

From: Zo Ann PSkF [mailto:zoann@pskf.ca]
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 11:22 AM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: Water Sustainability Act

Water Sustainability Act 2013

Principles

Water is Life

Water has no owners, just those who we trust to be great stewards of this public resource

The oversight for the protection of our waters for generations to come through effective planning, monitoring, enforcement and decision making, is a joint Federal and Provincial responsibility on behalf of the peoples of Canada. Work together with the appropriate level of inclusion, knowledgeable staff with budgets to effectively do their jobs well.

Environment needs to be taken to their fullest. High waters / low waters. Needs by the second not by the day or season.

If stream and or ground water aquifers are not recharging at the rate of extraction their needs to be an immediate reduction in water use and review / water sustainability plan put in place and implemented.

Oversight of water needs to be done at a big picture level, communities where the water is passing through need to be a part of the planning process but the greater good of all to be included.

Water sustainability to govern all lands. No exceptions to be written into the Act. Covers all lands, Crown, forest, 1st nations, private, public..... water just passes through these alternate land uses so needs to go into the lands and leave the lands with full protection all along the way.

Water quality / quantity Data collection during development processes is not enough. We need to ensure that the data is being reviewed for quality, accuracy and used in the decision making processes.

Ground water Need to know where it flows and at what rate? Ground water is typically cool waters that are needed for resting spots for our returning salmon as they swim up through our ever warming water.

First in Time, First in Right Process in place makes sense, but doesn't mean that we should just leave it without review. Check to see that existing water licences are still in line with needs. Not having people use the water just to keep the licence and being very careful not to have a water licence take on monetary value. Can still have priorities when water shortage comes into play, ensuring life comes before \$ in reviewing needs assessments.

Do you have an example of a community where a water sustainability plan is in place, how it came to be and how it is working? Authority?

Water Sustainability Plans would help communities and regions plan for their watersheds and plan for water use around community and regional needs and priorities, including food security

Near the back (page 100) is important part to **ensure can happen not hope for**

Additionally, respondents identified the importance of being **proactive in preventing** harm or damage to watersheds.

Foundation for BC Water act should be able to protect what is important to the people of British Columbia without the opportunity of Federal or other governments changing their policies to be less protective than "we" had intended when the Water Sustainability Act is put in place. If we clearly articulate the desired outcome from the water sustainability act we could review all the associated acts as they are rewritten to ensure they still meet the objectives. If they supporting acts do not continue to support our Provincial Act, we must be ready to step in to ensure the objectives of the Act do not get lost over time.

Example;

Fisheries Act

The federal government has ultimate authority over fish and fish habitat through the

Fisheries Act.

Water quality is protected through provisions providing for the prevention

of the pollution of waters inhabited by fish. (as this changes so does the intent of the BC Act)

Non First Nations in B.C. also have strong cultural, ecological and economic interests in water resources. The growing number of environmental groups focussed on water issues across BC show the commitment and concern of the broad public body.

There is agreement to establish Environmental Flow Needs for use in decision-making to protect fish and habitat and maintain stream functions and other ecosystem services. This will take mapping and monitoring to be done very, very soon.

Sent on behalf of the Pacific Streamkeepers Federation

ZoAnn Morten

www.pskf.ca