

5.1.1.1 **Renee Clark, Senior Water Quality Technologist, Greater Vernon Services**

Ms. Renee Clark, Senior Water Quality Technologist for Greater Vernon Services explained that her role is three-fold: Water quality, source protection and coordinator for water stewardship committee.

Amalgamation of three utilities in Vernon happened under Greater Vernon Water Utility, and this brought licensing under one roof under the Regional District.

Education is delivered through the GVS Water Stewardship Committee, a volunteer group with individuals from the community. The Committee discusses how to educate the public, and presents strategies for conservation. Pamphlets, school programs, a water balance model, conservation tips for indoor/outdoor use and watering restrictions are employed. The Duteau water system comes into Okanagan Basin from the Shuswap through diversion. 2000 gallons per minute in winter, 30-40000 gallons per minute in the summer.

City of Vernon sources most of its water from Kalamalka Lake. Licensing was fully allocated on Kal Lake and the City couldn't get any more licenses, which provided the impetus for utility amalgamation.

Reclamation plant water goes to irrigation. Wells and surface sources are used seasonally. GVS has a **drought management plan**.

Stage 1: Odd/Even **watering restrictions**, from 6am till 10am on manual sprinklers and again from 7 till midnight. Underground sprinklers. Stage 2: Less days used

All GVS domestic customers are metered, Coldstream since early 1990's, and Vernon since 1992.

Farm status for agricultural users. Rate structure for agricultural is inexpensive but it is necessary to encourage agriculture in our area. Flat rate of \$207 per year per hectare, or \$50.45 per hectare allocation quarterly. Domestic and commercial rate is .76/cu metre. Cost is a major incentive.

Rebates – not a lot of work in this area. GVS does not have a license for wastewater, it's with the City of Vernon.

GVS is developing **an agricultural metering program** with Ted van der Gulik. A student on a 3-year contract is looking at metering and scheduling. By 2008, GVS aims to have all customers metered, agricultural as well.