From: nobody@scribe.env.gov.bc.ca
Sent: Thursday, April 22, 2010 10:58:47 AM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Water Act Modernization Discussion Paper Feedback

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
() on 2010 04 22, at 10:58:47

PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED

ContactMethod: Email

Principles_Support: Support

Principles_Comments: Point 3- There is a gap in historical information in many areas and for mant watersheds and water bodies. There needs to be a recognition that the people living and working in many of these areas have historical 1st hand knowledge that can help guide science.

Goal1_Support: Strongly Support

Goal1_Comments: There needs to be better protection of riparian areas, bogs, marshes and muskegs. These are areas that naturally maintain stream health both in quality and sustained flows. This should not be limited to salmon habitat but to water health in general. In the watersheds in our area we do not have glaciers or Mt. snow pack to sustain flow but we do have muskeg (sponges), and springs that slowly release winter water all summer. These need to be protected. A model that might work for deveopment where these have to be impacted is Oregon where they have a kind of cap & trade on wetlands.

EnviroFlow: Standards

EnviroFlow_Comments: A combination. There should be minimum standards that must be adheared to but guidelines that provide regional management decisions to be made.

WaterAllocationPlan: Optional

DecisionMaker: Must Follow

DecisionMaker_Comments: If a water allocation plan is in place and it must be followed than there needs to be a transparent process with public involvement for amending the plan where this is needed.

WaterAllocationPlan_Conditions: Where it is determined either by the water manager (MoE) or a local watershed management plan or committee that one is needed.

DumpingProhibition: Amend

DumpingProhibition_Comments: Riparian management must be province wide and include private land. This should also include marshes, swamps, wetlands and muskegs (especially if directly connected to a flow regime).

Goal2_Support: Support

Goal2_Comments: I don't think industry should have a direct role in water

governance. They need to have the ability to make their interests known but not as a decision maker. I think that all water management should come under a single goverment agency. That aspect needs to be tigtened up not loosened. As an example of what can go wrong when you ave any loopholes just look at what the OGC has done with water permits. It has become a major loophole for getting around water management principals. That has to end! But there is a need for the MoE to manage water with a regional perspective without downloading or off loading to the regions. This could be done by establishing regional water boards that include local and regional goverment and first nations. But water management decisions need to stay with the MoE

Goal2_Options: Shared

ScaleForWatershedPlanning: Water districts. With a watershed focus.

GovernanceFundingSolutions: A water protection tax or fee on crown land use and all water users

BenefitsOfSharedRoles: BC is a large area with totally different issues in regions. East side of the Rocky Mts is totally different than the West side.

Goal3_Support: Support

WaterUseEfficiency_2: Use of incentives and economic instruments

WaterUseEfficiency_Comments: A combination of B & C

AdminEfficiencyOptions_PermittedUse: Permitted use different

PermittedUseConsiderations: There should be no permits that are not administered through the MoE (a single agency and regional manager) The OGC should not be allowed to give out water permits. The water districts

AdminEfficiencyOptions_WaterUse: Combine admin and efficiency

Flexibility_Support: Support

WaterAllocationSystem_Options: Priority use

WaterAllocationSystem_Comments: Use it or loose it. No speculitive licenses and no ability to sell water rights. Human use and fish must come before industry or commercial use

WaterScarcityTemporary_Options: Discretional

WaterScarcityTemporary_Comments: Human use and fish must come before industry or commercial use but human use must be held accountable for how it is used.

WaterScarcityPermanent_Options: Water Management Planning upon request

WaterScarcityPermanent_Comments: Decisions should remain with MoE but with full consutation with regional water boards

Goal4_Support: Strongly Support

Goal4_Comments: Human use and watershed health must come before industry or commercial use

Thresholds_Comments: It is wrong to apply a province wide standard here. Option B could be used as a standard as long as the water manager in consutation with regional water boards can lower that limit if required

PriorityAreas_Options: Combine priority areas

PriorityAreas_Comments: B to F should ALL be part of the process

FedAndProvLegIntegration: I think there is an opportunity for a federal agency to act as a watchdog since water flows across boarders both above and below ground. One Province or region should not be allowed to act in it's own interests in a way that is detrimental to another province or region

AffectOnCommunity: It may help resolve long standing issues that we have been trying to address without too much success

Improve_InterestsTakenIntoAccount: My biggest concern is that water be managed under a single agnecy in BC

KindsOfCollaborativeProcesses: Regional Water Boards that help the water managers address regional differences without compromising provincial priorities