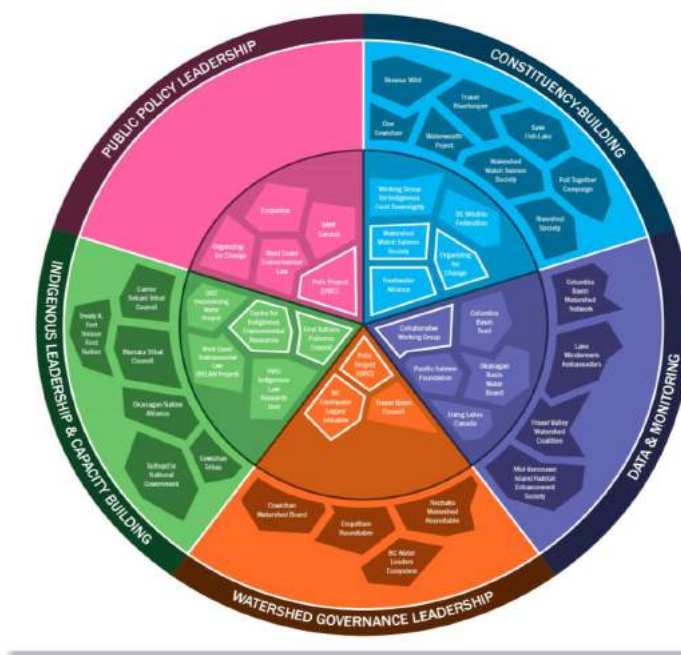


BC Water Funders COLLABORATIVE

SPRING 2017 WORKSHOP

CREATING THE CONDITIONS FOR CHANGE



Workshop Summary

April 26, 2017

Support for BC Water Funders Collaborative provided by:



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WORKSHOP OUTCOMES AT A GLANCE

KEY OPPORTUNITIES

BC Water Funders Collaborative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support Collaborative’s 2017 Annual Plan through grant or membership fees (\$10,000 to be raised) ● Sponsorship of Fall Leaders-Funders Workshop and field trip/social
Keeping Water on the Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support provincial campaign & communications hub ● Support local organizing efforts in 5-7 priority regions (For example, Tri-Cities, Cowichan, Fraser Valley) ● Support peer learning and share lessons (e.g. One Cowichan, WaterWealth) ● Participate in and/or sponsor small group funder-leaders roundtable on campaign strategy
E-Flows Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● POLIS WSP proposal to co-host 2nd E-flows forum after the election, ideally with MOE (Est. \$20-25K) ● Support E-flows theme within other 3 areas of focus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Keeping E-flows on the Agenda ○ FNFC Technical Working Group on E-flows ○ Water Monitoring & Reporting – E-flows Thresholds
Indigenous Law, Planning & Capacity Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support FNFC as central provincial network builder, resource hub & convener <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Opportunities for funder engagement in strategic planning ○ Fundraising for 3-year strategic plan begins Fall 2017. ● Sponsor CIER & FNFC First Nations watershed governance workshop (June) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$25K to be raised - Legacy Initiative seeking matching funders ● Partner with high capacity First Nations and share learnings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Opportunity to partner with place-based watershed governance initiatives in collaboration with First Nations Communities. BC Freshwater Initiative has identified and is building relationships with several individual communities to assess their needs including: Cowichan Tribes, Nadleh Whu’ten, ONA, Ktunaxa, Carrier Sekani Tribal Council, Tla’amin, Tsilhqot’in, Treaty 8, Gitanyow ○ The BC Freshwater Legacy Initiative is funding initiatives with Cowichan Tribes, Kwikwetlem First Nation and Nahdleh Whut’en First Nation and opportunities exist for matching funding (contact tim@bcwaterlegacy.ca for more information).
Pooling Water Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fall Roundtable to develop a shared vision around water monitoring and reporting and to identify opportunities for collaboration. Expected outcome of roundtable is the identification of additional opportunities for collaboration. ● Provincial landscape scan - to help to identify gaps and opportunities, promote strategic collaboration and ensure data is informing decision-makers. Add’al funding and in-kind data are invited to broaden scope of research and/or analysis. ● CBT & Living Lakes working on a proposal for a regional workshop in the Columbia Basin in November 2017 to develop a program framework for monitoring in the Basin, including a dialogue around data hubs.

WORKSHOP ACTION ITEMS

1. JA & TM to convene a small group funder-leader discussion regarding strategy to keep water on the agenda. Participants to include: LUSH Cosmetics, REFBC, Tides Canada, Vancouver Foundation, Glasswaters as well as CFA, OFC, WWS.
2. JA & TM to keep funders informed about opportunities to engage in FNFC strategic planning roundtables.
3. TM to follow up with interested funders regarding FN Peer Learning Workshop in June (Vancouver Foundation, ECCC and LUSH Cosmetics).
4. TM to follow up with interested funders regarding parallel and matching funding opportunities with BC Freshwater Legacy to support specific First Nations communities (ECCC and Vancouver Fdn)
5. JA to coordinate with FNFC to present on the FNFC Strategic Plan in the Fall via webinar or at the fall workshop. Funders interested in receiving the FNFC Strategy Proposal include Vancouver Foundation, LUSH Cosmetics, Pacific Salmon Foundation and Sitka Foundation.
6. JA & TM to connect POLIS WSP and OBWB regarding their respective e-flows initiatives and proposed workshops to ensure that they are aligned.
7. JA to include LUSH Cosmetics on Water Monitoring Working Group communications
8. DH, REFBC, to report back to Collaborative in Fall regarding its indicators initiative.
9. JA to coordinate with POLIS WSP to coordinate the 2nd Annual Water Leaders-Funders Workshop
10. JA & TM to launch new Collaborative website once member logos are confirmed.

BACKGROUND

In November 2016, the POLIS Water Sustainability Project and the BC Water Funders Collaborative co-hosted a Joint Strategic Water Workshop in Sidney, BC. The workshop participants, which included a subset of the water leaders and members of the BC Water Funders Collaborative, identified several recommendations regarding opportunities for action to advance freshwater protection and watershed governance in BC.

The focus of the Spring 2017 Workshop was to provide an update and further assessment of the opportunities identified at the fall workshop in four key strategic areas, including:

1. Keeping Water on the Agenda
2. Indigenous Water Laws, Planning and Capacity Building
3. Environmental Flows Protection
4. Pooling Water Knowledge: Water Monitoring & Reporting

A **Briefing Note** was circulated to participants in advance of the Spring Workshop which included a preliminary needs assessment and summary of future opportunities.

- **Needs Assessment:** Through follow-up discussions with water leaders after the Fall joint workshop, we identified key gaps and opportunities. These are by no means exhaustive and are bounded by the focus areas coming out of the leaders-funders workshop.
- **Summary of Recent Activities & Future Outlook:** We have also shared findings from our discussions with key water leaders that were charged with advancing action items following the water funders-leaders workshop. This update is oriented around the four strategic themes of that workshop. Each section includes a short overview of the theme, the action items coming out of the leaders-funders workshop, opportunities and plans for future work, and an update on activities since the workshop.

WORKSHOP GOALS

By the end of the meeting, we will have:

- 1) Identified strengths and gaps in the current B.C. freshwater landscape.
- 2) Assessed opportunities to advance priorities identified in the Fall Joint Workshop (2016), specifically in four key strategic areas of focus (Keeping Water on the Agenda, First Nations Capacity Building, Environmental Flows, and Pooling Water Knowledge).
- 3) Identified opportunities for funding and confirmed funder interest in supporting these needs.
- 4) Confirmed the Collaborative's goals and activities for 2017.
- 5) Identified a series of concrete and actionable next steps.

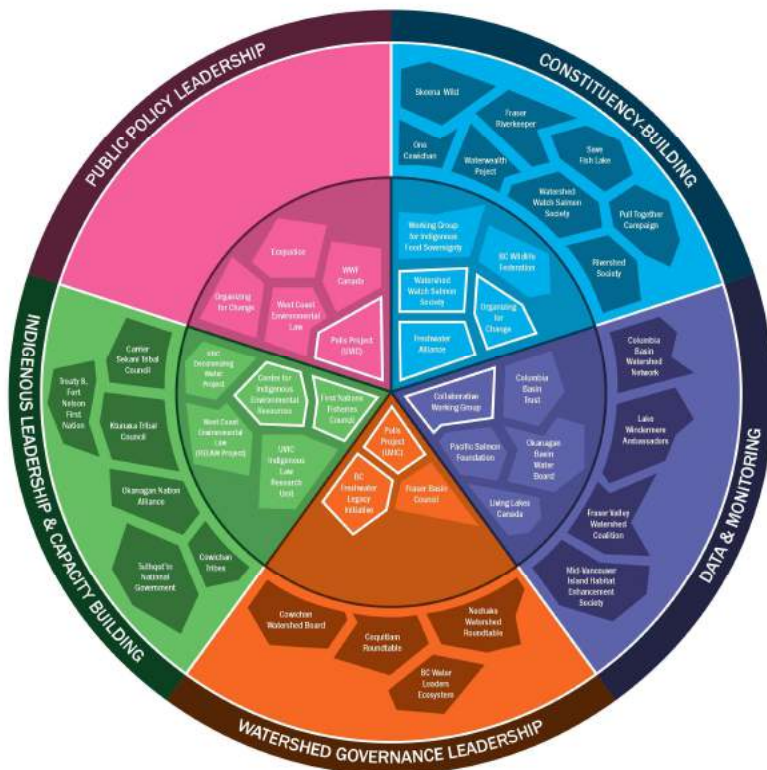
PART A: THE B.C. FRESHWATER LANDSCAPE

BC Water Funders Collaborative

For a detailed summary of the Collaborative’s vision, goals, evolution and impact see the members-only section of BC Water Funders Collaborative’s new website (www.bcwaterfunders.org) which will launch by June 15th.

The Ecosystem of Strategic Funding Opportunities

Tim Morris introduced a visual intended to capture several of the water leaders currently working within the key areas of focus. The organizations identified in the inner ring represent groups working at the provincial level while the groups in the outer ring represent groups working at the local level. This visual is not comprehensive and arguably some organizations could have been included in more than one strategic area.



Group Exercise

Funders were asked identify groups that should be included in this visual.

Funders were then asked to place stickies to identify:

1. Which groups are funders currently funding?
2. Are there any strategic areas that you are not currently funding that you are interested in supporting in the future (place outside circle)?

The results of the exercise are included in **Appendix 1: Group Exercise**

DISCUSSION: KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Government was not included in this diagram but it would be valuable to have government overlay.
- Especially valuable to include activities in the local policy (i.e. municipal) space.

The Evolving Funding Landscape

The Gordon & Betty Moore Foundation has invested heavily in freshwater protection in BC over the last decade but has recently shifted its program goals and will no longer be funding freshwater protection in BC. Ivan Thompson, formerly with the Moore Foundation and currently of Tides Canada Foundation, provided an update regarding the background, goals and strategy of the Moore Foundation's Salmon Program as well his reflections on the impact of Moore's departure.

Key Highlights:

- Moore's primary focus was to enhance and protect salmon habitats in BC with specific emphasis on northern watersheds. They provided funds to a range of groups that are engaged with WSA implementation.
- Moore was able to provide large multi-year grants. Moore's approach was to: (i) create the conditions for change, (ii) build solutions and (iii) get them to last. Their goal has been to make the Act real on the ground, recognizing that demand for change needs to come from local groups.
- Moore's agility and magnitude allowed it to catalyse several initiatives across B.C. including work at **POLIS Water Sustainability Project, UVic Indigenous Law Research Unit, West Coast Environmental Law, BC Wildlife Federation, Watershed Watch Salmon Society, Canadian Freshwater Alliance and First Nations Fisheries Council**. These organizations will be most impacted by Moore's exit. Ivan indicated that he was most concerned about the impact of Moore's departure on POLIS, University of Victoria and WWF – "without funding, they will shift focus and do something else".
- Several years ago, Moore recognized the impact that its change in focus would have on the freshwater community in B.C. and provided several multi-year grants to key water leaders. Moore also implemented a "slow exit" to coordinate better with other partners. Over the last 3 years, Moore helped to catalyse the BC Water Funders Collaborative through grants totalling \$75K over three years in an effort to promote strategic collaboration among funders. Moore also provided \$2M of funding to catalyse the BC Freshwater Legacy Initiative prior to its departure.
- With Moore's departure, there will be a **significant gap in the funding landscape**. There are no other funders out there that can fund at the same scale that Moore has been funding.
- To implement the WSA and make it real on the ground, water **fundes will need to collaborate effectively to strategically align priorities and develop collaborative funding mechanisms to ensure that limited resources will have maximum impact**.

PART B: ASSESSMENT OF OPPORTUNITIES

Goals of this Discussion:

- Provide highlights on recent initiatives and future direction in each area (see Briefing Note)
- Identify the strengths and gaps in each ecosystem
- Identify which funders are currently funding in this area and which funders are interested in each area
- Identify concrete actionable next steps

1. KEEPING WATER ON THE AGENDA

OVERVIEW

Building active freshwater constituencies in BC is required to sustain public interest and pressure for freshwater protection as a critical element of achieving the overall goal of high-bar implementation of the *Water Sustainability Act*. Building momentum and pressure will be particularly important in BC in 2017 to elevate water as a strategic priority leading into the May provincial election and as a government priority as part of post-election activities.

KEEPING WATER ON THE AGENDA NETWORK

Provincial Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Canadian Freshwater Alliance ➤ Watershed Watch Salmon Society ➤ Organizing for Change ➤ BC Wildlife Federation ➤ Outdoor Recreation Council
Local Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ WaterWealth Project Society ➤ Coquitlam River Watershed Roundtable ➤ Comox Valley Land Trust ➤ Fraser Riverkeeper ➤ Rivershed Society ➤ Water Matters ➤ Friends of Katzie Slough ➤ Sierra Club of BC ➤ CEED Centre Society ➤ Golden Ears Transition Initiative ➤ Comox Valley Council of Canadians

RECENT ACTIVITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Briefing Note
GAPS & NEEDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of strong public constituency • Lack of ongoing funding for local organizing groups • Future funding outlook for future provincial campaign and coordination is uncertain • Lack of coordinated strategic planning between leaders and funders
FUNDING NEEDS & OPPORTUNITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support provincial campaign & communications hub (post-Election Campaign) • Support local organizing efforts in 5-7 priority regions (For example, Tri-Cities, Cowichan, Fraser Valley) • Support peer learning and share lessons (e.g. One Cowichan, WaterWealth) • Strategic Collaboration & Funding Mechanisms (e.g. Roundtable, Working Group, Quick Response Fund)

DISCUSSION: KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Canadian Freshwater Alliance (CFA) has shifted from a capacity builder to more direct campaigns and a hub for provincial engagement. Constrained by the capacity at local level.
- There is a need to highlight (make visible) threats and problems and develop iconic stories:
 - Success of pricing and Nestle issues to galvanize communities around local control and pricing
 - Mussels threat has a high level of awareness and provides opportunities for engagement and dialogue around freshwater
- Pair problems with solutions and actions – not just threats
- Invest in media access including social media
- Develop community visioning sessions (eg. CWB and One Cowichan are working in parallel towards building vision and constituency)
- Align with major initiatives such as PSF’s 2017 UNINTERRUPTED, public art installation (June 28-Sept 24, 2017) For more information see: <https://www.psf.ca/what-we-do/bringing-uninterrupted-heart-vancouver>
- Identify who can create the compelling narrative. LUSH Cosmetics is a resource as they have significant marketing expertise and develop 5 international ethical campaigns each year.
- Need to proactively address the void left by Moore Fdn.

KEEPING WATER ON THE AGENDA: ACTIONS

1. JA & TM to convene a small group funder-leader discussion regarding strategy to keep water on the agenda. Participants to include: LUSH, REFBC, Tides Canada, Van Fdn, Glasswaters as well as CFA, OFC, WWS.

2. INDIGENOUS WATER LAWS, PLANNING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

OVERVIEW: A demonstrated appetite exists from water leaders and water funders to better understand how to further support the advancement of Indigenous co-governance of watersheds in BC. There is also recognition of the need of First Nations communities to have a clear understanding of their own watershed planning priorities, water values and laws, and watershed governance mechanisms before (or in parallel with) engaging in co-governance. Several First Nations communities are articulating their water laws, prompting an emerging discussion about how Indigenous water laws may ultimately inform the regulatory development of the *Water Sustainability Act*.

INDIGENOUS CAPACITY BUILDERS NETWORK	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ First Nations Fisheries Council➤ POLIS Water Sustainability Project➤ Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources➤ Environmental Law Centre at UVic➤ Indigenous Law Research Unit at UVic➤ Decolonizing Water Initiative (UBC)➤ West Coast Environmental Law➤ BC Freshwater Legacy Initiative➤ Sustainable Funding for Watershed Governance Initiative
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RECENT ACTIVITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Briefing Note for full list including updates on BC First Nations Capacity Builders Network, new CIER-POLIS Joint Hire (Natasha Overduin), First Nations Fisheries Council’s Water For Fish Program, and First Nations Watershed Governance Roundtable (June 2017). • FNFC Water For Fish Program has recently secured funding from the New Relationship Trust in the amount of \$39,000 to develop a 3-year strategic plan for FNFC’s Water for Fish Initiative. The strategic plan will be informed by FN communities through a series of four roundtables held over the summer.
GAPS & NEEDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CIER and FNFC’s Systematic Review (2016) confirmed significant institutional barriers and capacity gaps • Ongoing lack of recognition of First Nations Rights & Title in WSA • Strengthen collaborative relationships directly with First Nations communities.
FUNDING NEEDS & OPPORTUNITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support FNFC as central provincial network builder, resource hub & convener <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Opportunities for funder engagement in strategic planning ○ Fundraising for 3 year strategic plan begins Fall 2017. • Sponsor CIER & FNFC 1-day peer learning and catalyzing workshop (June) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$25K to be raised - Legacy Initiative seeking matching funders • Partner with high capacity First Nations and share learnings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Opportunity to partner with place-based watershed governance initiatives in collaboration with First Nations Communities. BC Freshwater Initiative has identified and is building relationships with several individual communities to assess their needs including: Cowichan Tribes, Nadleh Whu’ten, ONA, Ktunaxa, Carrier Sekani Tribal Council, Tla’amin, Tsilhqot’in, Treaty 8, Gitanyow ○ The BC Freshwater Legacy Initiative is funding initiatives with Cowichan Tribes, Kwikwetlem First Nation and Nahdleh Whut’en First Nation and opportunities exist for matching funding.

DISCUSSION: KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Identify what would help First Nations Tier 1 communities to communicate with each other between workshops (i.e. webinar, teleconference, face-to-face meetings)
- Proposal for FNFC to share strategic plan with Collaborative via webinar or workshop
- LUSH Cosmetics is able to fund specific First Nations to attend workshops
- Vancouver Foundation and ECCC interested in opportunities to support Indigenous Capacity Building
- PSF also expressed interest to see FNFC strategic plan in the Fall

INDIGENOUS CAPACITY BUILDING: ACTIONS

1. JA & TM to keep funders informed about opportunities to engage in FNFC strategic planning roundtables.
2. TM to follow up with interested funders regarding Peer Learning Workshop in June (Vancouver Foundation, ECCC and LUSH Cosmetics).
3. TM to follow up with interested funders regarding parallel and matching funding opportunities with BC Freshwater Legacy to support specific First Nations communities (ECCC and Vancouver Fdn)
4. JA to coordinate with FNFC to present on the FNFC Strategic Plan in the Fall via webinar or at the fall workshop. Funders interested in receiving the FNFC Strategy Proposal include Vancouver Foundation, LUSH Cosmetics, Pacific Salmon Foundation and Sitka Foundation.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL FLOWS

OVERVIEW

The *Water Sustainability Act (WSA)* provides an overall legal framework to significantly improve B.C.'s approach to environmental flows protections. The environmental flows provisions in the *WSA* are some of the most important aspects of the legislation. However, outstanding concerns persist, including a lack of clarity in how environmental flow needs are actually being considered in licensing decisions and what additional science knowledge will be needed for a precautionary and evidence-based regime. Advancing implementation of a robust environmental flows regime in B.C. (including development of an environmental flows regulation) remains a priority for the implementation of the *WSA*.

ENVIRONMENTAL FLOW NEEDS NETWORK

- POLIS Water Sustainability Project
- First Nations Fisheries Council
- EcoJustice
- Organizing for Change
- Watershed Watch Salmon Society
- World Wildlife Federation

Regulation versus Policy

REGULATION	POLICY
ENFORCEABLE LAWS	PROVIDES GUIDANCE
MORE PUBLIC INPUT	LESS TRANSPARENCY
LEGALLY BINDING	NOT LEGALLY BINDING



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 ... action of

Currently at issue is whether Province will develop e-flow requirements as regulations or as a policy.

Regulations are enforceable laws. They set out legally enforceable standards. Decision-makers are required to adhere to a regulation; if they do not, affected parties may be able to legally challenge their decisions as contravening regulation. The regulation development process generally includes some public input.

Policy on the other hand provides *guidelines* for government decision-making. Thresholds and standards set in a policy are not enforceable as they are not law.

RECENT ACTIVITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Briefing Note
GAPS & NEEDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of provincial support for an E-flows regulation as gov't plans for a policy • Require clear processes for community engagement in the setting of environmental flows thresholds and standards. • Province's failure to acknowledge First Nations rights in the consideration of environmental flows.
FUNDING NEEDS & OPPORTUNITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • POLIS WSP proposal to co-host 2nd E-flows forum after the election ideally with MOE. (Est. \$20-25K) • Targeted theme within other 3 areas of focus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Keeping E-flows on the Agenda ○ FNFC Technical Working Group on E-flows ○ Water Monitoring & Reporting – E-flows Thresholds

DISCUSSION: KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- OBWB & ONA currently have an E-flows Needs Assessment Pilot. Presentation of interim results expected in June 2018. Final results to be presented October 2018.
- Funders interested in this area include PSF, HCTF, REFBC (policy) and ECCC (policy)
- Bulkley Valley also has project around indicators
- Water Monitoring & Reporting Proposal will be posted in members only section of new Collaborative website.

ENVIRONMENTAL FLOWS UPDATE: ACTIONS

1. JA & TM to connect POLIS WSP and OBWB regarding their respective eflows initiatives and proposed workshops to ensure that they are aligned.

4. WATER MONITORING & REPORTING

OVERVIEW: A growing appetite exists for information regarding the opportunities and gaps related to water quality and water quantity measuring and reporting in British Columbia. Across sectors, there is recognition of the need to understand the state of BC’s water and watersheds to facilitate planning and effective decision-making. With the implementation of the BC Water Sustainability Act, there currently exists a window of opportunity to articulate a shared vision for effective water monitoring and reporting in BC and identify the challenges and opportunities that exist with regards to community-based monitoring, water monitoring technology and provincial guidelines regarding data availability and accessibility.

POOLING WATER KNOWLEDGE NETWORK

- Okanagan Basin Water Board
- Pacific Salmon Foundation
- Columbia Basin Trust
- Environment & Climate Change Canada
- Real Estate Foundation of BC
- First Nations Fisheries Council
- Living Lakes Canada Network
- BC Ministry of Environment
- POLIS Water Sustainability Project

RECENT ACTIVITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BC Water Funders Collaborative Working Group on Water Monitoring & Reporting - includes Okanagan Basin Water Board, Pacific Salmon Foundation, Columbia Basin Trust, Environment and Climate Change Canada and Real Estate Foundation of BC. • Working Group has developed a proposal for a provincial roundtable, webinar series and landscape inventory scan (Budget \$44,000). • MOE has confirmed that this initiative closely aligns with the Province’s objectives and has expressed interest in participating in the scan, webinar and roundtable. • Inventory Scan Steering Committee is being managed by OBWB and guided by a Steering Committee which also includes representatives from PSF, CBT, ECCC, Ministry of Environment, Living Lakes Canada, and First Nations Fisheries Council. • See Briefing Note for additional details.
GAPS & NEEDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of accurate picture of what information is currently available and where the gaps are in BC. • Lack of a collaborative provincial dialogue around shared vision

FUNDING NEEDS & OPPORTUNITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to integrate existing data and identify opportunities for strategic alignment. • Fall Roundtable to develop a shared vision around water monitoring and reporting and to identify opportunities for collaboration. • Provincial landscape scan - to help to identify gaps and opportunities, promote strategic collaboration and ensure data is informing decision-makers. Add'l funding and in-kind data are invited to broaden scope of research and/or analysis. • CBT & Living Lakes working on a proposal for a regional workshop in the Columbia Basin in November 2017 to develop a program framework for monitoring in the Basin, including a dialogue around data hubs.
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DISCUSSION: KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Water Monitoring provides an opportunity for public engagement and education.
- Consider terminology – the phrase “citizen science” can feel exclusive to some members of the community
- REFBC is developing an initiative to track the state of freshwater health in BC with approximately 5 “indicators” that could be monitored on an bi-annual basis. It may be relevant to identify a shared measurements framework for BC and to consider how funders might be able to utilize an indicators approach to evaluate their own impact or their grantees’ impact. CFA is taking the lead in adapting the Our Living Waters framework to a provincial level. FLNRO is also developing an indicators approach.
- Opportunity to explore new tools and digital technology.
- Need to develop standards for monitoring to ensure that they can be useful to decision-makers.
- New Collaborative member, Gordon Foundation, has recently launched the Mackenzie Datastream in BC and is working with FN communities and community-based monitoring initiatives.
- HCTF recently received a grant for \$400,000 from MOE for mussels monitoring. While scope of work and location has yet to be developed, may provide for an opportunity to align with other monitoring efforts.

POOLING WATER KNOWLEDGE: ACTIONS

1. JA to include LUSH Cosmetics on Water Monitoring Working Group communications
2. DH, REFBC, to report back to Collaborative in Fall regarding its indicators initiative.

PART C: COLLABORATIVE UPDATES

NEW Website

The BC Water Funders Collaborative is about to launch its new website (www.bcwaterfunders.org). The website will include a public-facing page as well as a members-only password-protected portion which will contain updates, reports and resources for our membership. A list of the Collaborative's members will be included on the public-facing page and will include those members who have pre-approved the use of their organization's name and logo. If you wish to add or remove your organization's name and logo from the website, or have any suggestions to improve the website, please contact jennifer@bcwaterfunders.org.

DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS

- Consider limiting email address on website to info@bcwaterfunders.org
- Agreement to include additional information regarding Collaborative's Background & Goals on public facing portion of website.

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

The 2016 Annual Report will be available for download on our new website. It is divided into two parts: (1) Final Report Narrative which includes the background of the Collaborative and stories of the Collaborative's impact; and (2) Appendices which include the methodology and metrics of our evaluation and feedback from the funders through our annual member survey.

REPORT CONCLUSIONS

1. The Collaborative has been successful in meeting its stated goals.
2. The Collaborative is well-positioned in 2017 to:
 - Play a catalytic role in supporting BC's freshwater community to convene and collaborate
 - Act as a resource and moderator for ongoing knowledge-building and information sharing within the freshwater community; and
 - Assist funders to help strategically align priorities and inform individual and collective funding decisions.
3. Collaborative has evolved to become a member of the freshwater community in its own right and is now able to develop partnerships and exert influence.

KEY METRICS FROM EVALUATION

- 73% respondents stated goals achieved and/or exceeded
- 100% stated that they would recommend the Collaborative to other funders
- 81% stated relationships with water leaders were strengthened
- access to water leaders "definitely" (36%) or "somewhat" (45%) influenced funding decisions

COLLABORATIVE KEY AREAS OF INTEREST

We asked respondents to rank 10 thematic areas from 1-5 to indicate funders’ areas of interest. Given that the WSA came into force earlier this year, it was notable that implementation of the Act and regulations remains a key priority for the Collaborative and interest in this area has actually increased from 64% last year.

1. WSA Implementation (91%)
2. Watershed Governance Pilots (82%)
3. Co-governance with FN (82%)
4. Indigenous Laws, Planning & Capacity (82%)
5. Water Monitoring & Reporting (64%)

WHAT FUNDERS ARE SAYING

[Excerpt only: See 2016 Final Report for additional comments]

It is a great opportunity and time saver to get so many people together with shared values regarding water. The Collaborative helps familiarize funders with underlying issues and funding gaps so they can be more strategic with their giving.

Deena Guffei, LUSH Cosmetics

Often, there are similar projects or concepts being funded by multiple groups and it can often be the funders that highlight to the grantees where there are opportunities for harmonizing approaches and working collaboratively.

Katrina Connors, Pacific Salmon Foundation

What was most valuable to me was to see the effective focus and engagement with BC government staff on some specific matters under the new WSA.

Brian Springinotic, Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation

2017 ANNUAL PLAN

The recommendations and reflections gathered in the 2016 Final Report informed our 5 key priorities for 2017 (see image). A full description of our activities for 2017 is available in the Revised 2017 Annual Plan which will be available through the Members Only section of our website or can be requested by contacting jennifer@bcwaterfunders.org

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
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

Workshop participants confirmed interest in hosting a second leaders-funders workshop in the Fall.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

As of May 30, 2017, there remains \$10,000 to be confirmed for the 2017 Annual Plan. **Members are encouraged to contribute to the Collaborative through the new optional Membership Fees program (\$2500 or \$5000 suggested).** Given that the Annual Plan ends on December 31st, it would be ideal to have some carry-over as new grants are typically not made until the spring and there is currently substantial uncertainty around funding in the first few months of the year.

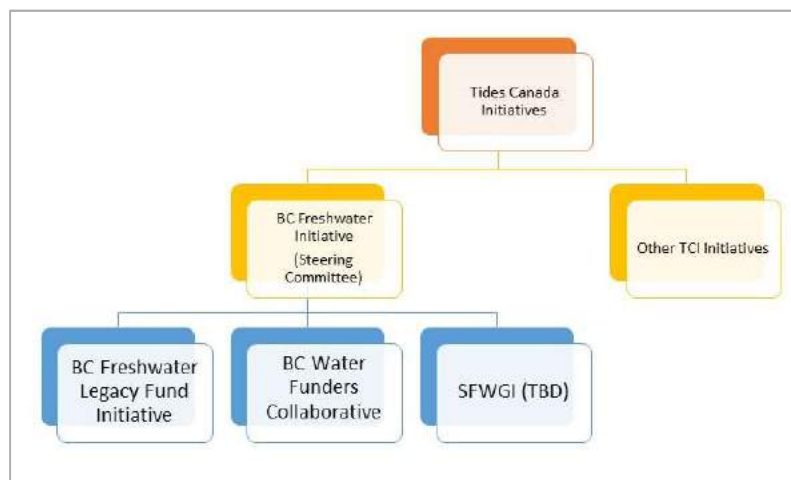
Core Funding for 2017 Annual Plan

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	
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	TO BE RAISED	\$5000	
Total Annual Budget		\$70,589	Total Revenue	\$71,298	\$61,298

GOVERNANCE UPDATE

In January 2017, the BC Water Funders Collaborative became a project on Tides Canada Initiative’s shared platform, which supports on-the-ground efforts to create uncommon solutions for the common good. Tides Canada’s shared platform provides governance, human resources, financial, and grant support.

Both the BC Water Funders Collaborative and the BC Freshwater Legacy Initiative are now programs under the BC Freshwater Initiative. Additional projects may be added in the future such as the Sustainable Funding for Watershed Governance Initiative. Each of these projects will continue to have independent reporting and budgets but will be governed by a common BC Freshwater Initiative Steering Committee which currently includes representatives from Real Estate Foundation of BC, Tides Canada Foundation and Sitka Foundation.



Current members of the Steering Committee are:

- David Hendrickson, REFBC, (Co-Chair)
- Ivan Thompson, Tides Canada (Co-Chair)
- Lauren Storer, Sitka Foundation
- Jack Wong, REFBC

Acknowledgement was given to Leanne Sexsmith, REFBC who served as Co-Chair for the BC Water Funders Collaborative for the last three years and recently stepped down from the Steering Committee.

APPENDIX 1: SUMMARY OF GROUP STICKY EXERCISE

Exercise: Workshop participants were shown a visual intended to capture several of the water leaders currently working within the Collaborative’s key areas of focus. The organizations identified in the inner ring represent groups working at the provincial level while the groups in the outer ring represent groups working at the local level. This visual is not comprehensive and arguably some organizations could have been included in more than one strategic area.

Funders were asked what other organizations should be included in this visual. Funders were then asked to place stickies to identify:

1. Which groups are funders currently funding?
 - Water Monitoring – ECCC and Gordon Foundation should also be included.
 - Other organizations to include: Skeena Watershed Coalition, Wilderness Committee, Evergreen (Local Policy & Water Monitoring), Peace River Regional District, Wildsight, Municipal Assets Initiative (3 BC pilots including Gibsons), Smart Prosperity, ESF, SFU ACT (policy and water monitoring), Pacific Water Research Centre,
2. Are there any strategic areas that you are not currently funding that you are interested in supporting in the future (place outside circle)?

*Moore Foundation has been highlighted in the table below to reflect that it has recently shifted its program goals and will no longer be funding freshwater protection in BC. See Evolving Funding Landscape.

Water Leader Organization	Funders
INDIGENOUS CAPACITY BUILDING	*Funders interested to become more engaged in this area: ECCC, Vancouver Fdn, Tides Canada
First Nations Fisheries Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moore Fdn, Vancouver Fdn, REFBC
Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REFBC, Sitka, Vancouver Fdn
UBC – Decolonizing Water Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [SSHRC Grant] and partnership with Gordon Fdn’s Mackenzie Datastream
West Coast Environmental Law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moore Fdn, REFBC
UVIC- Indigenous Law Research Unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moore Fdn, REFBC
Carrier Sekani Tribal Council	
Ktunaxa	
Okanagan Nation Alliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OBWB, PSF, REFBC, ECCC

Cowichan Tribes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● REFBC
Tsilhqot'in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● LUSH Cosmetics,
Treaty 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● REFBC, LUSH Cosmetics
PUBLIC POLICY LEADERSHIP	*Funders interested to become more engaged in this area: ECCC, Vancouver Fdn, OBWB
POLIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Moore Fdn, Vancouver Fdn, REFBC, Sitka, ECCC
WWF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Moore Fdn
WCEL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Moore Fdn, Vancouver Fdn, Glasswaters
Organizing for Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● LUSH Cosmetics
EcoJustice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Vancouver Fdn, Glasswaters, Sitka
Partnership on Water Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● MCSCD
Evergreen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● REFBC
Municipal National Assets Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sitka Fdn, REFBC, and MCSCD
KEEPING WATER ON THE AGENDA	*Funders interested to become more engaged in this area: ECCC
Freshwater Alliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Moore Fdn, Sitka Fdn, LUSH Cosmetics, Vancouver Fdn
Organizing for Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● LUSH Cosmetics, Vancouver Fdn
Watershed Watch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Moore Fdn, Vancouver Fdn, REFBC
BC Wildlife Federation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Moore Fdn, OBWB, REFBC
Working Group on Indigenous Food Sovereignty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● LUSH Cosmetics, Vancouver Fdn
Skeena Wild	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Moore Fdn, LUSH Cosmetics
One Cowichan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Moore Fdn, LUSH Cosmetics
WaterWealth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● LUSH Cosmetics
Fraser Riverkeeper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● LUSH Cosmetics, Sitka Fdn
Save Fish Lake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Moore Fdn, LUSH Cosmetics
Rivershed Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Moore Fdn, Sitka Fdn, REFBC
PVEA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●

Pull Together	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Moore Fdn, LUSH Cosmetics
SWCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● LUSH Cosmetics, REFBC
Wilderness Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Glasswaters Fdn.
DATA & MONITORING	*Funders interested to become more engaged in this area:
Collaborative Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● OBWB, CBT, REFBC, PSF
Columbia Basin Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sitka
Pacific Salmon Fdn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Moore Fdn, Sitka
OBWB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ECCC, MCSCD
Living Lakes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Vancouver Foundation, LUSH Cosmetics, Sitka Fdn, REFBC
SFU Pacific Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●
Gordon Fdn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●
Columbia Basin Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● LUSH
Lake Windermere Ambassadors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● REFBC
Fraser Valley Coalition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PSF, Vancouver Fdn., REFBC
Mid-Van Island Habitat Enhancement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● REFBC, HCTF
UNBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● REFBC
Treaty 8/PRRD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● REFBC
WATERSHED GOVERNANCE & LEADERSHIP	*Funders interested to become more engaged in this area: ECCC
BC Freshwater Legacy Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Moore Fdn, REFBC, Sitka
POLIS Water Sustainability Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Moore Fdn, ECCC, Sitka
Fraser Basin Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ECCC, Sitka, REFBC
Cowichan Watershed Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ECCC, REFBC
Coquitlam Roundtable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● REFBC
Okanagan Basin Water Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PSF, ECCC
Nechako Watershed Roundtable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● REFBC

APPENDIX 2: PARTICIPANTS LIST

Water Funders

- o Brian Bedford, Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development
- o David Hendrickson, Real Estate Foundation of BC
- o Terra Kaethler, Vancouver Foundation
- o James Littlely, Okanagan Basin Water Board
- o Ian Rogalski, Environment & Climate Change Canada
- o Leanne Sexsmith, Real Estate Foundation of BC
- o Kathy Smail, Glasswaters Foundation
- o Brian Springinotic, Habitat Conservation Trust Fund
- o Tricia Stevens, LUSH Cosmetics
- o Lauren Storer, Sitka Foundation
- o Tim Sucic, Pacific Salmon Foundation
- o Ivan Thompson, Tides Canada Foundation

Support

- o Jennifer Archer, Program Manager, BC Water Funders Collaborative
- o Tim Morris, Project Director, BC Freshwater Legacy Fund Initiative