

Capacity Building for Collaborative Watershed Governance & the *Nechako Watershed Roundtable*

Theresa Fresco



Photo Sources: FBC



Collaborative Watershed Governance

Sub-project Goal:

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



Cowichan Watershed Board



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



Photo Source: Coquitlam River Watershed Roundtable website

Key Findings

Four Keys to Successful CWG

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



CWGW Case Studies

1. Cowichan Watershed Board
 - Background and context
 - Governance structure
2. Okanagan Basin Water Board
 - Board composition and membership
3. Coquitlam River Watershed Roundtable
 - Board committees
4. Shawnigan Basin Authority
 - Terms of Reference
 - Purpose
 - Mandate
 - Principles
 - Roles and Responsibilities
 - Funding
5. Shuswap Watershed Council

Nechako Watershed Roundtable



Vision

For the Nechako watershed to be healthy for generations to come.

Mission

To protect and improve the health of the Nechako watershed and its communities.



Goals (WHAT)

1. To provide strategic direction and advice on issues related to Nechako watershed stewardship
2. To promote strategic advice and review of progress related to developing and implementing projects of the Roundtable.



Other Key Points --

- **Authority:** No delegated authority
- **Guided by a core leadership committee**
 - 3 Local Government reps
 - 3 First Nations reps
 - 4 NGO / Civil Society Reps
- **Decision-making by consensus**
 - If consensus cannot be reach, matter is referred to the Core Committee
- **Guiding principles:** accountability, equity, informed decision-making, recognition of Aboriginal rights and title, etc



Core Committee & Technical Advisory Committee



NWR CORE COMMITTEE: (L-R)

Tom Greenaway, RD Bulkley-Nechako

Chief Fred Sam, Nak'azdli Whut'en

Mike Robertson, Cheslatta Carrier Nation

Lara Beckett, RD Fraser-Fort George

Brian Frenkel, North Central Local Government Association

Stephen Dery, IWRG-UNBC

Wayne Salewski, NEWSS

Steven Litke, Fraser Basin Council

Christina Ciesielski, Carrier Sekani Tribal Council

TECHNICAL ADIVOSRY COMMITTEE:

Example organizations include:

Ministry of Environment

Department of Fisheries and Oceans

City of Prince George

District of Vanderhoof

Takla Lake First Nation

Northern Health

Cumulative Impacts Research Consortium

Freshwater Fisheries Society

Nechako Valley Sporting Association

Northwest Invasive Plant Council

Rio Tinto

BC Timber Sales

State of the Nechako Watershed

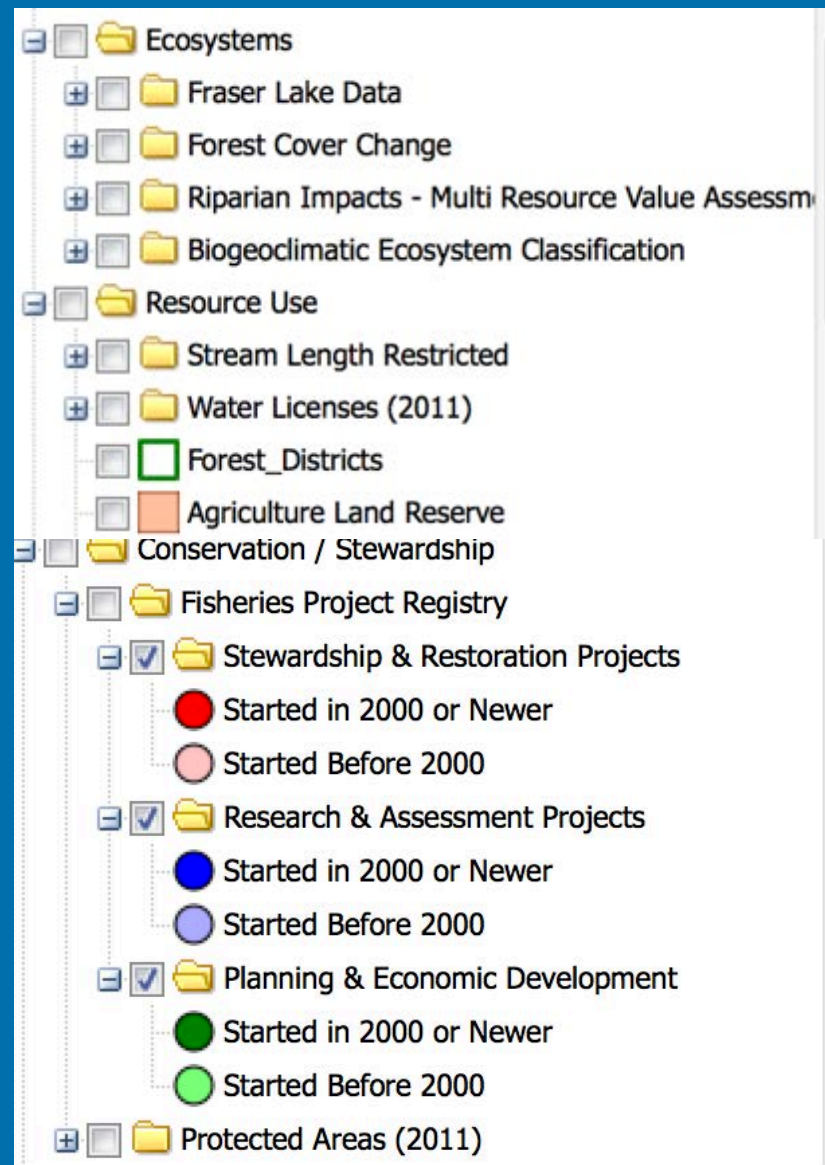
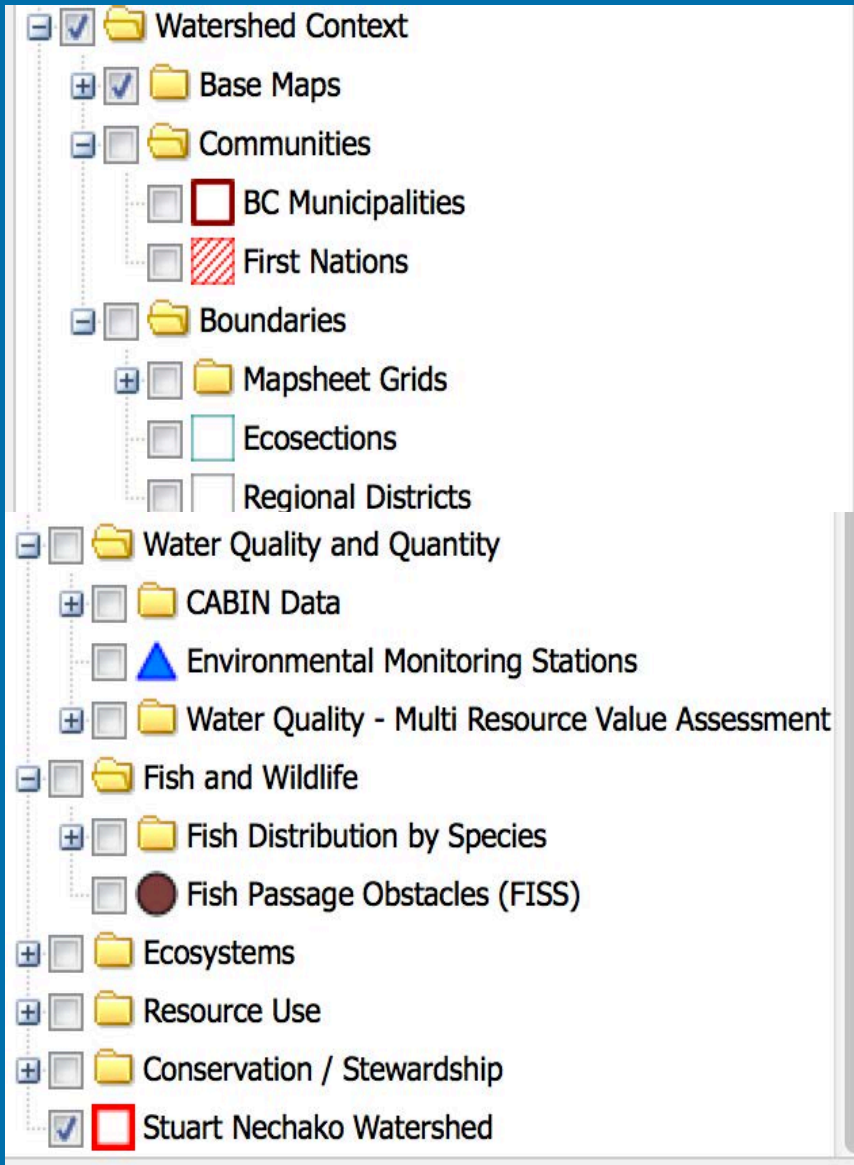
- The Nechako Watershed Health Report includes about 20 primary indicators, text, charts, tables, maps and photos to characterize the state of the watershed:
 - Water Quality and Quantity
 - Fish and Wildlife
 - Ecosystems
 - Resource Development
 - Resource Conservation
- Information can be used by decision-makers from various sectors/agencies and community groups too.

Watch the
TUTORIAL
before you get
started!

Nechako Watershed South Atlas

The screenshot displays the Nechako Watershed South Atlas web application. The interface includes a top navigation bar with icons for Map tools, Print, and Resources. The Map tools section contains icons for Pan, Zoom, Select, Measure line, Measure selected area, Measure area, Zoom menu, Create buffer, Select within, Change basemap, and Clear selection. The Print section includes Print map and Save map image. The Resources section includes Tutorial Video, Documents, About, Videos, Charts, and Feedback. On the left side, there is a Legend panel with categories: Watershed Context, Communities, Base Maps, Toporama Names, Watershed Groups (1:20K FWA), Watershed Boundaries (1:20K FWA), Watersheds (1:50K), Lakes (1:7.5M), Rivers (1:7.5M), Canada Base Map, Boundaries, and Water Quality and Quantity. Below the legend are sections for Bookmarks, Search, and Selection detail. The main map area shows a topographic map of the Nechako Watershed in British Columbia, Canada, with a red outline indicating the watershed boundary. A scale bar at the bottom left shows distances in kilometers (0, 100, 200). An 'IMPORTANT MESSAGE !!' box is overlaid on the map, stating: 'Downtime period scheduled Please see <http://geogratias.gc.ca/>'. The Fraser Basin Council logo is visible in the bottom right corner of the map area.

Folders & Map Layers



Nechako Watershed Strategy – What is it?

- A collaborative process to advance stewardship through the region.
- 3 KEY AIMS:
 1. To profile the key watershed health issues and concerns
 2. To identify priority actions to address the issues and concerns
 3. To identify commitments from various organizations to implement these actions



Strategy Actions to Date

- ✓ Established a Technical Advisory Committee
- ✓ Community meetings in Fraser Lake, Fort St. James, Burns Lake and Prince George.
- ✓ Outreach and engagement with municipalities, First Nations, other government agencies and interested organizations
- ✓ Research and tools to initiate Strategy:
 - Nechako Watershed Health Report & Atlas
 - ‘Who’s Doing What in the Nechako’ Report
 - Nechako Watershed Roundtable Business Mtg Report
 - Survey results – Advancing Watershed Health

Next Steps:

- Final Community Meetings
 - Incorporate feedback and input into draft Strategy
- Feedback from Technical Advisory Committee Meeting and submission to Core Committee for approval
- Disseminate final draft
- Initiate short-term actions for implementation
- Fund development for Phase 2 implementation





Thanks!

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