

A new approach and lessons learned: how co-creation, shared spaces, and diversity can improve water monitoring design

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About the Speaker

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About the Series

The Lake Futures Webinar Series showcases research on adaptive lake and watershed solutions that minimize trade offs between ecosystem health, water use and economic growth. The series promotes sharing and discussion about how these solutions can be used to improve water management outcomes.



KEY MESSAGES

- Development of monitoring programs often fail to meet the needs of local communities and consider how results will inform management decisions
- Useful water monitoring frameworks must consider cumulative effects, be co-created by diverse stakeholders, and connect monitoring to broader river or lake management decisions
- Utilizing the interface of the Grand River and Lake Erie as a case study, this research proposes a framework and process of iterative steps for the Grand River Estuary Working Group
- The framework is based on the adaptive management process, which includes iterative cycles of conceptualization, planning, execution, evaluation, and revision, developed through workshops, Indigenous relationship-building, participant observation, key informant interviews and public engagement
- Applying interim review cycles ensures monitoring questions are guided by decision maker needs

NEXT STEPS

- Work with local practitioners to discuss application of framework
- Consider key lessons learned for development of other monitoring frameworks:
 - Apply a watershed approach: engage community members, organizations to achieve shared goals
 - Initiate partnerships and collaboration early
 - Recognize and integrate different knowledge approaches (Indigenous and Western knowledge)
 - Assess cumulative effects where possible
 - Combine quality, quantity, biomonitoring data
 - Combine short and long-term data
 - Clarify monitoring and management roles

RESOURCES

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