



2021 Annual Report

Addressing Climate Change Through Engagement
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Published by the Coquitlam River Watershed Roundtable
January 15th, 2021

Coquitlam River
Watershed Roundtable



Message from the Coordinator

As I reflect on what has been yet another year for the books, I feel so honoured to Coordinate this incredible organization! This year watersheds around the world faced drastic examples of climate change and I am proud of how the Roundtable stepped up. Thanks to the support of our funders and partners, we were able to connect with more people than ever to encourage meaningful change for watershed health and implement six Watershed Plan strategies. I am grateful for the hard work of all members this year and can't wait to see what we can accomplish in 2022!

Our Mission

To preserve and enhance the health of the Coquitlam River Watershed through collaboration, education and advisory action.

Thank you to our Funders!



Core Committee Representatives

- 6 meetings

Federal Government
Scott Ducharme
Fisheries and Oceans Canada



Regional Government
Dave Dunkley
Metro Vancouver

Local Government
Cllr. Steve Kim
City of Coquitlam

Caresse Selk
City of Coquitlam

Cllr. Nancy McCurrach
City of Port Coquitlam

Scott Walmsley
City of Port Coquitlam

First Nations Government
Cllr. George Chaffee
Kwikwetlem First Nation

Craig Orr
Kwikwetlem First Nation

Utilities
Cam Hiebert
BC Hydro

Real Estate Development
Geoff Nagle
Morguard

Industrial
Sophie Mullen
Lehigh Hanson Materials

Kirsten Wilson
Jack Cewe Ltd.

Education
Marvin Rosenau
BC Institute of Technology

Stewardship
Tony Matahlija
North Fraser Salmon Assistance Project

Norm Fletcher
Port Coquitlam & District Hunting and Fishing Club

Eve Gauthier
Tri-City Green Council

Arts and Culture
Sherry Carroll
ArtsConnect

Community
Susan Devlin
Vancity

Financial Trustee
Shayla Walker
Watershed Watch
Salmon Society

Engagement Coordinator
Melissa Chaun
Coquitlam River Watershed Roundtable

Roundtable Coordinator
Sharee Dubowits
Coquitlam River Watershed Roundtable

Subcommittees

-  **Resilience and Capacity Building**
- 5 meetings
-  **Communications**
- 4 meetings
-  **Habitat**
- no meetings
-  **Development Project**
- 1 meetings
-  **Stormwater Management Project**
- 11 meetings
-  **Water Use Project**
- 1 meeting
-  **Roundtable Meeting Planning**
- 14 meetings
-  **Financial Trustee Task Force**
- 1 meeting

Operations

The Roundtable continues to follow its [COVID-19 response plan](#) and adheres

to Provincial mandates for gathering restrictions. Meetings and projects are conducted virtually when possible; in-person events observe COVID-19 safety protocols.

Projects and Public Outreach

The Roundtable implements its [Lower Coquitlam River Watershed Plan](#) as capacity and staff resources permit.

Assisted by UBC's Centre for Law and the Environment, the Development Committee members are producing a report that will discuss low-impact development (LID) strategies that can help to alleviate development pressures and identify building codes, regulations and bylaws that pertain to their implementation. The paper will be published in Summer 2022.

The Stormwater Management Committee brought together all governments in the watershed to present on their stormwater management plans and encourage collaboration on a watershed-wide adaptive monitoring program.



With community volunteers, committee members installed a demonstration rain garden in Lions Park, Port Coquitlam to educate people about stormwater and encourage the use of green infrastructure on their properties. The rain garden filters water from approximately 150 m² of impermeable surface and engaged 28 community members in its installation.

The Water Use Committee met to discuss recommendations in its commissioned report, [Reducing Water Extraction and Increasing Environmental Flows in the Coquitlam River](#) and is liaising with governments in the watershed to determine their plans for incorporating these counsels.

During Earth Week, an engagement team addressed littering and dumping by educating newcomers to the watershed about the issue, empowering individuals that are homeless or facing homelessness to participate in an incentivized clean-up and engaging youth to create litter art that spoke to the ongoing issue. 84 community members participated and approximately one cubic yard of waste was removed from the watershed.



On Rivers Day the team partnered with Beaver Canoe Club, The Web of Life and Chandos Construction to conduct an in-stream and streamside clean-up. 30 participants removed approximately four cubic yards of waste from the watershed.

Thanks to the Canada Summer Jobs program, the Roundtable was able to hire a videographer to produce regular media content for release on social media and Telus Community TV.



The [Hidden Gems video series](#) addresses mainstream cultural norms by featuring lesser-known areas of the watershed, inspiring viewers to visit and encouraging stewardship. The series was viewed 6616 times in 2021.

Thanks to cost savings associated with producing online events, the Roundtable was able to host two Community Roundtable meetings.

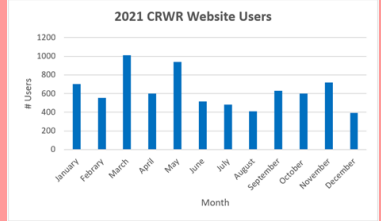


The Spring event, *Building Resilience: Weathering the Stormwater* defined stormwater and spoke to how community members can help reduce the pressure. 117 people viewed the live and recorded versions of the event. The Fall event, *Fire Prevention in Urban Forests* spoke to urban forest management and how homeowners can reduce the risk of wildfire. 138 people viewed the live and recorded versions of the event.

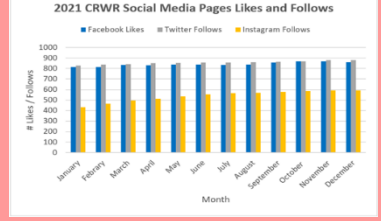
Presentations
Two delegation presentations were made to the cities of Coquitlam and Port Coquitlam to update the funders on the group's activities.
Three community presentations were made to SUCCESS Immigration Services, BCIT's Fish, Wildlife and Recreation Program and CodeBlue



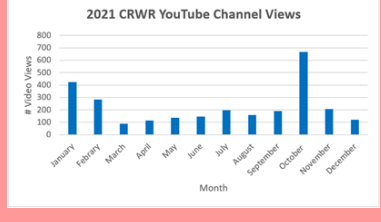
Social Media and Website
The [Roundtable website](#) was updated to feature the group's growing library of videos. An average of 629 monthly users visited the site, with a total of 7553 annual users.



Annual Facebook likes have increased from 814 to 861, Twitter from 829 to 882 and Instagram from 432 to 591.



YouTube video views have increased from 982 in 2020 to 2734 in 2021.



Communications
A Spring Backgrounder and Spring and Summer Implementation Updates were distributed during the year.

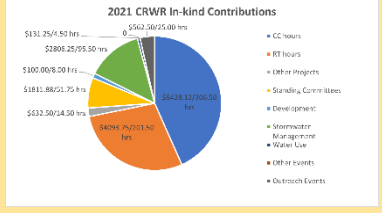


E-news is published on a quarterly basis. These publications had an open rate of between 33%-44%.

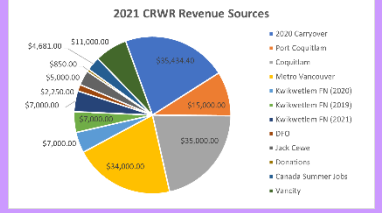
Edition	Subscribers	% Opened
Spring	272	33%
Summer	270	40%
Fall	263	37%
Winter	271	44%

Efforts to boost subscribers via advertising will be continued in 2022.

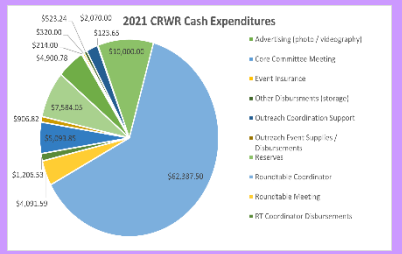
In-kind Contributions
In-kind contributions were valued at \$19,566 including 707 hours of time.



Financials
Revenues
The Roundtable received \$128,781 and carried over \$35,434 from 2020 for a total of \$164,215 annual funds.



Expenditures
Cash expenditures totaled \$99,422. When combined with in-kind contributions of \$19,566, the organization's operating costs totaled \$118,988. Funds were largely attributed to operational costs, the greatest of which was to maintain the Roundtable Coordinator.



Year in Review
Photo: Scott Walmsley

The year 2021 was another for the books! Still amid the COVID-19, the watershed faced staffing challenges, heat domes, fires and floods. The Roundtable took the opportunity to increase public outreach to help reduce the effects of climate change. The group prioritized Roundtable meetings to host two events, hired a videographer to increase media output and implemented hands-on volunteer opportunities when possible.

The efficacy of our efforts is demonstrated by our online metrics: website use has grown by 11%, social media by 201%, YouTube by 178% and e-communication open-rates now exceed peer averages.

In-kind contributions were in line with 2020 values and expenditures were conservative with the uncertainty of continued funding due to COVID. A healthy carryover and confirmation in late 2021 of renewed funding agreements with the Cities of Coquitlam and Port Coquitlam and Kwikwetlem First Nation, who doubled

their contribution, have ensured a healthy budget for 2022.

Moving Forward
In 2021, funding agreements with the Greater Vancouver Water District and the City of Port Coquitlam will reach the end of their terms and the Roundtable will pursue renewed agreements. The group will seek additional partners to ensure a balanced budget and continue to implement *Watershed Plan* strategies as prioritized by members and capacity permits.

Get Involved in Your Watershed!
Photo: Originelle Designs

The Roundtable relies on grants, donations and volunteers to operate.
Volunteers are welcome at any of our outreach or education initiatives! Cash contributions of \$25 or more are eligible for a tax receipt. Donations and in-kind support valued at \$100 – \$990 receive sponsor recognition at events, and donations over \$1,000 receive logo and sponsor recognition for one year.

Contact Us
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