

## DELEGATION REQUEST

**Names of persons speaking:** Ellen Leslie, Dr. John Cox, Darren Bond

**Organization you are representing:** Hornby Water Stewardship - a project of Heron Rocks Friendship Centre Society

**Primary purpose of the organization:** Foster personal responsibility for water conservation and protection

**Number of members:** 4

**Mailing address:**

General Delivery  
Hornby Island, BC V0R 1Z0

**Contact name:** Ellen Leslie

**Subject matter:**

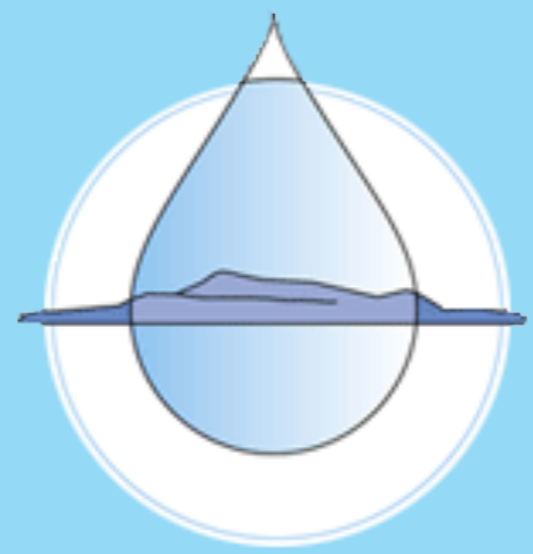
Through the creation of a Hornby Water Plan - "to strive to ensure the quantity and quality of water for Hornby Island, both in the short and long-term" - the community indicated a priority in helping individuals take action beyond merely raising general awareness and education. The vast majority of residents are, in effect, managers of their own private water system, both potable (wells, rainwater collection) and septic (pit toilets, advanced systems). Specific items desired include: conservation devices for wells, collection tanks, filtration systems, converting from pit to composting toilets, and a water testing service. This should help not only themselves and their families, but also neighbours. We are beginning a water testing service, and will be regularly testing ditches to see if this is making a difference.

**Specific request of the regional district, if any (i.e. letter of support, funding):**

Creation of a program to assist residents - many below the LICO (low-income cut-off) level - to improve their water quality through the conversion of old pit toilets to composting toilets.

**Requested meeting date:** September 20, 2021

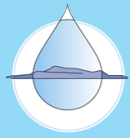
**Audio-visual equipment needed:** none - will share information over Zoom



SEPTEMBER 20, 2021

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# HORNBY WATER STEWARDSHIP



# AGENDA

- ▶ Today's purpose
- ▶ Context
- ▶ Proposal





# TODAY'S PURPOSE

- ▶ Explore interest in jointly developing an incentive/rebate program for water issues on Hornby





# BACKGROUND

- ▶ Education & awareness
- ▶ Groundwater studies
- ▶ Written submissions to policy and plan development
- ▶ Hornby Water Plan





# WATER PLAN (2016)

## Individual action:

- conservation devices, collection tanks, water testing, septic conversion

## Community infrastructure:

- watershed enhancement, reservoirs, run-off collection, saltwater intrusion prevention, sewage treatment

## General awareness and education:

- publications, enhanced website, water risk signage, school instruction, DIY guides

## Planning:

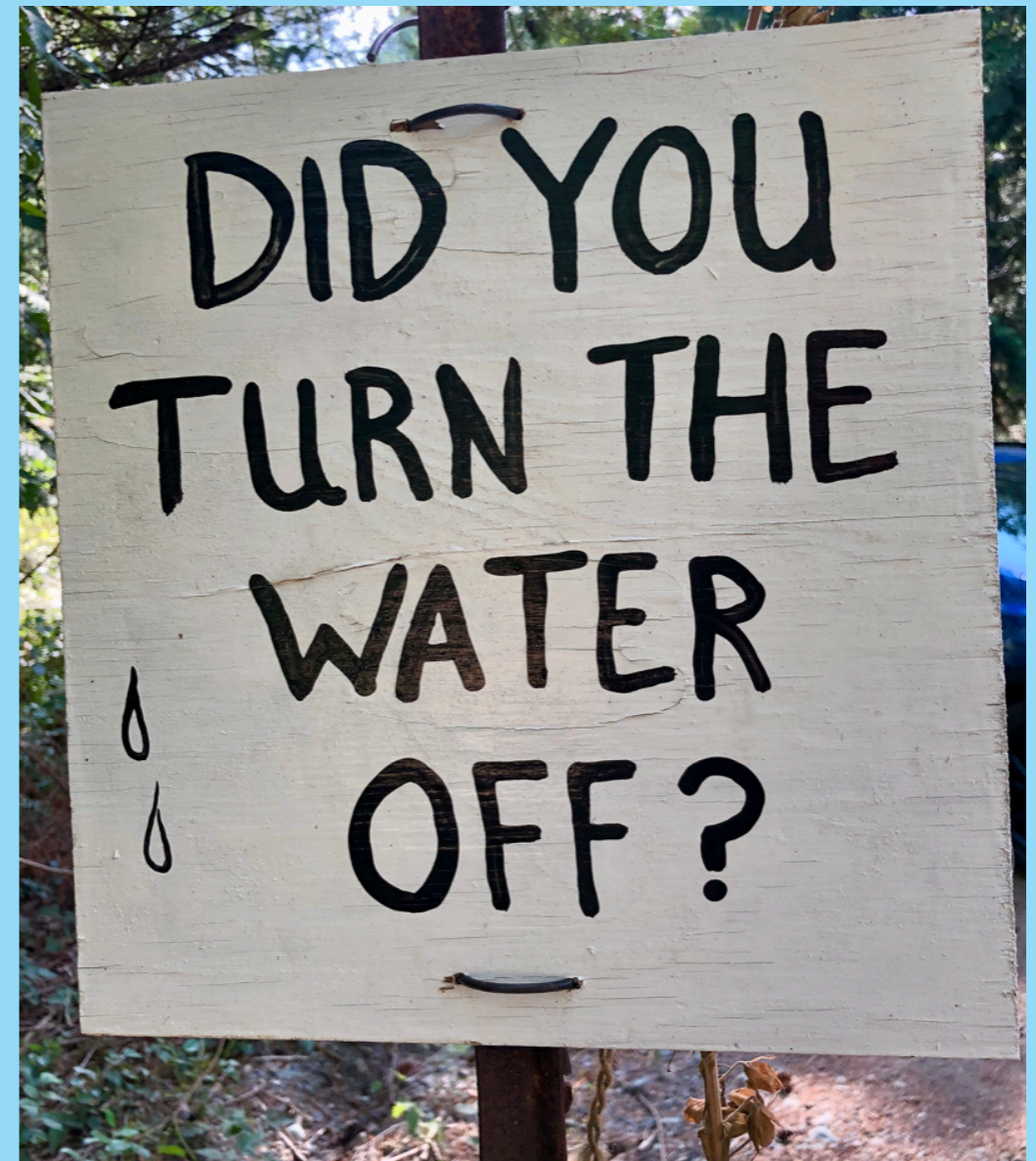
- home design, eco-density

## Regulation and enforcement:

- OCP, Islands Trust, Island Health, CVRD, FLNRO, collection and storage, short-term vacation rentals, neighbourhood water systems, commercial and high-density areas, grey-water reuse, composting toilets, chemicals and medications

## Research:

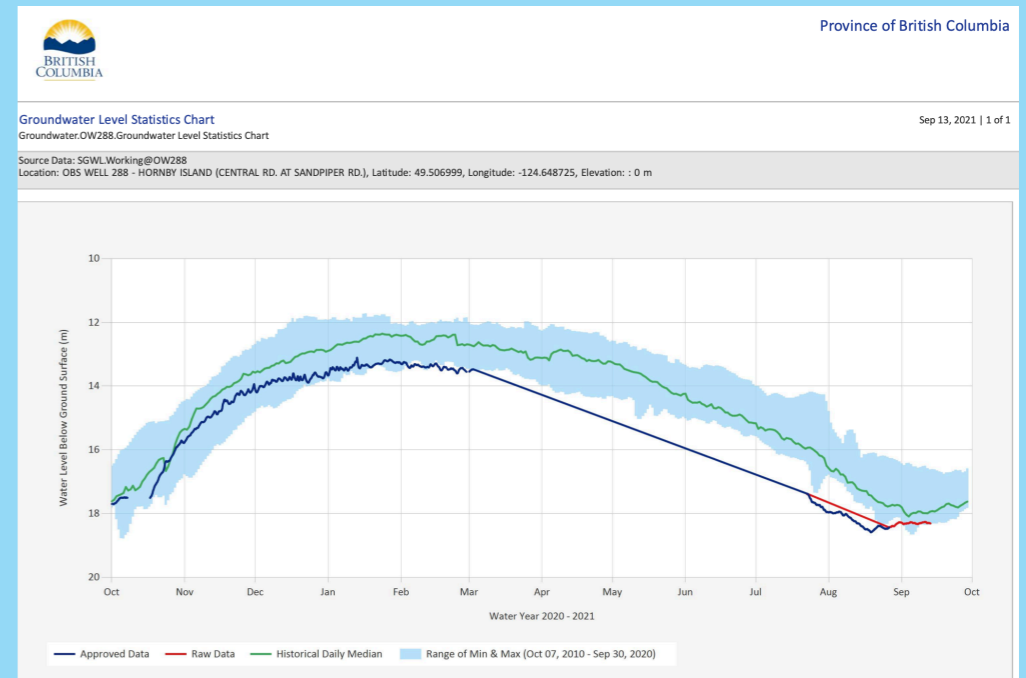
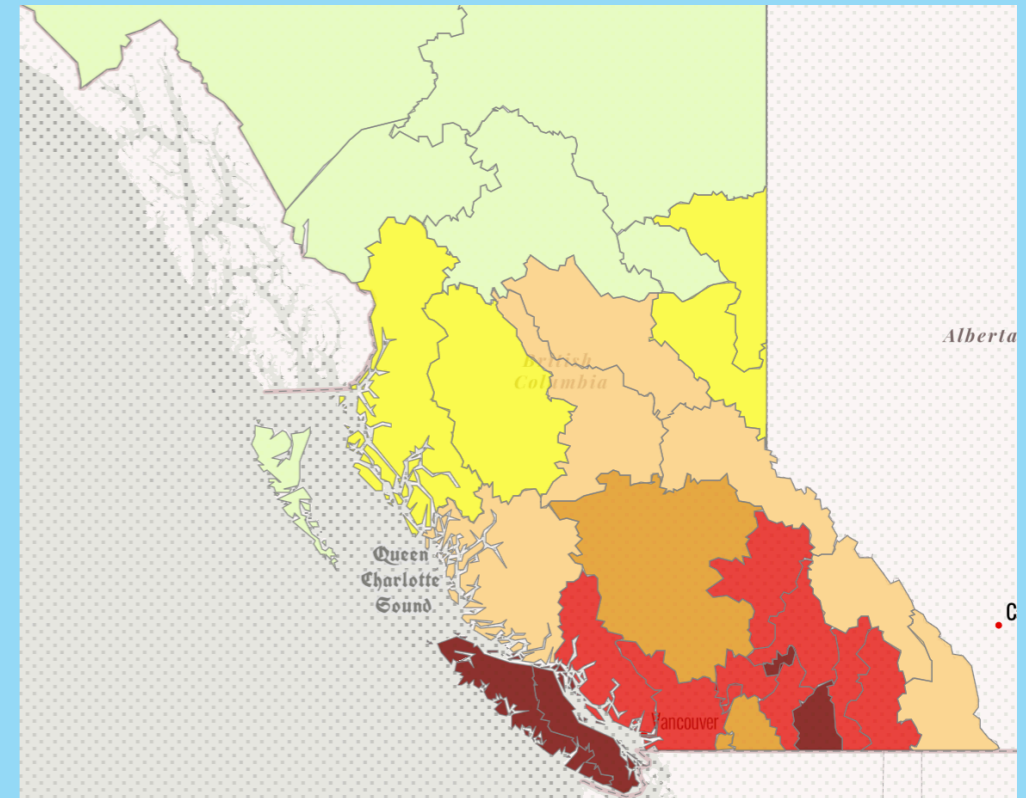
- geology and ecology, water quality analysis, best practice research, citizen science, survey, real-time monitoring





# CLIMATE CHANGE

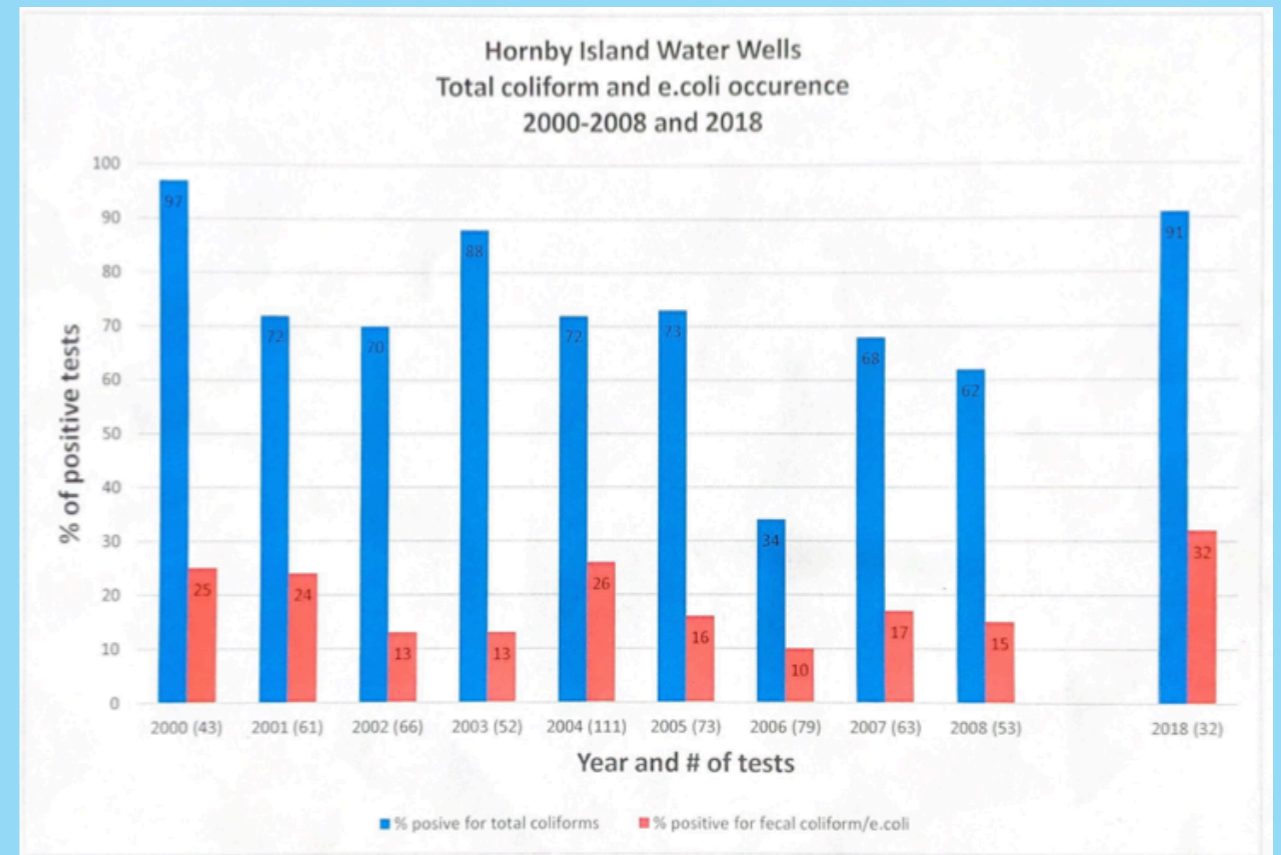
- ▶ Drought level 5
- ▶ Observation well low
- ▶ Wells going dry





# BACTERIA RESEARCH

- ▶ Concerning incidence of *E. coli*







# COMMUNITY INPUT

- ▶ Would you be interested in some kind of incentive or rebate for a water “quantity” or “quality” solution for your home or property, or thinking more generally about others who might be at a low income level?

## SUMMER SHOW

Cistern purchase	35	51%
Conversion to composting toilet from outhouse / pit toilet	7	10%
UV filter	11	16%
Water consumption measurement gauge	15	22%
	68	

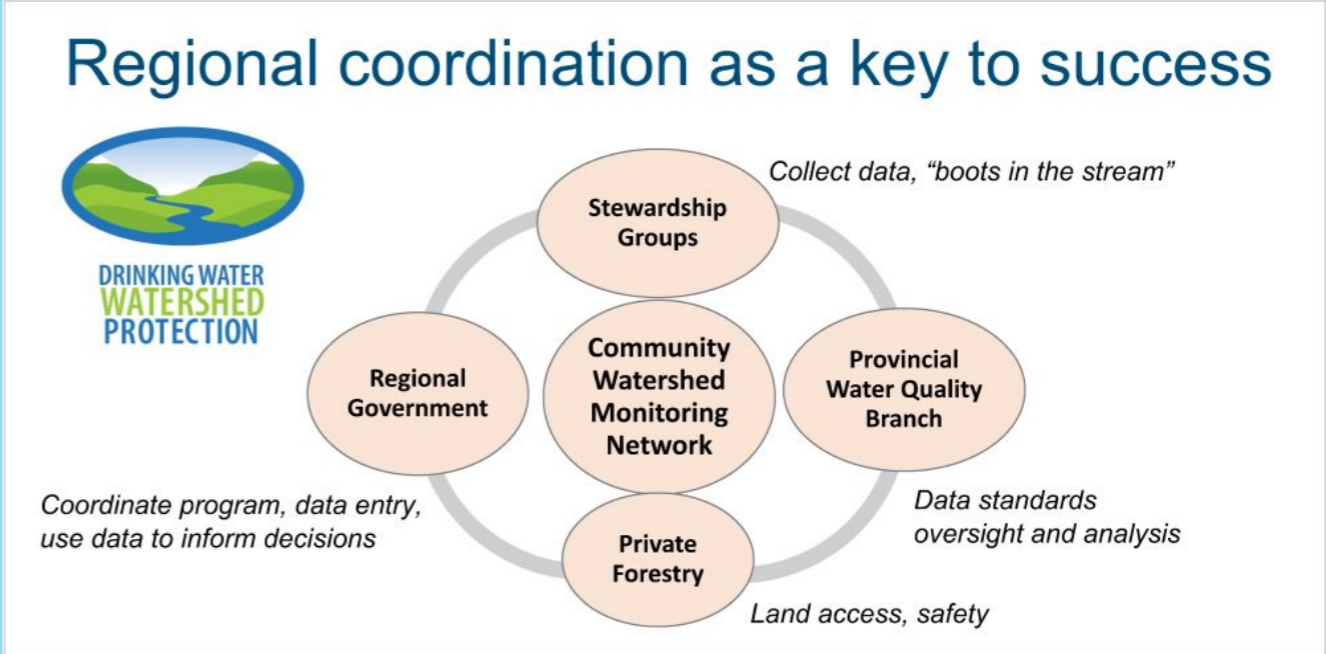
## RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS

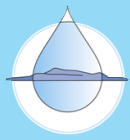
Cistern purchase	58	35%
Conversion to composting toilet from outhouse / pit toilet	31	18%
UV filter	36	21%
Water consumption measurement gauge	43	26%
None / no support	3	2%
	168	



# COLLABORATION

- ▶ Hornby Water Stewardship could be a partner





# LINKAGE TO STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Comox Valley Regional District

2020 Strategic Planning

September 22, 2020

Prepared by A. M. Habkirk BA MA MPA MCIP



## BIG QUESTIONS

A rich conversation was generated by the question, "What are the priorities in your Electoral Area?"

The list of responses included:

- Concerns regarding the impacts of climate change in rural areas e.g. dry wells
- Concerns regarding the health impacts of fire smoke
- The lack of social cohesion (Area B's lack of neighbourhood cohesions/identity – makes communication challenging when not knowing neighbours, seniors, residents, newcomers)
- Multi generational farms – young generation/children returning?
- Challenge of daycare in rural areas – potential for multi use facilities at firehalls, community halls
- Need to support rural small home based businesses
- Lack of transit on Hornby/Denman
- The need for sewer service to the south
- Exhibition grounds as a potential regional service – to share costs

Comox Valley Regional District 2020 Strategic Planning Report dated September 22, 2020

- Emergency preparedness
- Region wide park service – to share the cost of parks
- Potential new services – Septic regulations, community halls
- For next term consider watershed protection, Fire Smart risk, regional service water supply

There is the potential to weave some of these concerns/opportunities into existing services. For example:

- Watershed protection efforts could include concerns regarding dry wells
- Emergency preparedness could be addressed in various ways. fire smoke, Fire Smart and use of Fire Halls to build neighbourhood connections and strengthen social cohesion



# PROPOSAL / DISCUSSION

- ▶ Pilot project for one year (\$10k)
  - ▶ 2016 census
    - ▶ pop: 1,016; private homes: c. 560
    - ▶ Median *household* after-tax income: 1-person: \$21,216; 2-or-more: \$53,376
    - ▶ % low income cut-off after tax (LICO-AT): 18-64 yrs: 19%
  - ▶ 10% (take-up) of 19% (LICO-AT) of 560 (household) times \$750 (incentive based on RDN) = \$7,980
- ▶ Possible components:
  - ▶ Cistern / storage tanks
  - ▶ UV filter
  - ▶ Conversion to composting toilet
  - ▶ Water consumption measurement gauge
- ▶ On-island low-interest loans group support
- ▶ Potential Emergency Preparedness benefit to fire department





**THANK YOU**

