Rethinking Our Waterways - best practices for collaborative approaches to watershed planning

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Rethinking Our Water Ways

Collaborative Approaches to Watershed Governance in British Columbia, Canada

Salish Sea Ecosystems Conference
Seattle, May 2nd 2014
Amy Greenwood, Fraser Basin Council
Top 3 “Lessons”

1. Everything we do on the land affects water in some way.
2. Physical watershed features are interconnected and don’t always align with political or social boundaries.
3. Patience and time to establish relationships essential to successful collaboration.

www.rethinkingwater.ca
Fraser Basin Council 101

- Non-profit organization focused on advancing sustainability throughout the Fraser Basin and across BC
- 25 staff & 5 regional offices;
- 3 main program areas:
  - Healthy Watersheds
  - Climate change and Air Quality
  - Sustainable communities
- 36-member Board of Directors

A “process” focused facilitator & champion for collaborative governance and consensus based decision-making
FBC Watersheds Program

Engage stakeholders, governments and interested groups to advance watershed sustainability through:

1. Collaborative watershed management planning
2. Integrated flood hazard management
3. Indicator initiatives to assess watershed health
4. Education and engagement on key watershed issues
5. Support and facilitation for watershed initiatives
Governance and the Watershed Planning Guide
So, What is Collaborative Watershed Governance?

Dual process of decision-making and holding those who make decisions to account

It is about social networks of influence and action

It incorporates learning and adapting to change while building social resilience
Why is **Collaboration** Important for Watershed Governance?

- Political jurisdictions are complex and distributed at various scales across watersheds;
- Community-based initiatives essential for leadership, inspiration, and mobilization;
- Limits to grassroots leadership without formal involvement of government;

Transparent and inclusive planning and decision-making leads to more complete, enduring and effective solutions
Water Governance in British Columbia
A complex web with distributed roles & responsibilities
Watershed Planning Guide

Published by FBC in 2011 to:

• Communicate value of water & watershed planning;
• Articulate complex web of current & emerging water issues
• Identify a range of planning options
• Build capacity for improving watershed health
Planning for Water & Watersheds
Preparing for Climate Change & its Impacts
Managing Water Supply & Demand
Protecting Drinking Water Quality
Integrating Land, Water & Watersheds
Watershed Planning Guide

Available Online:

www.rethinkingwater.ca
SLIPP brings together multiple stakeholders to a common table for dialogue and decision making.

Established in 2007 in response to concerns over:

- increased development along shoreline,
- deteriorating water quality,
- conflicting demands on recreational resources.
Watershed Collaboration in Action
Shuswap Lake Integrated Planning Process

Key Achievements:
1. Development of region-wide, multi-stakeholder strategic plan
2. Comprehensive water quality monitoring program
3. Restoration and education on low impact shoreline development
4. Draft recreation management plan under review
Watershed Collaboration in Action
Shuswap Lake Integrated Planning Process

Got Time?
Play SLIPP “Value of Collaboration” Film...
Next phase of SLIPP recently established to:

- **COLLABORATE** with all relevant interests to maintain and enhance the water quality in the Shuswap watershed;
- **COORDINATE** water quality information and monitoring;
- **COMMUNICATE & EDUCATE** about water quality and the activities of the program;

More online including water quality monitoring reports: www.shuswapwater.com
Questions & Discussion

Fraser Basin Council

www.fraserbasin.bc.ca