Fostering Collaborative Solutions to Planning and Other Policy Challenges

American Planning Association
Washington Chapter, Bellevue
October 3, 2013

Mission

- Neutral resource for collaborative problem solving
- Improve availability and quality of voluntary collaborative approaches.
- Help leaders work together, build consensus, resolve public policy conflicts.
- Advance teaching and research missions of the universities.

Services

- Neutral Forum
- Situation Assessment
- Facilitation, Mediation, Conflict Resolution
- Project Management, Strategic Planning
- Applied Research
- Information Portal
- Training
- Policy Discussions

Governance and Funding

- Advisory board composed of prominent state, tribal and local leaders.
- Funding from a mix of sources (universities, Board, individuals, organizations, foundations, fee-for-service).

Project Criteria

- Project is consistent with Center’s vision, mission, policies, and scope.
- Center’s involvement is acceptable to those directly affected and in authority.
- Project addresses important public policy issues or community needs.
- Potential sponsorship and support sufficient to promote meaningful results and follow through.
- Project is cost-effective.
- Universities add unique value, contribute expertise and other resources that can help project reach a successful resolution.

Chehalis Flooding

Chehalis Basin Flood Mitigation Assessment Report

Cowlitz Basin Flood Mitigation Assessment Report
Voluntary Stewardship Program

- National Scenic Area created by Congress, Oregon and Washington
- Interviews with >80 individuals and groups
- Key themes and recommendations

Other Projects

- Spokane River Toxics
- Columbia River Salmon Assessment
- Eldercare Workforce
- Aviation Biofuels
- WA Coast Marine Advisory Council
- Whatcom Jobs Summit
- Civil Public Discourse/Collaboration Training

Columbia River Gorge Assessment

- National Scenic Area created by Congress, Oregon and Washington
- Interviews with >80 individuals and groups
- Key themes and recommendations

Recurring Lessons

- Goals and objectives need to be clear, concise, and shared by those at table and those receiving the results.
- Start with a shared vision of the future.
- Include all whose support is needed for implementation.
- Determine if anyone has a “BATNA”
- Make sure everyone is at the table voluntarily.
- Avoid consensus “fallbacks.”
- Have a clear definition of consensus.
- Involve a neutral, third party facilitator.

Tri-Cities Governance

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Discussion/Q&A

- How are these projects similar to or different from one another?
- What obstacles or challenges were faced? How were they overcome?
- What was the value of a university-based neutral being involved? Was it important? Why?
- What is one thing you learned from the project that you will take with you to future projects?
- Did the project include a situation assessment? If so, was that of value?