

SALMON ARM WATER AND WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP WORKSHOP



WORKSHOP REPORT

**April 16th, 2013
Salmon Arm, BC**

Prepared by:



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Salmon Arm Stewardship Workshop on Watersheds and Water Resources and related follow-up activities were made possible through support from the following funding partners:

- Living Rivers Trust Fund; and,
- BC Ministry of Health;

The Fraser Basin Council would like to acknowledge and thank the funding partners for their generous support of this workshop and the associated field tour.



The Council would also like to thank all of the workshop speakers for sharing their knowledge, experience and expertise.

Lastly, the Council expresses our sincere appreciation to all of the workshop participants for sharing their knowledge, energy and enthusiasm throughout the day.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Given the complexity of issues and variety of players involved in the management and planning of watersheds, collaboration and the formation of stewardship networks have proven to be successful strategies to advance the sustainability of watersheds. As such, the Salmon Arm Watersheds and Water Resources Stewardship Workshop aimed to facilitate learning, engage a regional network of watershed stewards and practitioners, inspire and catalyze new work through networking and sharing of ideas and actions as well as identify priorities and actions moving forward.

Participants were engaged in a number of ways including expert presentations on topics related to watershed stewardship, planning and community engagement, drinking water and source protection as well as networking and roundtable discussions. Participants were given the opportunity to respond both verbally in discussion as well as in written format through note-taking forms.

The roundtable dialogues sought to address two areas: context and priority future actions. The following questions aimed to establish the context of stewardship actions and projects in the Thompson/Shuswap region:

1. What is working well in watershed stewardship in the Thompson/Shuswap and how can we build on this?
2. What actions are you advancing?

The following question sought to explore priority actions going forward, with a particular emphasis on collaboration:

3. What actions would you like to see advanced through collaboration?

Participant feedback relating to context gave a snapshot of stewardship actions currently being undertaken in the Thompson/Shuswap. These actions were in the following areas:

- Planning;
- Collaboration, Engagement and Outreach;
- Restoration;
- Education;
- Pollution Mitigation;
- Water Quality;
- Source Water Protection;

- Agroforestry;
- Data Collection;
- Fencing; and,
- Invasive Species Awareness.

Specific examples mentioned were:

- Salmon River Watershed Roundtable (SRWR);
- Shuswap Lake Integrated Planning Process (SLIPP);
- North Okanagan Region Source Water Protection Plan;
- Sicamous' collaborative approach to source water protection;
- Mapping such as Sensitive Habitat Inventory Mapping (SHIM), Flood Inundation Mapping (FIM), Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory (SEI), historic mapping and baseline data;
- Shuswap River Watershed Sustainability Plan (Regional District of the North Okanagan);
- Switzmalph Cultural Society;
- City of Salmon Arm Environmental Management Committee; and,
- Water quality testing funded by the Ministry of Environment.

Future priority actions and next steps to be collaboratively advanced in the Thompson/Shuswap were in the following areas:

- Funding;
- Regulations and Enforcement;
- Education, Engagement and Outreach;
- Water Quality;
- Planning;
- Incentivization for Good Practices;
- Green Economy; and,
- Product Standards.

This report reflects an initial scan of current and potential future actions. The Fraser Basin Council invites workshop participants to share their feedback to help refine these actions. Upon further consideration we might draft an action plan for collaborative implementation in the Thompson/Shuswap region.

INTRODUCTION

On April 16th, 2013, the Fraser Basin Council hosted and facilitated a half-day workshop and afternoon field tour engaging the stewardship community from the Thompson/Shuswap region and beyond. There was a good turnout of 36 participations representing a diversity of nongovernment organizations as well as local, regional, provincial, federal and First Nations government agencies, the private sector and interested citizens.

The following were the workshop objectives:

- To facilitate learning through knowledge exchange, presentations from experts, and field tours covering current water management and watershed stewardship topics;
- Keep a regional network of watershed stewards and practitioners engaged with each other;
- Inspire and catalyze new work through networking, sharing of ideas and actions; and,
- Identification of priorities and actions.

The workshop portion of the day began with welcoming and introductory remarks from Fraser Basin Council managers Mike Simpson (Thompson office) and Steve Litke (Vancouver office) who also emceed and co-facilitated the event (see Appendix 4.1 - Workshop Agenda). This was followed by a series of presentations on Watershed Stewardship, Planning and Community Engagement. Speakers featured were Mike Wallis (Salmon River Watershed Roundtable), Lee Hesketh (BC Cattlemen's Association) and Mike Simpson (FBC). A panel on Drinking Water and Source Protection followed, which featured speakers Robert Birtles (Interior Health), Renee Clark (Regional District of the North Okanagan) and Marty McLean (District of Sicamous). After a short break, participants were divided among four tables, supported by FBC staff facilitators and engaged in a round table dialogue.

This report represents a summary of participant responses to and commentary on the presentations and roundtable discussion. Notes were collated, summarized and analyzed for the purposes of this report. This report is organized into two sections. The first provides the context of stewardship activities participants find successful and initiatives that are currently being undertaken. The second section focuses on responses related to actions participants want to see advanced through collaboration.

1 CONTEXT

Taking the pulse of stewardship in the Thompson/Shuswap

This section aims to provide the context of stewardship activities in the Thompson/Shuswap region as reported by the workshop participants in the roundtable discussions and sticky note exercise. Key questions that helped to set the context of stewardship activities in the region were:

- What is working well in watershed stewardship in the Thompson/Shuswap and how can we build on this?
- What actions are you advancing?

1.1 WHAT'S WORKING WELL?

According to the feedback provided by participants, stewardship activities that are working well in the Thompson/Shuswap can be categorized in five areas. These are:

1. Collaboration and relationship building;
2. Engagement and leading by example;
3. Dedicated and skilled champions;
4. Planning; and,
5. Specific initiatives in the Thompson/Shuswap Region.

1.1.1 *Collaboration and Relationship Building*

With respect to collaboration and relationship building, initiatives that were working well included collaboration between sectors, government agencies and departments, grassroots organizations, community members and technical experts to deal with issues in the watershed and share information without bureaucratic hurdles such as a Memorandum of Understanding. In addition, there was an emphasis on face-to-face and one-on-one meetings between these different groups as important for relationship and respect building as well as breaking down silos. Some outcomes of these best practices include broad, consensus-based goals are inclusive of all relevant stakeholders and the rise in economic and environmental bodies inclusive of First Nations and the keepers of traditional ecological knowledge.

- Collaboration between government agencies without an MOU (x2)

- Looking at problems together through all sectors, all agencies, departments, etc.
- Information sharing and understanding between governments and grassroots and technical people
- Face-to-face meetings are valuable for relationship building
- One-on-one relationship building and breaking down silos
- Respect for each other – build through collaboration
- Collaborative meetings like this (need to go to another watershed)
- Developing broad, consensus-based goals that include everyone
- Rise in economic and environmental bodies, First Nations and Traditional Ecological Knowledge keepers coming together in collaboration

1.1.2 Engagement, Outreach and Leading by Example

Activities working well with respect to engagement, outreach and leading by example included community and landowner participation in the Salmon River as well as community outreach and communications through community halls and peer to peer networks. Engagement and support from local governments through zoning, funding, human resources and other types of investment was also mentioned. Strategies to successfully garner this support included showcasing past and current projects through demonstration sites. All these activities have resulted in a high level of interest and consciousness.

- Community participation
- Landowner participation in the Salmon River
- Community outreach, including community halls, peer to peer communications
- Messaging getting out – critical mass
- Listening to different needs
- Local governments – zoning, funds, support
- Regional district representatives engagement in the process and investment
- Increased support by way of human resources
- Showcasing things – past projects
- Leading by example with demonstration sites
- A high level of interest and consciousness

1.1.3 Dedicated and Skilled Champions

In order for many of these watershed stewardship initiatives to work well, participants noted that a core group of dedicated and skilled

champions are needed. They also emphasized the need for the appropriate skill sets to raise funds for these initiatives.

1.1.4 Planning

With respect to planning initiatives, participants noted that sustainability planning and planning with actions on the ground were working well in the region.

1.1.5 Specific Initiatives in the Thompson/Shuswap Region

In addition to illustrating activities that were working well in the region, participants also emphasized particular initiatives that include many of these best practices. These are:

- Shuswap Lake Integrated Planning Process (SLIPP)¹ (x2)
- Salmon River Watershed Roundtable (x2)
- Sicamous' collaborative approach (x2)
- North Okanagan Region Source Water Protection Plan
- Mapping – SHIM², FIM³, SEI (ecosystem inventory)⁴, historic mapping and baseline data
- Shuswap River Watershed Sustainability Plan⁵ (Regional District of the North Okanagan)
- Switzmalph Cultural Society⁶
- City of Salmon Arm Environmental Management Committee
- Water quality testing that's funded by the Ministry of Environment

¹ For more information on SLIPP - <http://www.slippbc.ca/>

² Sensitive Habitat Inventory and Mapping - <http://www.shim.bc.ca/shim/shim.htm>

³ Foreshore Inventory Mapping – Example: <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/okanagan/esd/ollp/documents/Foreshore-protocol-May2009.pdf>

⁴ Sensitive Ecosystems Inventory - <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/sei/>

⁵ For more information on the SRWSP - <http://www.rdno.ca/index.php/services/planning-building/planning-projects/shuswap-river-watershed-sustainability-plan/>

⁶ <http://www.shuswapcentre.org/>

1.2 BUILDING ON WHAT'S WORKING WELL

After specifying watershed stewardship initiatives and activities that are working well in the Thompson/Shuswap region, participants discussed how they could build on these successes. These strategic areas can be divided into five categories:

1. Education and information sharing;
2. Building on community connections and synergies;
3. Education and involvement of youth;
4. Benchmarking success; and,
5. Clarifying the role of landowners.

1.2.1 *Education and Information Sharing*

In order to build on watershed stewardship initiatives, participants emphasized education and information sharing between governments, youth, tourists and other visitors. This information and education should be inclusive of western forms of knowledge as well as traditional ecological knowledge and should focus on the interconnectedness of watershed ecosystems.

- Information sharing and participation from governments
- Education and sharing between youth and tourists
- Locals are aware but visitors need more education
- Information sharing and traditional ecological knowledge and the relationships between everything



1.2.2 Building on Community Connections and Synergies

Participants noted that building on community connections and synergies was also important. There was also an emphasis on maintaining community level networks to ensure resilience through electoral cycles and changes within government.

- MFLNRO dealing with issues that are watershed-wide (i.e., Water Sustainability Act, Source Water Protection, etc.). Similar interest in neighboring watersheds
- Hang on to community level connections as governments change
- New players/funding will come from the province part with communities

1.2.3 Education and Involvement of Youth

Participants also emphasized the importance of educating and involving young people especially those who don't have a connection to the land.

1.2.4 Benchmarking Success

In order to take stock of what's working well, participants noted that it is important to look at the prior state of the watershed before the introduction of newer research related to effective mitigation efforts.

1.2.5 Clarifying the role of Landowners

Given the significant role that landowners play in watershed health and sustainability, it is important to define their rights and responsibilities.

1.3 WHAT ACTIONS ARE YOU ADVANCING?

Stewardship actions that participants are advancing in the Thompson / Shuswap region can be categorized as the following types of activities:

1. Planning
2. Collaboration, Engagement and Outreach
3. Restoration
4. Education
5. Pollution Mitigation
6. Water Quality
7. Source Water Protection
8. Agroforestry
9. Data Collection
10. Fencing
11. Invasive Species

1.3.1 Planning

Many participants noted several examples of planning initiatives they were currently involved in. General examples included:

- Promoting tourism/flood risk management planning with local First Nation bands
- Environmental Farm Plan Program
- Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSRD) through SLIPP – lake zoning and docks and buoys bylaw
 - Development Permit Areas in OCPs in north and south Shuswap
- Want to do a regional growth strategy
- Shuswap Lake Integrated Planning Process – water quality and recreation management planning

1.3.2 Collaboration, Engagement and Outreach

With respect to collaboration, engagement and outreach, many participants were involved in engaging and coordinating various stakeholders such as regional districts, government agencies and industry. Examples of this include:

- Regional districts cooperating / coordinating with other agencies
- Engaging industry (e.g. Tolko) in investing in the watershed
- BC Wildlife Federation – Region 8, Fisheries Committee is interested in contacting local clubs (e.g. Vernon, Armstrong, Enderby) to assist Regional District of the North Okanagan with outreach regarding source protection

1.3.3 Restoration

Current restoration activities mentioned included adding conservation to restoration tools as well as restoration work on the Salmon River delta with traditional plants and incorporating cultural education. Other examples included the Salmon River Water Roundtable's 20-year assessment of their restoration project sites and the Department of Fisheries and Ocean's 5 year restoration tool/plan.

1.3.4 Education

Educational activities mentioned were focused on tourists at Kalamalka Lake as well as supporting youth education and engagement.

1.3.5 Pollution Mitigation

Pollution mitigation activities focused on prohibitions on Cardem Lake and moving away from septic systems to a community sewer system.

1.3.6 Water Quality

A participant noted that the Lower Shuswap Society is doing water quality monitoring and water sampling.

1.3.7 Source Water Protection

Sicamous is currently doing work on source water protection work.

1.3.8 Agroforestry

One participant is involved in advancing agroforestry in the province.

1.3.9 Data Collection

SLIPP is currently pooling data for people to access.

1.3.10 Fencing

The Salmon River Watershed Roundtable and WEBs are doing some fencing work (i.e. to keep cattle out of streams and sensitive areas).

1.3.11 Invasive Species

One participant was working on Zebra/Quagga mussels.

2 ADVANCING ACTION

This section of the report aims to summarize participant feedback on actions that should be taken in order to advance sustainable management and stewardship of watersheds and water resources in the Thompson/Shuswap region. These actions can be categorized into eight areas:

1. Funding
2. Regulation and Enforcement
3. Education, Engagement and Outreach
4. Water Quality
5. Planning
6. Incentivization for Good Practices
7. Green Economy
8. Product Standards

2.1 Funding

Participant feedback regarding funding for watershed stewardship and sustainability activities emphasized the need for more stable funding streams for non-profits and processes such as SLIPP. Some potential solutions proposed were better community financial support, succession planning, diversified funding sources, formalization of watershed initiatives such as SLIPP and exploring the potential for ecological goods and services payments.

- Stable funding for non-profits (e.g. long term planning) (x2)
- Stability of community financial support and succession planning (e.g. working groups, support agencies)
- Collaborative funding sources from different agencies and different pots
- Better funding mechanisms are needed for initiatives like SLIPP (ie. is formalization of this group feasible?) to enable them to be stand alone entities not reliant on government
- Explore payi.e.t options for ecological goods and services

2.2 Regulation and Enforcement

Participant feedback related to regulation and enforcement issues included the need for better enforcement of regulations pertaining to landowners (currently processes are very lengthy and expensive), outdated environmental laws which aren't relevant to current issues, enforcement of Riparian Area Regulations (RARs) and the Columbia Shuswap Regional District's (CSR) lack of siting permits.

- Enforcement of regulations (legislative changes so that we could have landowners follow rules) currently a very lengthy and expensive process
- Need to update and review the environmental laws. The old laws don't effectively deal with our problems
- Enforce Riparian Area Regulation (RAR) – either province does it or federal agencies
- Regional district's lack of siting permits

2.3 Education, Engagement and Outreach

With respect to education, engagement and outreach, participants emphasized that basic education and outreach is still needed for stewardship initiatives that already exist in the region such as the Salmon River Watershed Roundtable (SRWR). Suggestions for outreach included raising awareness of SRWR's successes and incorporate industry engagement. One participant saw this as a form of peer pressure that could keep people doing the right thing in the watershed. Another solution proposed was to develop a collaborative 'dream team' who could deal with major issues in the watershed.

- Education and outreach at the basic level (e.g. don't know about SRWR). Use simple language such as 'one valley, one water'. Engage more people.
- Raise awareness of successes (e.g. SRWR's results)
- Industry engagement
- Need strict guidelines but need education as peer pressure. This helps people with doing the right thing.
- Develop a 'dream team' in the watershed. This would be a collaborative and inclusive group to deal with major issues

2.4 Water Quality

With respect to water quality, it was noted that greater emphasis on water quality was needed throughout the Shuswap with measurable outcomes. Volunteers are currently undertaking this. Some solutions to increase volunteer capacity were to have the Ministry of Environment work collaboratively with them as well as create a local tax or investment stream to put towards water quality initiatives.

2.5 Planning

Participants noted that there is an interest and need for development and implementation of integrated watershed management plans as

well as collaborative processes for planning and development in the Salmon River Delta. To ensure accountability for these processes like SLIPP, it was suggested that an evaluation process and implementation framework be created to assess and track outcomes. In addition, Environmental Farm Planning was mentioned as a successful initiative to be carried forward.

- We are interested in a collaborative process for planning and development on the Salmon River delta
- We need to develop and implement integrated watershed management plans through collaboration
- Process to evaluate solutions is needed for accountability. Create an implementation framework for SLIPP's actions with a tracking process for outcomes
- Environmental Farm Planning helps (i.e. 'voluntary beneficial management practices', more cost effective over time, builds trust)

2.6 Incentivization for Good Practices

Participants emphasized that there needs to be creative ways to incentivize good behavior and practices since there are cost implications to implementing beneficial management practices. Specific examples of this include the parcel tax created by the Regional District of East Kootenay as well as payments for ecological goods and services. The public good should be protected through cost-sharing approaches.

2.7 Green Economy

Participants note that there should be an advancement of the green economy and that higher standards can be set.

2.8 Product Standards

Participants also mentioned that people should support provincial increases in the standards for products.

3 CONCLUSIONS

The Salmon Arm Water and Watershed Stewardship Workshop engaged with a number and diversity of participants who shared their knowledge, energy and enthusiasm regarding healthy watersheds and water resources in the Thompson/Shuswap region. This workshop report is intended as a record of the current context and actions for future consideration to advance stewardship and sustainability in the region. The Fraser Basin Council will review the findings of the workshop with the participants with a goal to refine the suggested actions and work towards an action plan that could be implemented through collaboration throughout the region.



4 APPENDICES

4.1 Workshop Agenda

Water and Watershed Stewardship Workshop

Tuesday, April 16, 2013
Podollan Inn, 1460 Trans Canada Hwy. 1, NE
Salmon Arm, BC

Workshop objectives:

- Facilitate learning through knowledge exchange, presentations from experts, and field tours covering current water management and watershed stewardship topics;
- Keep a regional network of watershed stewards and practitioners engaged with each other;
- Inspire and catalyze new work through networking, sharing of ideas and actions; and,
- Identification of priorities and actions.

AGENDA

8:00	Arrival and Refreshments	
8:30	Welcome and Introductions	
8:40-9:50	Watershed Stewardship, Planning and Community Engagement	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stewardship of the Salmon River• Managing Agricultural Wastes and Nutrients• Shuswap Lake Integrated Planning Process	Mike Wallis, SRWR Lee Hesketh Mike Simpson, FBC
9:50 – 10:30	Panel on Drinking Water and Source Protection	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drinking Water and Source Protection in the Southern Interior• Source Protection in the North Okanagan• Drinking Water Issues in Sicamous	Robert Birtles, Interior Health Renee Clark, RDNO Marty McLean, District of Sicamous
10:30	Break	
10:45-12:00	Discussion Session: Advancing Action in the Thompson / Shuswap Region	Facilitated by Fraser Basin Council staff
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Round table dialogues<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is working well in watershed stewardship in the Thompson/Shuswap and how can we build on this?• What actions are you advancing?• What actions would you like to see advanced through collaboration?	
12:00	Lunch and Networking	
12:45	Field Tour	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The afternoon field tour will include two stops: a cattle watering/fencing project at the Salmon River Delta; and then Salmon River bank restoration sites that were established over the last 20 years. Resource people: Mike Wallis and Bob Harding	
4:15	Adjourn	

4.2 Water Stewardship Updates and Upcoming Events⁷

WATER STEWARDSHIP ENGAGEMENT AND ACTION

The following information was collated based on submissions from people as part of their registration and announcements during the April 16th, 2013 Salmon Arm Water and Watershed Stewardship Workshop. In some cases minor edits were made and web links were added to provide more information.

ORGANIZATIONAL NOTICES

Fraser Basin Council - <http://www.fraserbasin.bc.ca/>

The Fraser Basin Council is proposing to facilitate a Learning Network for Watershed Planning and Governance initiatives. This will likely include a combination of in-person workshops, meetings, webinars, teleconferences and peer mentoring. Contact Steve Litke at 604-488-5358 or slitke@fraserbasin.bc.ca for more information.

Interior Stewardship Workshop - http://www.fraserbasin.bc.ca/tr_stewardship.html

The 9th Annual BC Interior Stewardship Workshop will be held in Vanderhoof, BC on May 7th and 8th. This event will connect interested citizens, stewards and organizations who have a passion for watershed stewardship. Contact Tracy Thomas for more information at 250-314-9660 or tthomas@fraserbasin.bc.ca.

SprKL - http://www.spkl.ca/spkl/_Home_.html

April 22 Earth Day Kalavista Lagoon Clean Up: removal of yellow flag iris, meet at 10am, at tennis court on Kal Lake Road. Refreshments will be included.

Spirit Paddle, September 2, 2013, Kal Lake, Okanagan Indian Band drumming, elders, paddle to rattlesnake point on any non-motorized craft. Starts at 10:30am, refreshments available.

Halloween Soiree, October 25th, 2013. Starts at 6:00pm at Kalamalka Okanagan College Campus. Dinner, silent auction, Hallowe'en dance. Tickets \$25. Contact Trina Koch at tak@summit-environmental.com for more information.

Raven Rescue - <http://www.ravenrescue.com/>

Swift Rescue Training from Raven Rescue from May 1-3 in Salmon Arm. Contact Jane Woods at 1-800-880-0287.

⁷ This handout was a collation of updates provided by the participants at the Salmon Arm Water and Water Resources Stewardship workshop.

Ministry of Agriculture - <http://www.gov.bc.ca/agri/>

Agriculture water demand model operating for the Salmon River (see model and GIS map - http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/resmgmt/publist/500Series/500300-4_Agric_Water_Demand_Model-Nicola_Report.pdf). MoA intends to complete the rest of the Shuswap region over the next few years and are looking for local government funding to proceed. For more information, please contact Ted van der Gulik at 604-556-3112 or Ted.vandergulik@gov.bc.ca for more information.

Switzmalph Cultural Society - <http://www.shuswapcentre.org/>

Moving Forward Together: Building Bridges for Better Planning event on May 22nd from 9am to 3pm at Quaaout Lodge. Early bird registration \$35 until May 10th and \$40 registration thereafter. Includes a light breakfast, lunch and snacks. Contact Dorothy Argent at Dorothy@alokaconsulting.org for more details.

Annual traditional gathering on September 29th, 2013 (the last Sunday of the month). Contact Bonnie Thomas at bonniet01@shaw.ca for more info.

BC Cattleman's Association - <http://www.cattlemen.bc.ca/>

BCCA annual general meeting from May 24-25 at the Wesbild Centre – 3445- 43rd Avenue, Vernon, BC.

Silver Hills Ranch

Silver Hills Ranch will be hosting its Annual Biodiversity Tour in September 2013. The ranch will be open for free camping for the weekend. The tour is Silver Hill's way of bringing together people who work in the fields of agriculture or the environment for good conversation and the opportunity to see examples of simple practical solutions in use. To reserve ahead and for more information, contact Lee Hesketh at 250-547-6586 or silverhillsranch@aol.com.

Wild Salmon Music Festival - <http://www.wildsalmonfestival.ca/>

The 4th Annual Wild Salmon Music Festival will be happening September 6th and 7th, 2013 at Community Park in Lumby, BC.

Lower Shuswap Stewardship Society - <http://www.lowershuswap.org/>

The Lower Shuswap Stewardship Society will be hosting the 4th Annual Shuswap River No-Wake Flotilla on Sunday, July 28th at 10am at Grindrod Park (10 km north of Enderby on Highway 97A. Boaters will travel to Mara Provincial Park. All non-motorized craft are welcome to participate however this section of the river is not suitable for tubes or other floaties. The paddle will take approximately 4 hours. Paddlers looking for a shorter trip can join the group at Mara Bridge at approximately 12pm. Mara Hall will be open at noon for a lunch and bathroom break. For more information contact Jessica Washtock at 250-838-2177 or jess.washtock@gmail.com.