

**Mini-Workshop Notes**

November 1, 2017

Fort Lewis College

**Best:**

* Networking & showcasing work
* Conversation/communication
* Speaking with a collective voice (rather than individuals), based on partnership/relationship
* Partnerships with mutual benefits and overlapping missions
* When an organization takes a risk or initiative it can ignite opportunity for other groups to engage or join in the effort or help steer it in the right direction
* Stretch and leverage funding (bringing in/identifying additional funding)
* Community, cross learning
* Sharing knowledge and perspectives
* Compromise- positive attitudes
* Building capacity- combining individual strengths
* Bringing together vendors, consumers, professionals and students at a “product fair” to network and showcase opportunities 🡪 outreach to community
* Relationships with Mesa Verde National Park🡪 Mesa Verde curriculum for educators
* SCC and SJNF (local and regional)
  + Long term investment
  + Consistency
* Monitoring effort on Dolores in 2017
  + State- CPW
  + Non-profit- TNC
  + Federal- BLM, B of Rec.
  + Academia- FLC
  + Regional- DWCD
* San Juan Headwaters- FS
* Tribal forestry and BIA relationship
* Firewise- SCFS and Fire Departments
* BOR- working w/ conservation districts
* SME- NFF – mitigation program
* San Juan Forest Health Partnership
  + Scale/scope of focus area
  + Organized meetings
  + Grounded in forest ecology
  + Involvement w/ local high school
  + Citizen monitoring

**Worst:**

* Too much internal focus and not enough outreach – no external engagement
* Lack of commitment and follow through
  + Creates distrust, long term riff and damage to relationship
* Take time and effort – training high school interns
* Federal Funding – the timing and planning vs. budget allocation
* Meetings with no results
* Developing group visitation vs. individual
* Coming to the table not willing to compromise
* You know what YOU should do?
* Poor communication/inaction
* Need more diversity (tribal)
* Stagnation (same people, same ideas over and over)
  + Combat by engaging students and other fresh community voices
* Unhealthy competition with a partnership for credit/attention/funding
  + Leads to break-up/ bad blood
* Politics
* Lack of dissenter in long-standing group
* Tribal forestry= tribal understanding of mission
* Firewise= public understanding
* USGS= BLM relationship with mining area
* BOR= Conservation Districts
* SME= Agency reviews
* CPW and Trout Unlimited & USFS
  + Individual relationships work better than at the higher levels (agency to agency)
  + Chain of command – internal communication

**Weirdest**

* Need to understand organizational structure to capitalize on potential partnerships
* Partnership burnout – angered partners and ruined relationship
* Manure tea “probiotic for the forest”
* Your place or mine – meeting logistics
* Broad visions not based in reality – good intensions
* Two organizations try to partner only to find out there is no common goal
  + Could originate from uncertainty of missions/goals
  + Or lack of communication/focus
* Gravitate to easiest relationship

**Issues**

* Incorporating climate change info and other terminology into all partnerships/initiatives
  + Temporal and spatial scales
* Communicating partnership benefits to public/economic interests
* Organizational issues:
  + Who takes on these responsibilities – coordination and facilitation
* Who within organizations manages partnerships
* Money to help with communication

**Opportunities**

* Federal funding outlooks, budget implications
* Facilitated networking opportunities around issues
* Targeted experts to facilitate discussion
* Good knowledge exists about the impacts of climate change
* Emphasize importance of scale… temporal/spatial
* Increase visibility to public and increase effectiveness
* Incorporate the economic impact of work
* Catalogue/share failures – identify keys to success
* Recruiting non-traditional partners (e.g. Rio Grande Water Fund)

**Needs**

* Define partnerships
* Examples of group organization models (centralized vs decentralized)
* Define goals
* Avoid competing information
* Better communication platform
  + One webpage? Email network? Facebook?
* Searchable database to facilitate continued relationships/projects
  + Podio – professional network
* Partner opportunities w/ agencies, non-profits and for-profit agencies to cross economic and perception boundaries
* Streamlines contracting process to cross mission boundaries
* Ways to move these ideas up the food chain within agencies

**Luncheon/Workshop topics & ideas**

* + What are the funding steps?
    - Once need is understood – go to public or private first?
    - Do you go to other partners to find support/ideas?
* Are there new models for funding?
* How to determine who stakeholders are and how to get them involved
* How do you reach new audiences?
  + - For involvement, engagement, funding
    - Consider schools
* Create or develop decision tree or template to understand and build most effective partnerships
* Tie between public health
  + - Air quality
    - Water quality
    - Forest health
  + Need representation from health industry/ public health sector
  + Holistic community approach
  + Invasive species
  + Divide sessions into issue based topics
  + Let people communicate with each other/connect from different backgrounds
    - Public lands
    - Affordable housing
  + NETWORKING/collaboration
    - Agency people don’t get as much opportunity to “mingle”
    - Speed-dating and free-form time
    - Exercise to “force” people to collaborate
      * Group haiku of everyone’s interests
  + How to funnel funding to environmental education programs that support these larger project goals (watershed health, forest health etc.)
  + New avenues for environmental ed. (widening reach)
    - Private funding from places that wouldn’t otherwise be involved- corporations
    - Lunch time talks at large employers (teach adults!)
  + Everyone prepares a packet before may workshops to share
    - Bio, projects, potential projects
    - What kinds of partners they’re looking for
    - Citizen science opportunities

**Other**

* Partnership congestion (common theme)
  + Overlapping missions competing for funding and engagement
  + Geographical context
  + May be coming
  + # organizations/collaborations
  + funding
    - internal resources
    - time
    - people
    - values
  + Capacity to support all partners
  + Partners vs. stakeholders
  + Time\*/staff
  + What’s the destination?
  + Who’s in the car?
* Partnership Model
  + Balance centralized vs. dispersed
  + Communication
    - Bring in new ideas
    - Conscience of the group