WATERSHED PLANNING

A

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

University of Missouri Water Quality Program

Staff: Bob Broz, Dan Downing, John Tharp

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**

Watershed Management/Community Development

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.

Watershed
Management

Community Development
Process

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Capacity building - asset
mapping/needs identification

**1. Local-level decision-
making** ⟶ Increased citizen participation

Community education

Leadership development

Watershed Management

Community Development Process

2.**Private/public sector participation**

Inclusive decision-making
- private
- public/individual
- not-for-profit

Building trust and understanding through networks & relationships

Watershed

Management

3. Long term efforts and investments in pollution prevention measures are essential.

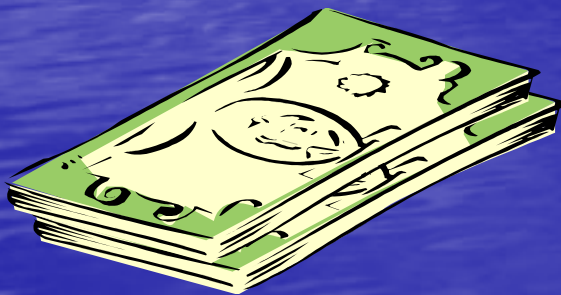**Community Development Process**

Holistic comprehensive planning

Sustainable communities

Increased citizen participation

Organizational development
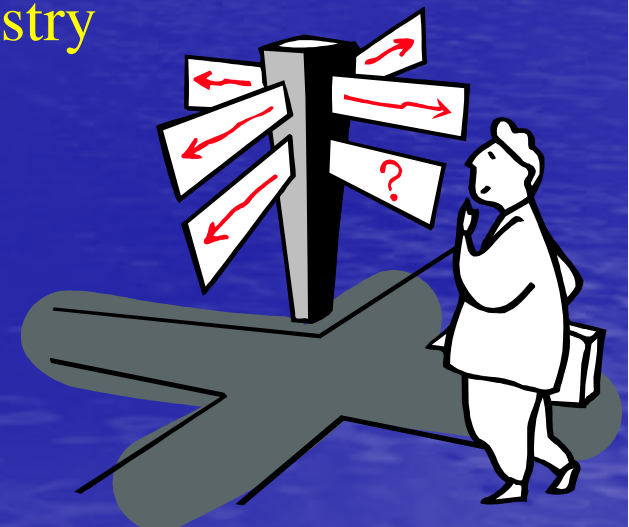
Improved environmental quality

Improved quality of life

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

Holistic Watershed Management

Fostering Locally – Led Watershed Management

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 <u>agencies</u> 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

Fostering Locally – Led 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