

# **BCWWA Climate Change Committee 2007 Report**

## **Vision**

At the strategic planning session in 2006 Climate Change was identified as a priority issue for the BCWWA membership. While climate change commentary consistently dominates the media, there is a need to translate this complex issue into practical terms from the perspective of the water practitioner, responsible for the design, construction, operation and administration of water and wastewater infrastructure throughout British Columbia.

Given this challenge, a BCWWA Ad-Hoc Climate Change Committee was formed in December 2007 with a two fold mandate. First, to organize a one day climate change workshop at the Annual Conference in Whistler April 30, 2008 and second, further to this event, assess the need for a permanent Climate Change Committee to serve the on-going requirements of BCWWA on this important issue.

## **Climate Change Committee**

The ad-hoc committee recognized at the outset that collaboration with others engaged in the climate change debate was essential for the success of the initiative. In that regard, organizations and agencies including the Canadian Water Resources Association (CWRA) and the Air and Waste Management (AWMA), as well as the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Community Services, were contacted with the purpose of forming a communications network. CWRA, AWMA and the Ministry of Community Services are currently represented on the BCWWA Ad-Hoc Climate Change Committee.

Further collaboration was established between BCWWA and CWRA/AWMA given that both organizations were planning to hold a climate change event in April 2008. The two events were considered to be complementary in the sense that the CWRA/AWMA symposium addressed the scientific aspect of climate change and its anticipated impacts, whereas the BCWWA workshop was to be dedicated to the water practitioner and the practical steps required to be taken in light of the knowledge of climate change.

The current membership of the BCWWA Ad-Hoc Climate Change Committee, established in December, 2007 is as follows:

Eric Bonham	BCWWA (Chair)
Glen Brown	Ministry of Community Services
Brent Burton	Metro Vancouver
Brian Fast	CWRA/AWMA
Robert Hicks	Metro Vancouver
Chris Johnston	Kerr Wood Leidal
Harlan Kelly	Dayton and Knight
John Manson	City of Langford

Don McCallum	Gartnerlee
Hans Schreier	UBC
Kim Stephens	WSC – BCWWA
Sarah Vaughan	BCWWA

## **Conclusion**

With the Ad-Hoc committee formed, the committee initiated the planning of the April 30, 2008 workshop entitled “Our Climate is Changing...Now What?”.

The workshop, designed to reflect a range of related climate change topics, covered the current understanding of climate change, including changing weather patterns, sea rise level and risk analysis. This information will be presented within the context of actual community situations. The workshop will include speakers from Seattle and Olympia, faced with changing weather patterns and now taking constructive action to address the impacts of climate exchange.

Respectfully submitted

Eric Bonham  
Chair  
BCWWA Ad-Hoc Climate Change Committee