

WORKSHOP INFORMATION + AGENDA

Date: October 5, 2020

Time: 9:00am to 12:00pm

System: Microsoft Teams

If needed, contact: Elaine Ho at e23ho@uwaterloo.ca

Research overview

The problem: Conventional long-term water monitoring programs in Ontario are generally designed in siloed institutions that have changed little (in form or function) in a century. Agency values and practices have changed slower than the pace of society...

- Lack of diversity represented in priorities, design (often an elitist mentality, and typically there is little representation of non-white persons)
- Monitoring capacity decreased over the last 40 years Canada-wide
- Diminished connection between monitoring and decision making over this time

Research goal: Develop a monitoring framework that considers cumulative effects, is co-created by diverse stakeholders [this workshop is the final stage of co-creation], and that connects monitoring to broader river or lake management decisions.

Research outcome: a proposed Grand River Estuary Working Group (potential other EWGs in estuaries across Great Lakes, perhaps linked to binational work) to explore water quality issues that involve river-lake interaction. There are two parts: the framework and process.

1. The framework is the proposed organization of different organizations, persons, values, processes, actions, and outputs/outcomes.
2. The process is proposed sequence of iterative steps in which the framework is translated from an abstract concept into concrete action.

The framework facilitates consideration of cumulative effects and implementation of ecosystem-based management approaches, incorporates more diverse perspectives into the way we understand riverine/lake health, improves the way water managers, scientists, and others are organized and coordinated, and optimizes limited resources without sacrificing achievement of collective goals.

Purpose of this workshop

This workshop is the culminating event for research carried out over the last 3+ years. Literature, interviews, consultation with practitioners and Global Water Futures researchers, public engagement and engagement of Indigenous youth have all contributed to the development of the proposed framework and its related process. However, the way in which all components of this framework have been organized is the interpretation of the researcher (Elaine). This workshop is a sense-making exercise where past research participants can verify or revise their contributions to the work, and where new study participants can contribute to reorganizing the framework in a more feasible and meaningful way. In other words, the framework presented is only one possible approach for addressing the estuary knowledge gap and improving monitoring practices (note: we are not trying to overhaul the water system). This is your chance to collectively create your preferred framework.

Workshop logistics

Microsoft Teams: The workshop will take place virtually using Microsoft Teams (you have already been added to a Team titled “Elaine’s Workshop”). You should receive a meeting link by the end of day on September 22; please contact Elaine if you do not receive the Teams invitation. If you would like some instruction on how to join a Teams meeting, view a short but helpful video demo [here](#) (this will explain how to join the meeting whether you have a Teams account or not).

Workshop notes: All notes from the general session and breakout groups will be collected in a single Google Doc. If you wish to follow the workshop notes in real-time, or add to them yourself, you may access the document at any time [here](#). Please note: any changes you make are visible to all participants. Do not delete the file, or you will delete it for everyone (including the researcher)!

Group discussion: Each participant has been assigned to one of two breakout groups. When you join the meeting, you will be in the General channel. When it is time to break out into groups, you will need to go into your group’s channel (menu at left) and join the meeting.

Workshop recording: The general session and at least part of the discussions (potentially all) will be screen recorded for note-taking purposes only. Once the workshop report is finalized, all copies of all recordings will be permanently deleted.

Chatham House Rule

This workshop maintains the Chatham House Rule, which states: “participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed.”

In other words, anyone can use or share ideas, lessons, or high-level information without any kind of attribution or identifying information. Read more [here](#).

Agenda

Time	Item
9:00 AM	Welcome and logistics
9:05 AM	Brief comment on the Thanksgiving Address
9:10 AM	Review workshop goals
9:15 AM	Breakout Discussion A: What changes or additions to this framework would you recommend? How would you change the goals/purpose? Please be as specific as possible.
9:45 AM	Reconvene and summarize
10:00 AM	Breakout Discussion B: Given your own experience and the materials shared ahead of this workshop, how would you suggest applying/including Western knowledge alongside Indigenous cultural knowledge?
10:30 AM	Reconvene and summarize
10:45 AM	Break
11:00 AM	Breakout Discussion C: Can you envision your organization becoming involved in implementing this framework? Why or why not? In an ideal world, what role would your organization play in implementing this framework?
11:30 AM	Reconvene. We will not collectively summarize potential roles; Elaine will consider all information and summarize high-level recommendations in the Workshop Report.
11:35 AM	Closing discussion: Are there any other aspects of this framework you would like to discuss? Do you have any takeaways, lessons learned (would you apply anything at your organization?) or final thoughts?
11:55 AM	Workshop closing

One more thing: I will be co-hosting a cumulative effects workshop – the last step of my research – in early November. At the workshop, which is geared to monitoring personnel and related scientists, we will create a subset of existing indicators that may contribute to cumulative effects assessment related to a specific issue. If you are interested in attending, or you know someone who would be, please contact Elaine (e23ho@uwaterloo.ca).

Thank you for your participation. See you on October 5!