



Elk River
Watershed
Qukin
ʔamakʔis Collaborative
Monitoring
Program

Steering Committee

Third Meeting - June 3, 2024 - Meeting Notes

Attendance:

1. Anne-Caroline Kroeger, Program Manager, *Elk River Alliance*
2. Ben Gormley, Coordinator - Columbia Basin Water Monitoring Framework, *LLC*
3. Chad Hughes, Executive Director, *Elk River Alliance*
4. Evgeni Matveev, Education and Outreach Coordinator, *Elk River Alliance*
5. Aleshia Conley, Environmental Technician and Educator, *Elk River Alliance*
6. Ian Sharpe, Trustee, *Morice Watershed Monitoring Trust*
7. Joanna Line, Project Engineer, *City of Fernie*
8. Kaileigh McCallum, Ecologist, *Elk River Alliance*
9. Kat Hartwig, Executive Director, *LLC*
10. Keith Story, Senior Environmental Impact Biologist, *BC ENV*
11. Kyle Shottanana, Councillor, *Yaq̓it ʔa-knuq̓i 'it First Nation*
12. Matthew Gay, Program Director - Water Strategy, *Teck*
13. Nick Lapointe, Senior Conservation Biologist in Freshwater Ecology, *Canadian Wildlife Federation*
14. Patrick Sorfleet, Director - Planning and Development, *District of Sparwood*
15. Patrick Williston, Senior Environmental Impact Biologist, *ENV*
16. Shannon White, Ecosystems Section Head, *WLRS*
17. Samantha Mertens, Ecosystems Biologist, *WLRS*
18. Stella Swanson, Director, *Elk River Alliance*

Meeting outcomes

Collaborative budget and funding	The Program's budget for the year 2024 was approved and covered \$145,000 in expenses including report writing, coordination and public outreach, data overview, and the Ktunaxa traditional land and
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	<p>water use study. From this \$145,000 budget, \$75,000 in funding was confirmed income from Teck, and \$77,500 in income was pending from ERA’s and YQT’s Real Estate Foundation of B.C. grant application (ERA and YQT applied jointly to this fund and their Stage 1 application was approved, with them invited to now submit a Stage 2 application by July 17, 2024). The \$145K budget presented excluded costs of monitoring activities, and a suggestion to start outlining monitoring costs was made by Program Coordinator, with the Program Coordinator to send an email follow-up to ask if Collaborative partners would be interested in publicly disclosing these own monitoring costs.</p> <p>Two additional grants were flagged to investigate as additional income sources, including the B.C. Watershed Security Fund (ERA preparing to apply for funding by June 26, 2024 to operate its Community-Based Water Monitoring Program, presenting this as an already established monitoring program contributing data to the Program’s Themes 1 and 2.) and the \$58M Teck Penalty Environmental Damages Fund (LLC and ERA to continue the coordination of discussions with Collaborative partners to understand respective intentions for funding requests and align and coordinate everyones’ requests.)</p>
<p>Collaborative data overview</p>	<p>A “data visualisation app” was developed by ERA (serving as an Implementation Partner) to pull data from online data hubs. The next step for ERA would be the writing of a “data overview report” to create a shared understanding amongst Collaborative partners of data accessibility for the Program’s early years monitoring questions. The report will determine which of these monitoring questions can be answered by the publicly available data found online and where more data collection is needed. The Program Coordinator will distribute the proposed table of contents of the report for a 2 week comment and feedback window and ask for feedback expected within 2 weeks, i.e. before June 30, 2024. The report was expected to be publicly released in Spring 2025.</p> <p>Reporting, members asked the Implementation Partner on Data Overview activities (Elk River Alliance) to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reach out to International Joint Committee (IJC) seen as a key audience for the report. Coordinate the timeline for the release of the report with IJC, or at a minimum, let this key audience know of the timeline planned for the report to be released publicly)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Limit reporting scope. Only present the basic summary of available data in this first report. Do not include data interpretation or assessment of overall watershed health, leave this out for now.
<p>Collaborative communication</p>	<p>The Program Coordinator proposed a protocol to establish “rules” for Program’s communications and promised to send the draft version of this protocol out to Collaborative partners via email to ask partners for feedback within two weeks, i.e. before June 30th, 2024. Program Coordinator to incorporate comments and submit a final draft for approval via email. Feedback already received:</p> <p>Public events, members asked the Program Coordinator to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Clarify if aiming for “ERA-led events” that Collaborative partners support or “Collaborative events” coordinated by ERA ● Ensure all content of public events meet Program’s objectives ● Schedule next public event in Fall 2024 ● Focus next public event on drought (“what water is like when it is not there”) with different perspectives ● Suggestion to host next public event in Grasmere ● Provide 3 months to approve outline of upcoming public event and process requests for presentations <p>Steering Committee, members asked the Program Coordinator to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide > 3 months notice to the schedule of upcoming meetings ● Send meeting materials 2 weeks prior to meetings ● Schedule meetings on a standing basis every 6 months, with next meeting would be around Dec. 3rd, 2024 ● Where possible, arrange meetings in conjunction with public events to make best use of Collaborative Collaborative partners time