Financing Watershed Implementation
Tools for Implementing the Vision
Texas Watershed Planning Short Course
January 16, 2009
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The University-based Environmental Finance Center Network Provides Third-Party Assistance to Communities and Groups on Financing Environmental Compliance

The Center Provides Services to Communities on the “How to Pay” Issues of Environmental Compliance

Macro – EF
multi-community focus
- Watershed restoration finance
- Non-point source pollution reduction
- Watershed financing database
- Community charrettes
- Strategic planning tools for local decision-makers
- Strategic decision models

Micro – EF
single community focus
- Water system finance & management
- Wastewater finance & management
- Utility rate setting tools & training
- Asset management and “gap” financing
- Guidebook of Financing Tools
- Brownfield redevelopment financing
- Financial & management capacity measurement & technical assistance
- Financial analysis for exemptions

BSU’s EFC Creates Tangible Software Tools Designed to Save Communities Time and Money

This is what we’ve learned...

In pure public finance terms, watershed funding is one of the most difficult funding challenges.

This is because cost, organizational, intergovernmental and time factors are more complex in watershed restoration than in any other environmental finance setting.
If this is so...

Recognize that there never has been, nor will there ever be, enough public funding available to get the job done.

It makes sense to utilize the existing watershed framework to develop an implementation strategy that has multiple funding options.

Creating a funding strategy uses the skills and strengths of stakeholders, in coordination, to realize implementation of plans and reach objectives.

Our tools have been created based on the Watershed Approach pioneered by the University of Maryland EFC. What is it?

- Examining all sources of the problem
- Visioning potential outcomes
- Prioritizing activities
- Building consensus and cooperation
- Leveraging resources
- Accomplishing goals

“Community quilt” concept of financing

- The Watershed is a mosaic of public, private and nonprofit land ownership and a myriad land uses.
- Using a broader collection of terms can broaden the sources of funding for your source water protection plan.
- Identifying stakeholders and land uses within a watershed to create a patchwork of funding opportunities.

Creating the Quilt

- Federal, State and Local programs plus
- Financiers, endowments, private and public partnerships, etc.
- Broad purpose utility operations

A Holistic approach...

Broad-based sources of funding leads to broad-based support for your objectives.

Begin thinking outside the box for your watershed.

Create a visionary strategic funding plan that relies on diverse sources of funding.

Getting from planning to successful implementation.
Planning to Implementation Transition

In the planning stages we have a reduction of the broad mission statement to the very specific tasks that need to be performed. This requires broad thinking and representation of points of view that are accommodated in the policy making which becomes the implementation plan.

As the organization moves from the emphasis of planning to the implementation of the plan, the role of the stakeholder group evolves. Implementation of the plan is a business-like function that details the actions needed and resources needed to accomplish the mission. Implementation is bounded by the previous work of the stakeholder group – the policy making (planning) work that has already occurred. The organization still needs oversight, but the specific work of the group is an executive and management responsibility.

Plan2Fund can help answer these questions:
- What information does the watershed group need to coordinate their efforts, and how will that be tracked?
- How much money is needed?
- Should that be decided site by site, per project, or on a larger watershed basin effort?
- Plan2Fund has been customized to meet specific planning needs.

Plan2Fund

- Enter mission, goals, objectives and tasks in an interactive database
- Prioritize tasks over multiple years
- Determine financial resources needed to meet goals
- Determine who is going to do what, when
- Track progress toward completion

Challenge of Prioritizing Objectives
Key Issues of Prioritization

Technical Plan
Science Orientation

Mission
Goals

Objectives
Tasks

Implementation Plan
Business Orientation

Objective
Objective
Objective
Objective
Objective
Objective

All objectives cannot be implemented simultaneously.

What are the highest priority objectives?

Implementation finance (resource allocation) should focus on the highest ranked priorities.

Plan2Fund OPT is designed to help stakeholder groups save time and energy when moving toward implementation of their strategic plans.

Plan2Fund OPT is a web-based decision model built in DotNetNuke that helps you build consensus on the rules you will use in evaluating competing objectives.

Once a group comes to agreement on the decision rules they will use in evaluating their strategic objectives, they can determine the scoring system that will be used to rank the objectives against their rules.

This is how OPT improves the prioritization process

Plan2Fund OPT Consensus Process
1. Identify and enter strategic plan objectives.
2. Identify and gain consensus on decision rules.
3. Achieve consensus on how decision rules will be scored.
4. By consensus, assign weighting to decision rules.
5. Compare results.

What are the potential sources of money for implementing a watershed improvement strategy?

Alternative Funding and Partnering Techniques
Local Government Revenue Generating Programs
Private Funding Organizations
Public Funding Programs

Search for Implementation Funding

http://efc.boisestate.edu
Paste this link in your web browser address bar, then click on “Register” to begin.

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