Regional Revision: A regional approach to managing drinking water

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Question?

1) What would a (new) regional approach to managing drinking water look like?

2) Could it work?
Answer?

1) It depends

2) Maybe
1. Identify Existing Challenges
2. Develop Regional Solution(s)
3. Focus Group: Test Feasibility
4. Revise Regional Approach
5. Test Feasibility
6. Final Regional Approach

Research Steps
Snapshot of Regions Governance

**Similarities**
- Provincial government the responsible authority
- Local governments manage daily operation and maintenance responsibilities

**Differences**
- NL does not have a drinking water specific act opposed to BC's Drinking Water Protection Act
## Drinking Water Systems

### Kootenays
- ~53 public systems (regional district or municipality)
- # of private systems unknown

### Kittiwake
- 34 Public Water Systems
- # of private systems unknown

### Existing Drinking Water Systems

#### Kootenays
- 34 Public Water Systems

#### Kittiwake
- 15 public water supplies on Boil Water Advisory (BWA)

### Snapshot of advisories in September 2013

#### Kootenays
- 7 public (3 boil water notices, 4 water quality advisories)
- 124 total (105 boil water notices, 19 water quality advisories)

#### Kittiwake
- 15 public water supplies on Boil Water Advisory (BWA)
Drinking Water Management at a Regional Scale

1) Sustainable Infrastructure
- Participants held accountable
- Ongoing evaluation
- Learn and adapt

2) Regional Development
- Long term
- Supportive of resilience
- Integrated based on holistic understanding

3) Drinking Water Management
- Self-identified and appropriate region
- New multi-level, collaborative governance structures and processes
  - Place based
  - Implementation focus
- Adaptive and innovative
- Participatory and inclusive
- Equitable and transparent
- Risk tolerant

Evaluation / Monitoring
- Serve multiple functions
- Shares resources and knowledge
- Develops participant capacity

Policy

Shared Concepts

Planning

Operations
Key Findings: Overarching Themes

- Health
- Environment
- Knowledge
- Place
- Integration
- Relationships
- Issues and challenges
Key Findings: Enabling Forces

- Potential benefits
- Innovation
- Principles of good governance
- Existing regional approaches
- Policy window
Key Findings: Barriers

Knowledge, understanding, and awareness

Institutional and regulatory structure

Equity
Key Findings:
Feedback on Proposed Approach
On-site Training Curriculum

The curriculum utilized for on-site training incorporates several sessions that were developed to response to the training needs of municipal operators. The intention of this program is to train new operators and to enhance and upgrade the skills of experienced operators. For more details on training sessions included in the on-site curriculum, click here.

Key Points

- Rural areas can learn a lot from existing ideas
- Our framework has good ideas - needs work
- Current institutional structures are a barrier
- Context matters
- Getting creative with capacity
- Thinking regional
Exploring Solutions for Sustainable Rural Drinking Water

Canadian Regional Development

NL/BC Comparative Project

Drinking Water Infrastructure

Source Water Protection

Revised Regional Approach
Thank you!

Questions?

Visit our website:
• http://nlwater.ruralresilience.ca/?page_id=289

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