

## **Elk-Kootenai/y Reference**

### **Meeting Summary: Meeting 2 of the Governance Body<sup>1</sup>**

*Meeting Location: Bonners Ferry, ID, USA / Ktunaxa Nation lands*  
*September 12, 2024*

**Meeting Attendance:** IJC, ʔakisq̓huk, ʔaq̓am, British Columbia, Canada, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, Idaho, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, Montana, United States, Yaqan Nuʔkiy, Yaq̓it ʔa-knuq̓iʔit

#### **1. Opening, Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Review**

- a) The Secretariat welcomed Governance Body members to the first in-person meeting of the Governance Body and invited the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho (KTOI) to open the meeting in a good way. A Kootenai Tribe of Idaho representative made some opening remarks to welcome the group and note his hopes for the Governance Body's success. The Secretariat led introductions. Three Co-Chairs were identified, one each from the United States, Canada, and the Ktunaxa Nation. The Secretariat provided an overview of the meeting agenda inclusive of reviewing Governance Body responsibilities and process, discussing interests and information needs; and discussing a Governance Body Workplan (including addressing information needs, communication policies and administrative matters). The September 12, 2024 Governance Body meeting agenda was approved by the Governance Body members present.

#### **2. Review Governance Body Responsibilities and Process**

- a) The Secretariat provided a high-level overview of the Governance Body *Terms of Reference* and discussed in greater detail the objective of the Governance Body, its operating principles and decision-making process, and the responsibilities of the Governance Body.
- b) Governance Body members reinforced that, as per the *Terms of Reference*, only Governance Body members will participate in consensus decision-making discussions at the Governance Body table. Technical/support staff may observe but may not participate in consensus decision making discussions.
- c) The Secretariat reviewed a timeline for the work of the Governance Body over the next two years, leading up to issuing an Action Plan in March 2027. The Secretariat

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<sup>1</sup> The consensus draft of the Terms of Reference for the Kootenai/y Watershed Governance Body, dated 24 June 2024, states that: "These Terms of Reference are effective when all Governments are authorized to enter into them. Work may proceed under these Terms of Reference on an interim basis pending those final approvals". This meeting was on an interim basis as Governments secured these approvals.

then reviewed the three-phased approach to accomplish this work that was originally presented at the August 20<sup>th</sup> virtual meeting, consisting of 1) building the foundation (including relationship building and information gathering), 2) agreement on a plan of action and 3) putting that plan into action. The Secretariat repeated its recommendation that the Governance Body carry out its responsibilities concurrently (as opposed to sequentially). Governance Body members discussed the utilization of a three-phased approach, and generally concurred it could be useful, and that some activities could occur concurrently, while remaining mindful that the Study Board's plan of study and final report will be foundational to the Governance Body's plan of action.

### **3. Interests**

- a) Members of the Governance Body provided high-level statements of what they are hoping to achieve through the work of the Governance Body. Based on what was stated, the Secretariat suggested there were three broad categories of interests: 1) Ecosystem Health; 2) Cultural Understanding; and 3) Accountability, Transparency and Responsibility.

### **4. Information Needs**

- a) Using the three broad categories described above, Governance Body members were asked by the Secretariat to brainstorm information needs, as well as existing information that could be shared, for those themes and interests.

### **5. Governance Body Workplan**

- a) Governance Body members discussed the information needs identified in the previous agenda item. The Secretariat selected, via "dotmocracy," three information needs (that received the most votes based on the "dotmocracy") that could become the focus of the next Governance Body meeting(s): regulatory laws, data sets, and actual water data. There was agreement that the Secretariat would convene a small working group with the co-chairs to further discuss next steps.
- b) The Governance Body discussed administrative matters including the topic of confidentiality (of information shared within the Governance Body), and communication within the Governance Body and with the public.
- c) The Governance Body discussed the formation of two short-term working groups related to communications. One will focus on communication infrastructure and the other on communication protocols. Both will conclude their work by the end of the calendar year.

- d) The Governance Body decided that whoever is hosting future Governance Body meetings will conduct meetings according to the customary procedures of their government, including traditional openings.

## **6. Next Steps**

- a) The Secretariat summarized decisions made and next steps.
- b) The Governance Body decided to hold the next in-person meeting in June 2025, with the next virtual meeting to be held on November 14, 2024. In response to a request for the Governance Body to consider shorter, more frequent virtual meetings in order to more effectively accomplish the Governance Body's mandate, a suggestion was made that Governance Body members could block time the second Thursday of every month to use for virtual meetings.

## **7. Closing Reflections**

- a) Governance Body members provided closing reflections on what they learned during the meeting and their 'take-away' for what the meeting accomplished.