

Title: Lessons Learned, Challenges, Solutions to Collaborating Across Landscape Conservation

Peer-to-Peer Learning Sessions Template for Confluence 2020

Session Host(s): Stacy Beagh, Shannon Wadas

Session Facilitators: (if needed)

Description of Session: Forming collaboratives, partnerships, and coalitions among diverse stakeholders are common and effective methods to move forward successful, locally-driven conservation or environmentally-based outcomes. Convening a collaborative can be a difficult task, with the more challenging task of positioning the group for success and sustaining its effectiveness.

In this session, Stacy Beagh and Shannon Wadas will draw from more than 15 years' experience in coordinating, leading and facilitating collaborative efforts to share lessons learned and what to NOT do to create and perpetuate a collaborative effort that achieves its desired outcomes. The session will highlight examples to elaborate on how awareness of and planning for the essentials – e.g. trust, leadership, clear and shared vision/purpose, the right people and roles, evaluation, etc. – will help ensure an effective and cohesive effort.

Outline the session: (the session is 60 minutes long- edit this suggested session format)

- 10 minutes: Introductions/overview of Collaboration Framework - Stacy Beagh
Handout will be given to the group to follow along during the session
- 20 minutes: Case study examples on trust and shared vision/purpose
- 20 minutes: Break Out Groups
- 10 minutes: Share Out/Participant Discussion
Session wrap up and instructions for index cards and display of flip charts

Case Studies: (list the 2 -3 case studies to be presented by practitioners as success stories and or lessons learned and include the presenters name, organization and contact information.

1. Shannon Wadas: RiversEdge West, River Restoration Partnership
swadas@riversedgewest.org
2. Stacy Beagh, Strategic By Nature, Collaborative Group
stacybeagh@gmail.com

Activity: Participants will be divided into break-out groups to share challenges/successes within the Collaboration Framework presented in the overview. Groups will be asked to consider these two questions within their groups.

- Share an example of a success or a challenge with your collaborative and what pillar does it fit under? What would you suggest to others to do again or what would you do differently to maximize the outcomes?
- What would you emphasize or take out of the Collaboration Framework presented? Why?
- Do you have any additional collaboration resources in addition to what is on the hand-out?

Participant Questions, Comments/Discussion: Each group will be asked to elect a spokesperson to share out their top three take-aways from their discussion. Facilitators will take notes on flip charts and wrap-up the conversation with common themes/takeaways from the session. A synthesis will be provided to conference organizers.

Technology & Materials: (add to list below as needed)

Flip charts and pens

PPT template slide

Index cards and pens

Bio of Host(s) and Case Study Presenters: (text should be 80-100 words and include a portrait photo)



Host: Stacy Beagh, President of Strategic By Nature, Inc., established to support those striving for impact and effective outcomes around land and water resources, will be the primary facilitator to develop the business model, working closely with other team members to align and support other aspects of the project. Ms. Beagh has seventeen years of direct strategic planning, organizational leadership, program evaluation, and consensus building experience, most notably working for ten years as the Executive Director of RiversEdge West, leading the organization through two strategic planning processes and growing the organization through its formative years. Ms. Beagh has experience with numerous state-wide water-related projects including serving as facilitator for the San Miguel River stream management plan and Water Bank Work Group stakeholder process, working with River Network and the Colorado Water Conservation Board to develop a peer-network and resource guide (www.coloradosmp.org) for stream/integrated water management planning leaders. Other strategic/action planning collaboration building clients include the National Forest Foundation, Ruth Powell Hutchins Water Center at Colorado Mesa University, Montezuma Inspire Coalition and Columbine Forest Resilience Collaborative. Having lived on both the front range and west slope, Ms. Beagh has been a permanent resident of Colorado for 12 years and currently resides in Durango.



Host/Presenter: Shannon Wadas, Associate Director of RiversEdge West, a nonprofit based in Grand Junction, CO, that focuses on the restoration of riparian lands across the southwest through collaboration, education and technical assistance. Shannon directly oversees staff and the various programs as well as assists with partnership facilitation needs, strategic planning and organizational development. She currently serves on the Coordinating Committee for Cross Watershed Network, a southwest regional network that strives to connect watershed groups at a multi-state level, as well as serves on the Leadership Team and Steering Committee for the Western Collaborative Conservation Network. Prior to working for RiversEdge West, Shannon was the northwest regional representative for U.S. Senator Michael Bennet where she worked on constituent advocacy as well as community outreach and engagement in current legislation and specific policy objectives. She also worked for Colorado Parks and Wildlife as a park ranger for ten years at various state parks across the state. Throughout this time, Shannon oversaw a multitude of various park programs and served as a field training officer for the agency. She is a Colorado native and attended Western Colorado University, earning her Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies and Outdoor Recreation.

