Advancing Watershed Health and Sustainability in BC

April 15, 2015 | SFU Harbour Centre
Established in 1956, the BCWF was originally created as a means to assist the provincial government in managing BC’s fish and wildlife resources for the benefit of all British Columbians.

Established in 1997, the FBC is a non-profit organization committed to advancing sustainability across BC.
Advancing Watershed Health and Sustainability in BC

Project Overview

Financial support from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation

- Three-year timeline (2013 – 2016)
- BCWF delivering the project in partnership with Fraser Basin Council
- Currently at the end of Year 2 (2014-2015)
Advancing Watershed Sustainability in BC

Two Primary Outcomes

1. Strengthened Capacity for Watershed Health
2. Enhanced Governance and Funding Models

Multiple sub-projects to meet these outcomes
Collaborative Watershed Governance

• Collaboration among multiple organizations in shared decision making
• Policies, plans and decisions about water and watersheds
• To effectively manage human uses of, and impacts on, water and watersheds
• Involves those with decision authority, influence and interests in water, land, and watershed resources
Relevancy to the Water Sustainability Act

The project relates to many aspects of the Water Sustainability Act, for example:

- Alternative Governance Arrangements
- Water Sustainability Plans
- Monitoring and Reporting
- Environmental Flows
- Resources for Implementing the Act
Summary of Year 1 Projects

Seven Sub-Projects:

1. A Proposed Natural Resource Practices Board
2. A Draft Unifying Sustainability Vision
3. An Overview of Watershed Management Activities
4. Development of Watershed Health Indicators
5. Analysis of Funding and Delivery Models
6. Analysis of Capacity, Readiness and Accountability for Shared Decision-Making
7. Annual Workshop
Summary of Year 2 Projects

Seven Sub-Projects:
1. Analysis of Case Studies and Keys to Success for Collaborative Watershed Governance
3. Natural Resource Practices Board
4. Implementation of Watershed Health Indicators
5. Water Sustainability Act
6. Cumulative Effects
7. Annual Workshop
Nechako Watershed Health Atlas and Report

Multiple Indicators, graphs, map layers and stories on:

- Water Quality and Quantity
- Fish and Wildlife
- Ecosystems
- Resource Use / Development
- Conservation / Stewardship

http://www.cmnmaps.ca/NECHAKO/
Workshop Overview

Goals:
1. To present and discuss key findings from three projects on watershed governance, financial mechanisms and independent oversight
2. To present and discuss updates on key policy issues relevant to watershed sustainability
3. To share feedback, knowledge and perspectives
4. To explore interests and opportunities to collaborate on advancing watershed sustainability
Workshop Overview

Agenda:

• Opening Remarks & Workshop Overview
• Project Presentation & Panel Discussion
• Breakout Group 1
• Lunch
• Watershed Policy Issues & Panel Discussion
• Breakout Group 2
• Highlights from Breakout Groups
• Concluding Remarks and Wrap Up
Collaborative Watershed Governance Keys to Success and Case Studies in BC

Theresa Fresco

Photo Sources: FBC
Goal:

To explore best practices and keys to success for collaborative watershed governance and showcase current examples throughout BC.
Context/Rationale

- Provisions in the Water Sustainability Act enabling alternative governance arrangements
- Rise in community-led, watershed organizations involved in decision-making
- Collaborative governance to address fragmented, uncoordinated top-down approaches
Key Findings

Four Keys to Successful CWG

1. Enabling Policy Framework
2. Organizational Design
3. Capacity and Resources
4. Human-Related Success Factors
# CWG Case Studies

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Keys to Successful CWG

POLIS’ 9 Winning Conditions

(1) Enabling power in legislation
(2) Co-governance with First Nations
(3) Support from and partnership with local government
(4) Sustainable long-term funding
(5) A functioning legal framework for sustainable water and watershed management
(6) Availability of data, information and monitoring
(7) Independent oversight and public reporting
(8) Assessing cumulative impact
(9) Continuous peer-to-peer learning and capacity building
Key Findings

(1) Enabling Policy Framework

- Enabling legislation and legal/regulatory framework
- Clear roles, responsibilities and commitment by the relevant jurisdictions
- Co-governance with First Nations, reconciliation, recognition of Aboriginal rights and title
- Support from and partnership with local government
- Independent oversight and public reporting
Key Findings

(2) Organizational Design

- Structure and composition
- Clear and common purpose
- Procedures
- Principles

STAFF:
- Executive Director
- Water Stewardship Director
- Office and Projects Manager
- Communications Director
- Eurasian Water Milfoil Field Supervisor
- Eurasian Water Milfoil Control Crew
Key Findings

(3) Capacity and Resources

• Human resources
• Financial resources
• Information resources
• Manageable scope of activities
• Realistic timelines

Photo Source: Coquitlam River Watershed Roundtable
Key Findings

(4) Human Elements

• Effective leadership
• Mutual respect and interpersonal trust
• Long-term commitment to process and outcomes

Photo Sources: FBC
Next Steps

- Initial advisory process complete
- Success factors and barriers analysis for each case study
- First Nations led water strategies
Success Factors for Collaborative Watershed Governance

Questions and Comments?
Financial Mechanisms and Models for Collaborative Watershed Governance

- How are we gonna pay for it?

Steve Litke, Fraser Basin Council
Financial Mechanisms and Models for CWG

Goal:
To explore the potential of a wide range of available and innovative financial mechanisms and models that enable, support and strengthen collaborative watershed governance organizations and initiatives throughout BC.
Financial Mechanisms and Models - Key Findings

- **Financial Mechanisms**
  - Senior government
  - Local government
  - First Nations
  - Non-government
  - Financial Management
  - Other – Recreational User Fees, Fees for Ecosystem Services
Financial Mechanisms and Models - Key Findings

- Senior Government
  - Taxes and grants
  - Fees and rentals
Financial Mechanisms and Models - Key Findings

- Local Government
  - Property / parcel taxes
  - Water pricing
  - Development cost charges
  - Utility fees
  - Resource recovery
Financial Mechanisms and Models - Key Findings

- **First Nations Government**
  - Impact Benefit Agreements
  - Grants
  - Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Funding
  - Community to Community Forums
Financial Mechanisms and Models - Key Findings

- Non-Government
  - Grants
  - Social Impact Investments
  - In-Kind Contributions
Financial Mechanisms and Models - Key Findings

- Financial Management
  - Reserve Funds
  - Trust Funds
  - Revolving Funds
  - Endowment Funds
Financial Mechanisms and Models - Key Findings

- Other
  - Recreational fees
  - Paying for downstream benefits / ecosystem services
Financial Mechanisms and Models - Key Findings

• Case Studies
  • Okanagan Basin Water Board
  • Grand River Conservation Authority
  • Regional District of Nanaimo
  • City of Portland

• Context matters
Financial Mechanisms and Models - Key Findings

• Criteria to Evaluate Suitability for CWG or . . .
  
  the Elusive Dream Funding Source

  • Accessibility / Eligibility
  • Appropriateness
  • Adequacy
  • Stability
  • Autonomy
  • Flexible Timeline
  • Efficient Administration
RecommendaCons

• Secure funds from a suite of financial mechanisms to optimize the strengths and to offset the limitations of each.
• Establish diverse representation within the governance organization to optimize the diversity of funding sources and financial mechanisms that can be utilized.
• Align specific CWG activities with appropriate funding sources.
• To the extent possible, dedicate funds to support core operational activities (e.g. management/admin/overhead fees).
Financial Mechanisms and Models - Key Findings

Recommendations

• Where possible, use financial management mechanisms such as trust funds, reserve funds, revolving funds and endowment funds to strengthen stability and flexibility over multiple years and across multiple CWG activities.

• Where there are commitments by local, regional and/or First Nations governments to accept and implement increased roles in watershed governance, there is a need for corresponding financial resources from senior governments and other sources.
Financial Mechanisms and Models for Collaborative Watershed Governance

Questions and Comments?
Natural Resource Practices Board

Al Martin, BCWF
Natural Resource Practices Board

Goal:

To explore potential functions of a natural resource practices board including independent performance and compliance audits and a science secretariat
Why a NRPB?

- Natural resource use and development is a major driver of economy across BC
- Complex array of activities across the land base, footprint expanding, cumulative effects
- No collective entity responsible for independent oversight of natural resource practices in BC
- Forest Practices Board mandate is for forestry related activities only
Natural Resource Practices Board

Key Findings:

• NRPB is not a new concept
• Best fit-model is expansion of existing FBP jurisdiction – not a new entity
• Recognition that a NRPB can help to meet government, industry and public goals regarding responsible resource development
• Need to clearly articulate benefit of shifting to this model – not another layer of red-tape, or advocacy body
Natural Resource Practices Board

A NRPB would establish a mechanism that:

- Provides an independent verification of the legality and soundness of BCs natural resource management practices and
- Supports continuous improvement in natural resource management in BC.
Natural Resource Practices Board

Proposed Mandate to:

• **Audit** government and industry natural resource management practices and policies

• **Assess and address complaints** from public or industry regarding natural resource practices or enforcement

• **Provide recommendations** to continuously improve practices
Proposed Mandate (continued):

• Participate in, or initiate, appeals regarding enforcement decisions or penalties imposed by government

• Conduct special investigations
Natural Resource Practices Board

Proposed Structure:

• **Staff:** include expertise across natural resource sector along with lawyers, audit professionals. Ability to retain expert consultants on an as-needed basis

• **Board:** Independent Chair, 10-12 Board members, range of NRM expertise, do not represent specific sector
Natural Resource Practices Board

Proposed Scope:
• Forestry and range activities
• Mining
• Oil and gas development
• Tourism and recreation
• Agri-food
• Parks and protected areas
• Energy generation and transmission
• Coastal marine land tenures
• Water use
Natural Resource Practices Board

Next Steps:

• Focused conversations with industry and government and public
• Further clarification of First Nations’ inclusion within and relationship with NRPB
• Establish the business case rationale
Natural Resource Practices Board

Questions and Comments?
Wrapping Up Year 2

Next Steps:

• Integrate advisor and workshop input in draft deliverables
• Prepare final deliverables
• Prepare work plan for year 3 activities
More information or Follow Up -

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