



NICOLA WATER USE MANAGEMENT PLAN

(A water use management plan for the Nicola watershed)



March 2010

Prepared on behalf of the:

Citizens of the Nicola Watershed



Prepared by:

Nicola WUMP Multi-Stakeholder Committee

Drought 2003 – “Most Endangered River” March 2004

October 14-15 of 2004 the Nicola Watershed Community Round Table held *Charting Our Water Future* workshop - start of planning process to develop a water use management plan to address issues related to water, fish flows, and the Nicola dam.

Vision

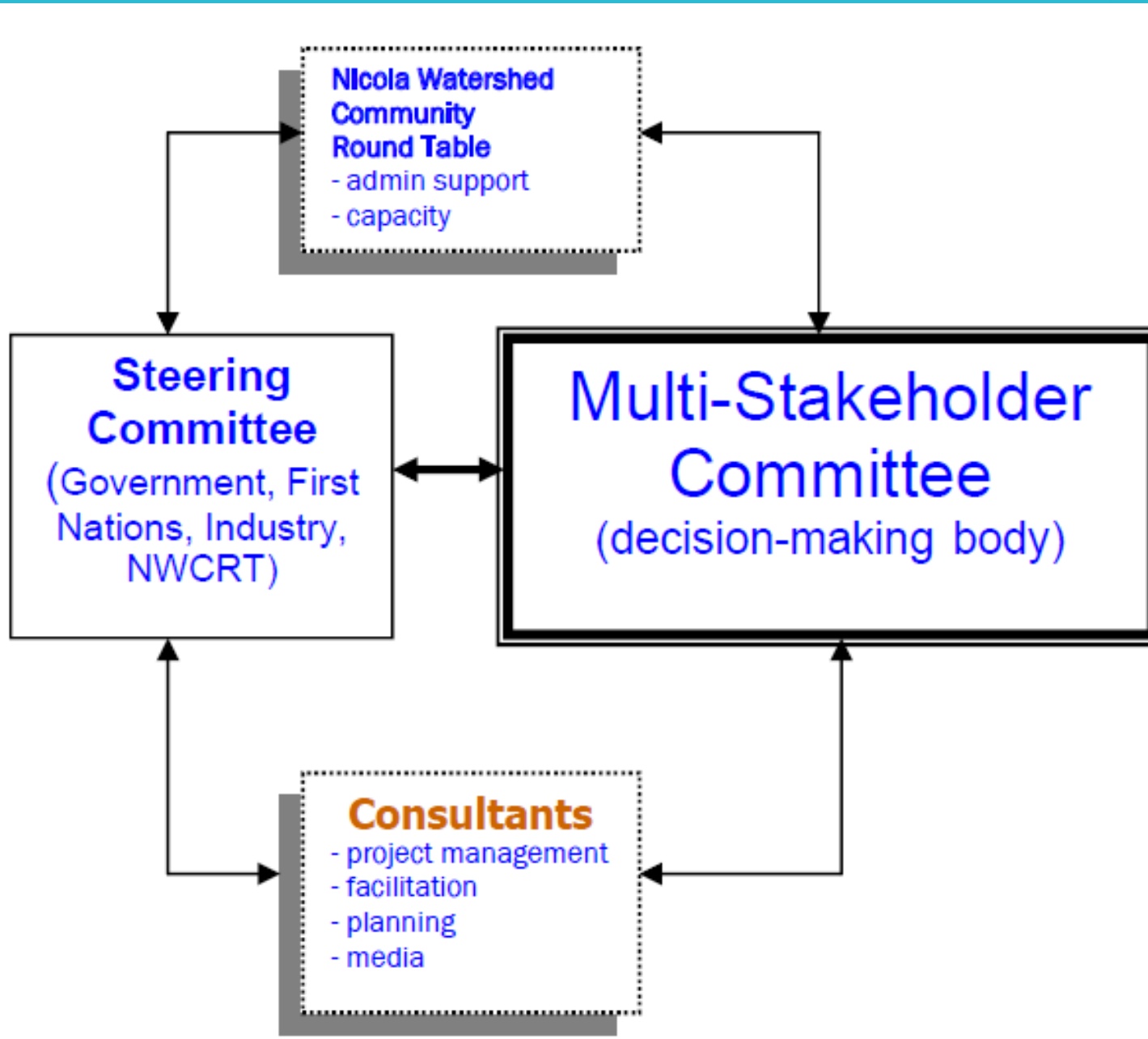
- **... a sustainable supply of quality water that ensures a balance of social, economic, traditional and ecological values.**

Mission

- **... to guide the sustainable use of the water resources of the Nicola watershed in order to support the social, economic and ecological well being of our communities in perpetuity.**

PHASES

- **Phase 1, 2005 – confirmation of issues**
- **Phase 2, 2006/2007– prioritize knowledge gaps, funding, technical studies, pilot project, options analysis, governance models, plan synthesis**
- **Phase 3, 2008/2009 – plan evaluation and approval**
- **Phase 4, 2010- plan submission, implementation**



PLANNING AND DECISION- MAKING PROCESS

FUNDING AND IN-KIND SUPPORT

- **BC Federation of Fly Fishers**
- **British Columbia Ministry of Environment**
- **City of Merritt**
- **Fisheries and Oceans Canada**
- **Fraser Basin Council**
- **Highland Valley Copper**
- **Ministry of Agriculture and Lands**
- **Nicola Stock Breeders Association**
- **Pacific Salmon Foundation/ Living Rivers**
- **Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia**
- **Spences Bridge Steelhead Advocate Association**
- **Steelhead Society of BC**
- **Thompson Nicola Regional District**
- **Watershed Watch Salmon Society**
- **Private donors**

INFORMATION GATHERING

- **Present and Future Water Demand**
- **Surface and Groundwater Supply and Interaction Study**
- **Additional Water Storage Sites Study**
- **Governance Models**
- **Governance Options**
- **Instream Fish Flow Study**
- **Water Management Tools**
- **Water Budget Analysis**

WUMP RECOMMENDATIONS

37 policy instruments presented in the WUMP were endorsed and recommended by consensus by the MSC

They were grouped into five main categories:

- **water quantity – the focus**
 - **to conserve and better ensure the adequacy and availability of water supplies both in terms of demand management and increased storage potential**
- **water quality**
- **environment**
- **learning**
- **management**

WUMP IMPLEMENTATION

In 2004, the provincial government enabled Part 4 of the *Water Act* to allow for the development of *water management plans (WMP)*, which once approved may be made legally enforceable.

In 2008, the MSC formally requested that a WMP be developed for the Nicola watershed under the *Water Act*.

In 2011, BC states “.....specific procedures and criteria are required to initiate a WMP, the *Water Act* does not allow for the conversion of a completed plan like the Nicola WUMP into a legislated WMP.”

Guiding Principle 10. Recognize and celebrate the achievements of the WUMP - The Nicola WUMP was not adopted, but many recommendations have been advanced by the various agencies

WUMP GUIDING PRINCIPLES ON ENGAGEMENT

In 2011, BC responded that many recommendations will be taken under advisement and encouraged ongoing stakeholder engagement, but a Nicola Water Advisory Committee does not exist without an approved WMP and funding.

Guiding Principle 5. Recognize that water allocation and other management decisions need to be made in an open, transparent, and equitable way.

Guiding Principle 9. Recognize that everyone is affected and has a shared responsibility in water management: active participation and information sharing are necessary in order to lead to more effective water management decisions.