

Columbia Basin Watershed Network



Strategic Framework & Priorities

January 15, 2009

Developed by the Columbia Basin Watershed Network Steering Committee

Columbia Basin Watershed Network Vision

We are residents in the Canadian Columbia Basin who are committed to conserving and managing watersheds in a collaborative way with sustainable outcomes to ensure watersheds function as healthy ecosystems that support communities.

Columbia Basin Watershed Mission

The Columbia Basin Watershed Network will coordinate and facilitate networking, capacity building and information sharing to ensure healthy functioning ecosystems and communities in the Canadian Columbia River Basin.

Columbia Basin Watershed Network Statement of Values

Accountability

Ensure accountability and transparency in the achievement of the Network's goals.

Collaboration

Work with members, funders, external advisors, and others key to the Network's success, in a respectful manner that will build long-term support for the Network.

Communications

Network members, the coordinator, and the steering committee will share information that is integral to achieving the Network's vision and mission.

Coordination

Coordinate activities among individual groups in order to strengthen results and positive outcomes.

Advocacy

The Network is not an advocate for watershed management issues. The Network is an advocate for ensuring that local groups have the resources and knowledge to address their watershed priorities and concerns.

Diversity

The Network will work to ensure a diverse range of perspectives are represented in its membership and on its steering committee.

Relevance

The Network will pursue activities that support its vision and mission, and are relevant to member groups.

Columbia Basin Watershed Network Goals

The Steering Committee has established goals in support of the Network's vision and mission as well as organizational goals that support the development of the Network.

Watershed Network Goals

Communications Goal

Develop and implement communications plans that reflect the priorities of the Network and individual members' needs.

- Share strategic planning documents from Oct. 30 2008, Kimberley discussion with potential members via email and post on-line
- Formalize membership with groups that attended May 2008 symposium
- Identify information / education needs and communications preferences of community groups
- Develop and distribute network newsletter
- Develop a watershed network web pages

Stewardship Goal

Promote a stewardship ethic towards watershed management in our communities.

- Inventory existing watershed stewardship resources and share them with members (i.e. tell them what is available)
- Work with network groups to participate in water "celebration" days
- Highlight and report on stewardship success stories of members

Education Goal

Work with members to build capacity through outreach and information sharing.

- Help local groups to identify their organizational needs and priorities so they can function more effectively and then support those groups to fulfill their needs through capacity building activities
- Build an on-line / web-based library of watershed management resources and links
- Identify other communities / watershed groups with experience and knowledge regarding Independent Power Producers (IPPs) and share that information with watershed groups in the Columbia Basin
- Prepare a citizen's guide on IPPs

Watershed Planning Goal**Establish guidelines for watershed planning.**

- Establish a sub-committee to coordinate the development of watershed planning guidelines
- Collect and share successful local watershed planning experiences and initiatives.
- Share the experiences (see above) through a watershed planning information session for network members and others
- Post success stories online
- Feature success stories in the newsletter
- Develop a best practices guide that identifies unique conditions and factors (i.e., snow load) that should be considered by developers working in Columbia Basin watersheds
- Note - The first step in the development of a best practices guide (see above) is to scope and define the work more precisely. This will include reviewing existing manuals used on the coast that could be adapted for the Columbia Basin

Monitoring & Research Goal**Provide information and support to watershed network members doing monitoring and research.**

- Sustain and expand community-based water quality monitoring program by adding six new watersheds by 2010 (two new watersheds in each year starting in 2008)
- Identify the watershed monitoring and research needs of individual watershed groups and support groups by providing access to training and resources

Organizational Goals**Coordinator Goal****Hire a coordinator**

- Identify the skills necessary for success and recruit a coordinator with the necessary skills
- Identify and recruit an interim coordinator to fulfill the coordinator function until a new coordinator is hired

Membership Goal**Expand membership in the network and on the steering committee**

- Recruit new members to the steering committee while ensuring a diversity of perspectives and place are represented at the steering committee
- Develop a Terms of Reference to guide the steering committee
- Recruit new members to the network:
 - Formalize memberships with groups that attended the symposium and others
 - Potential new network members could include:
 - Government – fed/ provincial/ municipal / regional
 - Rod & Gun club / conservationists / naturalists
 - Agriculture NGOs
 - First Nations
 - Develop digital, print and web-based materials necessary to recruit new members.

Funding Goal**Diversify and expand funding partners.**

- Identify potential funding partners and pursue funding opportunities that will support the Network's strategic priorities