Regional Collaboration: Why Do Communities Come Together?

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presented by

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WaterWolf Regional Round Table
Overview

- Communities planning, coordinating & working together regionally
- A multi-community collaboration model developed in Manitoba & taken elsewhere in Canada
- The application of this model in Saskatchewan – WaterWolf Regional Round Table
- Challenges for regional planning & governance
- Discussion
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.
- There is a place in the community for both competition and collaboration, if they are kept in appropriate balance.
- 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.
- Community leaders will need time and patience to convince communities that it is beneficial to work together.
Leaders…should be selected with care, with attention to the scope of their vision and their collaborating skills.

It is essential that a leadership development program be initiated as an integral and ongoing feature.

The most difficult period in the formation…is the “formation period”, especially during the second to fifth year.

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.

The conventional sectorial development approach should be balanced appropriately with the territorial development which is fostered by multi-community collaboration.
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 it 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).
Collaboration
Inclusion
Equal partnership
Shared power
Shared responsibility
Encouragement
Cooperation
Empowerment

CCP Model
Strengthening Community Capacity
Partnership Building
Regional Round Table
Trusting Relationships
Rural Team Advisory Group
Academic Institution

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At a meeting held in Teslin on April 4th 2006, the Yukon RRT was officially established and a MOU was signed with RDI. The YRRT

- has membership from First Nation, incorporated and unincorporated communities with no size limit
- focuses on action and implementing projects
- is collaborative and based on common interests
In 2005, WaterWolf RRT was created as a regional services delivery model to increase capacity to assess needs and deliver services from a community-led approach.

RRT committees were then established for 5 projects:

- 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
A CCP RRT
CCP Model Outcomes

Communities and governments are collaborating in new and different ways to:

- create new and different partnerships and trusting relationships between and among communities and governments,
- strengthen capacity in the RRTs, communities and regions,
- strengthen leadership capacity,
- explore new decision-making and governance models, and
- evaluate, document and communicate progress.
CCP Study Group

Purpose and Opportunities

- Provide feedback on the evaluation frameworks that were developed by the RRTs and Advisory Groups.
- Provide feedback on the roll-up of all the evaluation frameworks of the CCP Model project.
- Explore linkages to existing and future research in multi-community collaboration and regional governance.
- Provide a forum for researchers to discuss multi-community collaboration and regional governance.
CCP Study Group

Membership

Ken Bessant (Brandon University)
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Mark Drabenstott (Rural Policy Research Institute, USA)
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Challenges for Regional Governance

- What are the ‘voids’ that serve as trigger conditions for emergent regional systems?
- What are the critical phase change(s) factors in rural regional governance systems?
- What is the influence of negotiated power-sharing process(es) for local governments?
- How do rural regional governance systems design decision-making processes in rural regional governance systems?
- How does tension and resolution between legacy and emergent negotiated power of rural regional governance get resolved?
- How are assets, conditions, initial contexts and changes of communities collaborating together and/or involved in new governance systems measured?
References

RDI Publications

Websites
RDI: www.bradounu.ca/rdi
WaterWolf: www.waterwolf.org
Government of Canada’s Rural Secretariat: www.rural.gc.ca

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