

Stewardship Legacy Workshop on Watersheds & Water Resources



Workshop Report

**February 14, 2013
Fort Langley, BC**

Prepared by:



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Fraser Basin Council



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

Collectively stewards are inviting each and every one of us to start, to engage, to collaborate – wherever we are, in whatever way we can... to benefit the waters that sustain us and all life. The future depends on what we do now.

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 Langley Stewardship Legacy Workshop on Watersheds and Water Resources aimed to facilitate learning and engage a regional network of watershed stewards and practitioners, inspire and catalyze new work through networking and identify priorities and actions moving forward.

Participants were engaged in a number of ways including expert presentations on topics related to species and ecosystems, agriculture and drinking water, as well as networking, story sharing and roundtable discussions. Participants were given the opportunity to respond through different types of media including verbal sharing, paper tablecloths, sticky notes and 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 Lower Mainland:

1. What is working well in watershed stewardship in the Fraser Valley and how can we build on this?
2. What actions are you advancing?
3. What do you love doing?

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

4. 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 Fraser Valley. These actions were in the following areas:

- Outreach, engagement and education
- Actions by communities, NGOs, municipalities, industry, provincial,

- federal and First Nations governments, the agricultural sector
- Technical projects
 - Collaboration
 - Funding initiatives
 - Planning
 - Policy regulation and enforcement
 - Research
- Promoting and implementing good practices
 - Fish
 - Water quality
 - Invasive species management
 - Biodiversity
 - Ecosystem services
 - Water and human health
 - Waste management
 - Rainwater collection

Future priority actions and next steps to be collaboratively advanced in the Fraser Valley were in the following areas:

- Outreach, education, raising awareness and engagement
- Inspiration of stewards
- Collaboration and partnership
- Fish
- Strategic approaches
- Funding opportunities and incentives
- Regulations and enforcement

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 Fraser Valley.



INTRODUCTION

On February 14, 2013, the Fraser Basin Council hosted and facilitated a half-day workshop and afternoon field tour engaging the stewardship community from the Fraser Valley and beyond. There was a large turnout of 83 participants representing a diversity of nongovernment organizations as well as local, provincial, federal and First Nations governments, industry, youth, 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 Steve Litke and Marion Robinson who also emceed and co-facilitated the event (see Appendix 4.1 Workshop Agenda). This was followed by a series of presentations on Stewardship, Species and Ecosystems. Speakers featured were Marion Robinson (FBC) and DG Blair (Stewardship Centre for BC). A series of presentations on Stewardship and Agriculture followed and featured speakers Mike Pearson (Pearson Ecological), Heather Carriere (ARD Corp) and Detmar Schwichtenberg (Fraser Valley Watersheds Coalition).

After a short break, a third round of presentations focused on Stewardship and Drinking Water and featured speakers Marc Zubel (Fraser Health) and Asher Rizvi (Township of Langley).

The discussion portion of the workshop included a speaking and listening exercise followed by round table dialogues and a sticky note exercise.

This report represents a summary of participant responses to and commentary on the presentations, roundtable discussion and 'sticky note' exercise. Participants were given the opportunity to respond through a number of media including paper tablecloths, sticky notes and note-taking forms. These were collated, summarized and analysed for the purposes of this report.

The roundtable dialogues sought to explore the following questions:

1. What is working well in watershed stewardship in the Fraser Valley and how can we build on this?
2. What actions are you advancing?
3. What do you love doing?
4. What actions would you like to see advanced through collaboration?

The sticky note exercise invited participants to write the answers to the roundtable questions on coloured sticky notes, which they could then attach to a series of themes in water stewardship such as:

- Watersheds (stream keeping, watershed protection, habitat restoration, etc.)
- Agriculture
- Species at Risk
- Drinking Water/Source Protection
- Lake Care
- Land Use
- Outreach and engagement of others
- Expanding our audience – the private sector
- Linking watersheds to community health
- Key relationships

Participants also had options to put sticky notes in a 'Questions to Ask' and 'Other' section to collect ideas outside of the themes identified prior to the workshop.

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 Fraser Valley

This section aims to provide the context of stewardship activities in the Fraser Valley 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 Fraser Valley were:

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

[To see participant responses to the context question 'What do you love doing?', please see Appendix 4.2]

1.1 What's Working Well?

According to the feedback provided by participants, stewardship activities that are working well in the Fraser Valley can be categorized in four areas. These are (1) outreach, engagement and education, (2) actions and initiatives by citizens, NGOs and all orders of government (local, provincial, federal and First Nations), (3) collaboration, and, (4) funding initiatives.

1.1.1 Outreach, Engagement and Education

With respect to outreach, engagement and education, initiatives that were working well included connecting and engaging all individuals and groups, especially those that may not have interest or be connected to water stewardship activities. Examples of how this is being done include the education of youth and adults in topics such as salmon habitat and restoration, day-lighting streams and environmental protection as well as activities such as watershed tours in the Capilano, Coquitlam, Seymour and Cowichan watersheds and information dissemination among land owners.

Through the work of educators, connectors, facilitators and others, partnerships and networks can be built and bring watershed and water

We, the 'introverted science and environment geeks', need to learn how to advocate for our causes and engage others without sounding self-righteous and arrogant.

Inter-generational dialogue can lead to inter-generational change

resource issues to the forefront. By including all stakeholders (NGOs, all orders of government including First Nations, citizens, farmers and industry) in this effort, innovative solutions can be formulated.

Outreach

- Outreach to all demographics (i.e. Youth, low-income groups)
- Increased public awareness of where our water comes from
- Identify ways to get interest from uninterested groups (i.e. Value of improving environment)
- Stewardship outreach on watershed issues and drinking water quality. Generally the public is very receptive to messages
- Need to reach out to those who still don't 'know'. Some urban pockets of population have little or no connection to the environment and stewardship
- Talking to neighbors - communication ('cast a net')
- Social marketing
- Developing relationships

Education of youth and adults

- Educating school-age youth in a hands on way and monitoring waterway health (e.g. catching pinks, getting eggs) (x2)
- Expand environment education in schools
- Engaging kids to understand why efforts are being done (x2)
 - Salmon in the classroom program
 - Connect kids to nature
- Involving children and the educational system when promoting environmental awareness and protection (i.e. Hatchery and classrooms)
- Education (E-high school, Rivers Day, Earth Day)
- Explaining day-lighting to people and explaining what resources are available to those who wish to daylight a stream

Engagement

- Involvement with special interest groups and citizens
- Good public engagement on water issues (e.g. drinking water in Chilliwack)
- We, the 'introverted science and environment geeks' need to learn how to advocate for our causes and engage others without sounding self-righteous and arrogant
- Lots of stakeholders involved – awareness exists already

Watershed Tours

- Watershed tours = education, weir, projects, Cowichan park, tribes,

- urban
- Watershed tours (Metro Vancouver – Capilano, Coquitlam River, Seymour)

1.1.2 Actions

A majority of comments received from participants highlighted examples of effective actions and initiatives undertaken by citizens, NGOs, orders of government including First Nations, the agriculture sector and industry. In addition, examples of effective technical projects were described.

Community and NGO Actions

With respect to community and NGO activities, the responses affirmed that the Fraser Valley has a very active and engaged citizenry doing work in areas of watershed protection, stewardship and advocacy. NGOs that were specifically mentioned included:

- Langley Environmental Partners Society (LEPS)
- Stream of Dreams Mural Society
- The Stoney Creek Initiative
- Cultus Lake Aquatic Stewardship Society (CLASS)
- Burnaby Streamkeepers, and,
- Fraser Valley Watersheds Coalition (FVWC).

Participants explained key elements of success for these NGOs including combining watershed education and visual art, collaboration with stakeholders such as industry, acknowledgement of First Nations rights and title, a ‘no blame’ approach to collaboration, expanding programs to other areas, leveraging skills sets of citizens and other groups (e.g. fish recovery and rehabilitation) and meeting on a regular basis.

Community Actions:

Active and engaged citizens

- Active community watershed protection
- Lots of active citizens and groups taking action
- Engaged citizens are out there
- Lots of interest in water stewardship

The Invasive Plant Council has an online reporting system for [the] public to report observations of invasive plants. We should have a reporting system in place for disturbances to water. This would help with enforcement.

Striking how much has already been done!

- Good involvement of special interest groups and concerned citizens and some industrial partners
- Downloading of authority and responsibilities – Federal → Provincial → Municipal → Citizens
 - More active community watersheds protection and advocacy
 - Increased interest and action from local residents and groups
- Active citizens working in water stewardship
- Great involvement in community
- So many people and groups caring and getting involved

Examples of Actions

- Citizens on Patrol – communication is so important, getting people together, so many places for information
- Online petitions so people can get involved while having busy lives

NGO Actions and Initiatives:

Examples of NGOs at work

- More interest – watershed group committees connected to LEPS
- Stream of Dreams Murals Society – great watershed education and highly visible community arts
- Better river management group in Chilliwack
- Stoney Creek Initiative has been supported by industry
- Cultus Lake Stewardship
 - Accept rights and title
 - Collaboration
 - Awareness
 - No blame, work together
 - Volunteer driven
- Expand programs that are working in one area to others (FVWC model, LEPS)
- LEPS and other non-profits doing work on the ground
- Burnaby Streamkeepers roundtable meets twice per year

Examples of actions

- NGOs doing stuff – pockets of works
- Leveraging skill sets (i.e. Fish hatchery)
- NGO groups need more collaboration to improve (through Fraser Basin Council?)

Government Actions and Initiatives

Participants highlighted effective actions, initiatives and programs led by various orders of government including local, provincial, federal and First Nations.

Municipal

Municipal actions identified were centred on planning and policies with respect to environmental management strategies, stormwater management and species at risk. Effective environmental management strategies have caused municipalities to integrate their resources and collaborate with different government agencies, environmental organizations and the development community. The results of these collaborative efforts are scientifically verified guidelines on land development, land use, water quality and related issues embedded in municipal decisions and actions. More specific examples of these environmental management strategies are integrated planning processes and initiatives relating to stormwater management and species at risk.

Municipal Environmental Management Strategies

- Municipalities have integrated with one another and are using their collective resources to make collaborative environmental management strategies. Environmental groups are having conversations and actions embedded in municipal decisions and action
- Public and municipal recognition that up-slopes are important to downstream health; good scientific backing
- Some municipalities are asking more of people doing work that impacts habitat
- Good local government regional staff – individuals are as helpful as possible
- Infiltration requirements for development are becoming more frequent

Water and Stormwater Management

- Water management plan was developed for Langley
- More municipalities are requiring developers to manage stormwater
- Regional integrated stormwater management planning (ISMP)

*Good local government regional staff.
Individuals are as helpful as possible.*

Environmental groups are having conversations [resulting in] actions embedded in municipal decisions

Species at Risk

- Local government working collaboratively about species at risk

More municipalities are requiring developers to manage stormwater

Provincial, Federal, First Nations Actions

Provincial, federal and First Nations actions mentioned by participants were collaborative initiatives and programs such as the Department of Fisheries and Ocean's (DFO) Salmonid Enhancement Program (SEP) which has engaged volunteers and local stewardship organizations; the Regional Drinking Water Committee (a provincial, federal and local initiative); Environmental Farm Planning process; and, Aboriginal Funds for Species at Risk (AFSR), which is managed by DFO. These programs emphasized the spirit of collaboration and partnership between governments, agencies, sectors and citizens in areas of stewardship, water quality, source water protection, land use, sustainable agriculture, education, capacity building and communication activities. Some concerns raised were the potential outcomes that may result from legislative changes, funding and staff cuts at the federal and provincial levels. In particular, participants highlighted the importance and effectiveness of the Fisheries Act, which provides provisions for the protection of fish habitat. In addition, participants noted that policy enforcement concerns are on the rise with respect to watershed protection.

Provincial and Federal Departments Collaborating on Initiatives and Programs

- The number of large and small stakeholders that are already involved (e.g. DFO, Agriculture Canada, etc.)
- Amazing track record for DFO Salmonid Enhancement Program and volunteer stewards for decades
 - Concern how this may change going forward with new legislation, regulations, and funding cuts
- Interagency (provincial, federal, regional government) Regional Drinking Water Committee that meets several times per year to discuss and try and resolve impacts of existing and proposed land use activities that may impact drinking water sources and uses
- Excellent programs (e.g. SEP) education and communication are a huge part of the solution
- Environmental Farm Planning has had some success but could use funds in riparian areas, but no incentive for farmers to push towards this
- Working with First Nations – Aboriginal Funds for Species at Risk (AFSR via DFO), interest and capacity building
- First Nation involvement and communications (increase value of the land, increase partnerships)

Legislation

- Fisheries Act helps to provide protection
- Riparian area regulations (provincial)

Policy Enforcement

- Policy enforcement on watershed protection
- Policy enforcement concerns are on the rise
- Political restrictions

Agricultural Sector Actions

Participants noted that there were positive steps happening in the agricultural sector and highlighted Circle Farm tours, which highlight Best Management Practices (BMPs) and strengthen accountability among the farming community.

- Positive steps in agriculture
- Environmental Farm Plan initiative
- More urban/rural connections (i.e. Circle Farm tours put a spotlight on BMPs and strengthen accountability with food and fun)
- Positive steps to minimize impacts on water by agricultural community
- Model Farms are becoming 'trendy'

Industry Actions

Effective industry actions noted were the natural gas industry's new best management practices, which align with the latest regulations and requirements released by the National Energy Board in January 2013. These best practices require the industry to speak to various stakeholders.

Effective Technical Projects

In addition to identifying specific government, NGO and citizen actions, technical projects and solutions were also highlighted as effective examples of action. Two categories of projects were noted in this regard: restoration and rehabilitation projects and water metering. Examples of restoration and rehabilitation projects included Duncan stream bank stabilization, Cowichan River bank stabilization project, hatchery projects which facilitated partnerships and species at risk rehabilitation and recovery programs.

1.1.3 Collaboration

Participants noted that collaboration between different interests and collaborative forums such as this workshop are effective and working well in the Fraser Valley. More specifically, comments expressed that collaboration

helps to 'get things done', enables action groups to be formed, fosters more effective implementation, combines strengths of various groups and brings together passionate and dedicated people.

- Collaboration between stewardship groups
- Collaboration between various environmental interest groups helps to get things done
- A lot of great groups/people and opportunities like this to come together (need more chances to come together)
- Workshops like this bringing together diverse interest groups and stakeholders
- Collaboration between environmental groups = better work. Passionate people come together to work together
- Collecting interested and concerned people into action groups – like this!
- Collaboration with other groups is key (e.g. streamkeepers and birders combine strengths)
- Common interest in working together to address water quality issues for human and wildlife environment
- Collaboration with multiple partners to get initiatives done – dedicated, passionate people
- Good dedicated groups and they do collaborate

1.1.4 Funding Initiatives

Many of the comments in this category indicated that current funding opportunities are in short supply and proposed some ideas of how to secure funds. Examples of this include using drainage levies for environmental initiatives and having big pipeline projects such as the Kinder Morgan Pipeline pay for ecological services in the Fraser Valley. An effective example that was highlighted was an initiative of the Fraser Valley Watersheds Coalition, which was engaged to help deliver fisheries compensation associated with road developments. This was a partnership with the Ministry of Transportation, Ducks Unlimited, DFO and the Stave Valley Salmonid Enhancement Society¹.

- Conservation funding is needed but funding is hard to find
- Drainage levies could be used towards environmental initiatives
- Kinder Morgan should pay for ecological services in the Fraser Valley
- Coalition compensation from MoT. Good working being done with funds

¹ Source: <http://fvwc.ca/what-we-do/habitat-restoration-compensation/hwy-7-compensation/>

1.2 What Actions are you Advancing?

The feedback provided by participants regarding the stewardship actions that they are currently advancing can be categorized by type and theme.

1.2.1 Actions By Type

In terms of type, participants identified actions in:

1. Outreach, education and engagement
2. Planning
3. Policy, regulation and enforcement
4. Funding initiatives
5. Research
6. Collaboration, and,
7. Promoting and implementing good practices.

Outreach, Education and Engagement

With respect to education and outreach, many participants were involved with activities related to the education of youth and seniors in various topic areas such as water habitat, threatened species in the Okanagan and water conservation. Participants also emphasized that these outreach, education and awareness raising activities were undertaken in order to facilitate behavioural change.

Education and Outreach

- Education and outreach – youth and seniors (2x)
- Educate young – encourage others to care for their neighborhood
- Educating kids to bring new knowledge home to parents
- Start education in schools – younger generation
- More facilitation to get kids outside in urban areas
- Awareness, education and connecting of organizations
- Knowledge to citizens
- Educated community to come together to ‘shame’ people into doing the right thing
- Continue stewardship and outreach - when people are educated they are more likely to change
- Green shores program to educate about water habitat and connection to land
- Outreach and education about threatened species in the Okanagan

With respect to engagement, participants highlighted the audiences they were engaging by their activities. Examples included landowners, politicians as well as the faith community. In addition, participants highlighted key mechanisms of engagement as well as recommendations to ensure more inclusivity of engaged groups. Key mechanisms of engagement included listening, inspiring people and asking them how they would like to be engaged. Recommendations for better engagement included extending the reach of stewardship groups in terms of gender, age and racial diversity. A specific example highlighted the Fraser River Discovery Centre and its connection and interaction to 'ordinary people' through their exhibitions.

Engagement

- Landowner contact
- Faith community brought on side
- There is a provincial election soon. I am having coffee with my MLA to share environmental concerns
- Listening
- Sharing my passion with people who listen
- Meet with important people – engage them, educate them and inspire them—creates opportunities
- Ask people HOW they want to be involved (decrease apathy, increase engagement)
- Extend the reach of who stewardship organizations interact with
- More 'biodiversity' in stewardship groups. More gender, age and racial diversity
- Meeting 'ordinary people' at the Fraser River Discovery Centre to connect them to water in a 'safe' environment

Specific engagement tools highlighted were communications, advocacy and events. Participants emphasized the importance of clear and simple messaging relating to audience interests, community advocacy and events such as World Water Week.

Communications

- Use plain English – how do we communicate? Do people understand what we're saying?
- Realign messages from what you need to do to what's in it for you
- Use media where possible to pressure people

Community Advocacy

- Community advocacy – ALR removal/urban development and 'spot growth' (x2)

Events

- Planning for World Water Week – declaration and valuation report from WWF

Planning

Participants were also involved in watershed planning activities through groups such as watershed councils. Some other planning activities mentioned were the integrated storm water management planning process.

- Watershed planning and information access (i.e. Watershed councils with potential for decision-making authority)
- Every municipality in BC must complete an ISMP for every watershed – is your group a stakeholder?

Policy, Regulation and Enforcement

Participant activities related to policy, regulation and enforcement included raising awareness about and engaging people in water related legislation and policy including the Water Act for BC, reviewing regulations and processes relating to the natural resource extraction and water, updating a green municipal guide for infiltration and hydrologic studies, federal/provincial jurisdictional issues and improving regulation enforcement.

- Help people see effects and process of legislation
 - People have an impact on legislation
 - Effect of legislation on everyone
- People affected by legislation have a say
- Water Act roundtables – increase foundational knowledge of legislation
 - Workshops to engage people in legislation
 - Increasing conversations about our laws are a hands-on way to learn about policy
- New Water Act for BC
- Water Act changes and creating workshops to educate in an engaging way regarding legislation
- Review of regulations and processes that enable mining and natural resource industry
- Reviewing government regulations around water and natural resource extraction
- Improve enforcement

*Regulation and permits
are key to industry
change. Need to
ensure implementation
occurs.*

*Do we have water
extraction regulation?*

- The Federal government is abdicating environmental regulation and enforcement; to what extent can municipalities and regional districts step in?
- Updating green municipal guide for infiltration and hydrologic studies

Funding Initiatives

Participant activities related to funding initiatives included a conservation fund and funding for restoration projects. Participants were also involved in activities related to community buy-in via taxes and other incentives including tax breaks and acknowledgement. Other work is underway to get polluters to pay through monetary measures or restorative action.

Research

Research activities included gathering information on historic environmental change from elders, best stewardship practices around watercourses, and other studies and fact sheets.

- Gathering information from elders – historic environmental change (x2)
- Best practices in working around water courses (e.g. tillage of fields, maintenance of dykes)
- Stewardship practices being collected over the spring/summer
- Estuary fact sheet
- Boundary Bay study (3 years ago) advanced data on runoff and anthropogenic impact on water

Collaboration

Several participants were involved in collaborative projects and actions focusing on connecting diverse groups in discussion, developing relationships and partnering with First Nations.

- Developing relationships (x2)
- Collaboration
- Collaborative actions and projects
- Bringing together diverse groups to discuss complicated issues in a safe space
- We are all connected – keep connecting people
- Public exhibits connecting people to complicated issues
- Partnerships with First Nations

Promoting and Implementing Good Practices

Participants highlighted several activities relating to promoting and implementing good practices in water stewardship including: responsible industrial practices and education, better agricultural practices such as manure management and environmental farm planning, responsible business practices and sustainable development.

Industrial Practices

- Responsible industrial practices (BMPs) (x2)
- Industrial education

Any evidence of improved dissolved oxygen in waterways after implementation of Environmental Farm Plans?

Better Agricultural Practices

- Manure management
- Promoting proper manure management practices on hobby farms through education and outreach
- Environmental Farm Plan – a lot are dairy or poultry farmers but need more connection with consumers. Need more incentive
- Consumers need to become more aware and demand it

Environmental Farm Planning funding for 2013 and beyond?

Responsible Business Practices

- Chamber of Commerce sustainability panel

*Riparian Habitat – how do you 'sell' the loss of land to farmers?
Will there be a regulation that allows RAR to apply to farmland?
How do we effect that change?*

Sustainable Development

- ALR removal/urban development watchdogs
- Bylaw development issues

1.2.2 Actions by Theme

With respect to theme, participants highlighted actions in the areas of:

1. Fish
2. Water Quality
3. Invasive Species Management
4. Biodiversity
5. Ecosystem Services
6. Water and Human Health
7. Waste Management
8. Rainwater Collection
9. Technical Solutions

Fish

Participant activities related to fish included salmon rehabilitation and restoration and hatchery set up in Langley.

- Increase spawning salmon numbers
- Salmon enhancement
- Setting up small hatchery in Langley

Water Quality

Participants highlighted water quality related activities such as water testing for private wells, recording water quality and indicators, advocating for source controls, rain gardens/swales in urban and suburban watersheds, drinking water, stream and lake protection and pollution prevention.

- Water testing – should have easy testing procedure for private well owners so is liaising with municipality for improvement in light and recognized potential contaminants
 - Mobile groundwater testing?
- Record water quality and indicators to show where pollution is occurring and generate enforcement
- Keep pushing for source controls, rain gardens/swales in urban/suburban watersheds
 - Get rain into the ground!
- Drinking water protection
- Stream protection
- Protection of lakes (i.e. Cultus Lake)
- Promoting the thought of different ways to protect water
- Pollution prevention

We need reasonable prices and local source of [water] testing for those with private wells

Why is the agriculture industry NOT held to the industry standards for contamination?

Invasive Species Management

A few participants highlighted their general activities related to invasive species management.

Biodiversity

Participant activities related to biodiversity focused on increasing biodiversity and included the example of the Pygmy Sculpin initiative and included data collection, education, water quality and notifications and habitat assessments and restoration.

Ecosystem Services

Activities related to ecosystem services included collecting information to strengthen community interest in ecological services and activities surrounding payments for ecosystem services.

Water and Human Health

Participants involved in water and human health activities highlighted the importance of linking human health to watershed health and using health to promote awareness of water related issues.

- Linking human health to watershed health (humans don't prosper if environment/water isn't healthy)
- Promoting water awareness via health (i.e. Healthy water → fish → healthy people)

Waste Management

Two participant comments highlighted activities related to the improvement of municipal strategies for waste management.

Rainwater Collection

Two participant comments highlighted activities related to rainwater collection.

Technical Solutions

Some participants noted more technical projects they were involved in including reducing water extraction, sewer overflows and streamkeeper activities.

- Need to reduce water extraction and/or balance of human and animal use
- Combined sewer overflows into the Fraser River (there are many in New Westminster)
- Streamkeepers - stream adaptation
- Stewardship practices

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 water resources in the Lower Mainland.

2.1 What actions would you like to see advance through collaboration?

According to the participants, actions to advance through collaboration can be categorized into seven areas:

1. Outreach, Education, Raising Awareness and Engagement
2. Inspiration of Stewards
3. Collaboration and Partnership
4. Fish
5. Strategic Approaches
6. Funding Opportunities and Incentives, and,
7. Regulation and Enforcement.

2.1.1 Outreach, Education, Raising Awareness and Engagement

Participant feedback regarding the outreach and engagement of other partners emphasized expanding the audience and partners of water stewardship organizations and engaging all sectors including government, NGOs, businesses, industry and academia through various means:

Outreach and Engagement of Other Partners

- Advance actions by expanding the audience (x2)
- Involve landowners in cost and alterations of management practices (x2)
- Expand our reach into un-traditional stewardship areas (interests)
- Use stories, mascots, symbols to engage new audiences
- Engage large industry to bring stewards actions to scale
- Work with industry to protect sensitive areas
- Encourage inter-sector involvement and coordination (government, NGO, business, academic)
 - Missing in action in a lot of forums

- Identify ways to get interest from disinterested groups (i.e. Value of improving the natural environment)
- Collaboration or public meetings among stewardship groups, special interest groups (mountain biking, fishermen, backcountry horsemen, etc.), government, industry, energy companies, etc. to discuss issues
- Average people engaging with average farmers
- More involvement of producer groups
- Business – environment overlaps with similar interests and respect of opinions
- Bring politicians and government folks into the fold
- I would love to see Ministry of Agriculture and non-profit watershed groups to collaborate. There is such a fit between the two. Work together to educate
- Focus on communities
- Public statements from stewards to protect against potential hazards

In addition to inter-sectoral engagement, participants also emphasized the importance of accountability and follow up in municipal decision making through engagement of the public and First Nations through public meetings and hearings as well as engaging through political pressure:

Engagement of the Public

- Hold town hall meetings (x3)
- Requirement of a public hearing
- Better public stakeholder hearing and consultations with appropriate timing are needed
- Protocol for following up should be incorporated in the requirement for a public hearing
- Strategy to allow for more accountability in municipal decisions – level of common involvement
- Strategy to allow for accountability in municipal decisions (level of community involvement)
- Follow up
- Increase dialogue

First Nations Engagement

- Work with local First Nations - ask for specific people to attend, ensure wide range of participation at workshop

Political Pressure

- Apply political pressure (e.g. federal/provincial, Agricultural Producers Association) (x2)

With respect to education, recommended actions emphasized the importance of educating children and adults and collaborating with schools to incorporate environmental education into the curriculum:

- Educate children (x3)
- Collaborate with schools and school curriculum (x3)
- Teach kids a 'Living on the planet' course – mandatory
 - Include agriculture, water, etc.
- S.A.R. – get students outdoors to view wildlife – incentives provided
- Use mascots and symbols to engage varying audiences
- More adult education needs to be done
- Educating people about urban watersheds
- Communicating/teaching people
- Connect principles of watershed stewardship
- Who has seen *The Last Oasis*? (CBC 1 hour documentary) – free online (Youtube it)².
- Explaining how to and why to daylight a stream and connect people with the resources to begin the process of day-lighting a stream (X2)

When raising awareness about water issues, participants recommended some aspects that would ensure these efforts are effective:

- Keep awareness promotion local and relevant
- Awareness – change to occur through dedicated individuals that draw in periodic interest from the masses
- Create and/or link information and resources in order to make the public more aware of this information

² Youtube videos – Parts 1-7:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nSOmYfdTVhs>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MhnKoL0crpE>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f1dxsIC1KU8>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KrUOXKaytL4>
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lVJAw4aM8_8
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3DoN10Bxgns>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KoQSnDfx8X4>

2.1.2 Inspiration of Stewards

In order to inspire stewards, participants emphasized the importance of leading by example, celebrating successes and positive examples and connecting people to nature.

Leading By Example

- Take action! Write fewer reports and act on recommendations (x3)
- Inspire action in others by doing good work yourself (X2)

Celebrating Successes

- Celebrate the successes – showcase them (X2)

Connecting People to Nature

- Connecting people with stream/watersheds/forests
- Nature connection (re-connection)
 - Walk streams, trails, bio-blitzes
 - Awe and wonder

Connecting Health and Prosperity with the Environment

Inspiration through the connection between human health, human prosperity and water was also emphasized in participant comments:

- Link human health to watershed health – awareness
- Link human prosperity to watershed health
- Fraser River health

2.1.3 Collaboration and Partnership

As alluded to in the feedback related to outreach, engagement and the expansion of the current water stewardship audience, participants further emphasized the importance of collaboration and partnerships with various stakeholders. To illustrate this, participants highlighted the need for collaboration between engineers, flood management staff and habitat specialists in order to resolve gravel issues in the Fraser River as well as other examples of collaborative projects that could be undertaken.

- Partnership/collaboration with organizations doing similar stuff
- Increase collaboration with producer groups
- The people are there at the table bringing knowledge to the forefront

- Fraser River gravel issue will only be resolved through collaboration between engineers, flood management people and habitat specialists
- I'd like to see integration of stewardship from rainfall to rivers, shores, bays and oceans (i.e. Salmon)
- Get all interested parties better connected
- Collaboration needed on all aspects
- Affected changes in policy and with local governments collaboratively
 - Not many different groups 'hitting' decision makers on same issue
- More coordination and discussion around the various groups and individual plans – improve efficiencies
- Efficient and effective ways for people to collaborate (i.e. New technology, old technology – and knowing when and how to use the most appropriate tools)
- Linking departments, infrastructure, and maintenance with baseline information documented to manage issues (i.e. Spill in waterway, access MOT, Fire Department, biologist, etc.)
- Liaising with Chamber of Commerce sustainability panel
- Watershed planning – manageable, geographic area
- Estuary restoration through collaboration

In addition to these examples, sustainable farming was also raised as an issue in need of collaboration between farmers and representatives from other sectors.

- Getting more people farming sustainably
- Stop fill farming

2.1.4 Fish

With respect to fish, suggested actions included the following:

- Increase spawning salmon numbers
- Setting up small micro-hatchery
- Salmon send-off
- Get project going for fish

2.1.5 Strategic Approaches

Strategic approaches mentioned highlighted the importance of fitting actions and solutions to the definition of the problem and providing a regional approach to process and policies. More specific strategic

approaches mentioned were ecosystem services and monitoring water quality and watersheds.

Strategic Approaches

- Fitting the action/solution to the problem
 - Helps to define the problem really well
- Use carrots and sticks in a complementary way
- Provide a regional approach to process and policies – who's doing what and contacts (landowners)
- Wide view – with focused actions and realistic expectations

Ecosystem Services

- Ecosystem services valuation – incentives (x2)
- Ecological goods and services

Monitoring Water Quality and Watersheds

- Water testing – establish easy method for testing private well water
- Watershed and water quality monitoring

2.1.6 Funding Opportunities and Incentives

Participant feedback emphasized the need for more funding and incentivization for stewardship activities. Actions relating to funding opportunities and incentives focused on the creation of specific funds such as the habitat fund in the Kootenay region, funding collaboration and partnerships, local level incentives and incentives for farmers.

Funding Opportunities

- More funding (x2)
- Discussing partners for granting efficiencies (talk about who should apply for what funding)
- Collaboration for funding our projects (X2)
- Habitat fund (X2) (based on Kootenay example)
- Conservation fund in the Fraser Valley
- Advance fees to conservation

Incentives

- Incentivization at all levels (x2)
- BMP program to benefit small lot farmers and regionalized incentives
- Need a fund for farmers to create and maintain riparian zones so this is the most profitable thing they can do with that zone

- Advance incentives at local level
- Local government input into agriculture incentive programs
- Public pressure and incentive

2.1.7 Regulations and Enforcement

Participants emphasized the importance of developing and enforcing meaningful laws at municipal and provincial levels, enforcement of regulations related to agricultural activities, reporting and collaboration between local, provincial and federal governments.

- Development of meaningful, practical and enforceable laws (x2)
 - Municipal and provincial
- Enforcement of said laws (x4)
- Regulations and reinforcement
- Fines and punitive measures (enforcement) of laws
- Local government and province for reporting and enforcing legislation
- Regulated inspections of agricultural activities
- Agriculture industry is not adequately self regulating – Needs outside, enforceable laws to follow
- New regulations/better collaboration between local/provincial/federal governments

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The Stewardship Legacy Workshop in Langley engaged with a large and diverse group of participants who shared their knowledge, energy and enthusiasm regarding healthy watersheds and water resources in the Lower Mainland. 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 APPENDIX

4.1 Workshop Agenda

Stewardship Legacy Workshop on Watersheds and Water Resources

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Fort Langley Community Hall - 9167 Glover Road, Fort Langley, 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	
8:50	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome• Introduce Objectives, Agenda and Questions for Discussion, Fun Stand Up exercise to learn who's in the room.• Overview of Watershed Issues in the Fraser Valley	Steve Litke and Marion Robinson, Fraser Basin Council
8:50-	Stewardship, Species and Ecosystems	
9:20	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cultus Pygmy Sculpin Awareness Initiative• Species at Risk Primer: Stewardship Practices – an Online Tool	Marion Robinson, FBC DG Blair, Stewardship Centre for BC
9:20-	Stewardship with Agriculture	
10:10	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stewardship and Agriculture in the Fraser Valley• On-Farm Biodiversity Plans• About Eco-system Services	Mike Pearson Heather Carriere Detmar Schwichtenberg, Fraser Valley Watersheds Coalition
10:10	Refreshment Break	
10:30-	Stewardship and Drinking Water	
11:10	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drinking Water, Source Protection and Public Health• Protecting the Quality of Groundwater for Health of the Public and Environment: Steps being taken by the Township of Langley	Marc Zubel, Fraser Health Asher Rizvi, Township of Langley

11:10-	Discussion Session: Advancing Action in the Fraser Valley	Facilitated exercises, small group and plenary dialogues
12:20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exercises – Stories and sticky notes • Round table dialogues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is working well in watershed stewardship in the Fraser Valley and how can we build on this? • What actions are you advancing? • What actions would you like to see advanced through collaboration? 	
12:20	Wrap-Up and Next Steps	
12:30	Lunch and Networking	
1:30	Tour of the Nicomekl Hatchery 5263 232 nd St, Langley, BC	Steve Lougheed, Nicomekl Enhancement Society
	Field Tour - Dixon Property/Nicomekl River (6120 Glover Rd)	Nichole Marples, Langley Environmental Partners Society
2:15-	A project of the Township of Langley in partnership with Langley Environmental Partners Society, including: riparian restoration, habitat improvements, and stormwater detention.	
4:00		

4.2 What do you Love Doing?

In order to complete the snapshot of stewardship activities being undertaken by participants, feedback relating to the question 'What do you love doing' focused on a more personal preference of activities such as: (1) Nature and being outside, (2) Engagement and working with people, (3) Connecting people, (4) Teaching, learning and storytelling, (5) Restoration work and habitat recovery, (6) Watershed health, (7) Making a difference, and, (8) Mapping.

Nature and Being Outside

Participants provided many examples of what they loved about nature and outdoor activities and/or work.

Nature

- I love nature
- Being in nature
- Butterflies
- Frogs
- Animals, even the ones that are not cute or microscopic ones

Outdoor Activities

- Walking in creeks (x3)
- Fishing (x3)
- Putting plants in the ground and watching them grow (x3)
 - Guerilla gardening
 - Gardening
- Playing and working outside (x2)
- Working in the bush
- Standing with boots in water talking to people (x2)
- Watching birds (x2)
- Views of the Fraser (watching seasonal water level changes)
- Walking along the Vedder River
- Splashing in puddles along the river with my son
- Chasing frogs
- The amazing view at the top that makes a tough hike worthwhile
- I love swimming, hiking and walking, boarding and biking

Engagement and Working With People

Participants also highlighted their passions for working with people, communities and youth.

Working with communities

- I love being involved in the community
- Spreading community awareness

Working with People

- I love working with passionate people
- The people I know and surround myself with are inspiring!

Working with Youth

- Working with kids (X2)
- Working with youth
- I love walking beside my creek with kids and seeing their awe

Connecting People

Participants highlighted their passions for connecting people and inspiring others to collaborate.

Connecting people

- Connecting people (x2)
- Being the 'connector' between two people who start a new project together
- Translating people's passion in a public way, inspiring more people to connect
- Promote conversations
- Sharing best practices
- Speaking for those who don't have voice

Teaching, Learning and Storytelling

Participants expressed interest in teaching, learning and exchanging stories with others.

- Learning
- I love learning about ecosystems
- Seeing someone have an 'a-ha!' moment when they are beside an urban stream
- Creating tools and resources for stewards
- Telling stories and engaging to inspire positive change

Restoration Work and Habitat Recovery

There was substantial interest in restoration and habitat recovery work. Examples provided were riparian corridor restoration activities, habitat recovery and fish recovery.

- Restoration work (x2)
 - Planting trees (x2)
- Witnessing impact and recovery of disturbed habitat (x2)
- Counting spawning salmon

Watershed Health

Participants indicated passions around monitoring and promoting watershed and drinking water health and supporting ways to improve watershed health.

- Monitoring watershed health
- Promote healthy environment – drinking water
- Supporting ways that improve water health for all living things

Making a Difference

Participants were driven and reassured by being able to witness the impact of their activities and doing something they believed in.

- I love knowing that I am making a difference (x2)
- The right thing
- Doing something you believe in
- Creating sustainable futures
- Financing good works

Mapping

Two participant comments emphasized interest in mapping streams and habitat.

- Mapping streams the very small ones
- Habitat mapping

4.3 Water Stewardship Engagement and Action Handout³

WATER STEWARDSHIP ENGAGEMENT AND ACTION

The following information was collated based on submissions from people as part of their registration for the February 14, 2013 Stewardship Legacy Workshop on Watersheds and Water Resources. In some cases minor edits were made and web links were added to provide more information.

ORGANIZATIONAL NOTICES

Community Mapping Network – <http://www.cmnbc.ca/>

The Community Mapping Network is working on a Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) Watersheds Atlas.

Drinkwater Environmental Services

Drinkwater Environmental Services has been working with the Fraser Valley Invasive Plant Council, their partners and others on the inventory and management of invasive alien plant species.

Evergreen – <http://www.evergreen.ca/>

Evergreen's mission is to inspire and enable action to green cities and value collaboration, innovation, accountability and a systems approach.

Evergreen has launched their Uncover Your Creeks Program – a watershed stewardship program active in the Still Creek watershed. For more information contact Urban Ecology Project Manager, Dana McDonald – dmcdonald@evergreen.ca

First Nations Fisheries Council – <http://www.fnfisheriescouncil.ca/>

The First Nations Fisheries Council is hosting a series of workshops for First Nations throughout BC called the Water for Fish Stewardship Initiatives (WFSI) to garner foundational knowledge and creation of an action plan. The ultimate

³ This handout was a collation of updates provided by the participants at the Langley Stewardship Legacy workshop.

outcome is to enable effective First Nations participation in improving freshwater management in BC.

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

The Fraser Basin Council is working on a guidance document to help local governments and watershed organizations build capacity to participate in collaborative approaches to watershed governance. This is scheduled for publication in spring of 2013. We are also aiming to organize and facilitate other watershed-related workshops and a Learning Network focused on watershed planning and governance.

Fraser River Discovery Centre – <http://www.fraserriverdiscovery.org/>

The Fraser River Discovery Centre second floor, featuring My River My Home, is scheduled to open on Rivers Day this year. The exhibit was developed in partnership with the Wood's Hole Oceanographic Institution (<http://www.whoi.edu/>) and the University of the Fraser Valley. As scientists investigate the river chemistry in the Earth's most significant river systems, they are engaging local school children to reflect on their personal connections to the river through creative expression. My River My Home combines research and artwork from the Ganges, Congo, Kolyma, Amazon and Fraser with hands on activities designed to encourage renewed connection with the river.

Painted Turtle and Spotted Frog Recovery

Western Painted turtles have been head started for population augmentation for the first time. The Greater Vancouver Zoo and Wildlife Preservation Trust (WPT) have partnered on the program, buoyed by the long running Spotted Frog program. Head starting of turtles will be increasing four fold moving forward in 2013. Both Oregon Spotted Frog (OSF) Program and WPT have a strong stewardship component and messages, which are often, dispersed through the work of the captive management programs.

PIPE-UP Townhall

PIPE-UP (Pro-Information, Pro-Environment, United People) is a network of residents from many communities across the Fraser Valley. We are organizing a townhall meeting to discuss the implications of the Kinder Morgan pipeline project on our local ecosystem, and wish to invite all interested to participate in the discussion.

This event takes place on Wednesday March 6th, from 7-9pm at Kwantlen (Langley campus). Guest speakers include Rex Weyler (co-founder of Greenpeace), as well as members from TankerFreeBC and the Wilderness Committee. Visit <http://www.pipe-up.net> for more information, or see Kevin on Feb 14th!

POLIS Water Sustainability Project – <http://www.polisproject.org/>

The POLIS Water Sustainability Project at the University of Victoria is actively working on a number of projects focused around its four core research themes: (1) Water Conservation & The Water Soft Path; (2) The Water-Energy Nexus; (3) Watershed Governance; and (4) Water Law and Policy.

Major updates include:

- In process of organizing a province-wide watershed governance forum for watershed groups to build skills and capacity and learn from each other;
- Researching and raising the profile around the progressive elements of BC's potential new Water Act, including legal protections for instream flow needs, source protection, watershed governance and the public trust doctrine.

Purple Thistle Youth Urban Agriculture Project – <http://blog.purplethistle.ca/>

The Purple Thistle Youth Urban Agriculture Project is a collective-run youth initiative to regenerate industrialized land through permaculture and remediation practices.

The weekend of Feb. 2nd – 3rd, 2013 we had our first event of the new year. We hosted an introductory workshop on D-I-T (doing-it-together) bioremediation. Led by newly published author Leila Darwish (Earth Repair, 2013), it was attended by 50 participants. Leila shared techniques in microbial, phyto- and myco-remediation, as well as self-caring and detoxing practices for grassroots remediaters and natural disaster responders. More events to come.

Research at Trinity Western University

Melissa Oakes is participating in a research project called *USDA Specialty Crop Research Initiatives*. This project looks at limiting bird damage in fruit crops by integrating economic, biological and consumer information to develop sustainable, long-term solutions by (1) quantifying economic consequences of bird damage for producers, consumers and regional economies; (2) determining how bird damage varies within and across spatial scales (orchard, landscape, region); (3) identify amounts of damage attributable to specific bird species across crops and regions, (4) investigating consumer responses to management strategies and potential effects on marketing, and, (5) developing test management strategies for efficacy.

South Coast Conservation Program (SCCP) – <http://www.sccp.ca>

The SCCP was established in 2005 by government and non-government organizations to fill coordination gaps between various levels of government, conservation groups, land use interests and local communities to conserve species and ecosystems at risk. The SCCP plays a vital role in assisting various stakeholders in navigating the complexities around species at risk. The primary

objective of the SCCP is to coordinate and facilitate the implementation of conservation actions to maintain and restore species and ecosystems at risk on the South Coast of BC.

The SCCP has been funded to work on a number of projects on the South Coast to facilitate species and ecosystems at risk ('SEAR") conservation ranging from integrating at risk species into local land use planning, to SEAR curriculum in the classroom, to improved networking between practitioners, stewards and researchers on conservation issues.

Squamish River Watershed Society – <http://www.squamishwatershed.com/>

The Squamish River Watershed Society has been working hard at various restoration projects as well as educational outreach programs. The SRWS has worked closely at the local level to establish wetland habitat for red-legged frogs, re-establish rearing and spawning habitat for juvenile Coho salmon, and develop and implement a detailed program to study the movement of juvenile Chinook salmon through Howe Sound. All of these projects have involved community and stewardship and we hope to continue to build partnerships well into the next decade.

Stoney Creek Environment Committee – <http://scec.ca/drupal/>

This fall, in collaboration with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), City of Burnaby, Metro Vancouver, Ministry of Highways, and the Pacific Salmon Foundation, SCEC restored 150m of salmon spawning habitat, re-opened an off-channel rearing pond and was involved in building weirs to help migration and holding pools.

Other achievements involve lobbying SFU to relocate their salt shed. They eventually agreed to comply with the regulations regarding concentrations that were acceptable.

Streamkeepers Federation – <http://www.pskf.ca/>

The Streamkeepers Federation is working with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) on updating some of the DFO Streamkeeper Program Modules. We are also working on a database that will align with the data sheets from the Streamkeepers Modules 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, and 12. We are working on the planning team on the Salmon Enhancement Program (SEP) Community Workshop 2103 to be held May 17-19th, 2013 on Bowen Island. See <http://workshop.pskf.ca>

Waterlution – <http://www.waterlution.org/>

Vancouver hub page - <http://www.waterlution.org/hubs/bc>

Waterlution is a registered non-profit corporation that works across Canada and internationally, where strong local partnerships exist. We engage diverse individuals, organizations and communities in the exploration of creative

management solutions that respect water and the broader ecosystem. Waterlution understands that everyone has a vested interest in water. We work to promote awareness and provide opportunities for collaboration towards long-term, inclusive management solutions.

Waterlution will be hosting a ProAction Café on February 27th, 2013. Bring a project or project idea and get some feedback from your peers! Contact Vancouver Hub Manager Dana McDonald- dana@waterlution.org for more details.

INDIVIDUAL NOTICES

David Lamson

David has been involved in the work relating to Cultus Lake nutrient loading from sewage systems.

Diane Moran

Diane is an artist involved in outreach work with kids and the community regarding the environment. She also lives in Port Coquitlam near the Coquitlam River and would like to plan a community event for World Water Day.

Nina Mudhar

Liana Ayach is on maternity leave so Nina will be the contact for drainage and watercourse issues in the City of Surrey for 2013.

Dean Scovill

Dean has created a presentation about a shallow well in Surrey that was contaminated with acetone and toluene from a lab two houses away.