From: nobody@scribe.env.gov.bc.ca
Sent: Tuesday, April 20, 2010 8:40:38 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 20, at 08:40:38

PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS REMOVED

ContactMethod: Email

Principles_Support: Strongly Support

Goal1_Support: Strongly Support

Goal1_Comments: When planing twenty plus years into the future, all aspects of society needs to be considered including and most importantly, the environment. However, I have not seen any mention specifically about wet lands per se. I feel this is a very important aspect of water management and is currently a grey area of the legislation inbedded in the definition of streams and water ways. This should be taken from the gray area and given a specific classifiaction and definition and place in the upcoming water act

EnviroFlow: Standards

EnviroFlow_Comments: Gjuidlines are too subject to interpreatation and hence abuse or changing factors If we are going to have a water act to influence decisions, then it must be enforcable, and measurable. If it can be changed, then there are no longer standards of any kind let alone adherance to those standards. Guidelines do not work as they are subject to change by those with their own personal or environmental agendas.

WaterAllocationPlan: Required

DecisionMaker: Must Follow

DecisionMaker_Comments: This combination covers the input from the local community but keeps decisions based on facts and science rather than the whim of the time and the fears of the uneducated.
Unfortunately, that attitude, (whim of the time) was very prevelant in the Nelson attitudes of many in attendance. They or their like cannot be the determining factor in decision making but rather one of many voices in a set plan for water consumption. Remember, this is an act for the future and my kids and grand kids.

WaterAllocationPlan_Conditions: For all watersheds and basins, for all communities using X amount of wate, standards to be determined based on overall water flow at this current moment.

DumpingProhibition: Amend

DumpingProhibition_Comments: As long as this requirement is well documented, it must be enforced promptly and effectively. Water is too precious a commodity too hurt. So enforcement must be swift and seen to be effective. It must be funded by the governement of the time in an adequate manner and cannot be allowed to slip into inattention

Goal2_Support: Support

Goal2_Comments: First Nations MUST not be allowed to take precedence over other users. They are a voice only but do not hold and shoulld not hold preference or extra sway over Caucasiion majority individuals. First Nations are just that - one other ethnic group. They are not Chinese or Polish, Jewish or Japanese, they are First Nations and as such should not hold sway over water which is a PUBLIC resource and has to be governend for the total public. It is totally impossible to have good governance by local population as individuals are not subject to the education requirements needed to understand the intrecacies of the Water Act or all the other adjacent federal and provincial acts. Also, the general public is not aware of the overall goals of any one particular product, be it water, forests or mining That is the reason to have " experts " having input.

Local by all means must have a say, but only that, a say. Decisions must be made by those with knowledge and a dispassionate attitude. Locals will never have a dispassionate attitude, again very well documented in the Nelson meeting.

Goal2_Options: Shared

ScaleForWatershedPlanning: Watershed (s) if more than one directly affects a larger community. After that, then TRY to accomodate a basin but for the Columbia Water Basin, that would be impossible due to its size. Similar, the Fraser basin. To try and do so would simply be a make work project for many governement workers without effective or efficient results.

GovernanceFundingSolutions: Increase substantially, water costs to both industry communities and to individuals. right now, the effective cost of water is zero to the public and to the communities. When there is a cost, then folks are much more aware and hence will be more conservative and look for better solutions. Then take those funds for cost of water and use those funds both for the communities and for the provincial funding of the Water Act enforcement and maintenance.

Accountability: Accountability: currently there are none as there is no effective manner of slapping the wrist of the community or individual or industry that hurts our water supply.
transparency: this blog system goes a long way towards keeping the public informed and allows public input both good and bad, relavent or not.
dispute Resolution: if you have a strong set of criteria in the water act, then things become simple and effective. Go against the act (the standards) then you are slapped on the wrist for both penelty and for remediation which you, the individual the company the municipalitee, and the provincial governement is guilty of causing problems.

BenefitsOfSharedRoles: Benefits: greater ownership by all right down to the individual that lives next door.
Implications: if the local person next door is allowed to make the decision, then we will have grid lock in decision making for a number of reasons. Just look at the horror show in California with their attempt at broad based local decisions. Their Proposition 1 / 2 / 3 / 232 etc has hamstrung the governement to the point that no decisions are co ordianted nor rational. They as a consequence are broke and cannot fix it, all due to the voice of the people being heard on how to blow your nose, to water to taxation to budgeting to roads and salaries. Local decision making does not work due to the public not having knowledge of facts, ramifications of decisions and the inter relationship of actions.
It is for this reason that we have hired (elected) individuals to make decisions. Now we should make those decisions WITH local input but top down actual decisions

based on facts, environement and understanding of related acts or issues.

Goal3_Support: Strongly Support

Goal3_Comments: As long as decisions are made with local input and knowledgeable and dispassionate individuals.
Again, locals are not dispassionate nor knowledgeable as a rule

WaterUseEfficiency_1: Codes for efficient infrastructure and practices

WaterUseEfficiency_2: Use of incentives and economic instruments

WaterUseEfficiency_Comments: Utilize tax incentives to municipalities and individuals for better water governance. Tax credits, outright grants to home owners and communmities to improve pipes and water purification. Allow and encourage inovative techniques for water use in the home. do not allow watering your driveway to clean it. Allow and encourage dual water systems so that gray water goes to the gardens or rain water off the roof. Use incentives to fund same.

AdminEfficiencyOptions_PermittedUse: Permitted use different

AdminEfficiencyOptions_SelfReg: Required self-registration

AdministrativeEfficiency_Comments: dWe have seen and expericed non compliance with voluntary complizance It does not work. Make required in all cases and without exception .

PermittedUseConsiderations: Individual wells only unles there is a very large number being used to access an acquifer.
Then you HAVE to register both the well and the volume Look at the depleation of the Mt Baker acquifer dropping with all the agricultural, municipal and residential drawing on the resource and the current dropping of the water table in that water course.

AdminEfficiencyOptions_WaterUse: Combine admin and efficiency

AdminEfficiencyWaterUse_Comments: No opinion

Flexibility_Support: Strongly Support

WaterAllocationSystem_Options: Priority use

WaterAllocationSystem_Comments: We have to extinguish those water licenses that are inactive. Have any water license let with a time frame that is non renewable similar to the IPP 40 year water license concept. Should inbed in the water act including agricultural industry.

WaterScarcityTemporary_Options: Sharing

WaterScarcityTemporary_Comments: This can be the only fair way to benefit all. The Rotary 4 way test asks and we run our lives on the basis of " Is it benefial to all concerned ?
Apply that set of criteria to the water act - all four of the Rotary test criteria

WaterScarcityPermanent_Options: Through a mandatory Water Management Planning process

WaterScarcityPermanent_Comments: Again, this is a public commoditiy and essential to thr good health of every one. Individuals and communities and industry cannot be allowed to opt out Period

Goal4_Support: Strongly Support

Thresholds_Options: 500+100

Thresholds_Comments: Given that our population will increase by your stated, 1.4 illion over the next twenty years, and to keep water access at close to the current high levels, extraction should be kept low for " large " extractions. We then have better options and control of our water.

PriorityAreas_Options: Combine priority areas

WhatHaveWeMissed: I have made my views known through out this response survey