From: nobody@scribe.env.gov.bc.ca
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2010 7:34:23 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 29, at 07:34:22

PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED
ContactMethod: Email

Principles_Support: Support

Principles_Comments: 1) B.C.â s water resources are used within sustainable limits that protect stream ecosystem health, function and biodiversity.

Other principles that could be added might include:

8) Allocation of flows to protect stream health should be given the highest priority, followed by domestic consumption, agriculture, and other industrial uses. This hierarchy of priorities should be altered only in exceptional and clearly defined circumstances.

I agree with the principles, but would like the following principles to be ADDED:

9) There should be NO privatization of public water supplies.
10) Access to water for household use (drinking and sanitation) should be a RIGHT.
11) Unused water licenses or capacity should NOT be treated as an asset that can be sold or traded; unused licenses should revert to the crown.

Goal1_Support: Strongly Support

EnviroFlow: Standards

WaterAllocationPlan: Required

DecisionMaker: Must Follow

DumpingProhibition: Amend

DumpingProhibition_Comments: Dumping of known toxins and carcinogens should be banned completely. Streams should not be treated as waste dumps by either industries or individuals.

Goal2_Support: Support

Goal2_Comments: 2. While governance arrangements need to maintain some flexibility to deal with future problems, they should nevertheless be required to conform to the principles of the Act.

Goal2_Options: Centralized

GovernanceFundingSolutions: There should be enhanced provincial management and a strong Watershed Agency. Since proper water governance is a big task, the provincial management institutions and the Watershed Agency must be given ample funds to do their work. Keeping water governance in-house is the best way to guarantee the public interest is served.

Goal3_Support: Support

WaterUseEfficiency_1: Government determines actual needs

WaterUseEfficiency_2: Use of incentives and economic instruments

AdminEfficiencyOptions_PermittedUse: Permitted use different

AdminEfficiencyOptions_SelfReg: Required self-registration

PermittedUseConsiderations: It is essential to prioritize water use at the policy level. The order of precedence for water use should be 1) Protecting stream (or aquatic ecosystem health), 2) domestic water use, 3) agriculture, 4) industrial uses.

AdminEfficiencyOptions_WaterUse: Combine admin and efficiency

Flexibility_Support: Neutral

WaterAllocationSystem_Options: Priority use

WaterAllocationSystem_Comments: Again, the priority of use should be: 1) Protecting stream (or aquatic ecosystem health), 2) domestic water use, 3) agriculture, 4) industrial uses.

WaterScarcityTemporary_Options: Hierarchy of uses

WaterScarcityTemporary_Comments: The hierarchy should be based on the priority of use above: 1) Protecting stream (or aquatic ecosystem health), 2) domestic water use, 3) agriculture, 4) industrial uses.

WaterScarcityPermanent_Options: Through a mandatory Water Management Planning process

WaterScarcityPermanent_Comments: The two options above are not mutually exclusive, so both could happen.

Goal4_Support: Strongly Support

Goal4_Comments: In order to ensure ecosystem health, groundwater withdrawals must be carefully regulated.

Thresholds_Options: 500+100

PriorityAreas_Options: Combine priority areas

PriorityAreas_Comments: I would add another option as well:

H: When aquatic ecosystems are negatively impacted by groundwater extraction.

WhatHaveWeMissed: It is critical that any changes to the Water Act protect the broad public interest, and that they not prioritize the interests of corporations or investors. Domestic water use must take precedence over any industrial or commercial use. Above all else, changes to the Water Act MUST NOT allow the buying or selling of water or water rights. Water must not be treated as a commodity because it is essential to ecosystem health and to human and animal life.