

Water Connections

Water Information Sharing for
Canadian Municipalities



Challenge

- Hundreds of web resources – different scales, different scopes
- No existing site provides comprehensive, searchable access to water-related information
- Traditional internet search engines return thousands of results

“...occasionally you will find stuff through a Google search, but it is not easy to come across these things because there is a lot out there.”



Feasibility Study

- Multi-faceted approach including:
 - National Steering Committee
 - National survey with 125 participants including 15 municipalities
 - Consultations with 35 organizations
 - Almost 300 web reviews
 - Extensive literature review
- Created a contact list of more than 4000
 - Includes 482 contacts from 296 different municipalities



Major Findings

- Daily decisions are related to:
 - Land-use planning
 - Drinking water quality
 - Stormwater run-off
 - Wastewater treatment
 - Flood mitigation and damage reduction
 - Water conservation



Information Challenges

- Finding and accessing data, specifically related to:
 - Watershed management tools
 - Best Managements Practices (BMPs)
 - Regulations
 - Legislation
 - Funding
 - Support for analysis and interpretation



Solution

- ***Water Connections***
 - Builds on and connects existing resources and expertise
 - Reaches across jurisdictions and sectors
 - Supports information sharing
 - Increases capacity
 - Encourages community engagement in water protection from coast-to-coast-to-coast



Overview of Tools and Resources

- Directory of organizations and contacts within the water community
- Resource Library
- Conduit to Data Management Systems
- Events Calendar



Value Added

- Standardized data exchange framework
 - Accompanied by Data Exchange and Best Practices Guides
- Capacity Tools
 - An inventory of resources
- *Value will only increase as more municipalities, organizations and agencies input and access information/data*



Contact

Centre for Sustainable Watersheds

Bob Sneyd, President and CEO

sneyd@watersheds.ca

Kim Goodman, Project Manager

goodman@watersheds.ca

Or visit

www.waterconnect.ca

