Proceedings from the first stakeholders meeting

October 2001, Onalaska WI

Communication

1. Increase communication between agencies and entities.
2. Communication/coordination of efforts; bring NGO's into the mix.
3. Better Utilize contacts/partners you already have within the watershed. (Strength relations to increase funding.)
4. Work with local RC& D's learn ideas/ flexible approaches.
5. Forestry must increase visibility, meet with groups, talk to other divisions.

Strategy/Planning

1. Defined role of forest watershed management as one of many land types/options at various scales.
2. Numerical targets as a goal/ motivating force.
3. Create a clear framework for forestry action that unites existing efforts and targets future action. (Must be flexible, yet regional).
4. Caution against use of a "worst first" approach. Look for areas that are working to strengthen/accelerate existing programs.

Assessments

1. Look at regulations at all levels.
2. Watershed-wide assessment-identity forestry issues.
3. Need to synthesize current data (use GIS as a tool) that could provide criteria for states to identify sub-basin hot spots. (Building Blocks for future initiative).
4. Access current programs related to watershed issues.
5. Explore social/cultural influences on watersheds.
6. Major conference on the Upper Mississippi Basin issues. Broad participation. (Corps of Engineers).
7. Urban development impacts Upper Mississippi River Basin (Work with developers) (Also listed under Technical category)
8. Need for research. (Also listed under Funding category).

Education

1. Reality check-Educate the public on programs, must be attractive to assist in addressing forest community goals.
2. Public Education program to help them understand the value of a healthy forest to water quality. (Make the connection for the public via the faucet).

Implementation

1. Agroforestry as part of the solution.
2. Private Landowner's (farmers) incentive program to reforest cropland. (Especially critical areas)
3. Land use change based on Farm Bill.
4. Include recognition and rewards for good stewards.
5. Key issues: Hypoxia, sedimentation, and high cost of management/loss of wildlife habitat. Remember size of Upper Mississippi River Basin. (Headwaters in MN to

Cairo, IL) (Example: potential for planting 2 ½ million acres of forest.)

Organization/large scale/coordination

1. Increase forestry representation on watershed planning and implementation projects.
2. Build upon current basin successes, build base of support. (For example: Upper Mississippi River Basin Stewardship Iowa.)
3. Organize to meet regularly on the Upper Mississippi River Basin. (Focused attention on forestry community).
4. Upper Mississippi River Coordinating Committee conducts forestry technical session (new technical session) or forestry participates in Watershed Technical Session (forestry fisheries, water). Need U.S.F.S.

Political Action: House of Representatives, Upper Mississippi River Task Force

1. Develop a way to offer unified feedback to Congress.
2. Cooperative/collaborative multi-agency (Local, State and Federal) joint briefings for agencies/congress and staff, joint planning, and budget initiatives. (Also listed under Funding category)

Funding

1. A need for research. (Also listed under Assessments category)
2. Funding is needed for forestry practices.
3. Cooperative/collaborative multi-agency (Local, State and Federal) joint briefings for agencies/congress and staff, joint planning, and budget initiatives. (Also listed under Political Action category)

Technical

1. Turn from harvesting forests on a volume basis to harvest on a area basis.
2. Promote Green Certification Programs.
3. Urban development impacts Upper Mississippi River Basin. (Work with developers) (Also listed under Assessments category)

Partnerships/Stakeholders

1. Partnership opportunity with non-traditional groups. (For example; tourism, ducks unlimited)
2. Broaden communication process to include private sector views on issues, policies, and roles. (Example: owners/managers).
3. Get farmers perspective.
4. Support Corp of Engineers on how the reservoirs are operated. (Partner opportunity).

Leadership

1. Gain focus among agencies, utilize U.S.F.S provisions to fund a "watershed" project, focused funding, earmark.
2. Dedicated person (effort) toward a Upper Mississippi River Basin Initiative.