


Fraser Basin Council

- A non-profit, NGO to advance sustainability in the Fraser Basin
- Primary roles:
 - Educator
 - Impartial convenor
 - Facilitator
- Guided by a collaborative Board representing:
 - Federal, Provincial, Local and First Nations governments
 - Private sector
 - Civil society






The Fraser Basin Council Vision

Social well-being, supported by a vibrant economy and sustained by a healthy environment










Planning for Water & Watersheds

Why Watershed Planning and Governance?




To effectively manage **human uses of, and impacts on,** water and watersheds, including:

- Use and allocation of water and other watershed resources
- Resolving conflicts among diverse interests
- Mitigating pressures from diverse sources




Why is Collaborative Watershed Planning and Governance Important?

- We all impact watersheds
- Watershed features and functions are interconnected
- Complex & distributed jurisdictions
- Intensifying uses, pressures and conflicts
- Community-based inspiration & mobilization
- Enabled authority, legitimacy & capacity






Rethinking Our Water Ways – a Guide to Water and Watershed Planning



- Understand the value of water and watershed planning
- Understand planning options available in BC
- Integrate climate change adaptation into watershed planning
- Build capacity to develop and implement plans that will strengthen watershed health





Collaborative Watershed Planning –Who?

Factors to consider:

- Planning, policy or decision making process?
- Nature, scope and scale of the issue(s)
 - Water, wastewater, land or watershed?
 - Surface or groundwater?
 - Water quality or quantity?
 - Local or regional?
 - Private or Crown lands?
 - Drinking water?
 - National or international?

WHO?

- **Jurisdictional authority / mgt. responsibility**
 - All orders of governments (Provincial, Federal, First Nations, Local)
 - Water suppliers
- **Title, Rights, Interests and Impacts**
 - Aboriginal title and rights
 - Water licenses
 - Water use sectors
 - Stewards and stressors



Managing Water Supply & Demand

- Water Conservation Plans
- Drought Management Plans
- Water Use Plans
- Water Allocation Plans

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Protecting Drinking Water Quality

- Well / Aquifer Protection Plans
- Source Water Assessments and Assessment Response Plans
- Drinking Water Protection Plans

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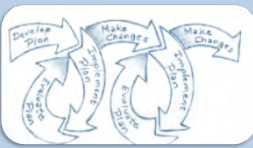
Integrating Water, Land & Watersheds



- ~~Water Management Plans (Water Act, Part 4)~~
- **Water Sustainability Plans (proposed under WSA)**
- **Watershed Management Plans**
- Rainwater and Stormwater Management Plans

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Watershed Management Plans



Characteristics, Benefits and Applications:

- Geographically based (watershed boundary)
- Applicable when addressing multiple issues (e.g. water quantity, quality, habitat)
- Unique to each watershed (features, uses, impacts)
- Integrated with other planning processes (e.g. OCP, LRMP, Aquifer Protection Plan, etc.)
- Understand the interconnections within the watershed
- Holistic, iterative and adaptive
- Collaborative and participatory

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Watershed Management Plans

Success Factors

- Burning issue or crisis that demands attention
- Awareness of the importance of watersheds and a stewardship ethic
- Political will, staff capacity and commitment
- Willingness to work with neighbouring communities on a regional basis in a shared watershed
- Coordinating body (with adequate funding)
- Practical watershed scale

Key Elements and Steps

- Develop a clear vision, goals, objectives and actions
- Secure support of relevant decision-makers
- Ensure representation of all affected parties
- Provide access to relevant information resources
- Factor in anticipated future changes (population growth, development, climate change, etc.)
- Include socio-economic considerations

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Collaborative Watershed Planning – Getting Started

- Be inclusive
- Involve local leaders, champions and key interests
- Engage decision makers/those with authority/influence
- Joint leadership and engagement with First Nations
- Encourage decisions by consensus
- Establish Terms of Reference
- Define vision, mission and goals
- Dialogue versus debate

Collaborative Watershed Planning – Some Success Factors

- Build relationships and trust
- Effective processes require time, commitment, patience and persistence (but this pays off in the long run)
- Spend time to design good process before attempting to address substantive issues (especially if conflict)
- Informed decision-making – Develop a common understanding through sharing knowledge, perspectives and values
- Aim for incremental milestones and celebrate successes
- Continually improve the network of collaborators
- Build public support and political will

Collaborative Watershed Planning – Some Success Factors

- Adequate and sustained financial and human resources
- Pool resources (staff, information, \$ and in-kind)
- Coordinator to ensure ongoing support, momentum, outreach, engagement, relationship building, etc.
- Impartial facilitator, especially in conflict
- Use side tables to work out conflicts
- **However** . . . many good plans and recommendations unsuccessfully influence decisions due to a lack of authority, resources, information, or political will
- Manage expectations

Integrating Climate Change Into Watershed Planning

Climate science, risk and vulnerability analysis might raise the following questions in planning:

1. Are there climate-related threats to water quantity?
2. Are there climate-related threats to water quality?
3. How will a changing climate influence the magnitude and frequency extreme events?



Thank You!

www.rethinkingwater.ca



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