

March 14th and 15th 2017 Eco-Asset Symposium

Workshop Agenda and Presenter Details

Tuesday March 14th – “Climate Change, Nature’s Services and Thinking Like a Watershed.”

FREE Public Event, 7 pm at the Florence Filberg Centre in Courtenay

Wednesday March 15th - "Exploring Eco-System Services and Eco-Asset Management Opportunities in the Upper, Mid and Lower Comox Valley Watersheds."

8:30 am to 4:45 pm at the Florence Filberg Centre in Courtenay

Time	Topic & Presenter(s)	Description
8.30	Doors Open – Opening	Check-in and welcome to K’omoks Traditional Territory
9.00	Opening Address: Kim Stephens , Partnership for Water Sustainability BC	Overview of how the thinking and practice of ecological assets management has progressed in BC the past 15 years
9.30	Context Overview: Upper Watershed Dr. Bill Floyd , VIU, Hakai, FLNO Cori L. Barraclough , Freshwater Ecologist	Hydrological flows, water storage and quality services in Upper Watershed & impacts of climate change & land use on ecosystem services.
10.15	Context Overview: Middle Watershed Emanuel Machado , CAO Town of Gibsons Andrew Gower , Wedler Engineering LLP	Infrastructure services provided by ecological assets in areas of urban and rural settlement/natural area interface. How do we work with ecological assets to create/maintain sustainable infrastructure solutions?
11:00	BREAK	
11:20 - 12:05	Context Overview: Lower Watershed Jennifer Sutherst : Estuary Coordinator and Staff Biologist, Project Watershed John Readshaw : coastal engineering group at SNC Lavalin	Ecosystem services in coastal areas; rivers, estuaries, shorelines, floodplains and the impacts of climate change - the Courtenay River Flood plain example.
12.05	Lunch Break	

1:00	Valuing Ecological Assets: Moderator Kim Stephens Jim Dumont , Water Infrastructure Specialist. Michelle Molnar , David Suzuki Foundation.	How do we account for the value of ecological assets when planning infrastructure and development projects? Jim Dumont will present the “ecological accounting protocol” and Michelle Molnar will share the approach used by the David Suzuki Foundation in the Town of Gibsons.
1:45- 2:00	Transition to Break Out Workshops	
2:00 – 3:45	<u>Concurrent Workshops</u>	<u>Facilitated Discussion and Action Planning Session</u>
	1. Upper Watershed: Valuing, protecting and restoring ecological assets in the Comox Lake Watershed	What ecological assets are critical to the healthy functioning of the Comox Lake Watershed? What land use management approaches can be taken for valuing, protecting and restoring ecological assets? What actions can stakeholders take to implement this approach?
	2. Middle Watershed: Integrating ecological asset management into infrastructure planning and practice.	What ecological assets provide stormwater (rainwater) infrastructure services? How can they be valued and integrated into planning of infrastructure and development projects? How do we integrate natural and grey infrastructure systems without damaging eco asset functioning? What actions can stakeholders take to implement this approach?
	3. Lower Watershed: Restoration of the natural functioning of the Courtenay River Estuary	What are the eco assets that can help mitigate flooding in the Courtenay River Flood Plain? How can grey infrastructure be adapted to help restore natural functioning of the floodplain? What actions can stakeholders take to implement an eco- asset management approach that values and restores the services of the Courtenay River floodplain?
3:45 – 4:00	Re-convene in Filberg Hall for Plenary	
4:00	Plenary Session & Closing	Reporting out from Upper, Middle and Lower workshop sessions. Next Steps.
4.45	Symposium concludes	

PRESENTERS and PANEL MEMBERS

TUESDAY EVENING PRESENTERS:

Emmanuel Machado: CAO Town of Gibsons. Through his leadership the Town of Gibsons became one of the first jurisdictions in North America to recognize the value of ecosystems services as a fundamental component of its infrastructure system.

http://waterbucket.ca/gj/files/2015/09/Town-of-Gibsons_Eco-Asset-Strategy.pdf

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/emanuel-machado-14319422>

Bob Sandford: EPCOR Chair for Water and Climate Security at the United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health. Bob is co-author of the UN Water in the *World We Want Report* on post-2015 global sustainable development goals relating to water. Bob translates scientific research outcomes into language decision-makers can use to craft timely and meaningful public policy and to bringing international examples to bear on local water issues. Bob is a Fellow of the Centre for Hydrology at the University of Saskatchewan and a Fellow of the Biogeoscience Institute at the University of Calgary. <http://www.rwsandford.ca/>

Kim Stephens: Executive Director, Partnership for Water Sustainability BC:

Kim Stephens is an engineer-planner with more than four decades of experience in water resource and infrastructure engineering issues and applications, from master planning and modelling to implementation of capital projects. He specializes in public policy and professional development, and has played a leadership role in a series of BC initiatives related to water conservation and sustainability, watershed health, rainwater management and green infrastructure. http://waterbucket.ca/atp/files/2017/01/Kim-Stephens_bio_Jan2017.pdf

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Michelle Molnar, Ecological economist and policy analyst at David Suzuki Foundation - David Suzuki Foundation.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/michelle-molnar-011b0723/>

Dr. Bill Floyd is a Research Hydrologist with FLNRO and Adjunct Professor at VIU in Geography. He is currently on a partial secondment to VIU to establish a Climate Change and Hydrology Research Lab and lead the Hydrology and Climate research element for the Kwakshua Watersheds Program

(<https://www.hakai.org/research/kwakshua-watersheds-program>) at the Hakai Institute. He is an expert on the impacts of climate change on water resources, forestry impacts on water quality and quantity, and establishing long term observation networks using novel methods to improve our understanding of hydrology in coastal watersheds. <https://wordpress.viu.ca/viuhydromet/>

Tim Ennis: Executive Director, Comox Valley Land Trust. Director, Project Watershed and President, Latitude Conservation Solutions Company. Tim has worked in the field of biodiversity conservation and natural resource management in BC for 20 years. He has taken on many ecosystem restoration projects including gary oak ecosystems, coastal sand dunes, estuaries, wetlands and forests. He led the restoration of the Campbell River estuary for the Nature Conservancy of Canada. <https://www.linkedin.com/in/tim-ennis-02014637>

Jennifer Sutherst: Estuary Coordinator and Staff Biologist, Project Watershed and Project Watershed Estuary Working Group, (Restoration of the Courtenay River Flood Plain). Jennifer is a Biologist and Environmental Scientist that has worked as an environmental professional and stewardship leader most of her career; and has

extensive experience working in freshwater, marine and terrestrial ecosystems. Ranging from projects as diverse as research on climate change for Simon Fraser University to traditional ecological knowledge surveys of marine mammals for the 'Namgis First Nation.

<http://projectwatershed.ca/about-us/staff/>

TUESDAY EVENING RESOURCE PANELISTS:

Kris La Rose: Kris is a professional engineer with 12 years of experience working for regional districts. Kris started with the CVRD as manager of liquid waste planning and Chair of Convening for Action on Vancouver Island and worked extensively with the Partnership for Water Sustainability BC. In 2016 Kris began the role of CVRD senior manager of water/wastewater services leading the department responsible for the regional sewer and water sewer systems including implementation of the Comox Lake watershed protection plan.

David Allen: CAO, City of Courtenay. David has over 13 years of experience working for local governments and his specialties are: strategic planning; corporate capacity analysis and workplan development; asset management; performance measurement; municipal solid waste management; and community broadband networks.

Cory Frank: Manager, K'omoks First Nation Guardian Watchmen Department
<http://www.komoks.ca/member/fisheries-guardian-watchmen-manager-cory-frank>

ADDITIONAL WEDNESDAY PRESENTERS:

Andrew Gower, FEC, P.Eng., PE: Andrew graduated from the Royal Military College of Canada in 1996. With a career that started as a combat engineer officer, Andrew transitioned to his practice as a civil consultant in 2002 and has worked in California, Ireland, the Fraser Valley, and Courtenay, BC where he has lead the local Wedler Engineering LLP office to 10 successful years in business. Andrew has served on the board of the Chamber of Commerce since 2011, as the chair of the Boomer's Legacy BC Bike Ride committee, and is a co-founder of Imagine Comox Valley, organizers of Car Free Sunday in Courtenay and TEDxComoxValley. <https://www.linkedin.com/in/andrew-gower-fec-p-eng-1b27945/>

Cory L. Barraclough: Freshwater Ecologist. Co-Founder at Aqua-Tex Scientific Consulting Ltd., Cori helps local governments in British Columbia to manage and protect their communities' water resources in a cost-effective, feasible and responsible way. Cori prefers to work in tandem with nature; over the long term, leveraging ecosystem services is more cost-effective and financially sustainable than technological fixes. Furthermore, faced with a changing climate, Cori maintains that we must begin to build resilience into our urban ecology now.

John Readshaw P. Eng.: Senior Coastal Engineer, John has over 32 years of experience covering the full range of the coastal and ocean engineering areas of practice and he has extensive project and project management experience with a wide range of port and coastal oriented projects. John is also the engineering advisor to the Technical Working Group of the GreenShores™ program undertaken by the Stewardship Centre for British Columbia. John is the primary author for Provincial guidelines relating to management and mitigation of coastal flood hazard and sea level rise, and has participated in many coastal flood hazard management projects with a strong public consultation component.

Jim Dumont: Water Infrastructure Specialist. Jim is recognized as an expert in rainwater management and design and is the Engineering Applications Authority for the Water Balance Model Partnership. He has developed a number of watershed management plans and integrated storm-water management plans for

jurisdictions such as City of Vancouver, Burnaby, Comox Valley Regional District and Cowichan Regional District. Jim has contributed to several publications including the Green Bylaws Toolkit, Handbook for Applied Hydrology and Primer on Water Balance Methodology for Protecting Watershed Health. <http://bc.waterbalance.ca/water-balance-model/what-do-you-wonder-just-ask-jim-dumont/what-do-you-wonder-%E2%80%93-just-ask-jim-dumont/>