

**White House Conference on Cooperative Conservation
Day 2 Breakout Session Compilation**

Topic: Building Successful Partnerships

Session number: 45

Afternoon

Facilitator: Linda Kucera

Location: 124

This summary cannot be more than two pages; allocate space as needed among the categories.

- A. Major Repeated Themes Raised in the Discussion.** *A grouping of ideas repeated with some frequency in the session and brought up again during the group summation process. Also includes diverging views and/or questions about the topic.*

Recurring themes involved trust, voluntary participation, having a champion, money, flexibility, and getting the right people at the table.

Additional items raised in the discussion:

Learn how to deal with disagreement so it doesn't destroy the partnership.

A crisis can create shared needs or interests- a sense of urgency.

Agencies must have a reasonable willingness to compromise. Giving way may pave the way for something bigger.

Agencies must have reasonable expectations in terms of time, money, and people's efforts.

The nickels and dimes of small pots of money add – they can be used to leverage, leverage, leverage.

We should celebrate success as we go along.

“Co-creating” work in looking for new, innovative ideas is productive. Instead of one partner with ideas looking for other partners, all agencies should work on partnering ideas.

- B. National-level Practical Actions** *that could be taken by the Federal government, national NGO's, and other national organizations. Diverging views and/or questions are also noted.*

Reconcile or harmonize Federal laws and regulations that conflict with state laws and regulations.

Reconcile or harmonize different and conflicting approaches and agendas among Federal agencies.

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Reduce transaction costs for receiving federal funds.

Reorient the NRCS approach to include partner projects as well as individual landowners.

Modernize and update ESA and NEPA to recognize cooperative conservation partnerships under law.

Provide Presidential or CEQ recognition of local partnerships annually, such as with a ceremony at the rose garden.

Change agency cultures by getting decision makers in the field, empowering them to partner, taking an entrepreneurial approach, and reducing turf mentality.

Walk the talk, i.e. be more inclusive more often.

Improve the marketing of opportunities to partner with the Federal government and market the successes. Seek third party validation of successes.

CEQ and the President must enforce (“lay down the law”) that we will practice cooperative conservation.

The President needs to be more vocal in support of partnering.

Create “strike teams” consisting of one person from each agency to work with partners to remove obstacles and solve problems.

C. **Local-level Practical Actions** *that could be taken at the local or community level by Tribes, state and local communities, private citizens, and local organizations. Diverging views and/or questions are also noted.*

-Create umbrella coordinating organizations to eliminate duplication of effort and create synergies.

-Look for and recruit Federal partners.

-Bring Federal and state decision makers on site to your project.

-Go to Washington D.C. and tell them what you think.

-Work with the press to get your message out.

-Get younger people and different people involved and really listen to their ideas.

-Periodically do a progress check as part of monitoring and measuring success.

D. **Particularly insightful quotes from participants** that capture the essence of key points made during the group’s discussion.

none

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