

**DATE:** July 6, 2018**FILE:** 5610-01**TO:** Chair and Directors  
Comox Valley Water Committee**FROM:** Russell Dyson  
Chief Administrative OfficerSupported by Russell Dyson  
Chief Administrative Officer*R. Dyson***RE: Comox Lake Watershed Protection Plan – Education and Outreach**

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**Purpose**

To inform the Comox Valley Water Committee that a consulting team has been engaged to assist with developing and implementing an education and outreach program for Comox Lake watershed protection and water conservation in the Comox Valley Water System.

**Recommendation from the Chief Administrative Officer:**

This report is presented for information only.

**Executive Summary**

The Comox Lake Watershed Protection Plan was completed in 2016 and included 54 recommendations. Recommendation No.48 is to “Develop an education and outreach program for the local community and visitors relating to watershed health, current forestry practices and a drinking water source program....”

The Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) Water Conservation Bylaw includes provisions for water restrictions and fines for overuse. To support water conservation, the CVRD has been communicating regularly through various media forms. As part of this new project, and in consultation with the municipal participants, the CVRD intends to incorporate more robust strategies for encouraging water conservation for all Comox Valley Water System users.

The CVRD has hired a team led by Wedler Engineering to conduct outreach, communications and education for watershed protection & water conservation. This multi-year project began in May 2018. Phase one of the project includes a review of existing resources, initial public messaging about watershed protection, and development of curriculum concepts and communications strategies. Engagement with the K’ómoks First Nation, Comox Lake Watershed Advisory Group, municipal participants, other stakeholders and public focus groups is beginning in June 2018, to gather information and develop the most effective communications strategies.

Phase two will begin in September 2018 and continue to early summer 2019, encompassing detailed curriculum development, curriculum delivery piloting and larger roll-out, and continued public engagement activities. Phase two includes water conservation as well as watershed protection. Curriculum addressing both topics will be delivered to primary and intermediate students as well as to selected stakeholders, staff and elected officials.

Prepared by:

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Concurrence:

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**Stakeholder Distribution (Upon Agenda Publication)**

None	✓
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