

Morice Water Monitoring Trust: Annual Monitoring Plan 2017

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Morice Water Monitoring Trust
c/o Box 4274 Smithers, BC
V0J 2N0 Canada
(250) 847-2827 info@bvcentre.ca

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1.0 Introduction

The Morice Water Monitoring Trust (MWMT) is directed through its Trust Agreement to be responsible for monitoring the implementation and effectiveness of British Columbia/Wet'suwet'en government-to-government agreements, and related natural resource management activities, plans, and policies in the Morice Water Management Area (the "Morice Plans"). Baseline data will be collected on habitat supporting salmon and other fish, including water quality and quantity data, and hydrologic integrity that would fill information gaps or reduce information uncertainty. This will provide credible monitoring research and baseline data results in support of environmental effects monitoring and assessment to enable continuous improvement of Morice Plans, resulting in better management of environmental values in the Morice Water Management Area (MWMA).

The MWMT Strategic Direction document outlines core issues in the watershed, including the Trust's scope, purpose, guiding principles, goals, and strategies for management and implementation. The MWMT Monitoring Framework provides operational guidance by defining and categorizing the anticipated risks/pressures in the watershed and sub-units, goals and objectives specific to each category, and tasks required to successfully address objectives. Both of these documents will assist the Trustees with setting direction and priorities.

One of the primary purposes of MWMT is to gather baseline data within the Morice Water Management Area to determine if water quality is sufficient to maintain the well-being of the Wet'suwet'en (in relation to fish and drinking water). In 2007 and 2008, MWMT developed and implemented a Monitoring Program, which led to the creation of the Morice Water Management Area—Multi-Year Operational Plan (Gordon & Associates 2009). The Operational Plan provides a well-structured framework for water quality monitoring, and was instrumental in developing the MWMT Monitoring Framework—a working document that serves as a 5-year plan for Trust activities. The current management questions (Gordon & Associates 2009) are:

- Is the water safe for drinking?
- Is the water and associated habitat capable of sustaining fish?
- Is the water quality getting better or worse?
- Is the water quality changing because of changes in land use or management practices?
- If water quality problems exist, what are the causes of those problems?
- Are regulatory requirements for water quality being met?

In October 2015, MWMT used the Monitoring Framework to implement a more refined water quality monitoring program and began baseline data collection at 5 sites in the MWMA. Baseline data collection will continue on a monthly basis until March 31, 2019 for the purpose of assessing stream health. The Water Quality Goals include reliable access to safe drinking water, water quality and quantity to sustain the health and well-being of the Wet'suwet'en and water quality that supports aquatic life at reference state. To meet these goals, the MWMA objectives are to:

1. Maintain water temperature within critical limits for salmonid species on all MWMA water bodies.
2. Maintain water quality (chemistry) at or below Provincial Water Quality guidelines for parameters of importance seasonally.

The role of the MWMT is to collect information related to the goals and objectives for the Morice Water Management Area and communicate this information to the Trustees, decision makers, and others as appropriate. MWMT welcomes continued input into key watershed issues in order to maintain a monitoring program that addresses current objectives.

The Annual Monitoring Plan sets out the year's proposed activities and budget which are created from the MWMT Monitoring Framework and is consistent with the MWMT Agreement.

2.0 Budget

The Budget for the 2017/18 (Year 3) Annual Monitoring Program consists of funding from the MWMT Revenue Trust Account, as well as in kind support from others. A summary of proposed activities and budgets is included in Table 1, and individual activities are described in greater detail in Section 3.

Table 1. 2017/18 MWMT Annual Monitoring Plan Budget

Activity/Task	Proposed Budget 2016/2017	Actual Spending 2016/2017	Proposed Budget 2017/2018
MWMT Program Management (Task 1)	\$13,900	\$11,984	\$12,000
Trust Project Coordination	\$13,000	\$11,084	\$11,100
Administration (12% of Annual Monitoring Program) *Admin Fee previously charged on Operational Seed Funding (\$120,899); will re-establish fee once \$120,899 is spent.	\$0*	\$0*	\$0*
BVRC Rent (\$75 per month)	\$900	\$900	\$900
MWMT Annual WQ Monitoring Program (Task 2)	\$53,000	\$35,897	\$48,220
Agreement Monitoring	\$500	\$0	\$500
2016/17 – MWMA Stream [and Lake] Water Quality Monitoring	\$50,000	\$31,892	\$43,520 (including spring 5 in 30)
Data management and analysis	\$2000	\$2,175	\$2,200
Annual reporting	\$500	\$1,830	\$2,000
MWMT Communication (Task 3)	\$2000	\$685	\$1,000
Website maintenance	\$500	\$335	\$500
Communication & Extension	\$1,500	\$350	\$500
Total	\$68,900	\$48,566	\$61,220

1. Monitoring Year is from April 1 to March 31 annually to coincide with Budget Approval.
2. Endowment Trust Year is the Calendar Year.
3. Revenue Trust Account balance on March 31, 2017 is \$64,324.18.

3.0 Project Synopses for 2017

MWMT Program Management (Task 1)

Project management activities include those functions that are necessary for the effective delivery of MWMT projects.

Budget: \$12,000

Project Coordinator

Tasks:

- Prepare Trustee Meeting agendas, facilitate meetings, and provide minutes
- Prepare and update Trust Management documents as directed by Trustees (present bank balance, budget, etc.)
- Manage Trust expenditures as defined by the Annual Monitoring Plan
- Develop 2017 Annual Monitoring Plan on behalf of the Trustees in coordination with Monitoring Lead:
 - Provide initial description of projects and cost estimates
 - Facilitate discussion in relation to project selection
- Advise Trustees as necessary on strategic and operational planning
- Coordinate MWMT programs with other programs known to take place in 2017
 - Research grant and partnership opportunities and MWMT Partnership and Grant Recording Document, which tracks process and records grant and partnership contact information

Monitoring Project Lead

Tasks:

- Upload and organize data in Dropbox
- Coordinate MWMT programs with other programs known to take place in 2017 (see above)
- Research grant and partnership opportunities and update MWMT Partnership and Grant Recording Document which tracks process and records grant and partnership contact information
- Create Long Term Operational Plan

Administration

The Bulkley Valley Research Centre will provide administrative support as part of the 12% administrative fee in the form of:

Project Administration

1. Project initiation and closeout, overhead, and coordination
2. Contract administration
3. Financial management
4. Financial reporting (monthly, quarterly)
5. Grant fund holding (tracking and reporting)

6. Communications support (maintain website documents)

Equipment/Office

1. Meeting space
2. Physical address
3. Financial record storage (paper) for 7 years
4. Electronic storage of project deliverables, contract documents, and final reports
5. Project-related photocopying and printing support for small jobs
6. Projector and screen
7. Temporary desk space

Services

1. Recognized non-profit society
2. Established registered charity that can facilitate charitable activities
3. Collect mail
4. Pay project-related bills
5. Make project-related deposits
6. Filing

Timetable of deliverables for 2017/2018 MWMT Program Management:

Task/Deliverable	Timeline
Review and update annual monitoring plan and finalize budget outputs	May 2017
Organize data in Dropbox	June 2017
Update MWMT Partnership and Grant Recording Document	Ongoing
Introduce Long Term Operation Plan	August 2017

MWMT Annual WQ Monitoring Program (Task 2)

Budget: \$55,842

The baseline water quality monitoring activities directly respond to the MWMT Water Quality Objectives:

1. Determine if water quality at monitoring locations meets provincial water quality guidelines.
2. Define long-term water quality reference condition in MWMA assessment units.
3. Develop more detailed Water Quality Objectives for individual assessment units as necessary.
4. Determine seasonal variability of water quality.

Monitoring Project Lead

The Monitoring Project Lead will provide the following project management services:

- Annually review all MWMA/MWMT literature and supporting documents and update as necessary. Ensure project objectives and goals are being pursued and/or achieved.
- Continue water quality monitoring in streams within the MWMA and ensure all data and procedures are up to provincial standards. Adaptively manage the program to respond to varying water quality data, budget, and stakeholder influences.
- Implement water quality monitoring in lakes within the MWMA in consultation with the Office of the Wet'suwet'en, the Province of BC, and DFO. Schedule Morice Lake sampling with MOE and include data in Annual Monitoring Report.
- Write Annual Monitoring Report with thorough analysis of data. Advise Trustees as necessary on strategic and operational planning.
- Continually improve, adapt, and implement the safety protocol and procedures. Schedule all sampling sessions with OW and all other stakeholders.
- Investigate data storage and data management with Skeena Knowledge Trust.

Agreement Monitoring

One of the purposes of the Morice Water Monitoring Trust is to monitor the implementation and the effectiveness of any British Columbia/Wet'suwet'en government-to-government agreements, and related natural resources management activities, plans, and policies in the Morice Water Management Area (the "Morice Plans").

It is necessary to define relevant agreements based on discussions with the Province, the Wet'suwet'en, and other stakeholders. The Morice LRMP is considered the primary plan that will influence the MWMT activities. However, subsequent to the LRMP process, additional plans, policies, and activities have been initiated and completed. Plans will include, but are not be limited to: Land and Resource Management Plans, Park Management Plans, Recovery Plans, Environmental Assessment Certificate requirements, and Federal, Provincial, or Office of the Wet'suwet'en Policy.

2017 Objectives:

- To define the plans within MWMA that is relevant to the activities of the MWMT.

Tasks:

- Define relevant plans in consultation with the Trustees, provincial employees, Office of Wet'suwet'en members, and persons familiar with Morice Water Management Area resource management activities.

Deliverables:

1. Compilation of identified plans stored on Dropbox [and/or SKT cloud server] and uploaded to MWMT website.

Schedule:

Ongoing – Initial list of plans is complete as of April 1, 2016. The list will be added to whenever new plans within or associated with the MWMA are identified.

Timetable of deliverables for 2017/2018 Annual WQ Monitoring Program:

Task/Deliverable	Timeline
Review and update sampling protocol	March 2017
Complete Field Monitoring Program – Year 3	April 1, 2017 – March 31, 2018
All data entered into EMS and reviewed by Monitoring Lead	Quarterly
Annual Monitoring Report	December 2017

MWMT Communication (Task 3)

Budget: \$1000

A key role of the MWMT is to collect, summarize, and communicate information in suitable format(s) to governments, the public, and industry to assist them with tracking progress towards goals and objectives and making resource management decisions.

MWMT Goals/Objectives:

- To communicate MWMT monitoring results to the appropriate organizations so they are informed of the available information and data.
- To communicate issues or problems that may lead to ecosystem impacts to the relevant parties in a timely manner.
- To meet communication commitments of the Trust.

Communications Coordinator

Tasks:

- Continue to develop a Communication Strategy that sets communication expectations for the MWMT
- Document information management requirements (how to identify information/data and make it accessible)
- Post reports, news, and updates regularly on MWMT website (moricestrust.ca)

Monitoring Project Lead

Tasks:

- Provide Communications Coordinator with AMR, AMP, and all necessary supporting data and documents in a timely manner
- Present all reports and data to MWMT and other stakeholders as instructed by the board
- Communicate important events and findings to the board in appropriately timed manner

Timetable of deliverables for 2017/2018 MWMT Communication:

Task/Deliverable	Timeline
Update Website	June 2017
Upload AMP and AMR on Website	July 2017