

Watershed Coordinators and Committees

Wendy Wilson, River Network, May, 2008

Types of Sustainable Watershed Groups

- All Volunteer Group (independent, citizen led)
- Non-Profit Organizations - under 501c(3) rules
- Quasi Governmental Organizations (created by statute)
- Agency-Sponsored Watershed Councils (staff hired by agency)
- Hybrid Organizations - 501c(3) non-profits that include units of government

Role of the Governing Board (whatever you call it)

- To guard the mission of the organization for its members.
- Determines policies around internal procedures (financial, PR, FR, personnel, planning)
- Hires, supports the direction of - or fires - the Executive Director
- Serves as a court of appeal with other staff or stakeholders in the organization.
- Ensures effective planning
- Ensures and manages finances
- Assesses it's own work and replaces itself
- Monitors and evaluates the programs of the organization

How much do you share leadership?

- ___ Do you have board members that speak for the organization when they are in the community?
- ___ Do you have a board that knows how much money they have and decides how to spend "unrestricted funds".
- ___ Do you have someone besides yourself that asks people for money?
- ___ Do you have a governing board that could choose to fire you?

Which of these make you feel uncomfortable?

Which one slows you down?

“Must Have” Committees

- Nominations
- Financial Oversight - Budget
- Development & Fund Raising
- Public Outreach
- Program/ Planning (Watershed Stewardship or Monitoring Team?)

What is the Leadership role of a Watershed Coordinator?

- Be an “intentional” leader.
- Facilitate a culture of shared leadership.
- Shared leadership is achieved when the organization is fully functional and board and staff members are fulfilling their proper roles.

Start with the Best Annual Board Meeting on Earth

- 1) Meeting starts with a presentation on the work of the organization explaining recent victories. This can be done by a staff person, consultant or board member.
- 2) Includes Board Business:
 - a. Regional Reports
 - b. Financial Report
 - c. Board Nominations Report
 - d. “Decision Agenda” Item of Your Choice
 - e. Committee Assignments
- 3) Board Social Dinner: End with an “inspirational” speaker, visitor from out of town, invite spouses, board prospects and lead volunteers as well. “Big Announcements” such as a challenge grant and announcing the board nominations chairperson.