



Watershed Governance Initiative

Data Collation &
Mapping Project

Presented by: Sangita Sudan
Date: April 13, 2021



Outline

- 1 Quick review of WGI project plan
- 2 Data Collation & Mapping – scope and expectations
- 3 How does the Water Data Hub fit
- 4 Questions & discussion



Vision - protect watersheds where consumptive water sources are at risk by creating the conditions for regional collaborative decision making



What does RDCK watershed governance currently look like?





How does the RDCK influence land use in watersheds?

By working with other levels of government via Water Sustainability Plans, Drinking Water Protection Plans, Crown land use planning

BUT Province has not provided guidance and does not use the tools available.

And so, in lieu of specific guidance from the Province, **the RDCK can focus on creating conditions for collaborative decision making by:**

1. Strengthen relationships with First Nations, the Province and community
2. Create a cross-jurisdictional and multi-stakeholder forum to support improved collaboration in watershed management
3. Develop an action plan for a regional watershed initiative stakeholders
4. Pursue sustainable funding for a regional watershed initiative



April 2020

Final WGI report received & staff are directed to prepare a workplan to determine the organizational capacity of the Community Sustainability Services and Water Services staff to pursue the recommendations of the RDCK Regional Watershed Governance Initiative report dated January 2020.

June 2020

That the Board endorse the Watershed Governance Initiative Project Plan (May 2020) and direct staff to pursue the Project Plan as a collaboration between Community Sustainability and Water Services staff.

October 2020

The Board direct staff to bring forward a project plan with budget that will seek to collate and map existing watershed information held by the RDCK and other sources at a regional scale to inform our next steps and as a support to communities and conducting a gap analysis;

AND FURTHER bring this back to the Community Sustainable Living Advisory Committee to inform the RDCK's next steps on watershed governance.

February 2021

That the Board direct staff to report back to Community Sustainable Living Advisory Committee on how the workplan for the Watershed Governance Initiative is modified and budgeted based on a collaboration with Living Lakes Canada. That the Board send a letter of support to Living Lakes Canada for the Columbia Basin Water Monitoring Collaborative and Water Hub.

December 2020

That the Board approve transfer of funds to Community Sustainability Service S105 for a student position to support the Watershed Governance Initiative Data Collation and Mapping project in the amount of \$14,500 from the Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP) Service S100 and include in the 2021 Financial Plan; That the Board approve transfer of \$9,000 in funds for the Watershed Governance Initiative Data Collation and Mapping project from Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP) Service S100 to Community Sustainability Service S105 and include in the 2021 Financial Plan.

December 2022

We are here

WGI PROJECT PROGRESS 2020 - 2021



We are here

Phase 2 – December 2020 to August 2021:
Data Collation & Mapping Project & continued relationship building

Phase 4 - December 2021 to December 2022:
Engagement and establishment entity



Phase 1 – April to December 2020:
Board approval, initial engagement, relationship building & defining ACT NOW

Phase 3 - August 2021 to December 2021:
Determining next steps for engagement and relationship building, discussion of funding

December 2022

WGI PROJECT PHASES



Watershed Governance Initiative PHASE 2:

ACT NOW: Data Collation & Mapping

CONTINUED RELATIONSHIP BUILDING





Phase 2 – ACT NOW: Data Collation & Mapping

GOAL

Provide accessible, relevant, and up to date information to support communities with tangible tools to pursue collaborative decision making with regards to watersheds. This tool may enable planning processes such as nature based planning, natural asset management, and green mapping.

These processes support communities and residents to produce science-based plans, enhanced by local empirical data to support more diverse and inclusive understanding of acceptable levels of activity and impact of watersheds.



Phase 2 – ACT NOW: Data Collation & Mapping

PROJECT SCOPE

1. **Data collation** – Identify and compile existing watershed information held by the RDCK and other sources including the Province
2. **Gap analysis** - Identify gaps in data compiled. Propose future studies to eliminate these information and data gaps.
3. **Literature review** – Compile a list of relevant literature
4. **Webmap** – Utilize existing RDCK mapping platform to develop a map(s) specific to watershed issues, including digital information for use in future phases of the project;
5. **Narrative** - Provide a narrative context for the information provided in the webmap such as a story map
6. **Communication & Engagement strategy**



Phase 2 – ACT NOW: Collaborating with LLC Water Hub

The Water Hub is a central location for data on water quality and quantity. It does **not** provide information or data regarding land use, development, etc...

The **WGI Data Collation & Mapping** project is focussed on gathering watershed data that includes quantity and quality from the Water Hub, but also includes other influences such as:

- hazards,
- wildfire,
- growth management,
- residential lands and housing,
- health and social well being,
- traditional ecological and cultural knowledge,
- food and agricultural lands,
- forest and rural lands,
- water system infrastructure,
- and more.



Phase 2 – ACT NOW: Data Collation & Mapping

TIMELINE for Data Collation & Mapping project

Part 1 – May to August:

- collate regional data related to watersheds
- produce a webmap
- provide animation and story mapping to help translate data layers and potential usefulness

Part 2 – length of time to be determined:

- evaluate products created
- test with some communities to determine what additional information layers or functionality is desired to support planning



Phase 2 – CONTINUED RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

GOAL

Strengthen relationships with First Nations, the Province and community & create a cross-jurisdictional and multi-stakeholder forum to support improved collaboration in watershed management.



Phase 2 – CONTINUED RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

Staff are continuing to build and support multi-agency and First Nations relationships to support the WGI so that the favorable conditions for formal engagement are in place. This is happening via:

- Kootenay Lake Partnership,
- Land Use Planning including Parks,
- Natural Hazard Mitigation Planning,
- Meetings with regional partners, and
- Meetings with FLNRORD Executive Director, District Manager and Water stewardship Manager

This work is currently happening informally, funding is required to proceed formally in Phase 3.



Watershed Governance Initiative PHASE 3:

Upon completion of the Data Collation & Mapping project (part 1) there will be a review and evaluation process to determine next steps for formalizing engagement and relationship building. This will include a discussion of funding. This process will inform if and how we proceed with PHASE 3.

