but which is not found in the Greater Vancouver area as the catchment areas are closed to public access and are under the total control of the Greater Vancouver Water District (GVWD). This control enables the District to manage the watersheds for the single purpose of providing a high quality domestic water supply and as such affords management opportunities unencumbered by competing interests and activities.

This latitude has enabled the District, over the years, to undertake original research and studies to formulate its own guidelines for protecting water quality through management of the watershed lands and vegetation cover. The most recent review process occurred in 1990-1991 and resulted in a series of recommendations being adopted by the Board of Directors to guide the long term management strategies. Many of these recommendations are adaptable to the broader objectives of your Technical Advisory Committee's task and may be useful to you.

In this regard I have enclosed for your information and use several reports that capture the essence of the District's philosophy on management issues on our watersheds. The reports are:

1. *Watershed Management Evaluation and Policy Review - Final Summary Report, August, 1991*

This report contains the rationale for the current program and a synopsis of the background and research leading to the recommendations.

2. *Watershed Management Evaluation and Policy Review - Public Input Document*

This report contains the public's views on watersheds issues obtained through an extensive public consultation process. These views, where practical, have been incorporated into the Final Summary Report.

Copies of these documents have previously been provided to a number of provincial ministries for comment as they were developed.

As a result of this process the Administration Board passed a series of resolutions which are summarized in the attached Appendix A. The District is now proceeding with a long range technical strategy contained in the recommendations which will ultimately see a vegetation plan and road plan developed over the next few years. A key building block to this process is the undertaking of a comprehensive ecological inventory of the watershed lands. It is noted that a similar concept is part of the guiding principles provided for your Technical Advisory Committee. In this regard the District has just completed a pilot project that will form a basis for the full inventory work of the watersheds over the next two years. I have enclosed a copy of the consultant's report on this topic which you may find useful.

In conclusion, it is our view that the guiding principles that you have proposed in this discussion paper are appropriate and will be an excellent start in forming a sound basis for stewardship of the many community watersheds in British Columbia. If we can be of any assistance to you in your task please feel free to contact our offices.

Yours truly,



J. R. Morse, P. Eng.
Manager, Water and Construction
Chief Engineer - Water District

JRM/gh

Enclosure(s):

1. Watershed Management Evaluation and Policy Review - Final Summary, August, 1991
2. Watershed Management Evaluation and Policy Review - Public Input Document
3. Appendix A - Series of Resolutions passed by the Administration Board
4. Ecological Inventory - Full Report

cc. B. E. Marr -
Commissioner, Water District

Regional Engineers' Advisory Committee

(COM-WSD)

APPENDIX A
A Summary of Board Resolutions applicable to
Watershed Management

November 27, 1991

THAT the protection and enhancement of a quality water supply be the guiding principle in the management of the watershed.

THAT the Water District, in fulfilling this goal of protecting and enhancing water quality, manage the watershed through a "Proactive Low Level" approach wherein the GVWD would work to anticipate potential water quality problems before they occur and develop solutions to reduce or minimize their impacts. "Low Level" means that GVWD activities would only be carried out in the most conservative means available to ensure that water quality is not compromised by these activities.

THAT the GVWD commence discussions with the Province to revise the terms of the Amending Indenture Agreement in order that resource management to protect water quality be the prime concern in the watershed rather than an annual allowable cut and sustained yield harvest program.

THAT the GVWD commence a detailed ecological inventory of the watershed lands including vegetation and timber resources, soils and stability, insect and disease status, fire susceptibility, climate and wildlife and fishery resources.

THAT the GVWD establish water quality monitoring stations on selected streams in order to both provide an early warning system for turbidity events and to identify streams that require erosion control efforts.

THAT staff prepare a report, for information, that will evaluate job opportunities that may exist in the ecological inventory survey to evaluate whether those currently working in the watershed may be utilized in the survey.

THAT forest and vegetation management plans be developed based on the ecological inventory that will ensure a suitable forest landscape for maintaining long term water quality. The issue of bio-diversity as a forest management action is to await the ecological inventory and recommendations emanating from that inventory. A public review process will form part of the recommendation process.

THAT a long range (200-year) vegetation cover management program be developed for all watershed lands.

THAT a long range stable road system be planned, constructed and maintained throughout the watersheds to facilitate access for fighting fires, repairing erosion areas, sampling water quality and, if recommended in the forest and vegetation management plan, harvesting timber to remove a risk to water quality.

THAT staff prepare an annual report to the Board describing both the previous year's activities and their benefit in protecting water quality and to describe the coming year's activities. In consultation with the Board, staff shall engage an appropriate panel to conduct an independent review of watershed activities every five years.

THAT revised funding procedures be implemented for the Watershed Management Division to diversify the funding source and thereby remove the dependency on timber harvesting revenues as the sole source of funding.

THAT the present GVWD policy of stringent regulations regarding entry into the watershed lands be reaffirmed.

THAT the Board consider the provision of the necessary funding to carry out the above recommendations in the Water District Operating Budget commencing in 1992.

February 28, 1992

THAT the Board maintain present harvesting contract provisions with C&R Logging, and booming services with Marsh Logging, and negotiate an appropriate contract with Hans Lee Timber Ltd., including options for one-year extensions upon expiry of the basic term. Conduct the harvesting during 1992 based on areas that reflect the criteria approved by the Board, including the categories of diseased or insect-affected, fire hazard or erosion control. Continue logging during and after 1993 incorporating all relevant data from the ecological inventory and Review Panel's risk management criteria into the future logging program, subject to annual Board approval.

October 2, 1992

THAT, except for areas previously approved for harvesting by the Board, timber management activities in 1993 and beyond be restricted to those areas defined as diseased or insect-infested, having a high fire hazard rating, such as blowdowns and a high propensity of snags, thinning, erosion control, and for road construction for fire management purposes.

THAT further consideration of harvesting based on the low-level, proactive approach be postponed until such time as the ecological inventory is sufficiently advanced to enable a full discussion of a proactive forest management policy both at the Board level and after public comment.

(APP-A)