

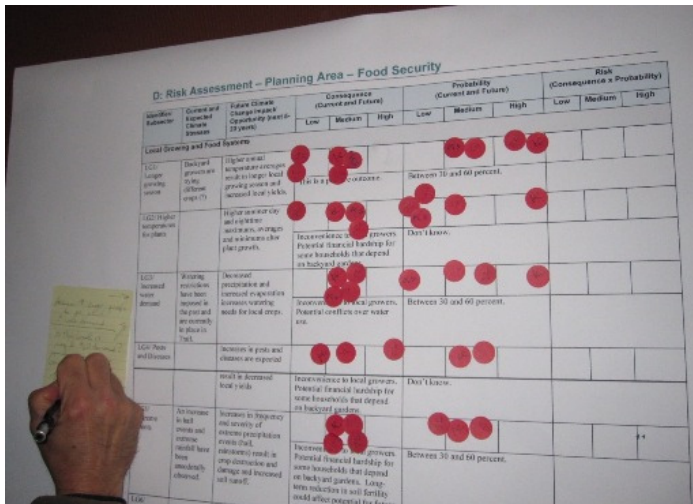
Learning Network Reflection Webinar Summary Report

Summary report overview

The phase 2 community projects of Rossland, Castlegar and Kaslo/Area D have been working on their adaptation planning process for 8 months. All the local project coordinators shared their progress at this reflection webinar on June 22, 2010. The local projects have begun their vulnerability and risk assessments and are planning for more VA/RA and/or writing up of related actions. The City Planner for Kimberley and the CAO for the District of Elkford (phase 1 project communities) provided details on how their climate change adaptation action plans are contributing to their current community planning. The Learning Network reflection webinar included several comments, questions and discussions between the nineteen participants. Highlights of the discussions are included in this report and presentations can be viewed and downloaded on line and listened to via the recording.

A full audio recording of the teleconference is available via telephone:
North America Toll Free: **1-888-203-1112** / Replay Pass code: **64515706**

Presentations are available online at: <http://cbtadaptation.squarespace.com/presentations-2010/>



All communities are undertaking Vulnerability and Risk Assessments

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Background on the Learning Network

What are the objectives of the Learning Network?

- **Link expertise and knowledge** across governments, academic and practitioner sectors.
- **Provide venues** for project communities to reflect report and get feedback from other local governments and technical experts.
- **Raise awareness and capacity** within local governments in the Columbia Basin on climate change adaptation.

Who can participate in the Learning Network?

- Local government elected officials and staff in the Basin
- Members of CBT's Technical Support Team and Advisory Committee

Objectives of the reflection webinar

- To provide Learning Network participants with an opportunity to find out first hand the learnings and experiences from communities that are currently undertaking adaptation planning processes in the Basin.
- To provide an opportunity for progress updates from Kimberley and Elkford, communities who completed adaptation actions plans in 2009.
- To learn, share and reflect together on adaptation planning at the local level.

Reflections from Rosland, Castlegar, Kaslo/RDCK Area D

Presentations are available online at: <http://cbtadaptation.squarespace.com/presentations-2010/>

Rosland

Overview

- Priority areas: a socioeconomic lens for: water availability, food security, infrastructure, energy prices and availability.
- Partnership: Rosland is working with Simon Fraser's Adaptation to Climate Change Team to conduct research for the project and to do the vulnerability and risk assessment of 3 priority areas (excluding food security).
- Where they are at right now: assessing vulnerability and risk.
- Rosland is conducting their own vulnerability and risk assessment on food security.

Challenges and successes

- Getting started and understanding the initial steps takes a lot of time (another month would have been helpful).
- It is challenging to work with researchers who are not from the region as a lot of climate data and knowledge is localized and a lot if this information is not written down.
- Global issues versus regional level focus are a challenge.
- It is challenging to predict what information and research you are going to need.
- Public engagement is always challenging but they have had a couple very good public events.

Castlegar

Overview

- Priority impact areas: Infrastructure, water resources, food and local agriculture.
- Project has a parallel process: consultant team working with infrastructure and stormwater systems and a local steering committee working on water and food.
- Outreach: Kristin has been attending local events to inform the public about the adaptation project, local observations surveys and has been engaging with community groups, youth and city staff.
- Currently they are developing a work plan for the vulnerability and risk assessments.

Challenges and successes

- There are so many unpredictable factors with climate change impacts to agriculture such as pests, disease, costs – the ‘unknown’ is a challenge.
- Watershed issues and concerns are challenging to manage as Castlegar’s water reservoir is outside of the city limits, therefore in terms of adaptation planning, action items for the City will emerge in the form of advocacy and requests for referrals from Provincial Ministries and agencies.
- Impact mapping has been a great outreach tool for Castlegar to help translate climate science into local impacts.
- When dealing with climate change there are a lot of unknowns – this is a challenge.

Kaslo/RDCK Area D

Overview

- Priority areas: water resource (small water systems) and food security and agriculture
- March – climate impacts and resulting changes, impact charts. Currently they are working on risk assessments, (they looked at the consequence and probabilities).
- The consequences of adaptation measures will be wide spread.

Challenges and successes

- It is important for the coordinator to keep reminding people why they are doing this and to put the project goals in plain English.
- The whole process is hard. Thinking is hard and this process requires a lot of thinking. Can the process be simpler?
- It is important to make the information easily accessible and easy to understand to the steering committee and the public.
- It is very challenging to convince people of the adaptation actions such as water restrictions. The public see this as a threat.
- It’s important to have people in the room that have high level research and knowledge (member of the Technical Support Team for example).

Update from Kimberley and Elkford

Elkford

Update

- They have just adopted their new OCP that includes adaptation actions.
- The City Staff walked the elected officials through the new OCP line by line. Some of the policies got watered down through this process, however the end result is a strong document that has public support
- Flooding, landslides and wildfire were key areas that took a focus with adaptation actions.

- They recommended no building in the flood plain; however, council didn't go as far with this as they should have and put in default constraints.
- They are please with the wildfire protection plan that states that any new developments must get a wildfire protection permit (DPA)
- She would like to start bringing adaptation actions (from the detailed action plan) to council by August.
- She is excited to start rolling out actions in the next 5-10 years.
- Looking at the other projects, she thinks it's unfortunate that they didn't look at agriculture as this would have been a good opportunity to protect agricultural land (land use planning). Many of the other action areas have to do with land use planning.

Kimberley

Update

- Learn, share, plan approach.
- The adaptation action plan has 75 recommendations that are ranked in priority.
- Priority areas: water and forests, built environment (infrastructure), socio-economic (tourism).
- Is their intent to use the adaptation action plan to update OCP along with other projects and plans that have not been completed yet. They are in the first stages of this as they launch a sustainability study of Kimberley. They will put an adaptation lens on the process.
- Many new staff and managers in the past have come of board at the City in the past year. Benefits of having new eyes and ears in the City are people who are able to consider adaptation etc...
- Reality – they are all spending a lot of time trying to catch up on existing projects.
- Adaptation work and visualizations have been very useful for planning efforts to reduce wildfire hazards in the community.
- Emergency preparedness plan: this is using the findings from the adaptation work to update this plan.
- The adaptation work is contributing to a longer term plan for roads and storm sewer – they're thinking of future impacts.
- Water systems: they want to upgrade it for resiliency in the future – another place for adaptation planning.

Questions and answers

Question to Kaslo/Area D

Q 1 - Jenny Fraser: Referring to Tim's comment that "adaptation options are possibly threatening (to some people) as they may infringe on rights etc..."

It seems like the adaptation measures are things that *have* to happen now instead of recommendations.

A 1– Tim Sander: Ideally the adaptation strategy would be rolled out over a number of years. This would give people the opportunity to access background information on the strategy. For example: water metering – this would be advantageous if there was more time. People don't like things that are forced upon them.

Q 1 - Jenny Fraser: one recommendation to address this is to not make the adaptation strategy to implement the water meter, but the strategy could instead be to do more research and public engagement on water metering.

Question to Kimberley and Elkford

Q 2 – Jenny Fraser: Now that you have distance from the process – are you ok on your own? Is there something that they could use as ongoing support?

A 2 – Corien Speaker: she thinks the conversation will shift a lot in the next 5 years and she thinks that they will have to change and revise and their targets will have to shift in the next five years.

She doesn't know what this support would look like. Elkford doesn't even have a land use planner. She really likes knowing what other people are doing (such as Rossland and Castlegar on agriculture).

A 2- Troy Pollock: Perhaps they underestimated their ability to take quicker action the recommendations. Looking back however, there are ongoing efforts. Internally, there has not been the opportunity. He is not sure what resources could have made this easier.

Comments

- Kathy Moore: The messages that come from adaptation team and from the City have to be consistent. The citizens are confused. There is a real need for good coordination. In Rossland we need a lot more education. She hopes that the other communities can do a better job than Rossland.
- Kathy Moore: Rossland may have been able to keep more of a socioeconomic focus on their adaptation project if they had more public involvement.
- Tim Sander: The political process is bad and the political timelines do not always coincide with long term planning.
- Kristin Aasen: Kristin was City Staff so this made it easy to communicate along City lines. She was in constant contact with City Staff. This made it easier - it is important to imbed the local coordinators in local government.
- Stewart Cohen: Conference in Australia: Climate Adaptation Futures, hosted by The National Climate Change Research Facility. Stewart will be sharing a new paper entitled: Shared Learning on Adapting to Climate Change that includes the experiences from Kimberley and Elkford. What we are doing here in the Basin is something that is happening on an international scale - <http://www.nccarf.edu.au/conference2010>
- Jeff Zukiwsky: He is writing a story of the 5 communities that are doing adaptation planning in the Basin. He will present these at a Canadian Institute for Planners conference in Montreal: <http://www.nccarf.edu.au/conference2010>
- Hans Schreier: He just returned from a conference in Calgary – within the next 2-3 years they will have to re-think what they are doing in a real aggressive manner in regards to

water management. The South Saskatchewan River people are not allowed any new licences. There is a water market where you can change licences. This makes water shortages on the front line. Some rumblings are starting to happen.

Actions

- Decision making framework for Elkford – people are interested in this.
 - CACCI coordinator will follow up with Corien Speaker from Elkford on their decision making framework and will share with the LN members.
- Webinar with Corien Speaker regarding Elkford's OCP in July for interested LN members.
 - Rachael Roussin will send out options for the webinar date to LN members that expressed interest at the June 22 webinar. Once a date has been determined, a webinar will be organized and an invite will be sent to all LN members.
- Jeff Zukiwsky and Stewart Cohen may have information to share with each other regarding their work with adaptation case studies.
 - Michelle will connect Stewart and Jeff regarding their papers on adaptation via email.

Participants

LN members from communities

- David Mills, Village of Slocan
- Iain Bell, City of Creston
- Melissa Lyle, Village of Fruitvale
- Kathy Moore, Rossland (member of the steering committee)
- Jennifer Ellis, local coordinator, Rossland - presenter
- Kristin Aasen, local coordinator, Castlegar - presenter
- Tim Sander, local coordinator, Kaslo/Area D - presenter
- Corien Speaker, CAO, District of Elkford - presenter
- Troy Pollock, City Planner, City of Kimberley - presenter
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TST/AC (bios can be found at: <http://cbtadaptation.squarespace.com/contact-lists/>)

- Jeff Zukiwsky
- Laurie Cordell
- Stewart Cohen
- Jenny Fraser
- Jim Barnes
- Martin Carver
- Hans Schreier

CBT

- Michelle Laurie, CACCI Coordinator
- Rachael Roussin, CACCI Assistant

Agenda

June 22, 2010, 10am-11:30am PDT

- 10:00-10:05 Overview and Intro to Webinar Technology
- 10:05-10:10 Learning Network Objectives and Future
- 10:10-10:50 Rossland, Castlegar, Kaslo/Area D Reflections followed by Q&A
- 10:50-11:10 Updates from Kimberley & Elkford + Questions
- 11:10-11:30 Open Discussion For All Participants