

“Following up on Following Up”: Findings and Recommendations from NCI’s 2017 Post-Construction Monitoring Workshop

Jeff Muirhead¹

¹*Natural Channels Initiative (NCI)*

There is a lack of consistency in post-construction monitoring programs for stream restoration projects in Canada. Sometimes, there is no monitoring. When monitoring is done, the specifics of the program can vary greatly depending on regulatory jurisdiction, project objectives, budget considerations, and permit requirements. Greater consistency would help proponents, consultants and regulators. More rigorous and consistent post-construction monitoring would also help improve the quality of future projects. In order to encourage a more comprehensive and consistent approach to post-construction monitoring of stream restoration projects, the Natural Channels Initiative held a post-construction monitoring workshop on November 1, 2017. This presentation provides a summary of the results of the November workshop.

The workshop was attended by more than 60 people and included representatives from Municipalities, Conservation Authorities, MNR, DFO, Academia, Contractors and Consultants. This presentation will first provide a summary of the topics discussed by guest speakers and the issues debated in the break-out group sessions. It will then present the findings of three breakout groups charged with reaching consensus on post-construction monitoring protocols for channel stability, vegetation, fisheries/benthics, including methods, frequency and duration.

Biography

Jeff Muirhead is a Water Resources Engineer in the Stream Restoration group at Stantec Consulting in Waterloo, ON. He holds a M.A.Sc. from the University of Waterloo and a B.Eng from the University of Guelph. Jeff has performed fluvial geomorphology studies and designed stream restoration projects across Canada, working with a wide variety of physiographic settings, client objectives, and regulatory requirements.