

**International Elk-Kootenai/y Watershed Study Board**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**December 12, 2024**  
**13:30 –15:30 MST**

**Meeting Attendance**

**Study Co-chairs:** Oliver Brandes and Tom Bansak

**Study Board Members:** Clayton Matt, Jill Frankforter, Richard Di Guilio, Stella Swanson and Violet Birdstone

**Study Management Team:** Jason Gildea, Erin Sexton, Jeffrey Lemieux, Patrick Williston and Heather McMahon

**IJC Staff:** Mark Colosimo, Glenn Benoy, Jo Werba, Ed Virden, Michael Laitta, Christina Chiasson, Yon Trimble, Avni Solanki and Lyne Sabourin

**Meeting Guests in attendance:** None

**1. Agenda**

Elk-Kootenai/y Study Board approved agenda.

**2. Minutes**

Study Board approved December 5, 2024 meeting minutes.

**3. Plan of Study**

Study Board decided to schedule a meeting between Council of Knowledge Holders and Study Board to share the Plan of Study draft. IJC staff, Study Management Team and the Study Board form small working teams to start drafting the Plan of Study, Engagement Plan and Data Management Plan. **Action Item: Study Management Team will draft Engagement Plan.**

**4. Science questions for “Water Quality and Quantity” theme**

Study Board members will review, comment and prioritize Water Quality and Water Quantity questions they feel the Technical Working Groups should work to address. Then, the Study Management Team will draft 2-3 general objectives for each Technical Working Groups based on the questions submitted by the Study Board.

## **5. Technical Working Groups**

Study Board members discussed the importance of having a framework for the Technical Working Groups to help develop the questions the Technical Working Groups will be asked to answer. They decided that a framework based on the Adaptive Monitoring model would be the best approach based on a paper from 2017 (K. Munkittrick coauthor). ***Action Item: Study Management Team will draft the Technical Working Groups objectives and initial questions.***

## **6. Cultural Resources and Knowledge**

The Study Board stated that cultural resources and knowledge are important and should be addressed. Therefore, they would like to meet with the Knowledge Holders as soon as possible. It was decided that the Plan of Study should be built with the Knowledge Holders. This ensures that Ktunaxa Knowledge and language is part of the Plan of Study.

## **7. Advisory Groups**

The IJC staff briefed the Study Board on the status of the three Advisory Groups. After the Advisory Group appointment letters will be sent out. IJC staff will then schedule and host an orientation for the newly appointed Advisory Group members.

## **8. In-Person Meeting**

IJC staff, Study Management Team and the Study Board discussed possible dates for the next in-person meeting. This meeting will be held in a Canadian location.

## **9. Roundtable (open discussion of any item not on agenda)**

None.