

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

Topic: Infrastructure Projects: Collaborative Partnerships for Successful Outcomes

Session number: 48

Afternoon

Facilitator: Rafael Montalvo

Location: 264

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.*

Summary—themes

Paradigm shift needed in process. The new paradigm should:

- Provide for early, upstream planning and involvement, with agencies working together under one set of principles and guidelines. Another way to think about “upstream” is to frame the problem broadly and inclusively in identifying upcoming challenges and opportunities for collaboration and potential partners.
- Need a single set of regulations from federal agencies that won’t change over time
- Allow for the question of whether a project should continued to be raised (e.g., if there are significant unintended consequences).
- Allow for collaboration across the full lifecycle of the project, including early planning for closure or continuation over a fifty year or longer horizon.
- Allow agencies to assume the role of ally or resource, if that is more effective.

Agencies may have difficulty reaching and convening stakeholders in some communities and circumstances. Deliberate outreach is necessary to stakeholders to bring them to the table.

- Find a local partner that can reach out to stakeholders and be a convener. These partners know the communities better than the government agencies in many cases
- Built trust through framing principles, transparency

Recognition of the magnitude of the problems that need to be solved, the limits of Federal funding, and the need for collaboration to leverage the necessary funding and commitments to address these needs

- Partners are needed for creativity and funding
- Identify the frame for multi-purpose projects

Collaboration works when stakeholders agree on a set of principles

- Transparency
- Starting planning early
- Having the right people

This document represents the views of the individual participants and does not reflect group consensus.

The Cabinet Secretaries announced initiatives on Day 1 of the conference before input from the participants in the Cooperative Conservation Conference on Day 2

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.*

- Need for an adaptive management process that keeps you looking at a project and seeing positive and negative results, account for changes in values
 - Shared risk
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- Feedback loops for the future to make sure that the process is improved, better and better results and process, reach the point of being capable of predicting problems
- Need a review of policies that are disincentives to collaboration, e.g., inability to provide meal at collaborative events. Need to review policies that are disincentives to working together: example are waterways that cross multiple jurisdictions like international boundaries, tribal lands
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- Assess what happened in the FY02 Farm Bill and inject lessons into the FY07

C. Particularly insightful quotes from participants that capture the essence of key points made during the group's discussion.

“Food is a great convenor.”

“We've learned that we can't always come to consensus, but with trade-offs we can come to agreement.”

“We need a fundamental change in the way we think about funding infrastructure needs.”

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