

BC Water Funders COLLABORATIVE

Fall 2017 Workshop

Collaboration to Advance Freshwater Protection



October 24, 2017

Workshop Summary

BC Water Funders
COLLABORATIVE

a project of
Tides Canada
SHARED PLATFORM |

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Table of Contents

WORKSHOP OUTCOMES AT A GLANCE	3
PART A: ASSESSMENT OF OPPORTUNITIES.....	5
1. Watershed Governance and Indigenous Capacity Building.....	5
2. Keeping Water on the Agenda.....	6
3. Pooling Water Knowledge: Water Monitoring and Reporting	7
4. Policy Innovation.....	8
PART B: WATER FUNDERS COLLABORATIVE UPDATES	9
Collaborative Background & Updates.....	9
2017 Priorities and Activities	10
2017 Annual Plan Fundraising Update.....	10
2018 Annual Plan	10
Appendix: Workshop Participants	11

Workshop Goals

- Assessed opportunities identified in the Water Funders and Leaders Workshop on Oct. 23rd in the key strategic areas of focus (Indigenous Capacity Building, Policy Innovation, Keeping Water on the Agenda, Watershed Governance and Pooling Water Knowledge.
- Identified opportunities for parallel or matching funding and confirmed funder interest in supporting those needs.
- Reviewed the Collaborative’s 2017 fundraising update and 2018 Annual Plan.

Recap from Oct. 23 Joint Funders/Leaders Workshop: (See Workshop Summary Report)

- Reviewed context for funders’ and leaders’ work as part of a broader social movement and the importance of many different actors playing diverse roles.
- Heard about the evolution of the BC Freshwater Legacy Initiative.
- Reviewed POLIS’ work on the “Collaborative Consent” framework for building ongoing consent-based relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous governments.
- Reviewed the political context of a new provincial government:
 - Mandate letter connections to land-use planning, UNDRIP, and freshwater.
 - Opportunity to move land-use planning forward through a water lens.
- Heard from the FNFC on Indigenous-led approaches to watershed governance - opportunities within colonial governance systems as well as unilateral Indigenous approaches.
- Held breakout sessions to identify priorities in key thematic areas.

WORKSHOP OUTCOMES AT A GLANCE

KEY OPPORTUNITIES

<p>Watershed Governance and Indigenous Capacity Building</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● First Nations Fisheries Council’s Water for Fish Program is a central provincial network builder, resource hub and convener and is currently seeking funding for its 2018-2020 strategic plan (approx. \$300,000 per year for three years). ● BC Freshwater Legacy Initiative provides opportunities for other funders to partner with parallel funding as it invests in and builds ongoing relationships with specific communities (e.g. Cowichan, Coquitlam, Nadleh Whut’en), supports key watershed governance capacity building initiatives (e.g. First Nations peer-to-peer water governance roundtable, sustainable funding initiative), and partners with the Province to implement innovative water governance approaches in specific watersheds. ● Opportunities to align parallel funding by partnering with high-capacity water communities (e.g. Skeena, Nadleh Whut’en, Cowichan) and share learnings. ● Opportunities to support and attend Watersheds 2018 (June 4-6) in Smithers BC (e.g. fund bursaries for First Nations attendance).
<p>Keeping Water on the Agenda</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Coordination and communication required among multiple groups to identify and amplify key messages and priorities (e.g. water pricing, water objectives, Indigenous water stories) to drive a provincial water narrative. Opportunities to invest in communications capacity for a provincial campaign and communications hub through the Canadian Freshwater Alliance. ● Strategic communications opportunities through supporting public opinion research and amplifying water issues in the media.
<p>Pooling Water Knowledge: Water Monitoring and Reporting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Emerging opportunities to advance water monitoring and reporting will be identified following the release of the Water Monitoring Working Group’s Roundtable recommendations in early 2018 that will build on the 2017 province-wide landscape scan of existing monitoring and reporting.
<p>Policy Innovation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Opportunities to support coordination of key players to develop strategies to for influencing provincial land use planning initiatives to be more water-centric. ● Funding required for POLIS & OBWB Eflows forum in 2018 (estimated \$20,000 - \$25,000). ● Resources required to support research into options for a Watershed Authorities Act in BC.

WORKSHOP ACTION ITEMS

1. TM to explore options for a bundled program to support First Nations Fisheries Council's Water for Fish strategic plan: including streamlined proposal and reporting process.
2. JA/AE to work with Steering Committee to explore options for funders event in conjunction with Watersheds 2018.
3. TM/JA to work with interested funders to bring together key players to develop a strategy to ensure water is central to emerging provincial land-use planning approaches.
4. TM to circulate past focus group information from REFBC-supported public opinion research. JA/AE to post related public opinion polling information on Water Funders Collaborative website.
5. TM/JA to explore options and costs for strategic public opinion research to support Keeping Water on the Agenda objectives.
6. TM to invite UVic ELC to prepare a proposal for the Legacy Initiative regarding watersheds authority legislation.
7. JA/AE to convene a meeting of interested funders after release of Water Monitoring Roundtable Summary Report to discuss opportunities and next steps.
8. JA/AE to finalize and circulate 2018 Annual Plan.

Reflections on Joint Funders/Leaders Workshop (Oct 23rd):

Roundtable Discussion on Joint Workshop Format:

- Shared space to engage with leaders a positive feature.
- More time for the funders to meet separately to discuss opportunities would be helpful.
- Victoria location was appreciated - allowed for other meetings and connecting with legislators. There may be additional ways to have funders engaging with government in future meetings.
- Appreciated the presence of more government staff at previous meetings.
- Proposal made for more time for funders to meet separately would be appreciated - and a chance to have funders present to others on what they fund and where their priorities lie.
- Suggest an afternoon with leaders/funders followed by a social in the evening and then a full day with funders the following day.
- Some pitching to funders is acceptable within the context of the joint event.

Roundtable Discussion on Joint Workshop Content:

- Appreciated hearing about the Indigenous capacity building that is happening.
 - Good to learn that the WSA is not the only way to support Indigenous-led approaches.

- Looking for more info on how to converge these two strategies - Indigenous led and WSA work.
- The WSA just provides a modern set of tools that could support partnership efforts.
- There is an opportunity around land use planning - the opportunity to integrate water into this is significant.
- The Collaborative Consent model is a very interesting lens to approach this work through. An area that is ripe for innovation and that we should be learning more about.
- The Keeping Water on the Agenda work is critically important for building the narrative from the ground up - not sure it is being funded enough.

PART A: ASSESSMENT OF OPPORTUNITIES

1. Watershed Governance and Indigenous Capacity Building

Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ First Nations Fisheries Council “Water for Fish” program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ An increased role as a central provincial network builder, resource hub & convener. ○ The only organization in BC with a mandate directly from First Nations to engage in freshwater issues. ○ Proposed 3-year strategic plan begins in 2018 – 4 key elements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Building a First Nations water network. ▪ Building Capacity for First Nations water governance. ▪ Advancing Aboriginal water rights. ▪ Developmental evaluation of Water for Fish program. ○ \$300,000.00 per year required x 3 years. ○ Interested funders include: Pacific Salmon Foundation, Tides Canada, REFBC, Sitka, Vancouver Foundation, Victoria Foundation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ BC Freshwater Legacy Initiative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Initiative to test/implement new innovative approaches to watershed governance. ○ An initiative, not a fund – trying to take an innovative approach – building ongoing relationships with these communities and being part of their work. ○ Current activities: Cowichan, Coquitlam, Nadleh Whut’en, P2P First Nations roundtable, potential for pilot partnership with the Province, sustainable funding initiative. ○ \$3.5M confirmed for 5 year initiative – seeking matching funders – goal is \$10M.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Partnering with high capacity communities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ E.g. Mackenzie initiative, Skeena, Nadleh, Cowichan. ○ Sharing learnings.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Watersheds 2018 Conference: Planning for Success <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>“New thinking for Land Use & Water Governance”</i> ○ June 4-6, 2018 – Smithers BC ○ Sponsorship opportunities – funders can support bursaries to encourage First Nations involvement.

DISCUSSION: KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **First Nations Fisheries Council:**
 - FNFC has developed important partnerships in recent years - CIER, POLIS, etc.
 - There is interest from multiple funders in supporting the FNFC's proposed 3-year strategic plan.
 - An existing obstacle for funding the FNFC is their lack of charitable status - Collaborative members (PSF, Tides Canada) are working to support FNFC in obtaining charitable status - there may be a need for bridge funding while that gets established.
 - An important feature of FNFC's approach on water is that they are not just helping government do its job by engaging with First Nations, but rather are setting the table amongst First Nations and then inviting government to it.
 - These collaborative funding conversations are important so that organizations like FNFC do not spend their time chasing individual funders for money – it would be positive if funders could make this process easier and offer some sort of bundled funding.
- **BC Freshwater Legacy Initiative**
 - There are opportunities to be flexible in funding through the BCFLI – can be dual mode funding, short-term or long-term.
 - The BCFLI can also do matching funding to Indigenous communities if that helps.
 - Provincial partnership for watershed pilots – BCFLI has currently entered into one pilot project, but hoping that we may be able to do more and expand the partnership – conversations are ongoing with relevant provincial Ministers.
- **Watersheds 2018**
 - There may be an opportunity for a funders shoulder event in conjunction with the conference and engage additional funders that are active in the region

2. Keeping Water on the Agenda

Opportunities	
➤ Strategic Communications:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Coordination and communication to develop cohesive narrative among multiple groups. ○ Identify/confirm key areas to amplify, e.g. water pricing, water objectives, planning, rural economic development, and Indigenous water stories. ○ Explore public opinion research options to support development of communications strategies. ○ Amplify news stories about water generally by funding organizations to cover water stories.
➤ Provincial campaign and communications hub	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Canadian Freshwater Alliance ○ Increase communications capacity through training/funding.
➤ Peer learnings in key regions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Supporting and sharing lessons – e.g. One Cowichan & WaterWealth.
➤ Strategic Collaboration & Funding Mechanisms:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Roundtable, working group, quick response fund.

DISCUSSION: KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Provincial Water Narrative:**
 - Need for a stronger narrative than “local stories” – we are in crisis and need people to understand that. We could have used the fires this summer to tell water stories and connect it with the provincial narrative.
 - Suggestion that we also need to focus on the solutions as well – e.g. the co-benefits of water: jobs, rural development etc.
- **Strategic communications:**
 - The Water Funders Collaborative is a diverse group – has an opportunity to have more of a voice provincially to make sure water stays on the agenda. This could mean having more of a communications focus with this group – articulating key messages that we should be amplifying.
 - This is something that we have discussed in the past – but there are different levels of comfort amongst the Collaborative with joint messaging, co-signing letters etc. Broad support for funding people to do more of this work, but not in the name of the Collaborative.
 - E.g. REFBC support for Tyee housing stories, and LUSH support for DeSmog Site C work.
 - Noted capacity needed at Canadian Freshwater Alliance for communications
 - Tides Canada is exploring support for CFA for communications
 - LUSH is looking to support CFA and Vancouver Foundation is supporting them in a smaller way as well.
 - Suggestion that there may be value in commissioning some public opinion polling and focus groups to support our strategic messaging goals.
 - Noted REFBC funded polling and focus groups five years ago. The poll is on the REFBC site and the focus groups info can be circulated by Tim.
 - Suggestion that water-related issues could be connected to the existing Vital Signs surveys conducted by community foundations. Could look at which community foundations are doing polling when and look for overlap.

3. Pooling Water Knowledge: Water Monitoring and Reporting

Opportunities	
➤ Water Monitoring Working Group:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Working group proposal was initiated with \$44,000 from the working group plus an additional \$5,000 from Ministry of Environment. ○ Province-wide landscape scan of existing monitoring and reporting has been completed and a roundtable is being held in December 2017. ○ Recommendations forthcoming in January 2018.
➤ Living Lakes Canada Network Data Hubs Workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ November 2017 in Invermere BC, to identify best practices for housing data from across Canada.
➤ CIER and Environment Canada’s Network of Networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ BC First Nation pilots in water and climate monitoring.
➤ Gordon Foundation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Interested in expanding DataStream beyond the Mackenzie.

DISCUSSION: KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Need a special focus on groundwater data – there is very little known about aquifers in BC.
- First Nations communities are particularly concerned about groundwater as many rely on them for drinking water and it is now being licensed.
- Next steps for monitoring and reporting working group?
 - Landscape scan report and roundtable review should lead to recommendations regarding next steps.
 - Will likely need an in-person gathering or webinar after report released – potentially spring 2018.

4. Policy Innovation

Opportunities	
➤ POLIS Eflows Forum:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Proposal to co-host 2nd Eflows forum with Ministry of Environment – Estimated cost of \$20,000 - \$25,000.
➤ Research Opportunities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Water-centric land use planning.○ Watersheds Authority Legislation
➤ FNFC's "Advancing Aboriginal Water Rights" strategic plan component	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Opportunities to support strategic research/analysis.

DISCUSSION: KEY HIGHLIGHTS

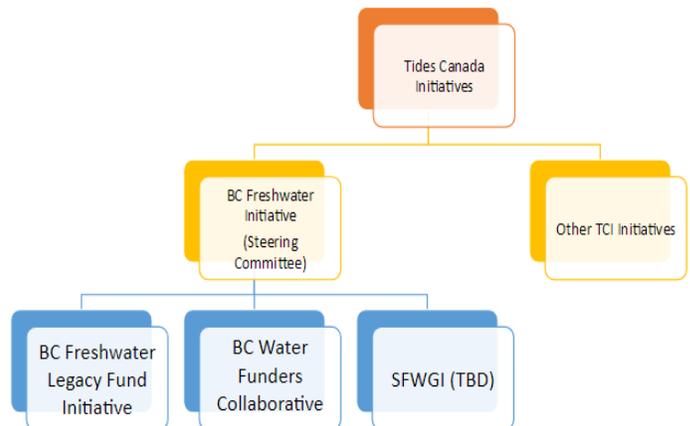
- **Eflows:**
 - Concern expressed that Eflows has dropped off the radar – question as to whether the Collaborative could co-sign a letter to Minister Heyman to keep it on the agenda.
 - Suggestion that there is lots of work going on related to Eflows. Noted that OBWB and POLIS will be doing an Eflows workshop in the fall of 2018. FLNRO is partnering in the Eflows work going on in the Okanagan and will be carrying it out in other parts of their region as well.
 - It is important to keep it on the agenda but we want to allow the science to happen so that it informs the policy – we don't want them to rush the regulations or the policy.
- **Water Centric Land Use Planning**
 - The FLNRO Assistant Deputy Minister responsible for the Land Use Planning part of the mandate has suggested the Ministry wants to do up to 10 projects in regions where there are problems to solve and where First Nations are interested and ready.
 - New tools like Eflows etc. could be used within that but we will need to be strategic about working with FLNRO's approach in specific regions. This may require less of a research project approach and more of a rapid convening of key players to work on strategy – the Freshwater Legacy Initiative may be able to help pull this together.
 - Tides Canada has been in conversation with some Nations who want to get together to talk about land-use planning and then bring in government. If we could get everyone together, we could ensure the water-centric aspect seeps into all the other stuff going on around land-use planning.
- **Watersheds Authority Legislation**

- There is currently a big gap when we talk about investing in watershed organizations – the WSA enables entities but doesn't provide guidance on how to create them – it's a gap that could be problematic as we move to a more comprehensive regime.
- The *Societies Act* is limited for allowing Long-Term sustainable funding for watershed entities. We need to ask what kind of legislation could enable watershed authorities that would be nested in with other things like regional districts.
- A proposal will be brought forward to the Legacy Initiative to support this research (through UVic ELC).

PART B: WATER FUNDERS COLLABORATIVE UPDATES

Collaborative Background & Updates

- This group is now in its fifth year as a collaborative. The evolution of this group has paralleled the evolution of the *Water Sustainability Act*. We are continuing to expand and bring in new members. On Oct 23rd, the Collaborative co-hosted the second joint water funders and leaders meeting.
- The new BC Water Funders Collaborative website has been launched at www.bcwaterfunders.org. Collaborative members can click through to the Members section of the site for a wide variety of resources and updates.
- There are three initiatives under the BC Freshwater Initiative, which is a project on the Tides Canada Initiatives shared platform:
 - BC Freshwater Legacy Initiative
 - BC Water Funders Collaborative
 - Sustainable Funding for Water Governance Initiative (SFWGI)
 Each stands alone in terms of budgeting and reporting.



2017 Priorities and Activities

- Recommendations and reflections from the 2016 Water Funders Collaborative Annual Report informed our priorities for 2017.
- Five key priorities for 2017 and how we planned to implement those priorities through our core activities are set out in the table below.

Recommendations & Priorities	Core Activities
1. Increase funder engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring & Fall Workshops • Water Monitoring Working Group • Ongoing outreach and fundraising
2. Identify & assess strategic opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring Workshop Theme • Support BC Freshwater Legacy Fund
3. Further strengthen freshwater community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fall Joint Workshop • Engagement with gov't, FN and leaders • Amplify collaborative initiatives
4. Catalyze water monitoring & reporting discussions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement working group proposal • Webinar(s)
5. Increase operational efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transition to Tides Canada Initiatives shared platform • Website launch to streamline communications • Hire part time program assistant

For a full description of our 2017 activities and priorities, you can review the Revised 2017 Annual Plan, available on the members section of the Water Funders Collaborative website: www.bcwaterfunders.org. 2017 Annual Plan Fundraising Update

Expenses	Cost	Revenue	Projected	Confirmed
Coordination	\$44,400	Carry-Over 2016	\$5798	\$5798
Workshops, Socials, Field Trips	\$12,000	REFBC	\$25,000	\$25,000
Webinars & Communications	\$2560	Sitka Foundation	\$15,000	\$15,000
Other Direct Expenses	\$4,500	Tides Canada (Dragonfly)	\$5,000	\$5,000
Resource Guest Travel & Expenses	\$2,500	LUSH Cosmetics	\$13,000	\$13,000
Sub-Total	\$63,460	Vancouver Fdn	\$2,500	\$2,500
Admin 10%	\$7,129	Pacific Salmon Fdn	\$2,500	\$2,500
Total Annual Budget	\$70,589	Water Monitoring WG	\$5,000	
		Total Revenue	\$73,798	\$68,798

2018 Annual Plan

The 2018 Annual Plan is in the process of being finalized and will be circulated to the membership in November. We currently anticipate the same level of activity as previous years (2 workshops, 2-3 webinars, 2-3 newsletters, 2 active working groups). Additional budget is contemplated to accommodate the Collaborative's participation in Watersheds 2018 in Smithers, BC, including a potential funder shoulder event.

Expenses	Cost
Coordination	\$52,800
Workshops, Socials, Field Trips	\$14,000
Webinars & Communications	\$2200
Other Direct Expenses	\$4,000
Resource Guest Travel & Expenses	\$2,500
Sub-Total	\$75,500
Admin 10%	\$7,550
Total Annual Budget	\$83,050

Appendix: Workshop Participants

Water Funders:

- Alan Rosenfeld - Clif Bar Family Foundation (via conference)
- Anna Warwick Sears - Okanagan Basin Water Board
- Brant Felker - Union of BC Municipalities
- Carol Hall - Victoria Foundation
- Carolynn Beaty, Sitka Foundation
- David Hendrickson - Real Estate Foundation of BC
- Deena Guffei- LUSH Charitable Giving
- Ian Rogalski - Environment and Climate Change Canada
- Ivan Thompson - Tides Canada
- James Littley - Okanagan Basin Water Board
- Kim Hardy - Tides Canada
- Leanne Sexsmith - Real Estate Foundation of BC
- Madelaine Martin - BC Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- Mike Meneer - Pacific Salmon Foundation
- Terra Kaethler - Vancouver Foundation

Support:

- Tim Morris, Project Director, BC Freshwater Legacy Initiative
- Jennifer Archer, Program Manager, BC Water Funders Collaborative
- Alex Etchell, Program Associate, BC Freshwater Initiative