Beaver Creek Watershed: A Case Study of Adaptive Governance

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125 PSB

Outline

- Introduction: A Watershed Program & Assessment Tool
- The Need for Further Research & Tools
- Goals & Objectives
- Methods
- Preliminary Results

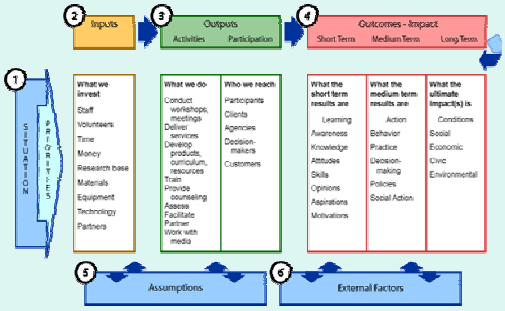
Introduction: A Watershed Program Assessment Tool

- The need for local watershed partnerships will continue to rise.
- Evaluations of these partnerships have transpired in an effort to increase the likelihood of success, but they tend to "miss the mark".
- Assessment tools that foster learning for improvement need to be created; my thesis will address this need.

Why is there a Need?

- Ideologies of the past have fostered command and control policies that have resulted in public exclusion & legislative deadlock.
- Adaptive governance structures have emerged in response to the inability of traditional institutions to handle these “wicked problems”.
- Watershed Initiatives are organizations, often grassroots, that take on these complex issues in a water quality context.
- Assessment tools to date are typically Outcome oriented.

Program Logic Model: Outcome Assessment



Goals

- To promote the improvement and sustainability of watershed programs while ultimately advancing the quality and effectiveness of environment management.
- Aid watershed support institutions like the U.T. Water Resources Research Center by contributing to their “toolbox”.

Objectives

- Consult the literature
- Develop a watershed assessment tool that addresses the issues of improvement and sustainability
- Apply this tool to the Beaver Creek Watershed Partnership
- Modify and tweak tool according to feedback

Beaver Creek Watershed

Beaver Creek Watershed Association

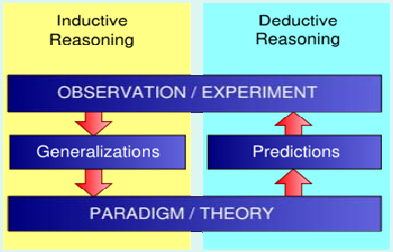
- Formed in March of 2003, the effort is “a community-based group of citizens living throughout the watershed, which includes the communities of Gibbs, Halls, Powell, Karns, and Hardin Valley/Solway”.

Methods: Assessment Tool

- Review Research Literature and Agency documents
- Personal Interviews with practitioners
  - *Theory Triangulation Method*
  - *Verification*
  - *Focus Group Evaluation*
- Use of Hedelin's Theory
  - Model gets at the Learn → Improve = Sustainability theme
  - Based on Extensive literature

Methods: Assessment Tool cont.

- Hedelin's Theoretical Foundation



Tool Application & Testing

- Why Apply the tool?
  - Practicality
- Why Apply the tool to the Beaver Creek Watershed Partnership?
  - BCW is a mature, ongoing partnership
  - Willingness of the people involved in the partnership
  - There is a real need as there are significant impacts on the water quality in this watershed
  - Location of the watershed is conducive to my research
  - The expressed need for extensive documentation

Methods: Application

- Relevant Document Review
  - Records, correspondence, memoranda, charts, protocols etc.
- Personal Interviews
  - *informal conversational interview*
  - *Snowball sampling*

Preliminary Results: Assessment Tool Matrix

- Structural Assessment: Resilience
  - Institutional capacity
    - Interagency partnerships (diversity) involvement
    - Extent of tools/data availability
    - Policy Influence and/or evidence of behavior outputs (ability to produce results)

Preliminary Results: Assessment Tool Matrix cont.

- Process Assessment: Participation & Cooperation
  - Contributing to the Process: knowledge & ideological orientation inclusion
  - Generating commitment, legitimacy or acceptance: handling power asymmetries, procedures for inclusion of all relevant actors
  - Stakeholder Capacity: to what extent personal networks & relationships have been formed or pertinent knowledge gained

Preliminary Results: Assessment Tool Matrix cont.

Process Assessment: Integration

- Across disciplines: integration of knowledge by relevant disciplines, handling different views of knowledge
- Across Values: identification of the most relevant values in relation to current issue

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Questions?