



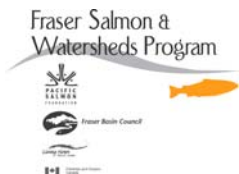
Coquitlam River Watershed Strategy

Kwikwetlem, known as “Red fish up the river.” A living river that reveals its spirit.

Communities of Practice in Watershed Management: *Lessons towards a Governance Strategy for the Coquitlam River Watershed*

GOAL:

Ensure stakeholders understand the principles, benefits and implications of developing a governance strategy for the Coquitlam River watershed.



Communities of Practice in Watershed Management:

Lessons towards a Governance Strategy for the Coquitlam River Watershed

Conference Objectives:

- Inform local Coquitlam River watershed leaders about watershed governance models and how such processes can benefit stakeholders and the watershed (“people and fish”).
- Illustrate to workshop participants, through experience from other watersheds:
 - how decision-making amongst the many interests within the watershed can be improved,
 - “what’s good for the fish,”
 - what other watershed governance groups “actually do.”
- Work towards a governance option that fits, knowing that this will build on previous experience but be tailored, new and unique to the CRW Strategy.

Where are we heading in Phase III of the CRW Strategy?

“Developing a Governance Strategy”

- Governance is not the same thing as government.
- It is about how governments and other organizations interact, how they relate to citizens, and how they make decisions in a complex world.
- Collaborative watershed governance improves decision-making through an inclusive framework aimed at achieving sustainable, healthy watersheds and benefits from them.

Our Common Vision is:

- A healthy watershed supported and enjoyed by the community in a manner that respects our common values through:
 - Partnerships and collaboration;
 - Education, stewardship, and monitoring;
 - Conservation and green economies; and,
 - Responsible decision making
- In perpetuity.

Next Steps – a preview

- Phase III opportunities for involvement in development of the governance strategy
 - Public meeting 1, February 2010: Review proposals/options for first set of governance elements
 - Public meeting 2, March 2010: Review proposals/options for second set of governance elements
 - Information posted on the website between meetings
 - Seek feedback through on-line tools

E.g.s of watershed stewardship initiatives in other communities

- Fraser River Valley Regional Watershed Coalition (coordinated Chilliwack River Watershed Strategy)
- Lakelse Watershed Society
- Skeena Watershed Congress
- Bonaparte Watershed Stewardship Society
- Mid-Vancouver Island Habitat Enhancement Society (coordinated Englishman River Watershed Recovery Plan)
- West Coast Aquatic
- Fraser Basin Council
- Alouette River Management Society
- Kanaka Education and Environmental Partnership Society
- Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (Ontario)
- **Nisqually River Council (Washington)**
- **Salmon River Watershed Roundtable (south-central BC)**
- **Cowichan Basin Council**
- **Coquitlam River Watershed _____ ?**

Presentation topics

- focus of the group – mission or purpose
- guiding principles
- how decision-making has been affected
- benefits to watershed ecosystem (“fish”)
- benefits to stakeholders (“people”)
- challenges encountered
- pros and cons of the structure

Discussion

- Are there aspects of the experience that are transferable to the Coquitlam River Watershed Strategy –
What are the pros and cons of applying their approaches in this Coquitlam River setting?

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Looking ahead

- Lessons from the communities of practice for the Coquitlam River Watershed Governance Strategy ...

Discussion question:

- *What are the two or three most important lessons to copy or to avoid that the CRW Strategy should learn from these communities of practice?*

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Discussion

- What are one or two important lessons to copy or avoid that the CRW strategy should learn from all these examples?