Steering Committee
First Meeting - October 20, 2022 - Meeting Notes

Attendance

1. Bill Arling, *North Coal*
2. Kat Hartwig, Executive Director, *LLC*
3. Chad Hughes, Executive Director, *Elk River Alliance*
4. Jesse Huisman, Director of Engineering and Public Works, *District of Elkford*
5. Chris Hust, Engineering Technologist, *City of Fernie*
6. Andres Gonzalez, Owner, *Andres Fly Fishing*
7. George Greene, Chair, *Elk River Alliance*
8. Jason Gravelle, Director of Lands and Resources, *Yaqit ʔa·knuqłi'it First Nation*
9. Anne-Caroline Kroeger, Program Manager, *Elk River Alliance*
10. Nick Lapointe, Senior Conservation Biologist in Freshwater Ecology, *Canadian Wildlife Federation*
11. Stella Swanson, Director, *Elk River Alliance*
12. Ian Sharpe, Trustee, *Morice Watershed Monitoring Trust*
13. Rory O'Connor, Social Responsibility Manager, *Teck*
14. Patrick Williston, Senior Environmental Impact Biologist, *ENV*

Meeting objectives:

- Nine Partner organisations and one observer organisation attended the first meeting.
- The Steering Committee endorsed the Program Charter as amended and approved the Steering Committee Terms of Reference as amended.
- The Steering Committee endorsed the Adaptive Monitoring Framework as a living document.
- The Steering Committee approved the three priority themes, recommended by the Monitoring Working Group with the second theme's title changed to "Fish habitat". The specific language characterising each of the three themes and its proposed indicators are to be developed further by the Monitoring Working Group, and specifically with

Outfitters, and Yaqït ʔa·knuqłiʾit to develop specific language for Theme 3. The Steering Committee also noted the set of eight monitoring themes that resulted from analysis of community and expert inputs.

- The Steering Committee provided advice on the draft fundraising plan elements with some Partners proposing to work on joint fundraising with the Program Coordinator.

Action items

- The Monitoring Working Group will revise the language characterising the three approved priority themes and indicators involving Outfitters for Themes 1 and 2, and to be led by Yaqït ʔa·knuqłiʾit for Theme 3
- The Program Coordinator will submit this revised language characterising the three approved priority themes to the Steering Committee for final approval
- The Program Coordinator will propose a schedule for the next (2) Steering Committee meetings
- The Program Coordinator will ask the Partners for permission to use logos in the revised Charter (one-on-one outreach to Partners)
- The Program Coordinator will reach out to Living Lakes, North Coal and other partners to advance the Monitoring Collaborative fundraising plan
- The Program Coordinator will coordinate with ENV and LLC on engaging the Ministry of Lands, Water and Resource Stewardship

Meeting minutes

George Greene	Program Charter was endorsed, as amended.
Ian Sharpe Kat Hartwig	Proposed amendment of the draft Program Charter, on page 3, to mention data standards will be put in place. Data on the Water Hub already has data standards in place. Need to explicitly state that the portals will work to meet shared common data standards.
Bill Arling Ian Sharpe	Proposed amendment of draft Program Charter to identify under Objective 2d who the Decision Making Bodies are that will use our data. Commented that data standards differ for regulatory government agencies so that is why we need to explicitly plan who data end users will be: who the targeted decision makers will be? Examples: First Nations, policy makers, regulatory agencies, municipalities, infrastructure designers, anglers & outfitters, industry.
SC members	A number of SC members agreed to have their name and logos in the Charter, and others agreed to take the request back to their organisation for approval.

SC Members	The Steering Committee members approved by consensus the Terms of Reference, as [amended](#).
SC Members	The Steering Committee members selected George Greene, ERA representative to serve as the SC Chair for the 1st two year term, to aid continuity with the initial work done on governance. Plans will be made to prepare another SC member to serve as the Chair for the following two year period.
Bill Arling Nick Lapointe George Greene	One amendment on decision-making: where consensus cannot be reached, a vote could be made, recognizing that some organisations could not vote on some matters. Another other view was that a vote at the Steering Committee is unnecessary given that it does not have fiduciary responsibility (ERA as program coordinator, or Partner implementing organisations carry fiduciary responsibility). However, the SC guides decisions. Need to provide for no consensus which allows for majority and differing views
Bill Arling Anne Caroline Kroeger	Amendment re composition of the Steering Committee to add/engage the Ministry LWRS (Ministry of Land, Water, Resource Stewardship) as a Partner as they are leading CEMF. This would be the ideal outcome. **Re**: Patrick Williston offered to help with that outreach to BC LWRS. **Re:** [Kat Hartwig](#) said that LLC is also in discussion with LWRS.
Bill Arling	Another amendment to composition of the Steering Committee to add other industry sectors e.g. forestry, energy, land developers.
George Greene	Asks for support of the Adaptive Monitoring Framework put forward by the Monitoring Working Group; the Steering Committee endorsed this framework, recognizing that it is a living document.
Bill Arling Stella Swanson	Discussion of what the geographic scope is for the Collaborative Monitoring Program: does it include Lake Koocanusa? Stella Swanson agreed to take this to the Monitoring Working Group. George Greene proposed this be added t the the agenda of the next Steering Committee meeting.
Nick Lapointe Stella Swanson	Proposal to change name of Theme 2 to Fish habitat instead of Fish Populations as the proposed indicators are fish habitat ones; could add fish population if explicitly plan to report on fish population monitoring such as that by the Ministry of Forestry.
Nick Lapointe	Comfortable with CABIN and water temperature indicators of fish habitat. However, water temperature belongs in both Theme 1 and Theme 2. Water temperature is particularly important to outfitters

	looking at real-time data.
Nick Lapointe Stella Swanson	Question raised whether CABIN will be used as an indicator of water quality or whether we also plan to measure water quality as such. Stella Swanson answered that CABIN is an indicator of fish food source. CABIN measures *effect* (response indicator) while water quality, temperature, and flow are stress indicators. In that sense, CABIN can be used as an *integrator* of water quality, temperature, and surface water flows. Water quality data already out there will be examined.
Ian Sharpe	Proposes to engage outfitters and their clients in fish habitat monitoring, e.g., have them participate in CABIN monitoring efforts when they are out on the river.
SC Members	The Steering Committee members approved by consensus the 3 Emerging Priority Monitoring Themes, with the 2nd theme changed to Fish habitat. The specific language characterizing each theme and proposed indicators are to be developed further by the Monitoring Working Group (Themes 1, 2) involving Outfitters, and by Yaqït ʔaꞏknuqłiʼit for Theme 3, to be taken to its Council. These revisions in the language and specific indicators of the 3 Monitoring Themes will be brought back to Steering Committee for approval.
Nick Lapointe	Explained that the $35,000 provided by CWF comes from the Canada Nature Fund for Aquatic Species at Risk. The Canada Nature Fund should be added as a current and potential source of funding as there is further opportunity. They (ECCC) regularly reach out to CWF to get some of their funds spent.
Kat Hartwig	The pending federal Water Agency is another source of funding.
Kat Hartwig	LLC has a long-standing relationship with the RBC that could be used with ERA to advance the Collaborative's purposes.
Bill Arling	Indigenous funding streams might also be available, and he could explore that on behalf of the Monitoring Collaborative. These are important to support participation of Indigenous nations and communities.
Bill Arling	Another possible funding source for the Monitoring Collaborative would be to take on compliance monitoring on behalf of TC Energy or BC Hydro and be compensated for it. George Greene proposed to add this to the agenda of the next Steering Committee meeting.