

# *Lessons Learned from Watershed Planning*



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# *Outline*



- Defining watershed planning
- Why have watershed plans been done?
- Defining success
- Why is success important?
- Challenges
- One issue to focus on – measures of success
- Presentations by, and discussions with, panel of watershed planners

# *Defining watershed planning*

- “Watershed plan” covers a lot of ground
- Single issue plans- end. spp., water quality, open space
  - Pros – funding can be stretched further, time can be spent perfecting solutions, something definable gets accomplished
  - Cons – solving the single issue may create problems elsewhere, poor use of limited resources

# *Defining watershed planning*

- Integrated plans- watershed protection in its purest form
  - Pros – proposed solutions can take into account multiple problems/concerns, available resources are maximized
  - Cons – may try to do too much and do none of it well, proposed solutions may be too generic to be useful, money doesn't go far enough to provide details on proposed solutions

# *Why have watershed plans been done?*

- The money was there (for planning)
- A specific problem needed to be solved but a watershed approach was seen as the way to do it
- Plans were seen as cure-alls for water quality problems or other issues
- The money will be there (for implementation) and a plan is required to get the money
- Why did your group develop a plan?

# *Defining success*

- Something got done (a plan, a process) that will help solve a defined problem as well as benefit the watershed as a whole
- There's a stakeholder group which helped with the plan or process and will be involved with implementing the solution

# *Why is success important?*



- Money is out there for implementation if only one had a plan to use it
- However, plans must do a lot these days; the bar is set much higher
- Competition is intense
- Protection/restoration of watershed resources and processes is at stake

# *Challenges*



- A lot of bond money but it's very specifically targeted by agencies' goals and they want to see quantitative improvements
- Is our approach to watershed planning going to meet with agencies' (and the legislature's) expectations?
- There are likely problems found in watersheds that will need common solutions; can watershed planners pool resources/info?

## *One issue to focus on: measures of success*

- Work with legislators to craft language on watershed protection for future bond measures
- Propose ways to measure success that utilize goals of existing plans and agencies' resource protection goals but also make sense for on-the-ground watershed protection work
- Maybe show what won't have happened without the watershed planning

# *Panel of watershed planners*



- Bob Collins
- Rosi Dagit
- Alex Kinefick
- Marilyn Thoms
- Guang-yu Wang