From: nobody@scribe.env.gov.bc.ca
Sent: Friday, April 30, 2010 3:30:56 PM
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 30, at 15:30:56

PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED
ContactMethod: Post

Principles_Support: Strongly Support

Principles_Comments: Re No. 1: Add "that protect stream ecosystem health, function and diversity.
Add:
9. Allocation of flows to protect stream health should be given the highest priority, followed by domestic consumption, agriculture, and other industrial uses.
10. There should be no privatization of public water supplies.
11. Access to drinking water for domestic purposes is a right.
12. Unused water licenses or capacity should not be viewed as an asset that can be sold or traded; unused licenses should revert to the Crown.

Goal1_Support: Strongly Support

EnviroFlow: Standards

EnviroFlow_Comments: Option B is best because standards must be followed whereas guidelines are
discretionary (non-binding).

WaterAllocationPlan: Required

DecisionMaker: Must Follow

DecisionMaker_Comments: Required water allocation plans are more likely to be effective than optional/
discretionary ones. And, binding water allocation plans are more likely to be followed (and, therefore, more effective) than ones that merely require consideration by planners.

DumpingProhibition: Amend

DumpingProhibition_Comments: Option B would allow the Act to protecct streams from a broader range of
damaging materials.

Goal2_Support: Support

Goal2_Comments: Options A and B appear to be the strongest approaches most likely to have
consistent and effective governance.

Goal2_Options: Shared

ScaleForWatershedPlanning: The Enhanced Provincial Management and Watershed

Agency are the most
vigorous governance reform options to effectively institutionalize an adaptable and sustainable water management regime. It has the potential to go the furthest to account for instream (ecosystem) flow needs, to develop an effective groundwater management regime, and to enable comprehensive
water (and watershed) management planning and drinking water source protection.
The Watershed Agency model also offers an opportunity to substantially improve the engagement and collaboration of First Nations and other stakeholders.
Provincial goals, and strong regulatory standards (particularly in the areas of watershed and public health), as well as local expertise and involvement in decision making will all contribute to better governance. Striking that balance is the challenge.

GovernanceFundingSolutions: 1. Higher water license fees, particularly to new or large volume industrial users. The important administrative, assessment and planning initiatives out-
lined in this proposed new legislative process will require considerable resources. Environmental ministries must have more staff and funding.
2. Public delivery of the program. Delivering as much of the planning and assessment as possible through public agencies will ensure a higher standard and better safeguard the public interest.

Accountability: Transparency and the opportunity for balanced input from all stakeholders is
critical. There should be clear guidelines for stakeholder (including public) membership on boards and committees, and there should be a prominent role of independent scientists in reviewing technical issues to ensure that technical assessments are sound and not biased by stakeholder interest. This would include adequate resources for planning staff to review all technical planning and assessment documents that may be produced by contractors hired by proponents, and adequate resources for public review and stakeholder input through consultations.

BenefitsOfSharedRoles: Shared roles could be beneficial if it gives local communities and stakeholders more input into local resource management issues. However, there could be
serious funding issues if responsibilities are downloated to municipalities.

Goal3_Support: Support

WaterUseEfficiency_1: Codes for efficient infrastructure and practices

WaterUseEfficiency_Comments: Overall, Option A seems to allow greater public control of water allocation.
However, there seems to be no reason why Option B cannot also be included, i.e. A and B are not exclusive.
Transfers of water rights is a concern. Water rights should NOT be viewed as a financial asset that can be bought and sold. If someone is not using all, or a part of, his/her water license, it should be considered to be a public resource and revert to the Crown. It then can be reallocated as necessary for stream health protection or other purposes according to priority listed in Principles.

AdminEfficiencyOptions_PermittedUse: Permitted use consistent

AdminEfficiencyOptions_SelfReg: Required self-registration

AdminEfficiencyOptions_WaterUse: Combine admin and efficiency

AdminEfficiencyWaterUse_Comments: Most of the options seem reasonable.

Flexibility_Support: Support

Flexibility_Comments: Ability to amend existing water licenses would be useful for water management
but likely unpopular because it would create uncertainty for users. Perhaps this is inevitable.

WaterAllocationSystem_Options: Priority use

WaterAllocationSystem_Comments: Priority of use (Option B) seems like a more judicious approach.
First-in-time will not ensure the best use for society.

WaterScarcityTemporary_Options: Hierarchy of uses

WaterScarcityTemporary_Comments: Explicitly prioritizing use at the policy level is very important. The order of
precedence for water use should be:
1. protecting stream (aquatic ecosystem) health
2. domestic
3. agriculture
4. industrial uses

WaterScarcityPermanent_Options: Through a mandatory Water Management Planning process

WaterScarcityPermanent_Comments: A mandatory water planning process would be the most effective. However, Options E and F (I think it should be) are not necessarily exclusive and, if a
community requests the process, then it should be expedited.

Goal4_Support: Strongly Support

Thresholds_Options: 500+100

Thresholds_Comments: A lower threshold (Option B) will likely ensure better overall regulation.

PriorityAreas_Options: Combine priority areas

PriorityAreas_Comments: All of the criteria for determining priority areas are appropriate.
Add one to be explicit about the importance of aquatic ecosystem health.