

BC Water Funders

COLLABORATIVE

Supporting Watersheds Through Collaboration

Hosted by the BC Water Funders Collaborative

May 18, 2022 3:30-4:30

Attendees:

- Abbie Norrish, Central Okanagan Foundation
- Bridgitte Taylor, MakeWay
- Carmen Ryujin, RBC
- Carolynn Beaty, Sitka Foundation
- Deena Guffei, Lush
- James Littley, OBWB
- Jen McCaffrey, REFBC
- Kariann Aarup, de Gaspe Beaubien
- Kelli-Nicole Croucher, Government of New Brunswick
- Ross Jameson, Sitka Foundation
- Scott Boswell, OBWB
- Shannon McGinty, MakeWay
- Toni Boot, REFBC

Key Takeaways:

- Space to share experiences in water funding
- Collaborative learning through open discussion
- A pathway forward that supports freshwater

Agenda:

1. Intro and Land Acknowledgement, James Littley (Steering Committee Chair)
2. Watershed Map Introduction, Shannon McGinty (Collaborative Coordinator)
3. BCWFC Update and Overview, Shannon McGinty (Collaborative Coordinator)
 - Collaborative Successes shared by Bridgitte Taylor and Carolynn Beaty (Steering Committee Members)
4. World Café Planning Activity, Shannon McGinty (Collaborative Coordinator)
5. Final Reflections and Closing, Shannon McGinty (Collaborative Coordinator)

Summary of Discussion:

1. Watershed Map Introduction

Participants, online and in person, were invited to use sticky notes to add to the map where they were located and the projects, they were funding to help develop a sense of network scope. An image of the map is provided below, a more comprehensive summary will be developed and shared back.



2. BCWFC Update and Overview

Collaborative Coordinator, Shannon McGinty, with support of the Steering Committee members, provided a brief overview of the BC Water Funders Collaborative, update on recent activities and evolution of the collaborative, success highlights, and a high-level overview of our current strategic priorities. The attached presentation guided this update.

3. World Café Planning Activity

Participants, online and in person, were asked to engage in small group conversations centered around two questions from the Steering Committee:

- a) When we consider systems thinking, addressing gaps, and assessing our collective progress over the past two years what have we done well? What are the opportunities we have missed?
- b) What value has BCWFC provided to you/your organization to increase the water leaders capacity, build relationships and share knowledge? Has there been anything missing or areas you would like explored?

Summaries of the discussion are captured below, key themes that emerged were:

- The BCWFC has been successful in:
 - Working alongside the water leaders to influence policy, share space for coordination, and respond to immediate threats
 - Create an engaged network that works towards creating connections and sharing learnings
 - Reduce the silos we can end up working in
- Opportunities for the BCWFC to pursue could include:
 - Expanding our network to address geographic and demographic (Indigenous and local government) gaps
 - Develop an easy-to-use shared resource that maps the current landscape of initiatives and funders in coordination with the Water Leaders
 - Reinvigorate administrative streamlining activities through pooled funding, resources sharing, and other avenues
 - Deepen our JEDI and reconciliation efforts
- Challenges to continue to be aware of and seek solutions for include:
 - Water Leader staff burnout and wellbeing concerns
 - Silos that still exist
 - Federal water policy that continues to be stalled

4. Final Reflections and Closing

After a share back from each group on the discussions we closed the meeting with the invitation to reflect on our vision of “All waters in British Columbia are in good health and resilient by 2030”, and what that means to you as an individual and the organization you work within.

When we consider systems thinking, addressing gaps, and assessing our collective progress over the past two years what have we done well?
What are the opportunities we have missed?

Influence policy (ex. water sustainability fund, water jobs report)

Water Leader-Funder Forums: Excellent learning opportunity about successes & gaps around 4Ps

Should we develop a shared website/database of funded projects?

Working Groups? On tech side (ex. Kariann aquahacking startups, Allan Shepiro)

Watersheds economic analysis

In person gatherings keeping momentum, learning and funding moving forward

Yes - but lets ask the water leaders first for the value, could pair with an update to jobs report

Question: Systems Change vs Systems Thinking?

understand limits and opportunities for flowing long term sustaining funding towards leaders network

discuss funders limitations and flexibility towards a trust based model

Indigenous Participation & Leadership

Are funders still restricting funds? :(

Responsive community care in Mar2020

How do we consider JEDI in our work?

Successes

Opportunities

Challenges

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What value has BCWFC provided to you/your organization to increase the water leaders capacity, build relationships and share knowledge?
Has there been anything missing or areas you would like explored?

Innovative network sharing leaders and funders

The networking! better understanding and creating connections. When the time comes for making grants - so much intel is already gathered

Expanding the network (ex. geographic gaps)

BCWFC can ensure that funding can be province wide - excellent projects happening across the whole province

Operational streamlining in pooled funding * could bring back to the table

Staff burnout/tumover? can longevity within orgs be addressed with our funding ex. staff retention

Identify funding partners for our BC Projects - new funder to BC were able to join and build alliances and networks easily

Mechanics support of shared resources for water leaders (ex. equipment libraries)

Aligned administration (ex reporting, application processes)

How do we support partners with burnout & well being?

Reducing the silos we work in

More local government representation

Deepen JEDI and Reconciliation work

Space for open conversations

Open knowledge sharing

Helps us understand which groups are at different activity levels and capacity levels as well as the "who's doing what"

efficient way of understanding freshwater landscape (funders and leaders) especially for new members

Allow ONA and all levels of government to learn from each other - learn the Syky water laws

Canada Water Agency - what are the learnings?

Silos - Water tech, water conservation, stewardship, etc.

Overview of the current landscape

More communication/ coordination around grants and projects (who is doing what?)

Map/connect corporate giving for water

More leverage of water tech innovation, resources (\$), objectives

Successes

Opportunities

Challenges

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