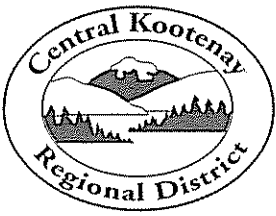


From: Anitra Winje [mailto:AWinje@rdck.bc.ca]
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2011 3:36 PM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: submission from RDCK

Please see the attached letter from the RDCK regarding WAM.

Kind regards,
Anitra

Anitra Winje
Deputy Corporate Officer
Regional District of Central Kootenay
Box 590, 202 Lakeside Drive, Nelson, BC V1L 5R4
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February 14, 2011

Ministry of Environment
Province of BC

By email

Dear Sir/Madam:

Re: Feedback on Water Act Modernization

The Board of Directors of the Regional District of Central Kootenay, at its Regular meeting on February 10th, 2011, resolved to submit its document "Priorities for Implementation Under WAM" to the Province for its consideration. The Board of Directors adopted this document at its August 26, 2010 Regular meeting.

Please find said document attached. If you have any questions, please contact me at awinje@rdck.bc.ca or 250.352.8166.

Yours very truly,



Anitra Winje
Deputy Corporate Officer

Attachment - 1





Priorities for Implementation Under WAM

1) Watershed protection from resource extraction activities.

Give one authority the power to oversee stream protection, defined under the Water Act to mean all water courses including lakes, ponds, wetlands, streams, creeks, springs, and rivers.

2) Budget provincial funding to implement any changes.

- Implementation of WAM should come from budgeted provincial funding that includes monies collected from industrial and commercial users of crown land and not just by charging the public increased license fees, etc.

3) Every water licensee should be given a chance to comment on proposed legislation before it is passed into law by the BC Legislature.

- Once legislation is drafted, the general public, especially water licensees, should be given a chance to comment on the proposed legislation. Not only should people be allowed to comment online, but also by obtaining hard copies of the legislation, as these proposed legal changes affect so many rural people, many of whom find it hard to access government processes.

4) No changes to license status for domestic use (surface water or well licenses)

- The overwhelming majority of citizens in rural BC do not want their domestic use licenses changed to a "permitted" use.

5) Maintain FITFIR as is

- The current process of allocating water resources, FITFIR, should be maintained, with the province providing sufficient funds to ensure that over-allocation does not occur. Where over-allocation has occurred, a mechanism must be developed to bring demand back into line with both in-stream needs and available supply, including working with the 450 federal hydrometric stations so that BC can develop a comprehensive plan to deal with climate change.

6) The Water Act should acknowledge the United Nations declaration that access to water is a human right.

The right to access water for personal use should be written into the legislation.

7) Local decision making should be integrated into water allocations

- Local decision making should be incorporated into any legislated changes to the Water Act so that local historical knowledge, common sense and traditional values play a role in water use decisions.

From: Andy Shadrack ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***

Sent: Friday, February 11, 2011 3:56 PM

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Cc: ***PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED***

Subject: Re: Policy Proposal on British Columbia's Proposed Water Sustainability Act: Deadline For Comments Extended

Kaslo

Friday February 11

As a member of UBCM's Small Water System Working Group I welcome the government's proactive decision to revamp provincial water policy, especially as it relates to developing new policy in face of adapting to climate change, instream and groundwater use and conservation and as it relates to resolving domestic, commercial and industrial use and other resource land uses.

As an elected Electoral Area Director in the Central Kootenay Regional District and Chair of the Rural Affairs Committee of the Board, I am very mindful of the need to streamline the number of agencies, both federal and provincial, responsible for various aspects of water policy. As Vice-President of the Association of Kootenay Boundary Local Governments I also very mindful of the fact that the Interior Health Authority has documented over 1,100 small water systems with less that 14 connections. The actual number of micro and small systems in rural areas is probably closer to double that.

In this context I am disappointed that the policy discussion to date has not yet clearly identified how the issue of current licenses by date of granting, will be transformed into dealing with the issue of quantity of water available to existing licensees. Clearly there are areas of the province where, including underground aquifers, the amount of water being used is oversubscribed, as we are bumping up against finite limits of availability.

Finally there is a huge fear among local government than regional governance of provincial water policy will be off loaded onto us. Currently we have neither the financial capacity nor the expertise to take on that role and therefore the best way forward is some kind bio-regional multi stakeholder group.

Respectfully
Andy Shadrack
Director Area D