

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

Topic: Improving Certainty and Incentives for Stakeholders

Session number: 47

Afternoon

Facilitator: Gregory Bourne

Location: 260

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.*

- Stakeholder involvement, how are they defined?
- Who is a legitimate stakeholder
- Rely on core regulatory programs to provide certainty and incentives
- Interagency cooperation
- Incentive I.D. and Removing disincentives
- Differentiate between public/private incentives
- I.D. more than monetary including social and economic and environmental
- Identify psychological and cultural incentives(in addition to monetary)
- Institutional Certainty (agreements and regulations)
- The next generation of conflict is the 10 – 20 acre landowners within urban fringe who lack incentive packages to pursue cooperative conservation activities
- Need flexibility in existing statutes to achieve cooperative conservation outcomes
- Find Identify the best place for cooperative conservation projects and allocate the money there
- Develop minimum thresholds for incentives and certainty
- The need for a toolbox of incentives that has lots of options and promote awareness

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.*

- Success is not equal to the amount of Federal Funding
- Old Regulatory systems brought certainty -Fear this will be lost (i.e. time frames, criteria, enforcement, monitoring)
- “One size does not fit all” certainty and incentives defined locally
- What keeps people at the table? Fear and threats/ regulation
- Fear is the worst incentive (need to define threshold)
- Federal agencies better at civil engineering/ need to improve agency to agency engagement

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

- Beyond compliance, flexibility becomes imperative and mechanisms created to improve follow through.
- Idea of modifying EAS to allow flexibility
- Encourage more cooperation at the federal and local level
- Clear consistent communication among and between agencies
- Maintaining core regulatory programs, look for opportunities to go beyond
- Create agency/ personnel incentives that foster initiative cooperative conservation efforts

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.*

- Tax credits
- Common Vision
- Continuity of participation
- Locally institutionalized resources
- Enhancing civic engagement
- Valuing ecosystems services (i.e. North East Ohio and municipal canopy stewardship programs)
- Developing core competencies for teams to manage themselves effectively (how to operate as team and issue based knowledge)

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

“It is usually pain avoidance that brings me to the table”

“Certainty sounds like a snowball in Phoenix”

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