Building Capacity for Success: Towards Watershed Governance in British Columbia

POLIS Water Sustainability Project Workshop Series 2016

Fraser Basin Council & B.C. Wildlife Federation Workshop
Vancouver, May 27
Overview

1. Regional Workshops:
   - Who, where, when, why, how?

2. Cross-cutting themes & insights

3. Next steps to further capacity building
Goals of Regional Workshops

Build capacity and commitment for action

- Knowledge
- Skills
- Networks
- Strategic planning
- Funding
- Leadership
Workshop Development

• **Co-created** agenda reflecting **local needs**
• Convened **high-quality practitioners** engaged in decision-making & problem-solving
  – Local government & First Nations
  – Technical managers, scientists
  – Industry, stewardship, other stakeholders
• Expert resource guests to **stimulate** learning & dialogue
Cross-Cutting Themes & Insights
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**Insight #1:** Need to increase organizational understanding of opportunities to engage - and “doing” and “driving” capacity

- Where are opportunities to influence & engage?
- Sustainable funding
- Relationship-building
- Special skills in effective coordinators
Cross-Cutting Themes & Insights

**Insight #2:** Need to strengthen problem identification, communication, and priority-setting

- Lack of clear tools to define watershed pressures: e.g., “state of...” report cards
- Better ability to define social implications of ecological problems for different audiences
- Matching problems (and solutions) with risk and capacity
Cross-Cutting Themes & Insights

**Insight #3:** Relationships, partnerships, reconciliation between First Nations and non-First Nations *a requisite for watershed governance*

- Agreement exists on power & potential of co-governance
- Little insight into HOW: time required to build and “institutionalize” relationships and trust
- Challenges: Racism, “lifeless institutions”, First Nations capacity constraints
Next steps?

• Continued peer-to-peer learning:
  – Blue Dialogue Webinar Series

• Strategic Follow-Up Sessions
A hands-on forum for watershed groups, water practitioners, researchers, First Nations and other decision-makers

September 30 – October 1, 2016
SFU Wosk Centre, Vancouver, British Columbia

- **1.5 day forum** to build directly on the learnings and successes of *Watersheds 2014*.

- Panel sessions, field trips, breakout workshops and structured peer-to-peer learning to build participants’ skills and enhance capacity for watershed governance in British Columbia.

Co-organized by four core partners:

- POLIS Project on Ecological Governance
- Freshwater Alliance D'Éau Douce
- First Nations Fisheries Council
- Fraser Basin Council
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