Collaborative Partnerships: The Community Collaboration Story

presented at the
2008 Capturing Opportunities Forum
April 25, 2008
Brandon, Manitoba

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WaterWolf Regional Round Table
Communities Planning, Coordinating & Working Together Regionally

Harold Baker’s findings from his 1991-92 study on multi-community collaboration in the US, Ireland, France & Spain:

- multi-community activity appears to be undertaken in order for smaller communities to survive in difficult times and to enhance development opportunities under these circumstances;
- central resource agencies have important policy, facilitating, resource, and education functions to play;
- although local government bodies should be considered important…it is equally important to involve other civic, private and voluntary groups;
- the success of the microregion that is involved in multi-community collaboration appears quite dependent on the support of other developmental entities, especially the more central sub-province, province and national levels;
- multi-community collaboration experience…appears to have had little influence on local government boundaries.
Community Collaboration Project (CCP) in Manitoba/Nunavut 1999-2004

The Hudson Bay Neighbours Regional Round Table (RRT) formed in 2002 and is a unique partnership among northern Manitoba and Nunavut communities. [http://hbn.cimnet.ca](http://hbn.cimnet.ca).

Formed in October 1999, the Northern Vision Regional Round Table was the first RRT: [http://northernvision.cimnet.ca](http://northernvision.cimnet.ca).

Formed in 2001 Bayline Regional Round Table took its name from the Bayline rail line which connects the communities: [http://baylinerrt.cimnet.ca](http://baylinerrt.cimnet.ca).

The Southwest Round Table emerged as an agro-Manitoba RRT in April of 2000: [http://swrrt.cimnet.ca](http://swrrt.cimnet.ca).
CCP Model

Strengthening Community Capacity

Partnership Building

Regional Round Table (Communities)

Trusting Relationships

Rural Team Advisory Group (Governments)

Academic Institution

Building Community Capacity

CCP Process

Building Community Capacity

External Facilitation (RDI)

Agenda Setting

Visioning

Vision Refining

RRT Advisory Group

Resources – Financial & Human

Project Activity

Time
CCP Model Project

- Longitudinal study in Manitoba/Nunavut
- New regional round tables in Saskatchewan & Yukon
- 85 communities in 6 regional round tables
Yukon Regional Round Table

Established in 2006:
- with membership from First Nation, incorporated & unincorporated communities with no size limit;
- focuses on action & implementing projects.

WaterWolf Regional Round Table

Established in 2005:
- as a regional services delivery model to increase capacity to assess needs & deliver services from a community-led approach;
- committees established for:
  - a river valley association;
  - a regional water technician;
  - Danielson Park pilot project;
  - infrastructure & investment development & tax sharing;
  - GIS and land use planning.
WaterWolf
Regional Round Table

27,640 Sq. Kilometers
Roughly half the size of the province of Nova Scotia.
Whitecap Dakota Sioux First Nation

- Well planned regional model
# Asset-Based Community Development

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Land Use Plan

- If not the region, **who**?
- If not now, **when**?
- If not this, **what**?
“Two types of choices seem to me to have been crucial in tipping their outcomes toward success or failure: long term planning and willingness to reconsider core values.”
WaterWolf Lessons Learned

- Have a beginning & an end.
- Find sufficient resources.
- Seek out leaders & partners.
- Have enough goals to be flexible.
- Build a network of resources.
- Dream large.
CCP Model Lessons Learned

- Developing trusting relationships & partnerships within & between communities; between communities & governments; & between communities & academic institutions require:
  - deliberate effort;
  - time;
  - financial resources;
  - committed, skilled & sustained leadership.

- Partnership-building processes should be considered investments. Resources are needed to maintain & grow these investments.

- Regional governance is different than regional government:
  - it is not necessarily about replacing legacy governments, but evolving to have additional forums for planning & decision-making.
CCP Model Lessons Learned

To effectively participate in multi-community collaborations, **regional associations** need:

- **individuals** who have the **desire, skills & time** to devote to multi-community collaborative efforts;

- organizational infrastructure including:
  - a **vision, goals & objectives**;
  - terms of reference for **membership**;
  - defined roles for **executive**;
  - defined roles for **coordination & administration**;
  - established **communication** processes;

- to contribute **resources**.
To effectively participate in multi-community collaborations, governments need:

- government representatives to have mandates & reporting structures that are flexible enough to work with communities & regions in non-traditional ways:
  - move from “under the radar” to “in the radar”;
- flexibility, creativity & innovation in program & accountability structures to fit with & adjust to community interests:
  - permission to be creative to accomplish agreed-upon goals.
CCP Model Lessons Learned

To effectively participate in multi-community collaborations, academic institutions need:

- to find new & creative ways to engage the human & capital resources of universities & colleges to be more engaged in community development processes;
- to enable communities to view academic institutions as resources to their efforts;
- to view communities as something more than research laboratories;
- to better understand & value community service by:
  - refining understanding of how community service is defined when individuals are “judged” for advancement purposes.
For Additional Information

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WaterWolf Regional Round Table: www.waterwolf.org
Government of Canada’s Rural Secretariat: www.rural.gc.ca