

Fostering Locally-Led Holistic Watershed Management

“Voluntary Watershed Management Approach”

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Holistic Watershed Management

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A source for affective, high impact and sustainable Holistic Watershed Management efforts is connected to the empowerment of local people (Local Ownership).



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Principles:

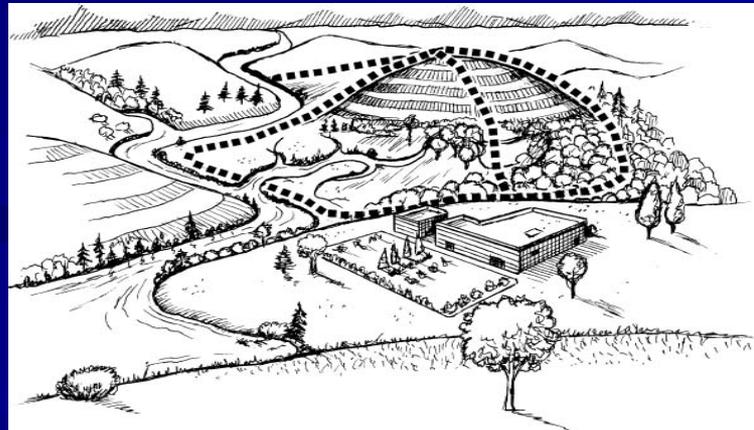
- **People oriented** – people have the right to control their destiny
- **People learn through interaction and participation** in holistic watershed decision - making processes



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- **Holistic Watershed Management** – embraces the idea that all aspects of the watershed; human resources, economic development, environmental quality, infrastructure development and public safety must be considered in a holistic watershed management decision-making process.



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- Holistic Watershed management's fundamental approach is in a facilitated process designed for the integration of organizations and individuals having environmental knowledge, skills and resources in the following areas:
 - Water Quality
 - Comprehensive Community Planning

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- Land use Issues:
 - ✓ Economic Development – business & industry retention and expansion
 - ✓ Agricultural – Recreational, etc.
 - ✓ Residential Issues – housing and onsite sewage

- Human Resource Development – leadership and organizational development

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A question that needs to be addressed – ***“Who will be most affected by watershed management decisions?”***

- A city?
- A county?
- The state or federal government?
- Or the people left behind after the decisions are made?

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Consider the following roles local citizens should play in sustainable holistic watershed management decision-making:

- **Catalyst** – directly affected by an environmental issue or problem and willing to take the lead in organizing a working group
- **Resource provider** – asset mapping of watershed communities to identify local financial, technical and human resources

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- **Supportive** if they understand the reasons for the decisions
- **Empowered local citizens** feel comfortable asking questions of the experts if clarification is needed
- **Take the lead** in making sure the system works!

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Consider the following roles agencies could play in sustainable holistic watershed management decision-making:

- **Catalyst** – incentives or regulation enforcement to improve watershed environment (Water Quality). Agency representative living in the watershed experiencing a problem.
- **Responsive/Supportive** – provide technical resources as needed for sound holistic watershed management decision – making
- **Stand back** and let local people control the holistic watershed management planning process

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Outcomes:

- Develops collaborations and partnerships among agencies, individuals and organizations based on common understanding of the issues and problems
- Accomplishes citizens and agencies goals

