Phase 4. Evaluating options and making a plan

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NWT
RIVERBANK EROSION
WORKSHOP 2025
DEC 2-4 | CHATEAU NOVA HOTEL | YELLOWKNIFE

Riverbank Instability: A Draft Guide for Communities

1 Recognize the Problem

- Identify what's at risk
- Observe changes
- Gather local knowledge
- Watch for warning signs
- Understand the causes

2 Manage the Threat Right Away

- Keep people and assets safe
- Communicate with the community
- Seek expert advice
- Monitor regularly
- Use short-term fixes
- Plan what you will do if things get worse quickly

3 Gather and Assess Initial Information

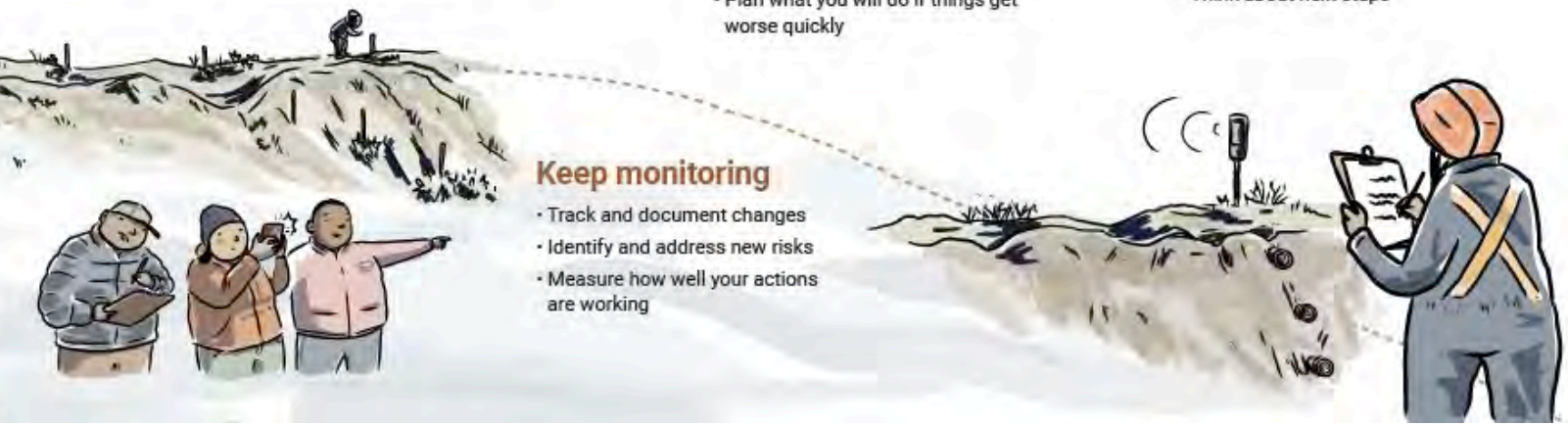
- Work with qualified experts
- Gather and review the right data
- Do field checks
- Get an assessment report
- Think about next steps

4 Evaluation Options and Make a Plan

- Compare solutions with technical specialists
- Talk with your community
- Understand what approvals you will need and what funding is available
- Make a decision and a plan

5 Take Action

- Put the plan into action
  - Give the river space
  - Take direction action on the riverbank
  - Reinforce/protect structure
- Make the connection to community planning



Keep monitoring

- Track and document changes
- Identify and address new risks
- Measure how well your actions are working

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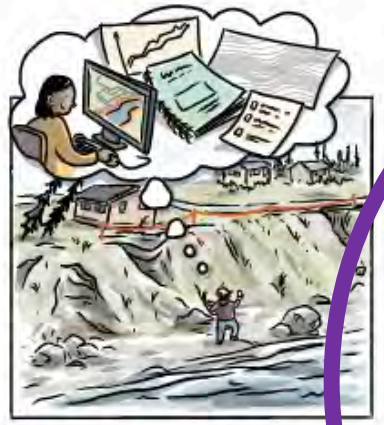

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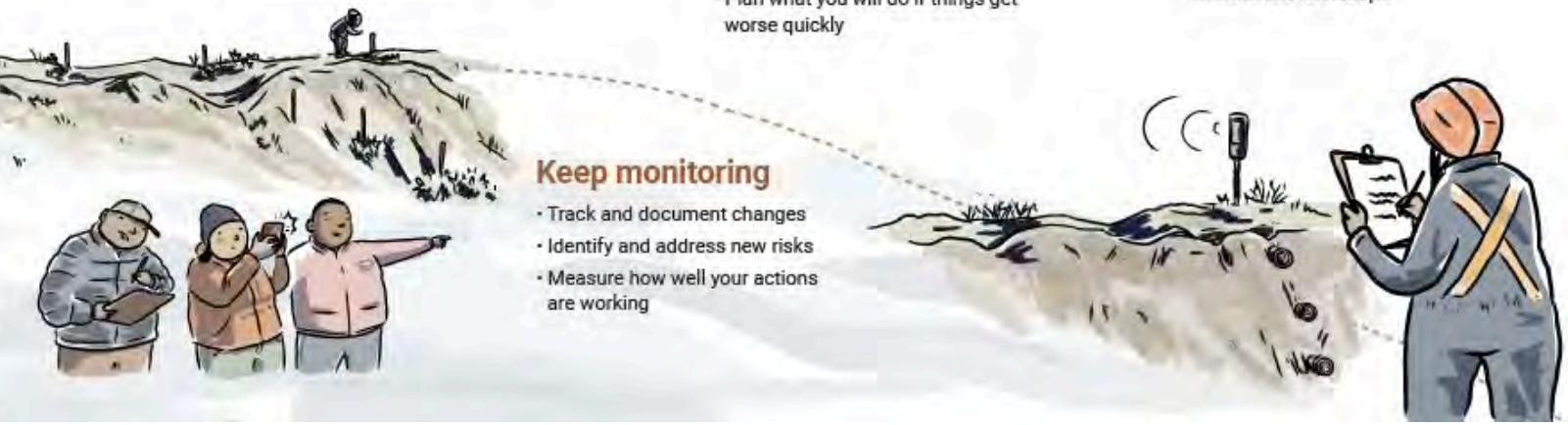

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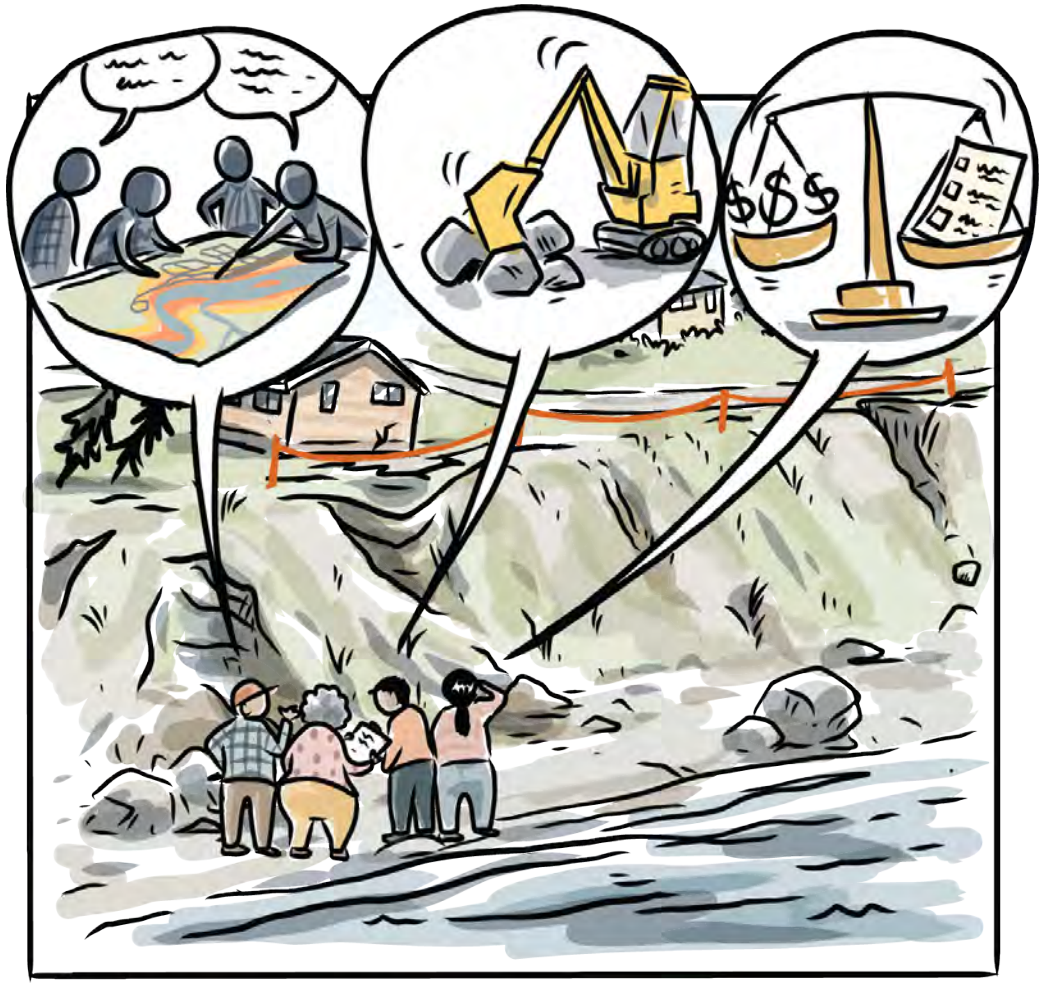
4. Evaluate Options and Make a Plan



- **Assessing Option to Address Riverbank Instability**
- Compare solutions with technical specialists
- Understand what approvals you will need and what funding is available
- Make a decision and plan
- Keep communicating!

Decision-making processes

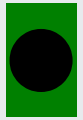
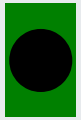
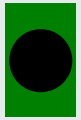
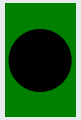
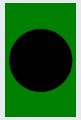
- What are your options?
- What are important considerations for making your decision? (criteria)
- What processes can help you evaluate each option against each criteria?

Possible Criteria

- **Risk level**
  How severe is the threat to people, property, or infrastructure?
- **Community preferences and readiness**
  Are people open to relocation or other major changes?
- **Effectiveness**
  How confident is the team that the option will solve or reduce the problem
- **Costs**
  - Initial costs
  - Maintenance / operations costs

- **Logistical constraints**
  How practical is the option given your local capacity and conditions?
- **Environmental impacts**
  Will the option affect fish habitat, vegetation or water quality?

Structured decision-making

Options → Criteria ↓	Relocate immediately	Reinforce bank and relocate later	Monitor for now, re-evaluate later
Risk level Does the risk level warrant this action?			
Community preference and readiness Is the community ready and supportive?			
Effectiveness Will it be effective into the future?			
Costs Can we afford it?			
Logistical constraints (can we overcome them?)			
Environmental impacts (can we mitigate them?)			

Additional considerations

- **What is each option achieving?**
  - Is there sequencing – do they solve issues on different time horizons
  - Is there bundling? Do they achieve different objectives?
- **Who is at the table?**
  - Leadership
  - Community members, Elders, Youth
  - Impacted land or homeowners
  - Technical experts
- **How can actions be sequenced?**
- **Have you considered all of the options? All of the considerations / criteria?**
- **Are there decision-making considerations (criteria) that are more important than others?**

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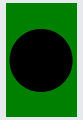
Community preference and readiness Is the community ready and supportive?			
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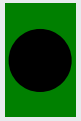
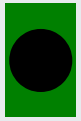
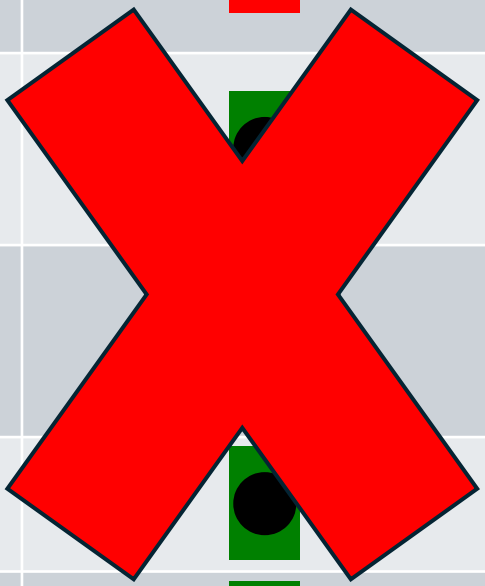
Environmental impacts (can we mitigate them?)			



Action Planning

- Costs, steps, responsibilities, timelines
- Further assessment?
- Communicate, communicate, communicate!

Securing Funding

- Advocate and communicate
- Break big projects into small pieces
  - Become shovel ready
  - Prioritize and sequence
  - Use small available pots to keep up momentum

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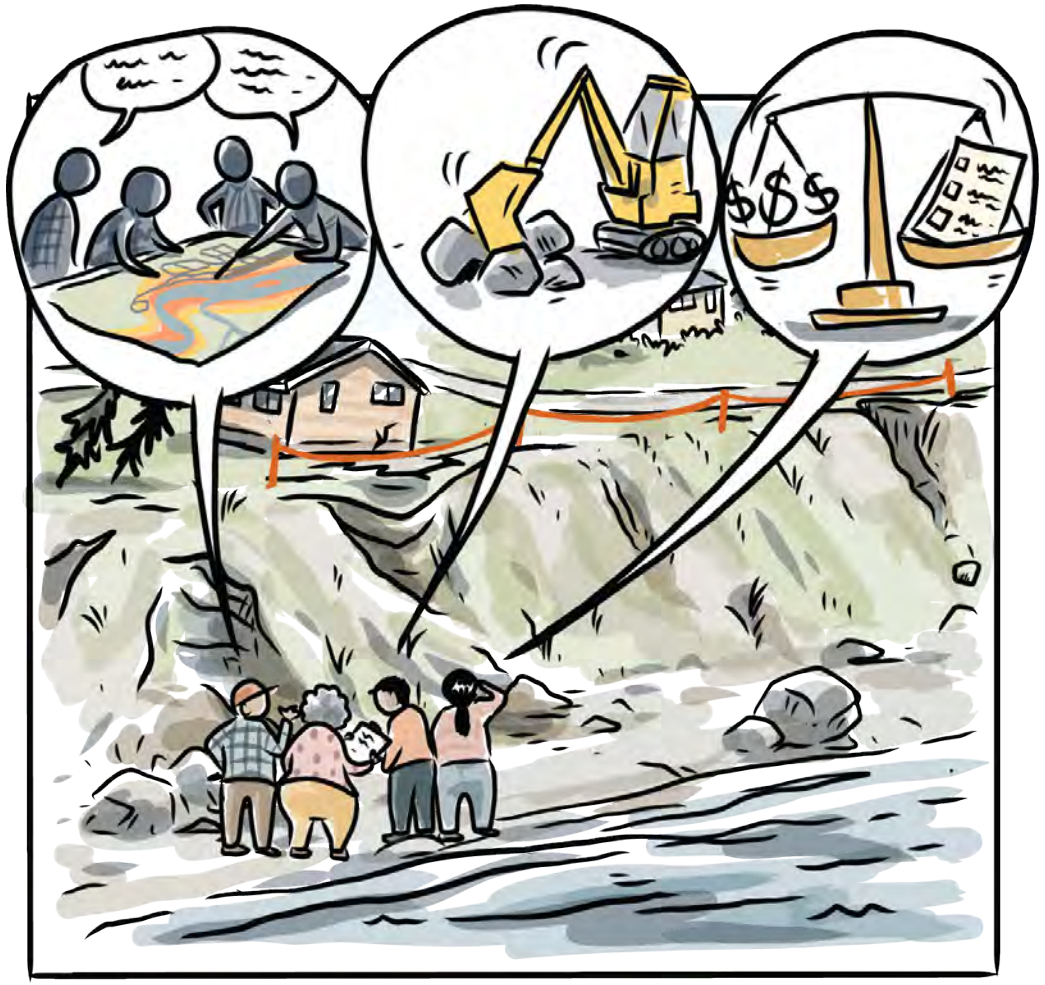

Comments and discussion