

NECHAKO
WATERSHED
ROUNDTABLE

2023 ANNUAL MEETING SUMMARY

November 7, 2023





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NECHAKO WATERSHED ROUNDTABLE ANNUAL MEETING FIRE, FLOOD & DROUGHT: CLIMATE ADAPTATION IN THE NECHAKO WATERSHED

DATE: November 7, 2023

TIME: 9:30am - 3:00pm

LOCATION: Vanderhoof Community Events Centre (474 E Victoria Street)

CHAIRS: Gina Layte Liston & Kim Menounos, NWR Co-chairs

AGENDA

DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER
9:30 AM WELCOME & NECHAKO WATERSHED ROUNDTABLE UPDATES	
Welcome & Housekeeping	Gina Layte Liston & Kim Menounos, NWR Co-chairs
Saik'uz Territory Welcome	Rodney Teed, Councillor, Saik'uz First Nation
Nechako Watershed Roundtable Update	Gina Layte Liston & Kim Menounos, NWR Co-chairs
NWR Youth Working Group	Margot Parkes, NWR Core Committee/ UNBC
NWR Lakes Monitoring Working Group	Wayne Salewski, NWR Core Committee/NEWSS
Nechako Portal	Aita Bezzola, UNBC
10:05 AM CONNECTEDNESS TO THE LAND AND WATER	
Forest Harvesting Effects on Flood	Dr. Younes Alila, University of British Columbia
<i>Why the flood regime in the interior of BC is hyper-sensitive to disturbances of any kind and how the new science of attribution can link a flood event to a specific cause such as climate change, clearcut logging, or wildfires.</i>	

AGENDA CONT.

DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER
10:45 AM	CONNECTEDNESS TO THE LAND AND WATER CONT.
POINTS OF VIEW FROM THE WATERSHED	MODERATOR: LARA BECKETT, CHAIR, REGIONAL DISTRICT OF FRASER-FORT GEORGE
<i>Panel discussion on how major events such as fires, floods and drought have impacted the people, environment and industry in the Nechako Watershed.</i> <i>Panel: Mark Parker, Chair, Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako/ Rodney Teed, Councillor, Saik'uz First Nation/ Dr. Raina Fumerton, Northwest Medical Health Officer, Northern Health/ Mike Pritchard, BC Livestock Producers</i>	
12:00 PM	NETWORKING LUNCH
1:00 PM	UPDATES FROM THE WATERSHED
Cheslatta Carrier Nation Update	William Elkins, Cheslatta Carrier Nation
Phase 3 of Integrated Research in the Nechako Watershed	Bruno Sobral, Stephen Dery & Margot Parkes, Integrated Watershed Research Group/UNBC
Fraser Lake Foreshore Integrated Management Planning	Georgia Peck, Living Lakes Canada
Vanderhoof Flood Plain Mapping	Jenny Koss, Fraser Basin Council
NEEF Grants & Board Recruitment	Andy Lecuyer, Nechako Environmental Enhancement Fund Society
Macrophyte Harvest Feasibility Study	Ray Klingspohn, Nulki-Tachik Lake Stewardship Society
2:30 PM	REGIONAL CLIMATE RESILIENCE
Creating Climate Resilient Communities Through Collaboration	Brian Frenkel, NWR Core Committee/ District of Vanderhoof & Kim Menounos, NWR Co-chair/ Fraser Basin Council
2:55 PM CLOSING REMARKS	Gina Layte Liston & Kim Menounos, NWR Co-chairs



NECHAKO
WATERSHED
ROUNDTABLE

WELCOME & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The 2023 Annual Meeting of the Nechako Watershed Roundtable, entitled "**Fire, Flood & Drought: Climate Adaptation in the Nechako Watershed**" took place on November 7th, 2023 from 9:30am to 3:00pm. The meeting was held in-person at the Community Events Centre in Vanderhoof, BC, as well as online.

The Nechako Watershed Roundtable (NWR) is grateful to Saik'uz First Nation for the opportunity to host the Annual Meeting on their Traditional Territory. We would like to thank Rodney Teed, Saik'uz First Nation Councillor for providing a welcome to the territory.

Gina Layte Liston and Kim Menounos, Nechako Watershed Roundtable Core Committee Co-chairs, chaired the meeting and provided opening remarks.

Thank you to the following individuals for their contributions to this years annual meeting: Dr. Margot Parkes, Wayne Salewski, Aita Bezzola, Dr. Younes Alila, Lara Beckett, Mark Parker, Rodney Teed, Dr. Raina Fumerton, Mike Pritchard, Mike Robertson, Bruno Sobral, Dr. Stephen Dery, Georgia Peck, Jenny Koss, Andy Lecuyer, Ray Klingspohn, Brian Frenkel and Tasha Peterson.

Funding to support the NWR in 2022 is provided by Carrier Sekani Tribal Council, Environment and Climate Change Canada, Integris Credit Union, Koh Learning in Our Watersheds/UNBC, Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions, Nechako Environment and Water Stewardship Society, Nakaz'dli Whut'en First Nation, Real Estate Foundation of BC, Regional District of Fraser-Fort George, Four Rivers Co-operative, Ministry of Forests, and Rivershed Society of BC.

The purpose of this document is to summarize the key learnings from the annual meeting. The meeting package including the agenda and a complete recording of the meeting are available to members at <https://nechakowatershed.ca/news/23/151/2023-Annual-Meeting>.



Environment and
Climate Change Canada



Rivershed
Society of BC



CARRIER SEKANI
tribal council



REGIONAL DISTRICT
of Fraser-Fort George



PICS
PACIFIC INSTITUTE
FOR CLIMATE SOLUTIONS



Ministry of Forests,
Lands & Natural
Resource Operations





Presented by: Gina Layte Liston & Kim Menounos, NWR Co-chairs

The NWR continues to make progress toward implementation of its strategic priorities as laid out in the 2022 -2026 Strategic Plan, to convene partners, support efforts to restore watershed health, advocate for the watershed, ensure a resilient organization and advance reconciliation.

Funding for the NWR is primarily project based and contributions are needed to support operational costs as well as other project-based activities.

NWR 2024 projects include:

- Lakes Monitoring Working Group: Seeking funding to implement the Large Lakes Water Monitoring Strategy
- Youth Engagement Working Group: Developing partnerships and hosting the 2024 Youth Canoe Trip
- Nechako Portal: Working with UNBC to upload and organize Nechako Watershed related resources.
- Watershed Security Strategy: Engaging in discussions and development.
- Resiliency Framework: Discussions to initiate a Regional Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Framework.

The NWR Core Committee members as of November 2023 are:

- Gina Layte Liston, Member-at-Large & NWR Co-chair
- Kim Menounos, Fraser Basin Council & NWR Co-chair
- Brian Frenkel, District of Vanderhoof
- Lara Beckett, Regional District of Fraser Fort-George
- Margot Parkes, University of Northern British Columbia
- Mike Robertson, Cheslatta Carrier Nation
- Ray Kingspohn, Nulki-Tachick Lakes Stewardship Society
- Shirley Moon, Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
- Wayne Salewski, NEWSS

The NWR is looking for First Nation members to join the Core Committee. For more information, please contact nwrcoordinator@gmail.com.



Visit the NWR website at nechakowatershed.ca.



Youth Engagement Working Group

Presented by: Margot Parkes, NWR Working Group Chair

The third annual NWR Youth Canoe Trip was held in Vanderhoof on August 11th and 12th, in partnership with the Rivershed Society of BC. A total of 21 youth paddled 25 kilometres down the Nechako River over the weekend. Youth learned from guides, Elders, First Nations, researchers and community members. Opening prayers and guidance were given by Rodney Teed, Saik'uz First Nation, and Cultural Facilitator, Mark Barfoot, Nak'azdli Whut'en First Nation. Youth also participated in research equipment demonstrations and learned about careers in water. The weekend wrapped up with a community BBQ. The NWR Youth Engagement working group thanks all the funders, partners and contributors that made the trip possible.

Lakes Monitoring Working Group

Presented by: Wayne Salewski, NWR Working Group Chair

There are large and problematic data gaps for lakes in the Nechako watershed; the Lakes Monitoring Working Groups objective is to understand these data gaps and bring funds forward to do the necessary monitoring and other work to improve lake health.

Through funding from the Real Estate Foundation of BC, Carrier-Sekani Tribal Council and the Regional District of Bulkley Nechako the Large Lakes Monitoring Working Group completed a Large Lakes Monitoring Strategy in May 2023. An application for strategy implementation was made to the BC Salmon Innovation Fund, but was unsuccessful. The working group is committed to working with DFO (who recently identified the Stuart River sockeye run as a priority), First Nations, and funders to bring the strategy to fruition.



For more information about the Lakes Monitoring Group or view the Large Lakes Monitoring Strategy, visit:
<https://nechakowatershed.ca/projects/lakes-monitoring-working-group>





Nechako Portal

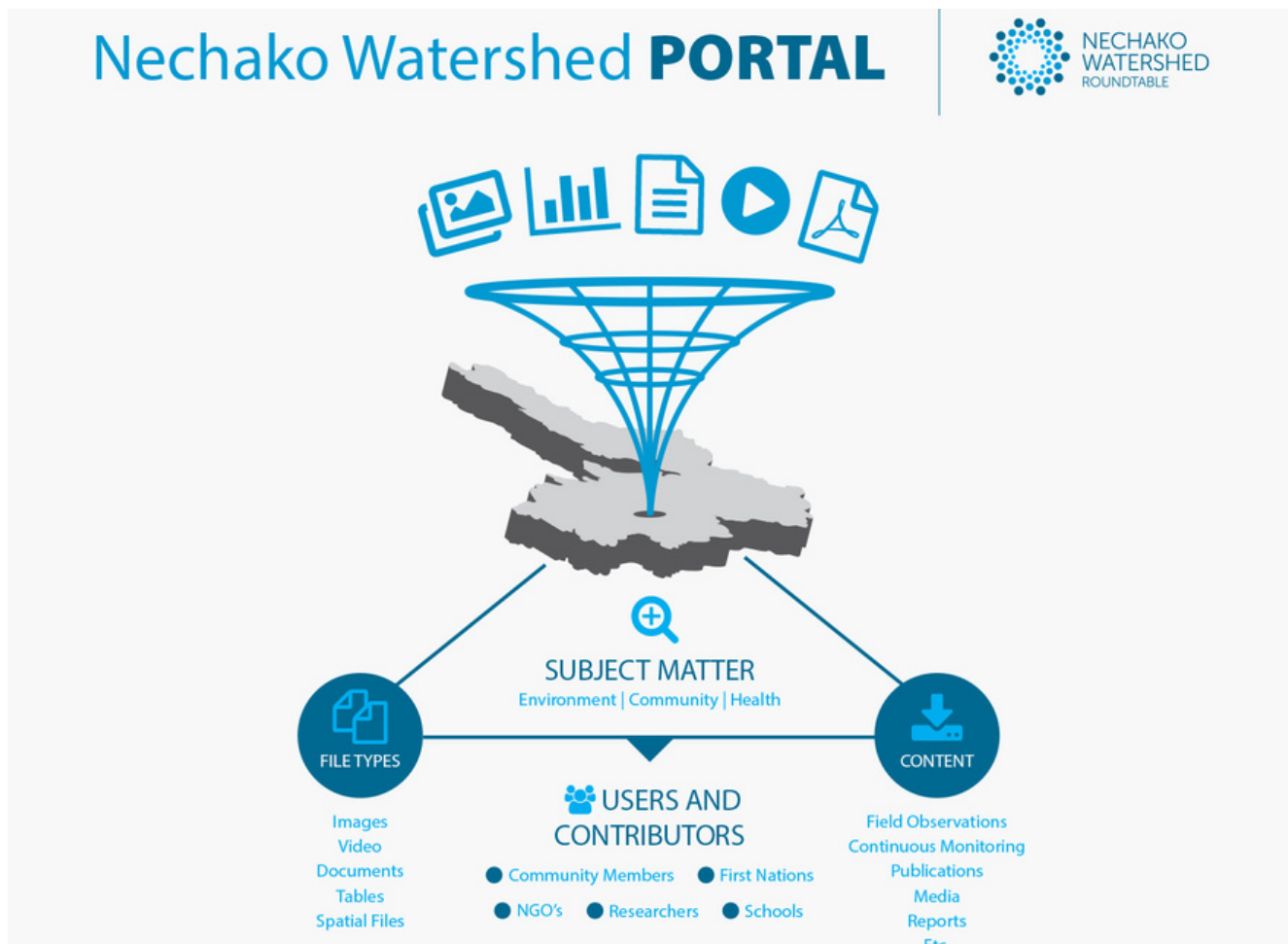
Presented by: Aita Bezzola, UNBC

The Nechako Portal Working Group is an exciting partnership development between UNBC and the NWR with the purpose of creating a digital storage and sharing tool with everyone working in the Nechako.

Aita gave an overview and demonstration of how the portal has been and continues to develop. Some new features include:

- The ability for users to share data with partners via a unique link to specific portal submissions.
- Map data on the 2023 wildfires, evacuation orders and alerts.
- Animations of 2022 data on drought, air quality, evacuations, etc.
- Submission with NWR Annual Meeting supporting documents
- Cheslatta Carrier Nation archive is currently being uploaded to the portal

 For more information on accessing the portal, or if you are interested in uploading your own data, please visit <https://nechakowatershed.ca/projects/nechako-portal> or connect with Aita at Aita.Bezzola@unbc.ca.





Forest Harvesting Effects on Flood

Presenter: Dr. Younes Alila, University of British Columbia

Dr. Younes Alila is a Professor in the Faculty of Forestry of the University of British Columbia. Dr. Alila's work over the last 20 years on forests effects on floods challenged an over a century-old hydrologic wisdom on how forests affect large floods. His work on this topic has been the subject of much peer reviewed discussion among academics in the field and generated press releases by the American Geophysical Union.

- Environmental drivers of floods are of three kinds: amount of snow and energy available to melt snow, rain falling on the snow, and wetness or state of moisture in the watershed. Such hydro-climate drivers are necessary but often not sufficient to cause a flood.
- Landscape characteristics are key factors in amplifying or mitigating floods: the landscape orientation to the sun (south/west vs north/east, elevation distribution (i.e., topography), and storage of any kind (e.g., soil, lakes, streams, floodplains), and forest cover (evapotranspiration, shading of snow)
- Over time, and from one event to another, the role of the landscape features in mitigating or amplifying flood risk is not static. It is dynamic because it depends on the state of moisture in the watershed. Drivers of flood events (or factors affecting floods) are many and they are all occurring randomly over time. Every flood event can be generated by many combinations of these random factors .
- BC interior plateau environment is much more prone to flood risk because snow melts simultaneously (synchronized) from most parts of the watershed. In a mountainous landscape, however, snow melts from different elevation bands and slope orientations to sun in desynchronized ways and hence less prone to flood risk.
- The power of forest cover in mitigating floods lies not at the tree or stand scales but in the physical characteristics of the landscape. As a consequence, forest cover is much more powerful in reducing flood risk in a subdued plateau-like topography like the Nechako watershed. Abandon stand level in favor of landscape management in the practice of forestry.
- Published works over the last 20 years show floods in the BC Interior plateau environment is super sensitive to the loss of forest cover by clearcut logging and wildfires.
- Use science of extremes for designing policy and guiding professional practice in the management of forests and water
- Future downstream flood management strategies must be in sync with our land use and forest cover related policies
- Relying solely on an increase in size of downstream infrastructures such as culverts, bridges, and dikes will not meet the objectives of flood management strategy because floods less than the design capacity are becoming much more frequent. The small and medium more frequent floods destabilize the infrastructures and causing them to fail geomorphically.
- Abandon clearcut logging in favor of alternatives eco-system friendly logging practices such as selective tree logging, small patch logging, etc.



Points of View from the Watershed

Moderator: Lara Beckett, Chair, Regional District of Fraser-Fort George & NWR Core Committee

Panel: Mark Parker, Chair, Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako/ Rodney Teed, Councillor, Saik'uz First Nation/ Dr. Raina Fumerton, Northwest Medical Health Officer, Northern Health/ Mike Pritchard, BC Livestock Producers

Mark Parker, Chair, Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

- The RDBN Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) responded to 25 fires with Evacuation Orders and/or Evacuation Alerts. The EOC was activated for 113 days from June 27th until October 17th.
- The RDBN EOC partnered with nine First Nations, one Local Authority, and two Provincial Agencies on the Evacuation Orders and Evacuation Alerts during the response.
- The length of time of these events has impact on individuals responding and forces other activities to be put on hold.
- There is a need to take action locally and stop fires before they start.
- Grateful for help from BC Wildfire and Province; Transition time is high when working with helpers from other countries.
- First Nations were great to work with; Signed off on Alerts and Orders together.
- Still need to understand what the long-term effects are on community members (e.g. smoke).
- Has been very tough on agriculture sector (liquidating herds, downsizing, no hay, food security concerns, etc.); Impacts will be seen for years.

Rodney Teed, Councillor, Saik'uz First Nation

- We need to make changes and decide what we want to thrive
 - Change what we grow
 - Look at what opportunities may be with drought conditions
- Need to take care of the land and the land will take care of us
 - Don't over harvest; Harvest differently
 - Decide if we are harvesting (logging) for our community, BC, Canada or the world
- Need to advocate for change in each industry
 - Need to move toward where the food is going; Can't survive without food; Can't harvest if there are no people
 - Need to move our dollars to where it is going to actually help

Dr. Raina Fumerton, Northwest Medical Health Officer, Northern Health

- Health officers work upstream in preventative measures - look at health of communities and population levels: monitoring, assessing, reporting and promoting health.
- Use data and evidence to identify issues and build resiliency.
- Northern BC is warming faster than other parts of the province and is projected to see the highest increases in temperature and precipitation.



Updates from the Watershed Cont.

Dr. Raina Fumerton, Northwest Medical Health Officer, Northern Health

- Many direct and indirect climate change-related impacts on health and health systems
 - Health: heat-related illness, trauma, anxiety, PTSD, asthma, pulmonary disease, infection, etc.
 - Health Systems: Damage to health infrastructure and supply chain disruption, etc.
 - Social and structural determinants of health: housing damage, reduced equity, etc.
 - Ecological determinants of health: extreme weather, water shortage, soil loss, etc.
- Harms are severe and inequitably distributed
- Drinking water is treated as a resource for humans only
- NH received \$300k to begin to lay foundations to build climate change health systems (e.g. facilities to care for people with asthma, burns, etc.)

Mike Pritchard, BC Livestock Producers

Mike Pritchard walked the group through a comparison of 2022 and 2023 cattle sales. The dramatic impacts of drought on irrigation and subsequent hay production have limited feed and forced ranchers to sell a high number of cattle relative to other years. This will have a major affect on the industry moving forward including a loss of genetic inventory in the herd, in addition to other economic impacts. There was an emotional impact as well, as members of the audience and panel expressed sadness at the downsizing of herds, as well as having to give up well-loved animals.



For more information on the individual presentations, additional resources can be found at https://nechakowatershed.ca/news/23/151/2023-Annual-Meeting_



UPDATES FROM THE WATERSHED



Phase 3 of Integrated Research in the Nechako Watershed

Presented by: Bruno Sobral, Stephen Deéry, Eduardo Martins & Phil Owens, and Margot Parkes, Integrated Watershed Research Group (IWRG)/ UNBC

UNBC houses the IWRG, a collaborative research group with the goal to strengthen community connections and preparedness for integrative responses to climate variability affecting the Nechako Watershed. The project is now in phase three, with a completion date of June 2025. Phase four focuses on four themes:

Theme 1: Network of Experimental Watersheds for Integrated Research

Goal: To develop a network of experimental watersheds to improve monitoring and understanding of the impacts of climate change and land cover changes on terrestrial water fluxes.

Theme 2: Effects of Landscape Disturbances on Sediment and Contaminant Fluxes

Goal: To determine how landscape disturbances, such as land-falling atmospheric rivers and especially severe wildfires, modify erosion of the landscape and the delivery of fine-grained sediment and associated chemicals to river channels in the NRB.

Theme 3: Fish Response to Environmental Change

Goal: To establish a program for investigating short-and long-term responses of fish to environmental changes in the Nechako Watershed.

Theme 4: Amplifying Co-benefits for Climate, Catchments (Watersheds) and Communities

Goal: To identify and amplify opportunities for co-benefits to contribute to a healthy, just and sustainable future in the Nechako. The focus of this theme is to identify, trial and refine watershed-based tools and processes that support the integration of climate, catchment and community information, and to leverage these approaches to support knowledge exchange partnerships that are better equipped to move knowledge into action.



More information about the IWRG can be found at: <https://www2.unbc.ca/integrated-watershed-research-group/research/nechako-river-basin>.





Foreshore Integrated Management Planning on Fraser Lake

Presented by: Georgia Peck, Living Lakes Canada

Living Lakes Canada is currently leading a Foreshore Integrated Management Planning (FIMP) project, a Federal protocol, on Fraser Lake. FIMP is a cumulative impact assessment tool establishing Foreshore Development Guidelines to conserve ecosystems, support climate resiliency, and protect species of conservation concern by providing BMPs to decision makers, stakeholders, rights holders, and shoreline property owners. Fraser Lake had undergone Foreshore Inventory Mapping in 2012, making it a good candidate for the program, as they will be able to determine the rate of change over time.

- FIMP method has three general steps: Foreshore Inventory Mapping, Foreshore Habitat Sensitivity Index, and Foreshore Development Guidelines.
- A field survey took place in August, during which, a provincially blue-listed wetland type was identified on the north-shore and an aquatic quillwort (*Isoetes echinospora*) was identified and documented for the first time.
- Looking at 28 different criteria on every segment of Fraser Lake.
- A collaborative report review process will be in January, with reports, maps and drone footage being published in the spring 2024.
- Preliminary Recommendations (subject to change) include:
 - Update the language RDBN OCP for Area D around requirements for the development in riparian areas.
 - Standardize Development Permit Area around the lake regardless of shoreline ranking.
 - Establish zones of sensitivity around culturally significant features.
 - Recommend non-motorized boat zones and/or restricted speed zones around sensitive areas.
 - Encourage communal/shared boat launches in densely developed areas.
 - Establish a conservation area around the mouth of Ormond Creek.



More information about the Living Lakes FIMP project on Fraser Lake can be found at <https://livinglakescanada.ca/2023/07/27/fraser-lake-shoreline-survey-to-protect-lake-biodiversity/>.





Vanderhoof Flood Plain Mapping

Presented by: Jenny Koss, Fraser Basin Council

Fraser Basin Council is administering and coordinating technical work for the National Flood Hazard Identification and Mapping Program (FHIMP). The \$164.2M program aims to help Canadians better plan and prepare for future floods over the next five years. The initiative will generate high quality, standardized, consistent floodplain maps for higher-risk communities in BC.

These maps will help to:

- Inform land use planning policies and development decisions
- Assess potential impacts to people and other community values and assets
- Prepare or update emergency response plans
- Inform other flood mitigation and climate adaptation measures

Communities currently involved in the 'Upper Fraser-Nechako River' identified region include: City of Prince George, District of Vanderhoof, Lheidli T'enneh First Nation, Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako, and the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George.

- A 36km section of the Nechako, near the community of Vanderhoof will be analyzed. Mapping will also be completed for the Chilako and Salmon Watersheds
- An ice expert and analyst will be contracted for the project

Digital elevation models will be created to run water through to investigate different scenarios..

- Four hydraulic models are in development for the region
- Modelled flood depth and extent in different flow scenarios: 20, 100, 200 and 500 year return periods with climate change

The project team will be seeking feedback on draft maps from First Nations and local government in January. The project will be completed in March, 2024 and the reports will be made available to the public.



More information about the Fraser Basin FHIMP project can be found at
https://www.fraserbasin.bc.ca/BC_Floodplain_Mapping.html





Nechako Environmental Enhancement Fund (NEEF)

Presented by: Andy Lecuyer, Nechako Environmental Enhancement Fund Society

The NEEF fund is intended for environmental enhancement of the Nechako Watershed, downstream of the Nechako Reservoir. The NEEF Society was established in 2015 to act as an agent for the NEEF Management Committee which includes reviewing and making decisions on proposals, entering into agreements with grant recipients and forwarding funds. The NEEF Society is governed by a Board of Directors, currently represented by Ray Pillipow (Province of BC), Andy Lecuyer (Rio Tinto), and James Jacklin (Province of BC). Phil Zacharatos served on the Board as a dedicated Public Member from June 2016 until his passing in April 2023.

The objectives of the fund are to support projects that:

- Are related to change in the flow in the Cheslatta River and Nechako River, including the Skins Lake Spillway discharges and changes in flow achieved through other enhancement initiatives.
- Rehabilitate fish habitat and fish populations in the Cheslatta River and Nechako River.
- Promote education and stewardship of water in the Nechako and Cheslatta watersheds.
- Improve water flow regulation decisions in consideration with all environmental aspects.

NEEF 2023 projects include:

- Cheslatta River Fish Standing Assessment.
- Integrated Watershed Research in the Nechako River Basin (Phase 3, Year 1) - ongoing funding (Phase 3, Year 2) in 2024.
- Nechako White Sturgeon Conservation Centre (Phase 2, Year 1) - ongoing funding (Phase 2, Year 2) in 2024.
- Nulki-Tachick Lakes Macrophyte Harvesting Program Feasibility Study.
- Nechako White Sturgeon Recovery (Year 2).

Funds are available on an annual basis until 2050 or longer as follows:

- \$7.4M (\$200k per year) allocated to Cheslatta Watershed Restoration and Stewardship.
- \$27.2M (\$850k per year) allocated to Nechako Watershed Restoration and Stewardship
 - \$6.4M (200k per year) allocated to Post-Secondary Research
 - Option for BC and Rio Tinto to agree to allocate all uncommitted funds to a major project such as building a spillway at Kenney Dam.



More information about NEEF can be found at <https://www.neef.ca/>.



Macrophyte Harvest Feasibility Study

Presented by: Ray Klingspohn, Nulki-Tachik Lake Stewardship Society (NTLSS)/ NWR Core Committee

Nulki and Tachik Lakes are both shallow lakes ranking in the top five eutrophic lakes in British Columbia. Increased road access, timber harvesting, farming, ranching, and mining have all impacted these lakes. Additionally, both lakes have seen increased clearing for homes and septic fields. These activities have led to decreased water quality, accelerated macrophyte and algae growth, including the dangerously toxic cyanobacteria. This has impacted the health and led to the death of aquatic species and cattle, as well as cause safety concerns to people and their property. In 2023 the algae growth was seen from 2-weeks after the ice was off the lake until mid-September.

In August 2023, the NTLSS with the support of Saik'uz First Nations, began a Macrophyte Harvest Field Study with Environmental Dynamics Inc. to determine the viability of a harvesting program and develop a restoration plan. The goals of Phase One of the project include:

- A reduction in phosphorus fed macrophyte growth
- Control of blue-green algae (cyanobacteria)
- Advocacy for inclusive water use planning
- Development of an ongoing evaluation strategy

Additionally, by harvesting the algae the NTLSS hopes that the byproduct can be used as a fertilizer and support other industry needs.

Phase one of the project will be completed by December 31, 2023, with Phase two starting January 1, 2024. Phase two goals include:

- Reach consensus on effective and efficient harvesting equipment
- Secure annualized funding
- Determine collection points, disposal and recycling of harvested materials
- Explore alternative strategies for phosphorus reduction



To view the presentation slides, visit <https://nechakowatershed.ca/news/23/151/2023-Annual-Meeting>.





Creating Climate Resilient Communities Through Collaboration

Presented by: Brian Frenkel, District of Vanderhoof/NWR Core Committee & Kim Menounos, Fraser Basin Council/ NWR Co-chair

Assessing Potential Biophysical and Socioeconomic Impacts of Climate Change on Forest-Based Communities: A Methodological Case Study' by T.B. Williamson, D.T. Price, J.L. Beverly, P.M. Bothwell, B. Frenkel, J. Park, and M.N. Patriquin (2008) - report summary of future climate related impacts:

- Socio economic impacts due to a much smaller forest sector
- Continuation of forest cover transformation
- Increase wildfire susceptibility, severity and frequency within the study area
- Further increases in temperature, and severity of climate related issues such as drought, wind and floods

Regional Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Framework for the Nechako Watershed

As the health of BC watersheds continue to be under threat from development, population growth and an increasingly precarious climate, voices from different sectors are calling for action at the most local level.

The Nechako Watershed Roundtable wishes to convene a gathering of leaders from all levels of government including First Nations, Regional Districts, local governments, and provincial senior decision makers to contemplate and discuss a regional climate change adaption framework at the watershed scale that considers the priorities, needs and resources of the region to support vibrant and resilient communities.

Phase one of the project would include:

- Securing funding to provide administrative support
- Convene a steering committee to scope
- Prepare an agenda to guide dialogue

The NWR is currently seeking funding to initiate the project and will update the Roundtable as the project progresses.



If you are interested in participating on the steering committee or would like to learn more about the project, please contact nwrcoordinator@gmail.com.



NECHAKO
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