

Maine Beaches Conference 12 July 2013 Concurrent Session Notes: Partnerships for Beaches

Tony Lacertosa

Getting a diverse group of stakeholders to work cooperatively is not easy. Two steps to building teamwork: Understand stages of team development, and understand the values that improve teamwork.

Stages of Group Development by Dr. Bruce W. Tuckman:

Forming: get to know each other, at this point team dependent on the leader

Storming: personality plays at this point, dynamics important at this stage

Norming: know who each other are, ground rules are set, now can work together

Performing: doing what they are supposed to do, understanding points of view

Adjourning: job is done, important for leader to recognize success of the group, especially if they will reform. Any change to the group and you may have to go back to the beginning.

Values that Improve Collaboration by Dianne Crampton:

Effective teams and the values that makes teams successful. Leader fosters values
(TIGERS)

Trust: establish this

Interdependence: diversity is a strength

Genuineness: make sure you and everyone else is genuine

Empathy: making everyone understand that you know where they are coming from and you respect it.

Risk: Make everyone in the group know it is ok to say something/give opinion and know they are respected.

Success: celebrating success, no winner on a team or you will have a loser, it is a team effort.

Q. How do we pick people to be on a committee? You want to have diversity so you don't all just agree on everything. Want different points of view. Go back to the six values when you consider the person during an interview.

Q. What about having volunteers and getting them to collaborate? Get them involved in a decision making process. Give them choices and let them take ownership of something. Help them come to a consensus.

Judy Pederson

“Biopollution” of beaches: for example, non-native seaweed brings nutrients into beaches. Urban beaches in Boston area are large and complex urban systems. Closed 1 out of 4 days. Swimmer Advisories use indicators of water borne pathogens, Enterococcus (104/100ml). Primary contamination from infrastructure (storm drains, overflows). Also non-human sources.

Partnerships formed to address pollution: Save the Harbor Save the Bay established a Science advisory committee. State and federal agencies (decision making authority and funding). Other municipalities and the Metropolitan Beach commission.

The history of pollution is one of combined sewer overflows (CSOs). Constructed a model to assess sources (pets, birds, human discharges, CSOs, stormwater, etc.). Found that in dry weather we were still having beach closures. Low or high tide, still had bacteria. Found exceedances occur more commonly during dry weather and light rain. Sources included CSO activation (heavy rain 0.5-1 in), stormwater (light or heavy rain), sewage from illegal hook ups and broken pipes (dry, light, and heavy rains). Other sources: winds, tides, suspended sediments, pets, birds, boats (minimal contamination).

Solutions included a diverting one million gallons of wastewater at a cost of \$272 million paid by Mass Water Resources Authority and some from Boston Water and Sewer. Started in 2003 finished in 2011. It worked! Public supported effort, scientists conducted studies, political support from legislature.

Remaining issues include Caution on Advisories. Daily monitoring allows one to examine the validity of our current testing system. The best predictor of high counts is rainfall, amount varies depending on area. Beaches are open when should be closed and closed when should be opened. Nice day but high count. More days that beaches are closed that don't have to be and days when beaches should be closed and aren't.

Jessica Kellogg

Four watersheds in Kittery, primary focus on Spruce Creek. Impaired and mandated by the state to clean it. Survey focus in Admiralty Village. Secured 319 funding to improve the impaired water body. FB environmental outfall sampling. Trying to get clam flats opened up again. Worked throughout summer 2012 to map out catch basins.

New amendment to the town's ordinance regarding subsurface wastewater treatment systems: new requirements including pumping every three years and baseline inspections.

To address dogs in the park they have provided bags for poop clean up, April Stools Day.

Education encourages landowners to maintain lawns in healthy way, community block party, rain barrel auction, working with school groups.

Kittery has teamed with other organizations to address pollution at Fort Foster. Raked seaweed and let sun UV rays kill bacteria and then removed it. Also utilized environmental sniffer dogs. Future projects include testing sewer lines, using more dogs, continued monitoring with Maine Healthy Beaches, and creating a septic brochure and proposed ordinance. FB Environmental is putting together a septic system database under the 319 grant and it will include information on which properties are on septic vs. sewer lines. Will include town records to incorporate any information about septic improvements.