



Goat River Water Sustainability Planning Project Update

June 2026 | Latest News

June Update

What We Heard Report Now Available

The What We Heard Engagement Report for the Goat River Watershed Water Sustainability Planning project is now available.

This report brings together what was heard through engagement carried out in 2025 and into early 2026 regarding the Goat River Watershed Water Sustainability Planning.

Input was gathered through a Water Values Survey (220 responses), six open houses in Canyon, Erickson, Kitchener, Town of Creston, West Creston, and Wynndel (137 participants), Kitchen Table Conversations, the engage page, and a dedicated producer engagement initiative including on-farm visits with 15 producers. Together, these engagement streams reached a broad cross-section of residents, agricultural producers, and community members. Read the full report to see what was shared.

[Read the Report](#)

Feature Story



Collective Conversations Working Group

In late May, RDCK staff met with the Province (Ministries of Water Land and Resource Stewardship, Forests and Agriculture) and yaqan nu?kiy for the first meeting of the Collective Conversations Working Group. This group will meet 5 more times between July and October to build shared understanding of conditions, roles and responsibilities, and priorities across the watershed.

The overall aim of this working group is to work together on scoping a water management solution to address water related challenges experienced in the yaqan nu?kiy ?amak?is – Creston Valley Goat River Watershed. Through a series of collective and sequenced conversations, the Collective Conversations Working Group will identify and consider a path forward to address water issues being faced in the watershed.

The Province is wanting to support coordinated, collaborative, and informed planning and decision-making processes that build on the work already undertaken by RDCK and yaqan nu?kiy

The Collective Conversations working group will build a shared understanding of:

- values associated with the watershed;
- current state of the watershed;
- key issues, challenges, and pressures influencing the watershed;
- knowledge and data gaps that may warrant further consideration;
- respective interests and areas of alignment;
- a long-term vision for the watershed;
- expectations and authority for watershed governance and water management decision-making; and
- available next steps for long-term water management approaches for our respective decision-makers' consideration.

RDCK staff leading this process aren't decision-makers; the RDCK Board holds that authority. The Collective Conversations Working Group may bring recommendations to the RDCK Board. To stay closely engaged, the Creston Valley Service Committee (CVSC) directors and RDCK staff meet monthly alongside the Collective Conversations Working Group. RDCK staff will continue meeting regularly with the Province, yaqan nu?kiy, and the CVSC Directors through to October.

So that RDCK staff can best represent your interests, we're engaging residents again from June 18 to July 31. Please join us to share more about what you feel, know, and want regarding water in the Goat River Watershed. [Scroll down to learn more.](#)

What's Happening Next



Water Sustainability Planning Survey

Thank you to everyone who completed the Water Values Survey, our first survey on water in the Goat River Watershed. Over 220 people shared their experiences, concerns, and ideas. You told us clearly that water levels are declining, that you care deeply about this watershed, and that you want action, not just conversation.

This second survey goes further. We want to understand what a healthy, sustainable watershed looks like to you, what trade-offs you are willing to consider, and how you think decisions about water should be made. Your input will contribute to the conversations currently under way between the RDCK, yaqan nu?kiy. and the RDCK (also known as the Collective Conversations Working Group).

The survey takes approximately 10 to 12 minutes to complete. All responses are anonymous. **Submit by August 1st, 2026.**

[Take the Survey](#)



On the Land Gathering—Save the Date: July 24, 2026

Join the Goat River Watershed Water Sustainability project team for a community gathering at the Goat River at the [Riverside Wilderness Park](#). You'll hear about the planning process, what sustainability means in practice, and have a chance to share your own perspective on a sustainable water future for the watershed.

Facilitated by RDCK staff, the event brings together community members for an informal afternoon of learning and connecting with each other and with the river itself.

More details to come.

Did You Know?



Reduced Post Harvest Irrigation Project - Creston

A demonstration project at a local Creston cherry orchard tested reducing irrigation after harvest, cutting water use by 13 to 16 hours per zone each week in September. The trial showed significant water savings, and researchers are continuing to monitor effects on tree health going into future seasons.

[Read the interim report](#)

More Information

Are You a Water Champion?

Tell us more, we would love to hear about what you are doing to protect water in the Goat River Watershed.

[Contact us](#)

Join Our Mailing List

[Sign up](#)

Important Links

- [Project Website](#)
- [What We Heard Report](#)
- [Water Sustainability Planning Survey](#)

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