

Fraser Salmon & Watersheds Program



2011/12 FINAL REPORT

FSWP File Number* FSWP 11 12 XX PG

* Please use the FSWP File Number provided in previous FSWP project correspondence.

1. Project Information

1.1. Project Title

Guidance and Capacity-Building for Water and Watershed Planning

1.2. Proponent's Legal Name

Fraser Basin Council

1.3. Project Location

Basin-wide

1.4. Contact for this report

Name: Steve Litke

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1.5 Funding Amount

Original Approved Grant Amount:	Total FSWP Expenditures:	Final Invoice Amount:	Final Non-FSWP leveraging, including cash and in-kind:
\$50,062	\$50,062	\$15,062	\$59,915

2. Project Summary

Please provide a single paragraph describing your project, its objectives, and the results. As this summary may be used in program communications, clearly state the issue(s) that were addressed and avoid overly technical descriptions. Maximum 300 words.

This project delivered a completed water and watershed planning guide – Rethinking our Water Ways – to BC communities, through 5 regional workshops throughout the Fraser Basin. The workshop objectives were to:

- Discuss key water and watershed issues
- Raise awareness and capacity for water planning
- Raise awareness and understanding of climate impacts on water and how to adapt through planning
- Learn about local and regional perspectives, initiatives and success stories

The five workshops were held in diverse regions of the Fraser Basin including the Upper Fraser (Prince George), Cariboo-Chilcotin (100 Mile House), Thompson (Salmon Arm), Fraser Valley (Chilliwack) and Greater Vancouver-Sea to Sky (New Westminster) regions. These took place from September 2011 to January 2012.

The workshops were attended by 178 participants from local governments, community stewardship organizations and other nongovernmental organizations, interested citizens, academic institutions, provincial and federal agencies, and First Nations. In addition to the keynote presentation on the Fraser Basin Council's watershed planning guide, participants learned from a variety of speakers about local and regional perspectives, issues and initiatives related to water and watershed planning. Of similar importance was the opportunity for all participants to learn from one another during facilitated small group and plenary dialogue sessions. A workshop report was prepared to summarize the key findings from the workshop dialogue sessions.

OPTIONAL: Please give a short statement (up to 100 words) of the most compelling activity or outcome from your project.

It was very rewarding to facilitate dialogue about water and watershed health with diverse audiences in different regions of the Fraser Basin. The workshop participants were very passionate and knowledgeable about water and watershed issues. They expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to learn, exchange information, and network with one another. They demonstrated their interest and dedication in continuing to be stewards of water and watersheds in their communities and regions.

3. Final Project Results and Effectiveness

3.1 Please copy THE EXPECTED DELIVERABLES from your detailed proposal and insert into this table. Add additional rows as needed. Then describe the FINAL DELIVERABLES (the tangible end products resulting from this work) associated with each expected Deliverable.

If FINAL DELIVERABLES differ from the original EXPECTED DELIVERABLES, please describe why, and the implications for the project.

EXPECTED DELIVERABLES	FINAL DELIVERABLES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production and distribution of print version of Water and Watershed Planning Guide • Creation of interactive online version of the Guide • Delivery of regional workshops • Promotion of the Guide and lessons learned at other relevant events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production and distribution of print version of Water and Watershed Planning Guide • Creation of interactive online version of the Guide (www.rethinkingwater.ca) • 5 regional workshops were delivered, in Prince George, 100 Mile House, Salmon Arm, Chilliwack and New Westminster, taking place from September 2011 to January 2012. • Promotion of the Guide and lessons learned at other relevant events <p>For details and quantitative measures of success, see the following section.</p>

3.2 Please evaluate the EFFECTIVENESS of your project in achieving Project Objectives, using the specific measures of success identified in your proposal. Please include any notable successes or challenges.

Measures of Success

Print Version of Guide

- About 200 copies of the print version of the Guide were distributed at the watershed planning workshops
- About an additional 160 copies of the print version of the Guide were distributed at other relevant events and upon request.

PDF and Online Version of Guide

- There have been 332 downloads of the PDF version of the Guide from the FBC web site www.fraserbasin.bc.ca.
- As of March 13, Google analytics indicated there were 674 visits, 492 unique visitors and 191 return visits to the web version of the Guide: www.rethinkingwater.ca. Based on these and other web analytics, it is estimated that there have been about 3500 views and/or downloads of the PDF version of the guide from this site.
- Although it was originally envisioned that the project would include online interactive dialogue, this aspect of the project was not advanced in the 2011/12 year. This has been identified as a potential next step.

Regional Workshops

- 5 regional workshops were delivered, in Prince George, 100 Mile House, Salmon Arm, Chilliwack and New Westminister, taking place from September 2011 to January 2012.
- 178 participants attended the workshops
- A presentation of the Guide was made at each workshop, followed by in-depth discussions of regional water and watershed issues.
- Positive and constructive feedback was presented at each of the workshops.

Other Related Events

- Watershed planning and lessons learned content was also presented at other relevant events including: Columbia Basin Watersheds Network workshop, BCWWA annual conference, Building Sustainable Communities conference, UNBC Knowledge to Action conference, and a national webinar on climate adaptation. These events reached approximately an additional 250 individuals from diverse organizations.

The five regional workshops had good attendance, especially so in 100 Mile House and Salmon Arm. Feedback received at all of the workshops was positive, and constructive. The total number of participants that attended the workshops this fiscal year was 178, all of who were provided with the Water and Watershed Planning Guide. Presentations were made specific to each region regarding local water related issues, such as groundwater source protection, water quantity issues, and agricultural water demand, among others. At each workshop, participants discussed local watershed issues, challenges and opportunities, followed by a discussion of next steps in the region, and how to collaborate moving forward.

The Guide and the workshops have contributed to building community capacity through outlining the intent and purpose of various planning processes and helping communities to identify which process(es) may be best suited to meet their needs, priorities and circumstances. Key issues and themes that have emerged from literature, from advisors, from interviews with communities and from the case studies were shared as lessons learned, enabling communities to build a broader understanding about the dynamics of watershed planning. Other relevant guides, toolkits, handbooks and web-based tools are also included in the Guide and were shared at the workshops to strengthen the capacity-building benefits of the project.

A final workshop report has been produced documenting the workshops, with analysis of what was heard; it will be circulated to the participants of all five of the workshops as well as others that may be interested. The report describes the key water and watershed issues that were identified at each workshop, some challenges associated with addressing those issues, and what opportunities exist among participants on how to move forward.

As a further illustration of the effectiveness of the project, the following are excerpts of qualitative comments from the feedback forms received from workshop participants.

“On behalf of GLARA (Green Lake Area Residents Association), I wish to thank you & your colleagues for a most enlightening & powerful workshop held in 100 Mile House October 24th. I walked away from the session with a renewed sense that our waterways are flowing down the "right path"! From GLARA's perspective, the seminar points to the demand for greater control & groundwork in relation to water management on all levels of government. This starts right here with all of us in all sectors of society.”

“Great job! Thank you.”

“Thank you for making our most precious resource the star of the session”

“I was really pleased with the diversity of people that attended.”

“I enjoyed the whole day.”

“Great speakers, diverse topics.”

“Great model (tool) and information and discussion.”

“Presentations were informative, group discussion was inspiring.”

“Very informative, pertinent, encompassing.”

“Group sessions - some great ideas formed from talking to each other.”

“Chance to hear diverse perspectives, and what real-world problems people are encountering.”

“Good information and opportunity to connect.”

“Great discussion and networking.”

“The presentations and table discussions - good balance.”

3.4 If applicable, please describe project outcomes that relate to one or more of the following strategic approaches (Section 2.1 of RFP; section 8 of detailed proposal template), and include specific examples.

<p>Engagement of First Nations. Please specify who, and in what capacity.</p>	<p>Most of the workshops involved some First Nation participants. To strengthen engagement with First Nations, a field tour version of the workshop was jointly organized with Cowichan Tribes. An educational field tour of the Cowichan watershed is being co-hosted by the Fraser Basin Council, Cowichan Tribes and the Cowichan Watershed Board as part of the conference for Aboriginal youth – Gathering Our Voices – in Nanaimo on March 20-23. It is anticipated that about 50 aboriginal youth will attend. First Nations engagement and collaboration has been identified as a priority for future work of this nature.</p>
<p>Active partnerships with one or more organizations.</p>	<p>The Fraser Basin Council partnered with local groups where possible in hosting the regional workshops. For example, the Fraser Valley Regional District offered their Boardroom as the venue for the Chilliwack workshop. The diverse speakers that presented exemplify other collaborations. For a complete list of speakers, see the workshop agendas appended to the workshop report. See also “champions and initiatives” below in this table.</p>

Engagement and participation of diverse and under-represented groups.	Local government staff and elected officials were invited to the workshops, as well as local First Nations, and stewardship groups from communities throughout the Fraser Basin and BC. There were some youth participants at some of the workshops.
Relationship building, as a foundation for sustainable, enduring activities.	The workshops brought diverse individuals and organizations together to discuss regionally specific issues and initiatives and also to learn more about the resources provided in the Guide, which will help to strengthen community and regional relations. The workshops may have helped in identifying new partnerships and opportunities. Several participants expressed appreciation for the opportunity to network, strengthen relations, and share information at a regional scale.
Capacity building, including mentorship models, leadership training and skills development.	The purpose of the Guide and the workshops is to build regional capacity to address water and watershed planning issues. It profiles several successful models/case studies for building local and regional collaboration, watershed planning and “water centric thinking”, which was discussed at the regional workshops. The 5 workshops helped to build understanding of these issues, and identify ways to work collaboratively, and build on the skills in each region. The watershed tour for Aboriginal youth also offers a significant opportunity for capacity building and mentorship.
Recognition and support of champions and their initiatives.	Each workshop included several presentations on local initiatives, champions, or issues to inform the group on ways forward, or build further discussion. Some examples of champions and initiatives who were profiled through speaker presentations include: Georgia Strait Alliance, Fraser Valley Watersheds Coalition, University of British Columbia, Metro Vancouver, City of Prince George, BC Ministry of Agriculture, North Okanagan Regional District, and Fraser Health Authority. See also the workshop agendas appended to the workshop report
Opportunities to influence policy and decision making,	The workshops provided a two-way exchange of information: participants learned how to use the Guide, and about various ways of addressing issues such as climate change through watershed planning; the project team learned about regionally specific issues that will be communicated back to the provincial government staff that are responsible for water-related decision making in BC. Two specific opportunities to influence policy and decision-making will immediately follow the completion of the project. The workshop report will be submitted to the provincial government’s process to modernize the Water Act. In addition, the Real Estate Foundation of BC has invited FBC to speak to its Board about key water and watershed sustainability issues in British Columbia on March 29, 2012.

3.5 Please describe how the benefits of this project will be sustained and/or be built upon into the future. What are the planned next steps, or recommendations for further work, if applicable?

The Fraser Basin Council plans to continue hosting workshops in other regions of the province, including the Skeena, Kootenay, Okanagan, and Vancouver Island regions, to continue to distribute the Water and Watershed Planning Guide, to explore regional water and watershed issues, challenges and opportunities, and to collaborate on ways to address those identified issues. In addition, funding has been secured, and proposals have been submitted and approved to share similar information and lessons learned at the following conferences over the next six months:

- BC Water and Waste Association in Penticton (April, 2012)
- Planning Institute of BC in Harrison (May, 2012)
- Canadian Water Resources Association in Banff (June, 2012)
- Integrating Water Innovation Forum in Camrose, (August, 2012)

The Council also hopes to provide some targeted assistance to groups pursuing or actively involved in a water or watershed planning process, where there is an identified need for Council assistance.

3.6. What are the top three lessons learned from this project that could be useful to communicate to others doing similar work in the Basin?

1. There is considerable value in regional, face-to-face gatherings on water and watersheds, to share information, to foster and strengthen relationships among individuals and organizations, to maintain momentum and to galvanize support for initiatives such as watershed planning and stewardship.
2. There is much interest and there are many opportunities for facilitating and enhancing collaborative approaches to watershed management, planning and governance throughout the Fraser Basin and beyond.
3. The workshop agenda that was designed and delivered proved to be an effective model. This included a keynote presentation to provide an overview of the guide (including an introduction to watersheds, planning, and climate adaptation), one or more speakers to profile specific initiatives and perspectives of local and/or regional significance, and facilitation of dialogue among all workshop participants to provide them with an opportunity to learn from one another.

3.7 REQUIRED: Attach all DOCUMENTATION of Final Deliverables, and LIST attachments in Section 8. These may include technical reports, maps, photos, evidence of communications, lists of meeting participants, etc.

4. Outreach and Communications

Please describe how you have communicated project activities and results within local and basin-wide communities, across organizations and/or to decision makers.

Please list and attach copies of (or links to) any communications materials from these efforts that you have not previously submitted.

The Fraser Basin Council has promoted the workshops broadly through regional networks, list-serves, and email lists. In addition, the Council has widely distributed the Guide at each of the 5 regional workshops to all participants, and has made the Guide available online at www.Rethinkingwater.ca. The guide and notices of upcoming workshops were also profiled and disseminated at other relevant events, conferences, workshops, etc.

We have also promoted the workshops and Guide on the Fraser Basin Council's main website, www.fraserbasin.bc.ca. Lastly, the Guide was promoted through the e-news distribution of the Partnership for Water Sustainability BC (see attachment).

6. Additional Comments

OPTIONAL: Provide any additional comments or recommendations for future efforts and suggestions for helping partners to meet the goals of the Fraser Salmon and Watersheds Program.

As noted in section 5.1 of this report, some of the workshops proposed for outside of the Fraser Basin (funded by the Real Estate Foundation of BC) have been deferred to the next fiscal year (2012/13).

Exploratory discussions have proceeded regarding FBC-led workshops in collaboration with regional partners including World Wildlife Fund – Canada (Skeena Region); Comox Valley Regional District (Vancouver Island region); Elk River Alliance, City of Revelstoke and Columbia Basin Watersheds Network (Columbia-Kootenay Region); and Okanagan Basin Water Board, Okanagan Nation Alliance and Similkameen Valley Planning Society (Okanagan region). These exploratory discussions will continue to firm up plans to collaboratively deliver additional watershed planning guidance and capacity-building workshops through the FBC Healthy Watersheds and Water Resources Program.

In some cases additional conference and/or workshop presentations have been confirmed including: BCWWA annual conference in Penticton in April, Planning Institute of BC annual conference in Harrison in June, Canadian Water Resources Association conference in Banff in June, and Integrating Water Innovation Forum in Camrose in August. Each of these will share and advance knowledge and capacity-building in ways that are similar to this phase of the project, which was completed in 2011/12.