

British Columbia Collaborative Watershed Governance Initiative

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Collaborative Watershed Governance

- Initiative formed in August 2008

Partnership between

- Pacific Salmon Foundation,
- Fraser Basin Council, and
- Living Rivers – Georgia Basin

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Vision is to sustain the flow of benefits

- Watersheds have critical economic and inspirational value;
- Loss of ecosystem value stemming from poor governance/decision-making
- Current situation cannot meet coming challenges

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Illustrate the problem with Scenario:

- Town or small city in lower watershed
- Experience issues over time with water and river processes
- Can lead to conflict in the community
- Systems of governance faulty



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Scenario of water conflicts.....



Watershed Functionality



Proper Function

Good Infiltration

Less Overland Flows

Good Water Quality

Less Erosion

Lower Peak Flows

More Dry Season Runoff

Poor Function

Poor Infiltration

More Overland Flows

Poor Water quality

More erosion

Higher Peak Flows

Less Dry Season Runoff

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CWGI organized November 2008 workshop

- Invited participants from watershed users, NGO, 4 levels of Gov't
- Over 80 participants
- Purpose to determine willingness to engage
- Interest in developing new framework or model
- Engagement and interest affirmed
- Workshop results at www.livingrivers.ca

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New CWG Framework or Model?

- Already many stewardship and other groups exist
 - Interest - based
 - Awkward mix of interests at the table
 - Access to information varies
 - Capacity of participants varies
 - Consensus process can lead to burn-out

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- WAM Offers opportunity
- New governance arrangements are being tried
- Others may be considered
- What else could be different?

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New CWG Framework or Model?

- Not necessarily about structure
- Must lead to improvement in watersheds
- Requires shift in the way participants engage
- Focus on relationships, trust, and how decisions are made

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Shifts for New CWG Framework or Model

From



To

Representing “stakes”;
agencies, industry,
NGOs etc

Bringing perspectives
based on experience and
knowledge

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Shifts for New CWG Framework or Model

From



To

Advocating
positions based on
stakes

Developing a unified
understanding of the
causes and effects

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To

Negotiating among positions to find a consensus

Tell stories, engage in activities and field trips to build trust

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Shifts for New CWG Framework or Model

From



To

Focusing on limitations on what can be done imposed by government

Develop a unified understanding of what must be done. Use personal and technical knowledge and anecdotal experience

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Shifts for New CWG Framework or Model

From



To

Relying on government
for implementation

Build local capacity
and support for
implementation

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Future Direction of CWGI

- New Steering Committee with broad representation
- Needs to Walk the Talk
- Find ways to communicate improvements in collaborative governance
- Foster breakthroughs for use in watershed management
- Breakthroughs are key to meeting future challenges

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Thank you

