

Francis Marion Sumter National Forest Collaboration Workshop
April 19th & 20th, 2012
Newberry, South Carolina
Day Two

SECTION 1:

Review of day one. Reintroducing the Five Organizing Principles of Collaboration.

- **Scanning the Situation:** what's happening on the landscape (land, community and national)? What are the skills and resources available to work in a collaborative effort?
- **Identifying Values and Principles:** to be clear where peoples positions are, where their heart is. Values: honesty, speaking the truth, respect, willing to listen to learn, commitment to hang in there. Principles: how you agree to operate.
- **Identifying opportunities and selecting methods:** what are the improvements, what are the assets you have, what do you want to focus on and how to go about being efficient in achieving that. Is there a capacity to collaborate?
- **Setting Clear Expectations and Commitments:** Who, What, When, Where. Determining up front the basic details.
- **Monitoring the progress:** are we committed, how are we monitoring, etc.

Connections made from participants yesterday:

- Scanning the situation: situation map.
- Identifying values and principals: Asset mapping

Progress Triangle:

- Substance: What are the issues, and issues can be tangible and they can also be symbolic. Are those issues complex? Can you simplify them? Are there sources of tension around the issue, what is the history, is there information of data and what is the source of it? What are the mutual gains?
- Relationships: Who are the parties involved? What are they're values and worldview. What are people's spheres and goals, interests and concerns are? History among the players. What is the incentive for people to collaborate is there sufficient trust? If not sufficient trust, how can we create trust?
- Procedure: This is who is doing what, and the process for the situation. Is there an opportunity for constructive collaboration? Is this situation right for collaboration? Are there legal constrains here in terms of decision space? Be clear about this up fronts about these constraints. Do people want to collaborate, do they want to learn, seek mutual understanding?

Key to Triangle: People focus on the Substance in a collaborative effort, but we consider it about 10% of what you see. The Procedure and Relationships are the 90% of the process and people need to be aware of. They all interrelate, but when you have a good balance, that is when you're going to be the most successful. Often the Procedure and Relationship areas are where things fall apart.

Aha Moments!

- **Paul Bradley:** Thought the renovation team really tipped my thinking about landscape restoration in the piedmont in terms of people in resource management put things back the way they were, but restoring should be renovation. We can't think about where we were but about where we can be in the best terms in the future. As far as expectations and what we need to be focused on, is molding with the future.
- **Sam LeRoy:** on the Education asset map, amazed at the volume of information and desire in this room. How come the public doesn't know the things we know in this room? The knowledge, desire, and true heart, but somehow it's not known in the public. The volume and quality of people and knowledge in the room is valuable.
- **Erica Wise:** Overwhelmed. I have no idea where all this is coming from. I'm in the dark, less than before, but before I can process everything it's going to be awhile.
- **Charles Jennings:** from a county perspective, we are dependant upon each other for a final product, especially in the economic development arena. If we don't involve the essential players than we're still going to be at square one. It's appealing to me to sit back and see all these resources we have, although we still struggle with each other but we shouldn't because we need each other to survive.

Tangibles: you attract \$, people

Intangibles: relationships and procedures.

SECTION 2:

Moving Forward - Concerns, Interests, and Improvements. Building a Collaborative Action Plan

Groups work through planning worksheet discussing interests and concerns, and improvements. The improvements involve exploring their desirability, feasibility, benefits, who will or who won't support it, and the commitments needed to succeed.

SECTION 3: Action Strategy Plan

Work Team Development of a "Collaborative Action Strategy"

Evaluating opportunities, improvements, and actions.

Proposed Improvements From All Groups: Summaries are provided here. Detailed Action Plans are attached.

Education and Public Awareness Group

- Raising Public Awareness around Forestry Issues
 - Get Natural resource professionals to volunteer and commit to a certain number of hours to work with teachers and school groups.
 - Challenge would be the organization of this project, and some funding.

- Public Involvement and Listening sessions “Community Café”
 - Meetings once a month
 - Agencies can host different listening sessions/open house seminars.
 - Lower number of complaints
 - Disperse new ideas
 - Public opportunity to present ideas or concerns.
- Getting the youth involved through camps.
 - SC Student Tour
- Ad Campaign, Awareness
 - “Only you can prevent invasive species, job litigation, water issues, ignorance” etc.
 - How much to change.
 - Similar to Smokey Bear Ad
 - Use the infrastructure of Smokey Bear already present.
 - How to make a useful effective tool, without losing the message.

Recreation Group

- Link existing trails (non-motorized trails) biking, hiking, horseback riding to provide a premier outdoor recreation destination.
 - \$3.18 billion industry per year
- Further Enhance the knowledge of the River canoe trail and connectivity

Invasive Group

- Coordinate the efforts and integrate control of non-native invasive species
- Get a handle on what everybody is doing. Assess the treatment programs of different state, fed, private, university, etc. landowners.
- Identify a focus area within the Piedmont, then identify the agreed upon priority areas.
- Before commence to implement, outreach and education. Not only general public, but also especially the private landowner that would be directly involved.
 - Workshops
 - Public service announcements
 - Brochures
- Implement control projects within focus area of priority.
 - All agencies involved,
 - Look for opportunities to collaborate
 - Sharing of expertise, equipment
- Continuous mapping of the areas, where treatments have occurred, measured progress.

Watershed Management

- Sustainable Funding: Gov’t appropriations are not really sustainable. Payment for ecosystem service concept or a clean water marketplace. Folks that use clean water as a raw product for anything, would collaborate into a

shared funding pot that would pay the producers of the clean water to provide it (forest land owners)

- Lack of collaboration: develop overarching advisory council or task force for piedmont region to drive implementation of actions.
- Lack of political will or knowledge: got to get involved. Form a pack (the P Pack) the Piedmont Pack. Get involved in campaigns, issue campaigns, etc.
- Lack of cooperation at watershed level: Do more watershed collaborative's and education.
- Landowner misconceptions: targeting education campaign about conservation and restoration opportunities.

Fire

- Do more burning, unified approach to find resources out there to assist one another funding sources, human capital, etc. We need to share a think tank to come up with ideas to feel fire safe, that can work across borders and landscapes
 - Grants
 - Pool the resources and knowledge to efficiently Rx burn
- Improve community awareness, create out reach program, give people reasons why it's important to burn
 - Demographics are changing
 - Inform and educate
- Needs for Rx Fire is CWPP development. Specifically creating CWPP's that is regional. Community Wildfire Protection Plans that are landscape scale regional consistent with regional hazard litigation plans. Within central midlands of SC there is council gov't that oversees four counties.
 - Small community plan, increase to multi county CWPP.
 - Tier to communication plan, state litigation plan
 - Provide reasons for Rx fire, improve resiliency for communities.

Economic Development

- Organizing in terms of taking advantage of natural resource economy on regional basis.
 - Upstate alliance as vehicle for counties coming together.
 - Reduction of fuels, watershed protection, etc.
- Need for economic development diversity.
 - Over reliant on timber product industry. Branch out to other aspects of diverse economic base.
 - Recreation opportunities
 - Improve and develop cottage industry associated with horseback riders, SORBA events, etc. to diversify economic base.
 - Hunting Camps
 - Private land ORV type of activities
 - Bed and Breakfasts

- Rural Resources Coalition: entire mission is to build the economies of rural communities based on timber, agriculture, recreation, and tourism. State policy level and individual level as well. SC Wildlife Federation is an ally. Looking for more participation

SECTION 4: Final Improvement Proposals

1. Watershed:

- Market driven sustainable funding mechanism (recreation groups, water companies, etc. pay into a pool share of funds that goes into water restoration projects). To help facilitate more clean water and protection of clean water. *(Votes: 5)*
- Piedmont Task Force that looks at projects and address the fragmented ownership. Task force to look across boundary lines of ownership in watershed. Prioritize work in watershed, education means and funding mechanism. *(Votes: 11)*

2. Recreation: Link existing trails so as to enhance recreation and ecotourism *(Votes: 5)*

3. Education:

- Increase educational activities to gain more youth involvement: curriculum, camps, activities, etc. *(Votes: 6)*
- Provide forestry listening sessions to increase public awareness: different agencies cooperative rotate on monthly basis to host casual informative public meetings. *(Votes: 1)*

4. Economic Development: Initiate contact with McCormick County (and others in the Piedmont) and the Rural Resources Coalition to explore development/expansion of industry supporting forest product utilization – include SC Forestry Commission, SC Forestry Assn, USFS.... others. *(Votes: 10)*

5. Non-Native Invasive Species (NNIS):

- Assess NNIS Programs on Public and Private Lands. Coordinate efforts of what is already being done on the ground. Better integrate and use each other's strengths and programs to work smarter not harder. *(Votes: 7)*
- Identify priority areas and species for treatment. Involves coordination to identify areas within the Piedmont. Within focused areas agree upon treatment in order to leverage dollars, people, equipment, and time. *(Votes: 6)*

6. Public/Political Awareness Campaign of benefits about Rx Fire.

Campaign about lack of funding/resources to accomplish Rx burning, benefits of Rx burning, and make available the tools for private landowners/communities (Wyden Agreement/CWPP's) *(Votes: 7)*

Final Decisions:

1. Piedmont Resource Task Force (second bullet under item 1)

Looking at projects and address the fragmented ownership. Task force to look across boundary lines of ownership in watershed. Prioritize work in watershed, education means, funding mechanism, etc

Overarching collaborative:

- **Issue:** Establish Clear goals. Clear authority or governance and accountability to colleagues. Don't have a group for group's sake. If you're going to form a group know why and how.
- **Focus:** funding, political face, education, and boots on the ground. The boots can be invasive projects, recreation projects, etc.
- **Who Leads?** Has to come through due process. Once you have the people in place create timeline for clear objectives and goals. Economic Development driver: McCormick County. Fairfield County. **Jill Miller, John Tyner (Upstate Forever).**
- **Who Else?** DNR, FS, Mayer of Calhoun (sp?) Falls, Beth LeMaster, Jeff Magniez, SC DHEC (Amanda Ley), Private Landowner: Walt McPhail,
- **Timing:** In three weeks time, John Tyner will schedule the meeting. May 15-18 BBQ.
- **Obstacles:**
- **Measured Outcome:**
- **Resources Needed:** Funding. Time. Materials. Everyone's Email

Next Steps:

- A. Initial job at first meeting: designate positions on team. Have affiliated: Private landowners, state representative, non-profits, Agency representatives, etc.

2. Assess NNIS (non native invasive species) Programs on public and private lands.

- **Who Leads?** Jeff Magniez
- **Who Else?** Private Landowners; Exotic Pest Plant Council (Travis Rogers, chair); Early Detection and Rapid Response (Randy Westbrook); Cory Drennan (DNR); Army Corp of Engineer; SC Forestry Commission, (Lauri Reed entomologist); NRCS (district conservationists, perhaps Staci Henry); Clemson Extension Agents (perhaps Wallace Wood); Head of Botany Department at Landers University (Mike Runyan).
- **Timing:** informal conference call within next couple of weeks.
- **Obstacles:**
- **Measured outcome:**
- **Resources Needed:**

Next Steps:

- A. Assess programs on public and private lands. Inventory.
- B. Assess problem areas.

- C. Agree upon priority areas.
- D. Plan meeting for first session.

3. Public/Political Awareness Campaign on Rx Fire

- **Lead?** Mike Bozzo (SC Forestry Commission), Brian Schaffleur (US Forest Service)
- **Who Else?** Prescribed fire council, FS, forestry commission, DNR, NGOs, TNC, Student Project (connect with Universities and Colleges). Private Landowners (Sam LeRoy). Needs to be somewhat peer-to-peer. Russell Hubright (representative for Wood Magic Fair, etc.). Gary Peters (National Wild Turkey Federation)
- **Timing:** Meet before the end of May