

The top left corner of the page features a series of thin, light brown lines that intersect to form several overlapping, irregular polygons. These lines create a sense of movement and depth, extending from the top edge towards the center of the page.

SHARING THE CULTURE

THE BENEFIT OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES
OF PRACTICE TO GROW THE CULTURE
OF ASSET MANAGEMENT

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SLIDE 1



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LOCAL COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

As defined by communityofpractice.ca:

- A community of practice (CoP) is a group of people who share a common concern, a set of problems, or an interest in a topic and who come together to fulfill both individual and group goals.
- Communities of practice often focus on sharing best practices and creating new knowledge to advance a domain of professional practice. Interaction on an ongoing basis is an important part of this.

WHY?

Like minded local government people were faced with a new challenge of implementing asset management practices into our organizations, with limited staffing and resources.

WHO?

People from different municipal organizations, with a common problem.

WHAT?

A group of representatives from organizations willing to share ideas, processes, and work in an open forum, with no expectations.

HOW?


We started by reaching out to peers with phone calls and emails, progressing to in-person and virtual meetings.

PROBLEM



WHY?

- We saw the new asset management guidelines as an increase in our workloads.
- We saw an opportunity to assist one another and limit duplication when developing guidelines and policies.
- There seemed to be little help available during the start-up phase and looked to other municipalities.
- Other local governments were all at different stages in their Asset Management journey and specializing allowed each group to benefit from the others. You could reach out to the group that you know is leading in an area and save time developing your own strategies.

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- We found other local government employees and reached out and our group quickly grew to several dozen members.
 - There was no final goal. A group could be as small as a few municipalities, consultants, other levels of government.
 - Job titles don't matter. Variations in jobs added unique perspectives. Where else would you be able to find finance, engineering, operations, etc. all in one room openly discussing ideas?
 - Size of municipality didn't matter, nor did geographic area.

WHO?

WHAT?

- We had a few goals:
 - Time savings
 - New ideas and concepts
 - Different ways to approach a problem
- We shared ideas, policies, templates:
 - Acceptance report when assets are handed over to a municipality.
 - Budget spending package changes.
 - Data collection methods and mapping systems.
 - Templates for data types and data structures.
 - Hiring practices.



HOW?

- Start with phone calls between local government staff members to share ideas. You don't always have to wait for a group meeting.
- Organize your group and meetings:
 - Build a contact list
 - Grow your list and maintain it. Things change quickly.
 - Find a suitable geographic location and venue.
 - Coerce participants into presenting at meetings.
 - Make it fun. Show off your town and your projects.
 - Follow up with participants.
 - Stay in touch.



LESSONS LEARNED

- Shared resources are invaluable in saving time and effort.
- Don't be afraid to reach out to other organizations.
- Asset Management BC is “just a larger Community of Practice”.
 - Reach out to AMBC if you aren't sure who is doing what. They are always a great resource for contacts and leads.
 - There is a library of documents on the website to assist with your asset management practices.
- Consultants are essential to the Asset Management ecosystem but:
 - As governments we need to be cautious of providing an unfair advantage.
 - We need to be cognizant of copyright issues when sharing work with a Community of Practice
- Provide assistance when you can.
- Look for champions. You'll need them.

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SUMMARY

Where are we:

- COVID did slow things down, but our group is still active.
- We're looking to host another meeting in 2022.

Where are we going:

- New policies, plans, and LoS' are being developed by members and will be discussed at future meetings.
- A second group is starting on South Island and is looking for members.

THANK YOU

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