

Exploring Solutions

Watershed Information,
Knowledge and Data (WIKD)

October 30, 2023

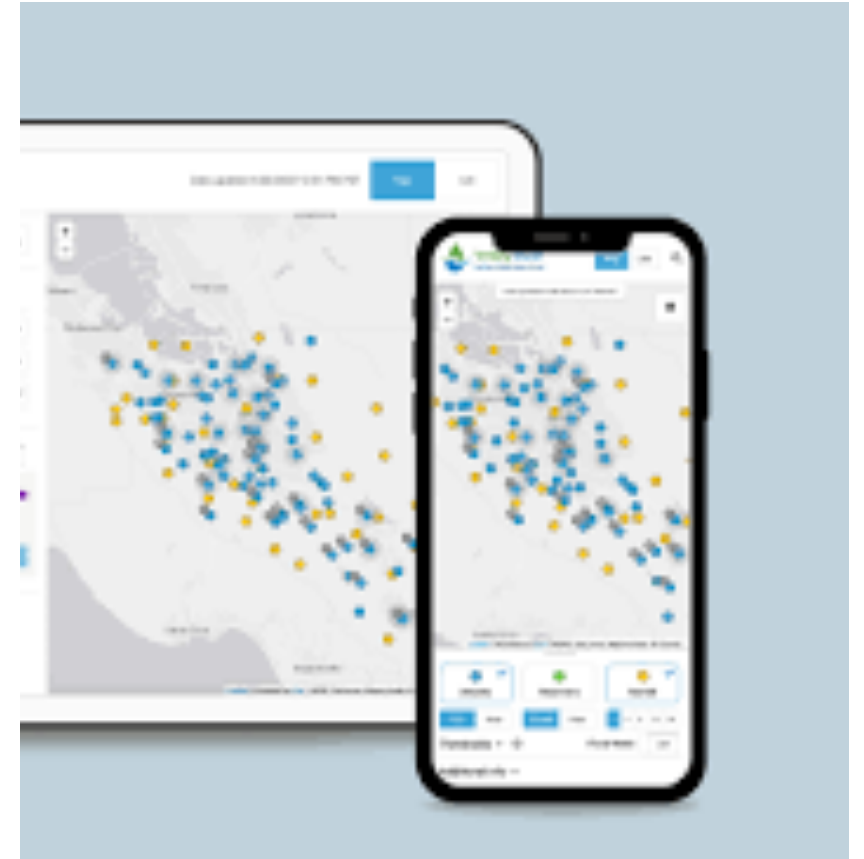


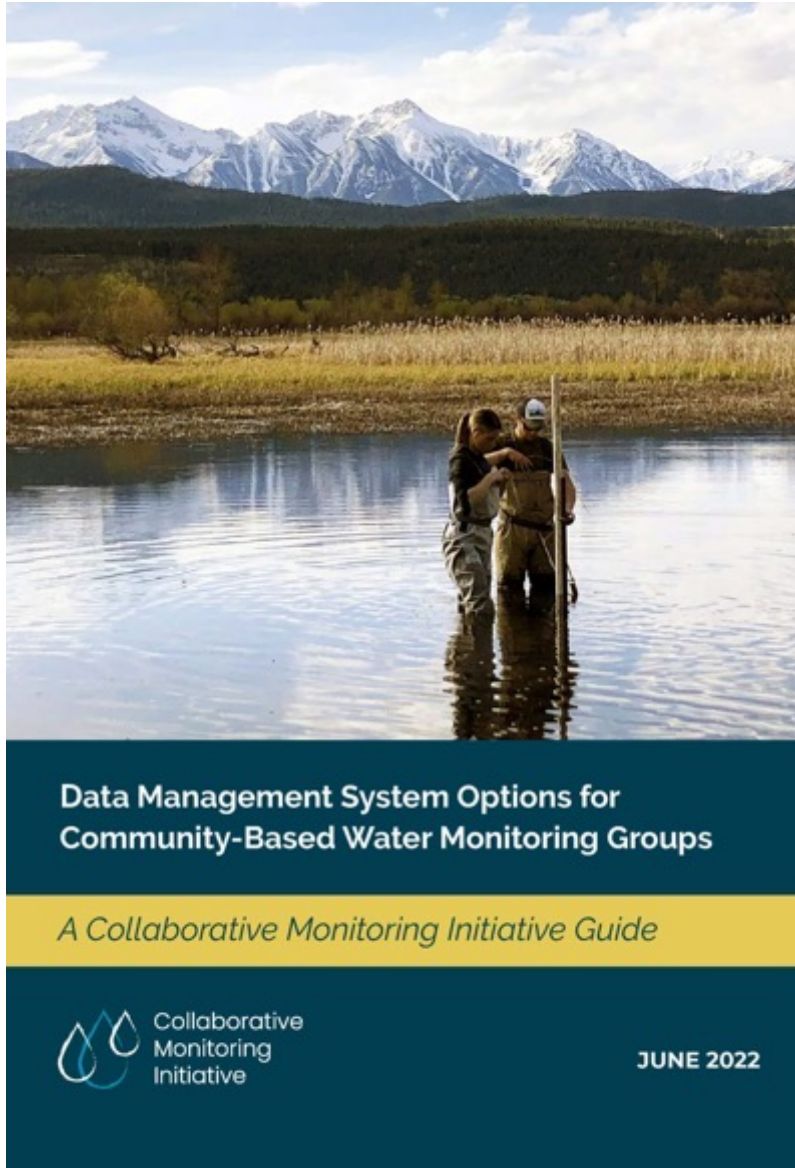
WHY WIKD? - Watershed Information Knowledge and Data

Stewarding Watersheds - there are many stories, studies, and tools of stewardship.

Sharing Responsibility – there is a need to work together, collaborate, share, and create the best tools, information, and understandings for the benefit of these watersheds.

Capacity and Tech – there is limited capacity, and technology is evolving with many different tools.





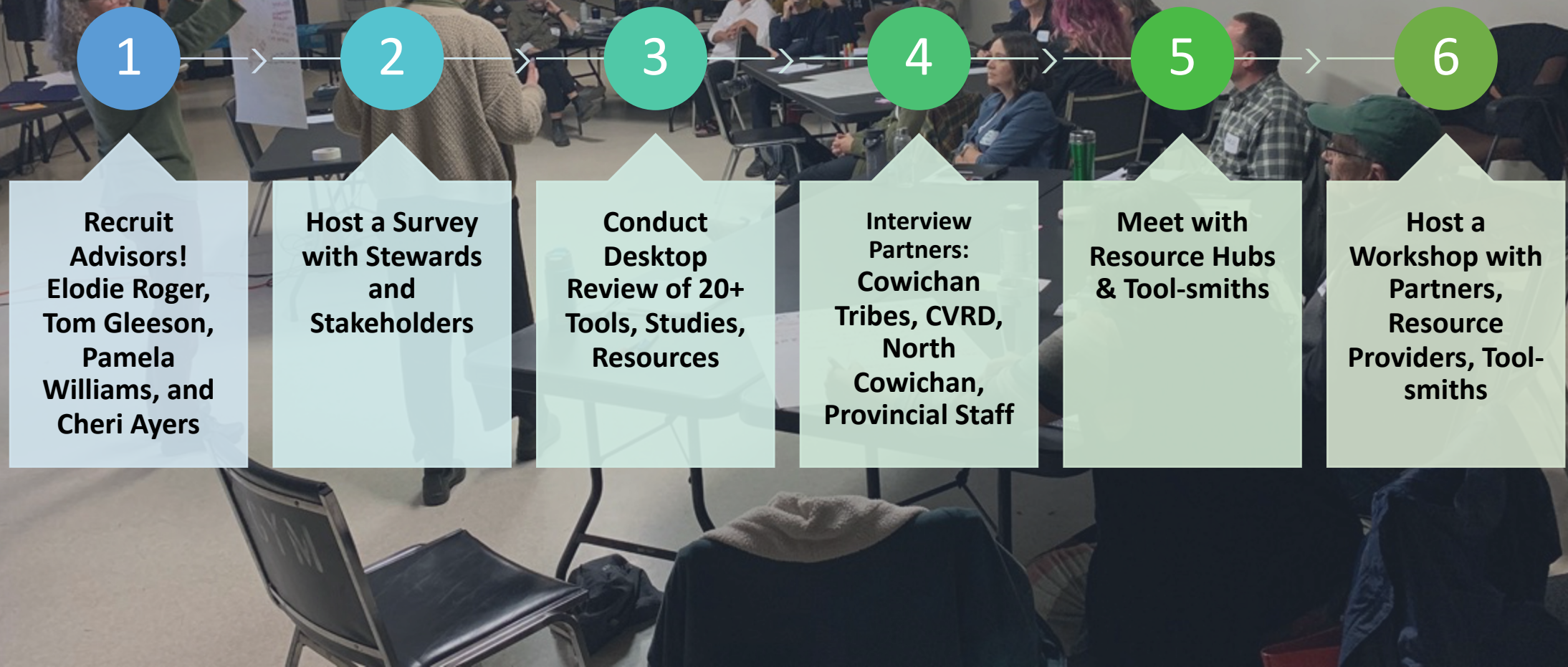
WIKD Project Evolution....

2021-2022 Twinned Watersheds Study (Koksilah and Chemainus) – Enormous amounts of data collected.

2022 POLIS published a study on Data Management System Options for Community-Based Monitoring Groups

2023 Cowichan Tribes (CWB) obtained funding from **Royal Bank Tech 4 Nature** and the **Real Estate Foundation of BC (REFBC)** to explore options for collaborating to collect, store, share WIKD.

WIKD Project Elements



Advisory Group Guiding Vision



“We dream of relationships, agreements and a digital tool that respectfully stores and shares watershed information, knowledge and data including Indigenous knowledge and community science data.

This dream will enable governments and organizations to collaboratively work together and make decisions to improve watershed health.”



WIKD Workshop

Frameworks for Sharing WIKD across Western and Indigenous Knowledge Systems

- Dr. Kelly Banister, (*POLIS Project on Ecological Governance*)

Current State of WIKD in the Cowichan Region

- Cheri Ayers (*Waters Edge Biological*) and Tom Gleeson (*Xwulqw'selu Connections*)

Exploring Examples of Portals, Platforms, Data Hubs

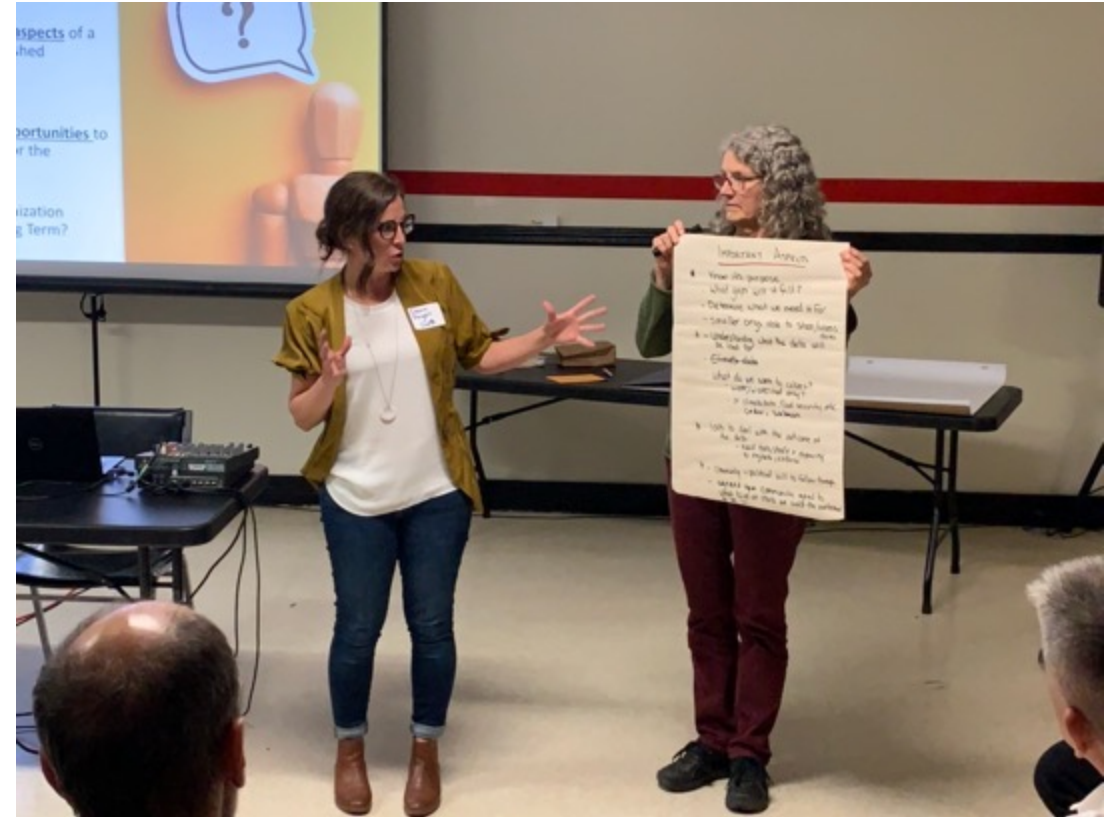
- Dr. Isobel Pearsall (*Pacific Salmon Foundation*)
- Miranda Smith (*MC Wright Associates*)
- Peter Evans (*Trailmark Systems*).

Developing a Watershed Management Data Hub & Indigenous Knowledge Framework

- Georgia Peck (*Living Lakes Canada*)

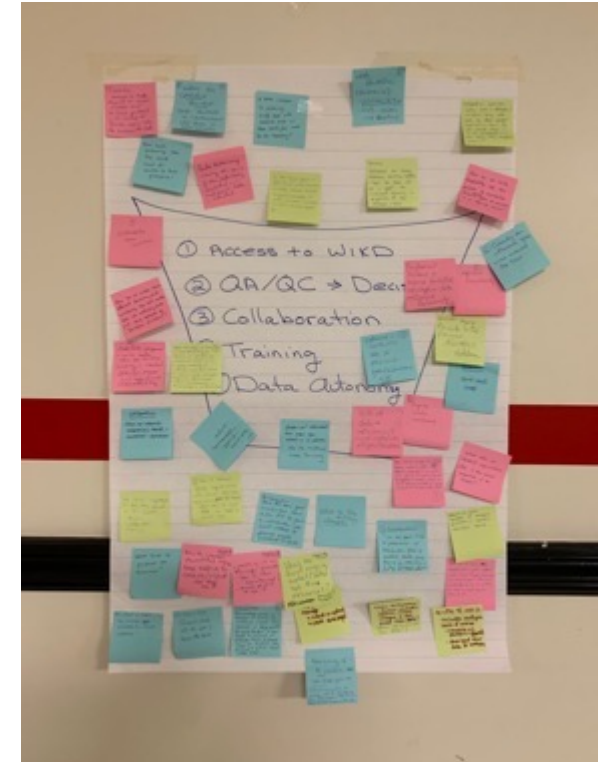
Optimizing a Solution for WIKD for the Cowichan Region

- Facilitated Discussion



Idea Buckets

- Access to WIKD
- QA/QC - Quality Data to Inform Decision Making
- Regional Collaboration
- Training/Capacity
- Data Autonomy
- **Resilience & Sustainability of a Portal**

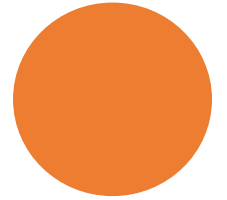


Round Table Guiding Questions

What are the most important **aspects** of a portal or datacenter for watershed stewardship, planning, and/or management?

What are the **barriers and opportunities** to developing a WIKD solution for the Cowichan Watershed?

What could you or your organization **contribute**? Short Term / Long Term?



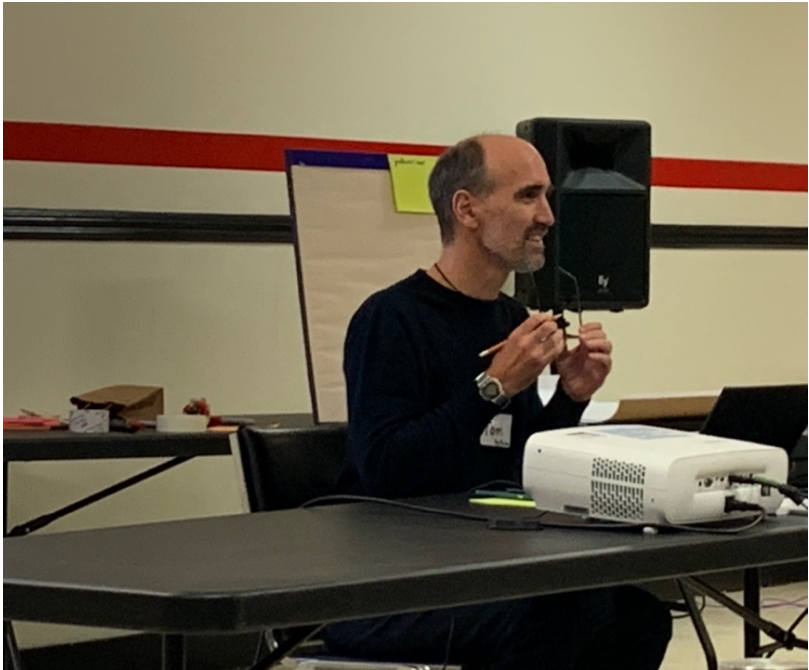
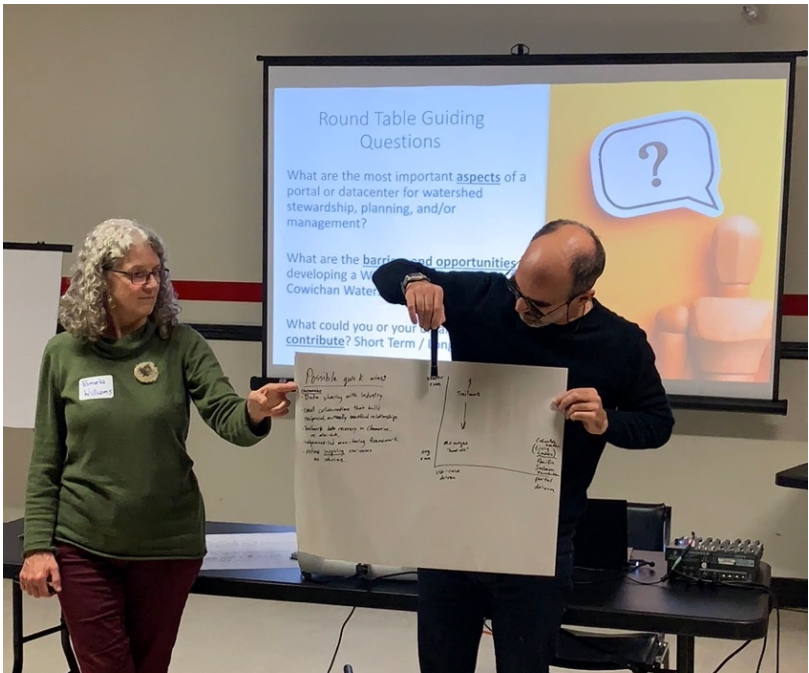
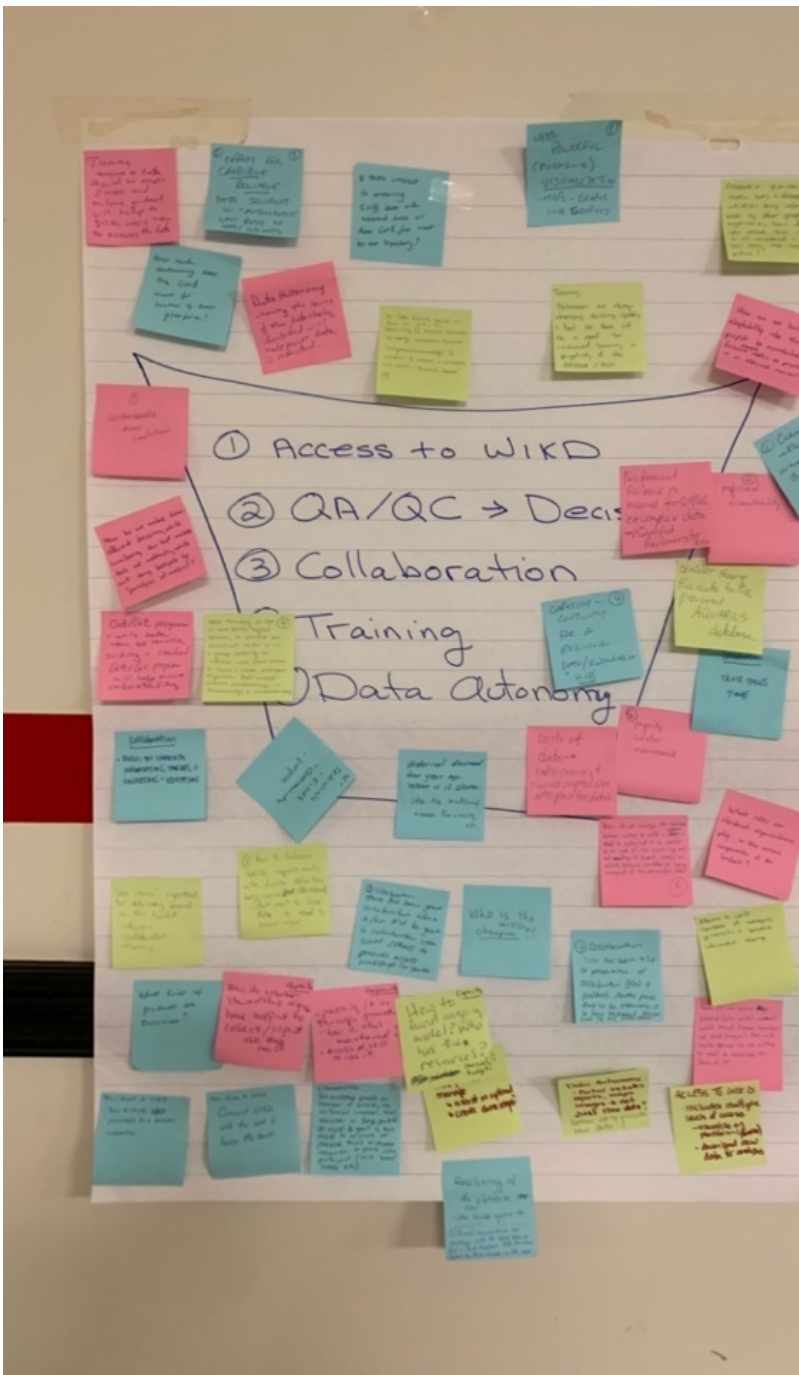
What we heard!

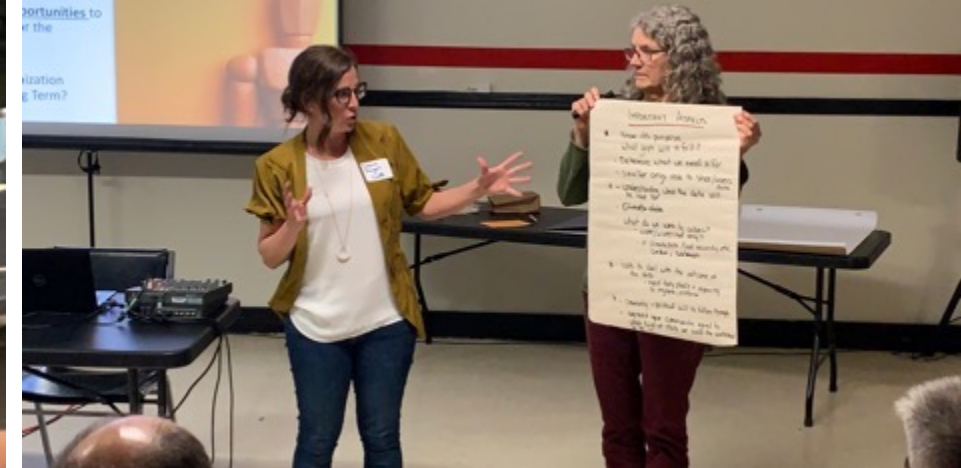
- Wicked challenges and many barriers to collecting, storing and sharing WIKD - including capacity gaps and a need for data autonomy
- Take the time to build the systems & understand how to build it while upholding the integrity of Indigenous knowledge systems
- The development of a portal, platform, data-center can be as simple, or as complex as is needed – let's define how we want to use it first
- There is a role for a boundary organization to host the ethical space to bring indigenous and western knowledge systems together for WIKD
- There is support from partners and external agencies to participate in solution building (next steps) for WIKD in the region

Recommended Path Forward

1. Develop a collaborative WIKD **framework** for sharing with and across jurisdictions
2. Scope the development of a **spatial watershed data hub** specific to the Cowichan Valley using geographic boundaries of watersheds.
3. Build a **Pilot Cowichan Watershed Data Hub**







WIKD Workshop Photos

Photo Credits: Jill Thompson & Lisa Maria Fox, Cowichan Watershed Board

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