WATERSHED PLANNING

A

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

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Watershed Management/Community Development

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

- People oriented - people have the right to influence their own destiny

- People learn through interaction & participation

- Holistic Community Development – consider all aspects of the community, i.e. human resource development, economic development, environmental quality, infrastructure development, and public safety
Environmental concerns, stemming around watershed management, provide a catalyst for local communities to organize and deliberate around water quality issues as a result of land use decision-making.
1. Local-level decision-making

Watershed Management

Community Development Process

Capacity building - asset mapping/needs identification

Increased citizen participation

Community education

Leadership development
Community Development Process

Inclusive decision-making

- private
- public/individual
- not-for-profit

Building trust and understanding through networks & relationships

2. Private/public sector participation

Watershed Management
3. Long term efforts and investments in pollution prevention measures are essential.
Comprehensive Watershed Management’s fundamental approach is the integration of organizations and individuals that 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
• Public Safety
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 local people that will have to live with the decisions that have been made?
Holistic Watershed Management

Fostering Locally – Led Watershed Management

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
Fostering Locally – Led Watershed Management

- **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!
Holistic Watershed Management

Fostering Locally – Led Watershed Management

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
- **Step back** and let local people control the holistic watershed management planning process
Holistic Watershed Management

Outcomes:

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

- Informational and organizational time for meeting will be required.
- Groups will travel through the normal stages of establishing:
  - Forming
  - Storming
  - Norming
  - Performing
- Everyone has a voice, and should be encouraged to share their ideas.
- Developing common ground is essential to empowering local communities (people).
Questions for Consideration:

- Is there a real connection between community involvement and a regulatory issue?
- What becomes of the facilitators role once the group becomes self-sustaining?
- How do we become a part of the process without taking over complete control?
- Convincing the group the issues involve everyone and needs the input of a representative cross-section of stakeholders?
Sources for Information & Assistance:

- Natural Resource Conservation Service
- Soil and Water Conservation District
- Regional Department of Natural Resources
- University Outreach and Extension – Missouri Watershed Information Network – URL - http://outreach.missouri.edu/mowin
- City/County officials/Planners
- State & Federal Agencies
- Other