



## **USDA-CSREES 2007 National Water Quality Conference**

### [Balancing Technical Science and the Human Element](#)

The human and technical components of watershed management are dependent upon each other for true impact and sustainability. Without ownership and buy in from local land owners and other stakeholders we have no way to implement management practices. Without science based management practices we have no mechanism for creating positive environmental change. With the governmental and non-governmental “service agencies” poised to marketing their technical assistance (hard science), cost share and/or consulting, all too often the human element is totally ignored or trivialized. A structured approach to identifying local stakeholders, garnering their support, identification of issues, determination of acceptable practices, development of management plan, and implementation strategies are critical steps to achieving sustainable success through a process that includes both the human and technical pieces. The presentation will focus on how to organize and start watershed management groups. Participant in this presentation will learn how to form a watershed group from scratch, secure local buy in, develop a watershed management plan and implement on the ground practices. Tools will be presented to assist practitioners in conceptualizing the group and getting them to the table, organizing and prioritizing issues, writing and implementing a locally driven watershed management plan. All tools and materials presented will be based upon the presenters 10 plus years of facilitation with over 20 different watershed management groups.

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