



Canadian
Water
Network

Watershed governance:

A selection of case studies for informing integrated watershed
management in the Muskoka River watershed

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Integrated Watershed Management

*...as a **[collaborative]** process which promotes the coordinated **[planning,]** development and management of water, land and related resources to maximize the resultant economic and social welfare, paving the way toward sustainable development equitably without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems.*

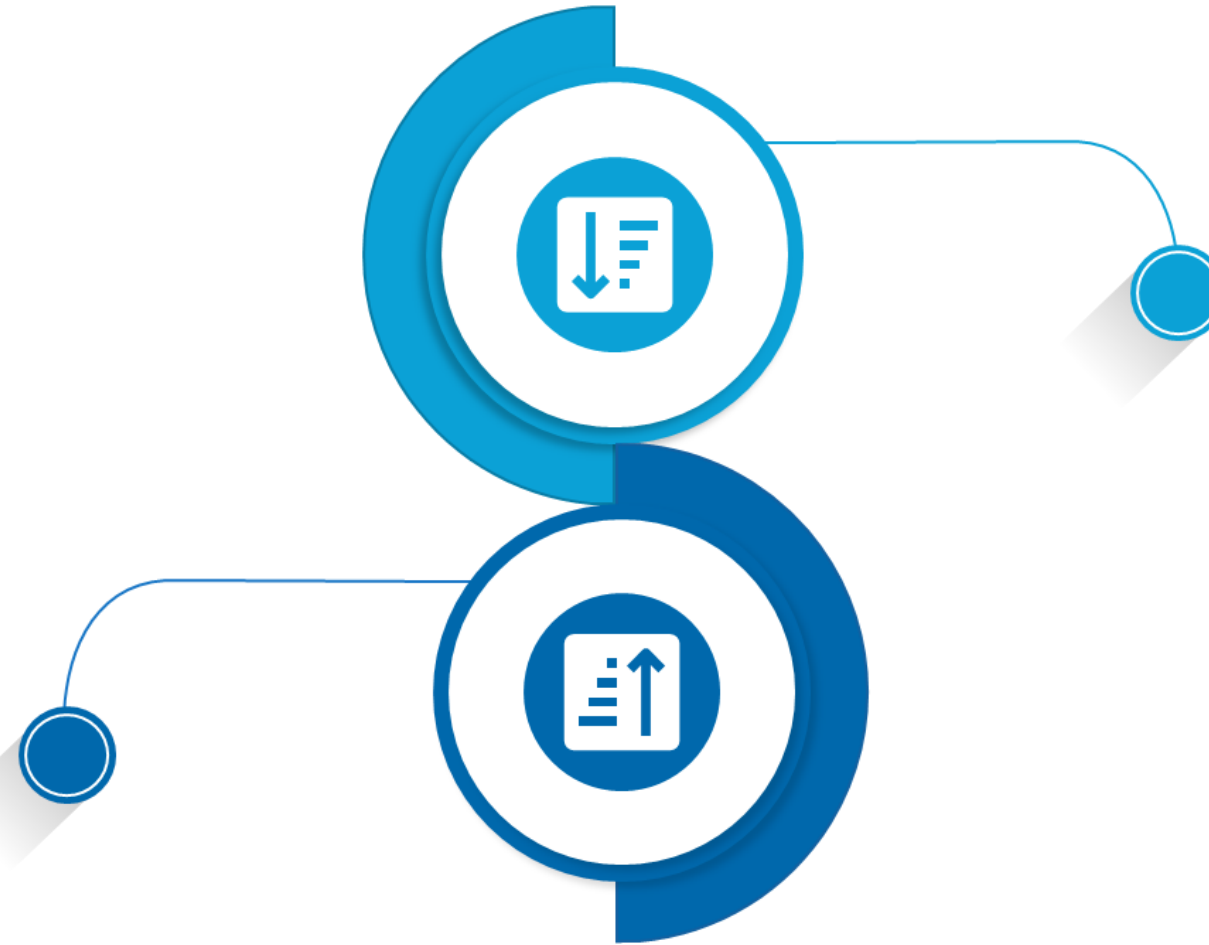
Global Water Partnership (2000)

Purpose of the Study

- Review of approaches used to implement **community-based** integrated watershed management.
 - summarize the **current context** of the Muskoka River Watershed
 - case studies that best describe **community-led organizations** undertaking integrated watershed management
 - Highlight the key elements contributing to their successes or challenges
 - Opportunities for the MWC /CRT

Top-down ... Bottom-up

Community-led collaborative efforts are often described as **bottom-up** in that it involves local stakeholders coming together to address problems of local interest

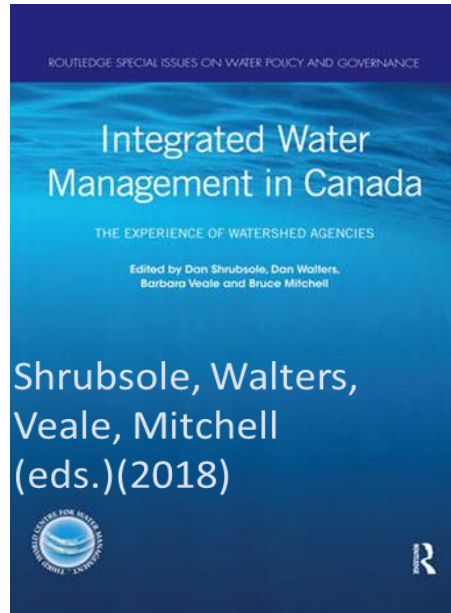


Top-down approaches where an overarching agency with 'experts' is responsible for all resource management decisions.

"Super-agency"

(Koontz & Newig 2014)

Project Scope/Research



Literature Review

- Online Journals
- Universities
- Western
- Waterloo



www.search



INTERVIEW

- Muskoka Contacts
- Case Study Contacts
- Water Agencies
- IWM Experts



Community-based watershed organizations

Example watershed organization types

Governance Structure	Description
Council	- grass-roots organization dedicated to helping local communities to identify local natural resource issues and to implement voluntary, collaborative solutions. Councils may include government representatives and may be legislated.
Board	- similar to commissions and in an advisory/education, monitoring or regulatory role in fulfilling agreements. At times, they may develop or enforce policies outlined by government;
Municipal Services Board	- local multi-municipal body that manages and delivers shared services e.g. library, transportation, police services, health
Roundtable	- similar to advisory committees, but are typically broader in focus, looking at opportunities for collaboration across various sectors

Example watershed organization types

Governance Structure	Description
Partnership	- a limited number of entities working together towards a shared objective(s) with joint investment of resources.
Umbrella org.	- an entity that coordinates various groups with related goals.
Coalition	- An entity, often temporary, like-minded groups that build an alliance around a specific purpose.
ENGO	- can receive funds from private donors, corporations and other institutions. Unlike environmental movements, ENGOs have constitutions that state the rules of how power gets distributed among the membership. Not typically watershed-based but can be - in this case (and others).
Hybrid	A combination of any of the above attributes

Community-led Watershed Organizations

Joint Municipal Services Board

- Severn Sound, ON
- Okanagan Basin, BC

Roundtable

- Coquitlam River, BC

Watershed Council

- Long Tom, OR

Co-Governance Watershed Board

- Cowichan, BC

ENGO

- Elizabeth River Project, VA



1. Context
2. Organizational Structure
3. Social Infrastructure
4. Finances
5. Adaptability

Watershed Organization Highlights



Coquitlam

- Disparate Stakeholders
- Perseverance
- Conservation Standards
- Small Budget, Big Results

Cowichan

- Co-governance
- Integrating Indigenous Knowledge

Elizabeth River

- Collective Impact
- Power of One

Okanagan

- Funding as Municipal Services
- Maintain relevancy

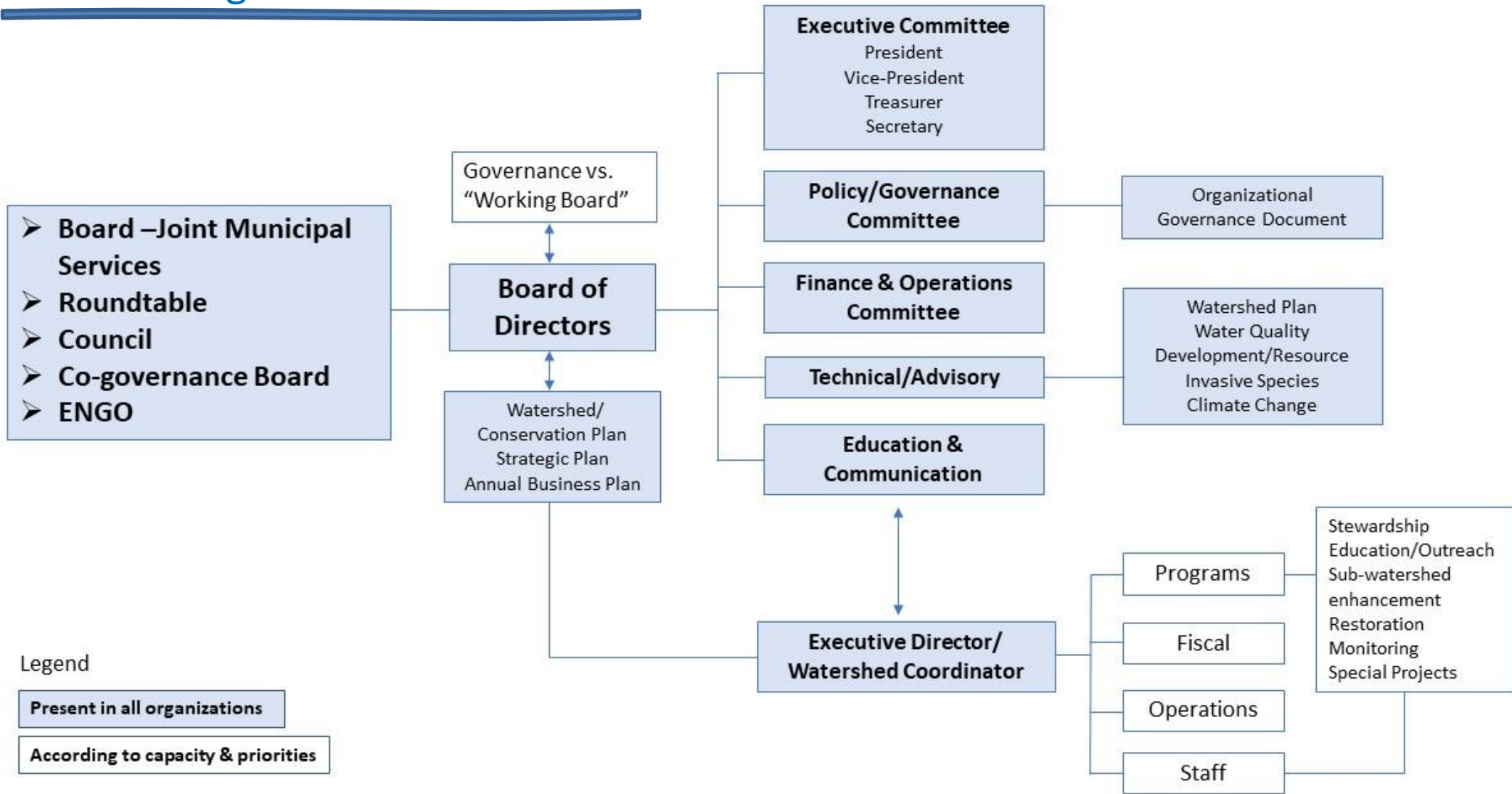
Severn

- Funding as Municipal Services
- Flexible Mandate

Long Tom

- Social Infrastructure
- Impact Networking

Common Organizational Structure



Key findings



Compelling cause

- Seized an opportunity presented as a crisis

Governance and decision making

- Established shared goals or vision from which to align efforts
- Incorporated guiding principles for collaborative process
- Watershed Plan, Watershed Strategy, Sustainability Plan

Funding

- Sustainable funding critical to advance collaborative work

Key Findings - cont'd



Collaborative Process

- Human capacity and expertise
- Role of credible advisor, no regulatory authority
- Local champion, leader
- Collaboration frameworks may help guide the process
- Build the process with the people at the table
- Watershed organization fulfilled role of convenor, facilitator and neutral integrator

Our river needs you; do something beautiful

Elizabeth River Project

One Valley; One Water

Okanagan Basin Water Board

Neighbors working together for a healthier community

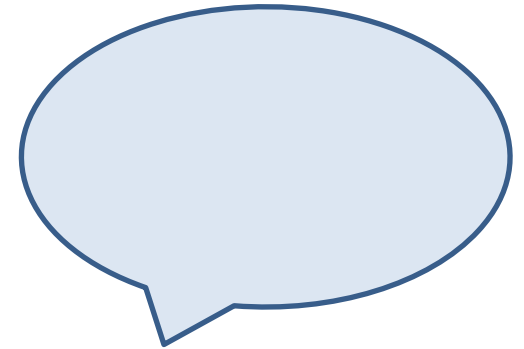
Long Tom Watershed

The living river with a spirit

Coquitlam River Watershed Roundtable

Share the resource, share the responsibility

The Grand Strategy



Opportunities to Explore in Muskoka

Knowledge Bank

Experts, studies, staff, volunteers

Social Capital

Trust & Reputation

Community/Public Infrastructure

Partnerships & Strategic Alliances

Community/Larger Conservation/
Academic

Funding

Charitable, Endowment, Other



Framing Watershed Security

Natural, Social, Health, Economic

Economy

Watershed Sector as Economy

Financial Sustainability

Municipal Services/Levy

Role

Move to Act as Convenor

Message

Phrase/Campaign Everyone can Rally

Community-led watershed organization

Compelling cause / issues that resonate

Call to action; establishing vision, goals

Establishing ways to coordinate and collaborate

Establishing ways to make decisions

Community-led watershed organization

Developing a watershed plan and identify actions for implementation [PLAN]

Implementing actions [DO]

Monitor progress and celebrate early wins [CHECK/LEARN]

Ways to coordinate and collaborate

Frameworks for collaborative processes for planning & implementation

- **Collective Impact** – Kania and Kramer (2011)
- **Impact Network** – Stanford Social Innovation Review
- **Open standards for the practice of conservation** - Conservation Measure Partnership (CMP)