**Uncovering shared governance goals**

**Policy Committee meeting pre-work and process overview**

In setting the governance structure you’ll use to implement the plan, it is important to make sure that whatever agreement type you choose supports the shared goals you have for your collaboration—that form follows function. As such, before determining your structure, a necessary first step is to identify those shared goals or considerations for how you want to work together.

The process we’ll use to articulate those goals has two parts: identify what you DON’T want to happen first, so that it is easier to name what you do want. Given the constraints of remote meeting, part of this work will need to happen in advance.

**By the end of the day on Tuesday, May 26**, please email Jen (jkader@freshwater.org) and Jamie (jamie.schurbon@anokaswcd.org) your answers to the following prompt:

What could you do to **make sure** that the governance structure you have at the end of this process **absolutely fails**, and **completely blows up** in your face? What would that look like, and importantly, **how could you GUARANTEE that outcome**?

For example, you could answer that a characteristic of failure would be never learning from past work, and the way you would guarantee that outcome is by never evaluating past actions or reporting on progress. You can have multiple ways to guarantee bad outcomes—get creative and actually have some fun with this! Think of those little things that would keep you up at night, or reasons that you think this whole thing could fall apart—get it all on the table, and that will help in designing a structure that will work for this partnership.

Jamie and Jen will compile your responses and bring a summary to the meeting, along with characteristics that are 180 degrees different from what you’ve identified. We’ll take time in the meeting to talk about what the implications are for the governance structure as an introduction to the spectrum of options available so that even that discussion follows what you’ve identified as important for your continued collaboration.