

STARTING A WATERSHED PLANNING & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – (A watershed group)

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REASONS FOR STARTING A GROUP

- Pro-Active - Preventative
- Protective
- Regulatory Compliance
- Pollution Control –
Prevention
- Human Health & Safety
- Community Need
 - Attract Business
 - Support Existing Business
- Others Reasons?



HOW DO WE GET STARTED

- Initial Working Group - Tenuous Situation for the facilitator
- Properly handled this group can provide instant credibility & support for a facilitator
- Preliminary Contacts
- Preliminary Decisions – Such as what form will the group take, identification of stakeholders
- Handled improperly this group can kill a project.

HOW DO WE GET STARTED

- **INITIATED BY LOCAL ENTITY**
 - Individual
 - Or Group
- **INITIATED BY AGENCY**
 - Local
 - State
 - Federal
- Typically the need has been identified by local residents and act in response to that need.
- The agency has a mandate, charge, deadline, or other need to be met.

WHO SHOULD BE INVOLVED

Two Possible Approaches

- All Inclusive
 - All identified stake – holders are welcome and treated as equal partners in evaluation, decision making, and
 - implementation
- Citizen's Steering Committee –
 - Local stakeholders only
 - Advisory Function
 - Decision Making Authority.
- Separate Agency Technical Committee
 - Technical Advisory Function
 - Decision Making Authority

CRITICAL COMPONENTS TO THE TWO APPROACHES

- All Inclusive

- Clarify roles of all participants
- Everyone is equal

- Separate citizen's and technical committee

- Clarify roles
 - Who advises
 - Who makes the final decisions
- Liaison - Intermediary



- Typically one or two people that float back and forth between the two groups, sharing critical information.

IDENTIFICATION OF STAKEHOLDERS & GETTING THEM TO THE TABLE

- **Group Processing:**
 - Bring in a neutral party
 - Identify what stakeholders are present
 - Identify what stakeholders are not present
 - Identify representatives of those stakeholder groups
- **Have the local people:**
 - Make the contacts
 - Bring the representatives to the table
 - Set the date, time, location
 - Give public notice
 - Open the door – host the meeting

Community Development - is a process to educate, counsel, promote, and cooperate with communities (people) as they develop assets to seek solutions and solve problems, directly or indirectly affecting quality of life.

*After a meeting or two re-visit the question of:
Are all of the stakeholders represented?



FORMING, STORMING, NORMING, & PERFORMING

- Requires:
 - Thought
 - In depth planning
 - Assessment of the situation
 - Proceed with caution
 - Time
 - Allow time for the group to meld
 - Allow time for word to get out to other parties
 - Allow time for processing
 - Facilitation
 - It is normally advisable to bring in a neutral party for group processing especially in contentious situations

FORMING, STORMING, NORMING, & PERFORMING

- Dedication
 - The facilitator needs to make the commitment to stay the course conceptually and time wise
 - Volunteers must make a similar commitment
- Developmental phases are not mutually exclusive
- Ground Rules
 - Must be established
 - Must apply to everyone

GROUND RULES APPLY TO EVERYONE

- All opinions are valued
- Participants listen respectfully
- Everyone is equal
- Everyone is heard
- No one dominates discussion
- Respectful disagreement is OK, and may be necessary to move ahead.
- Focus on the common ground

MISSION & GOALS

- Must be acceptable to all
- Must be clear – understandable
- Easy to repeat & articulate
- Signed off on by participants – a conceptual contract



GROUP STRUCTURE

- Interim basic officers
 - Chair
 - Secretary
- Sunset on interim officers
 - Typically a few months
 - One year maximum
- What type of group is it:
 - Citizens Group, Agency Group, Combination
- Partner to handle finances (interim)

SHOULD WE INCORPORATE

- It depends on:
 - Type of group
 - Duration of the group
 - Access to credible partners
 - Volume of finances to be handled
 - Scope of effort
 - How the group is perceived by the greater community
 - Other circumstances
- Requires development of bylaws

FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

- Dependant upon:
 - Urgency of the situation
 - Level of commitment
 - Looming deadlines
 - Staff time available
 - Meeting facilities
 - Sub-committees
 - Other circumstances

AS THE GROUP MATURES

- Evaluate the situation
- Re-visit the mission & goals
- Elect “proper officers”
- Make other needed adjustments
- Other

Comprehensive Watershed Management's fundamental approach is the integration of organizations and individuals which have environmental knowledge, skills and resources in the following areas:

- Water Quality
- Comprehensive Planning
- Land Use Issues
 - residential – housing/onsite sewage
 - agricultural – farming/forestry
 - recreational
 - economic development – business & Industry retention/expansion, etc.
- Human Resource Development



THANK YOU QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS?

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