



Conservation Through Collaboration:

Connecting the pieces.....
conserving the species

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“It is the long history of humankind (and animal kind, too) that those who learned to collaborate and improvise most effectively have prevailed.”
Charles Darwin

We are in a state of Crisis Conservation!

It is imperative as we move forward with our collective objective of conserving and preserving natural resources that we do so collaboratively.



Why is Collaboration Critical



Collaboration improves the way a project team functions and problem solves.

It leads to more innovation, efficient processes, increased success, and improved communication.

The result is a more functional and viable project and conservation outcome.



The Future of Conservation is Collaboration

Collaboration first and foremost must come with a mutual respect and understanding of the roles and responsibility that each partner and party play.

Where each fit into the overall project needs and expertise and identifying where there are gaps to address limitations and need for support.

Faces of Collaboration



Faces of Collaboration



Multi-phase wetland restoration and creation project on St. Clair River in Port Huron, MI.

Restoration of nearly 5,000 linear feet of shoreline habitat.

Addition of both aquatic and terrestrial habitat structures.
Creation of near shore wetlands.

Case Study: Blue Water River Walk



Project created critical habitat that was lacking along this portion of the St. Clair River.

Mosaic of wetlands separate from the fast flowing river allowed multiple new species to establish breeding populations.

Results included a large increase in diversity, distribution, and abundance of multiple herp species



Case Study: Blue Water River Walk

- Each partner brings a wealth of resources and knowledge to a project.
- Partners can also bring unexpected obstacles and challenges that should be addressed early on in projects.
- Effective communication and understanding of the roles, benefits, and limitations we all bring will allow for a more effective and productive results.

Advantages and Limitations

They are organizations that work to attain a mission and aim to create the most impact possible in their area of focus.

- Access to partnership and large networks.
- Eligible for range of grants and endowments to help facilitate project needs.
- Often tax-exempt putting resources directly to work.
- Large network of volunteers and constituents passionate about their mission.
- Motivated and dedicated team willing to put in extra time for what they believe.

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- Often operate on “soft money” and must fundraise to support their organizational mission. Adds additional stressor with financial goals. Financial support is key!
 - Usually have to get board approval for projects. Can increase timing if short deadline.

Nonprofit Advantages & Limitations



Federal, state, county, and local entities charged with the control under which the right to make laws, and the right to enforce them, is vested in a particular group in society. In natural resource this can be the protection and management of natural resources.

- Often large network of workforce with various departments and divisions offering a greater diversity of assistance and knowledge.
 - Dedicated allocation of funds through tax base and internal funding mechanism.
 - Tax-exempt putting increasing resources directly to work.
 - Can operate at various spatial scales and interdepartmentally.
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- By necessity, moves through system slower due to checks and balances and “red tape”.
 - Often larger workloads with structure requirements limiting adaptability and innovation directly.
 - Must be held accountable to constituency, usually the most vocal.

Government Advantages & Limitations



A university/College has a mission of developing knowledge through scholarship and research. A university transmits knowledge through instruction and applies knowledge through public service.

- Wealth of resource in subject matter knowledge and methods for research.
- Abundant resources and access to multidisciplinary network within the academic system.
- Internal mechanism for funding through tuition and fees.
- Access to grants and funding tracks dedicated to higher learning and research.
- Tax-exempt putting resources directly to work.
- Large network of undergraduate and graduate students interested and willing to participate.
- Passionate and dedicated team.

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- Usually require high overhead fees for collaboration sometimes approaching 50%. Can wave or reduce these fees, but overall can be expensive.
 - Limited by animals health and use committees. i.e.: IACUC, USDA.
 - Aspects of availability are seasonal centered around school year.
 - Researcher versus Professor -can be driven by statistics more than biological significance due to need for publications.

University Advantages & Limitations



They are organizations that entertain and educate the public and in recent years provide greater emphasis on research and species conservation. Some are privately owned, some are not-for-profit, while others are managed through government agencies.

- Local expertise on target species of interest.
 - Access to veterinary and diagnostics for pathology and treatment.
 - Eligible for range of grants and endowments to help facilitate project needs.
 - Often tax-exempt putting resources directly to work.
 - Large network of volunteers and constituents passionate about their mission.
 - Passionate and dedicated team.
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- Often operate on “soft money” and rely on admission fees, donations, and endowments to support their work. This can limit involvement and capacity if not provided financial support.
 - Subject to animal care and use committees. i.e.: USDA, AZA
 - Some red tape and delays can happen.
 - Already large commitment of staff to take on additional workloads.
 - Turn over can be higher in this sector, especially seasonally.

Zoological Institutions Advantages & Limitations



They are responsible for the processing and the transformation of natural products (raw materials) into other finished and semi-finished products. They are typically are privately held companies.

- Large sector of professionals and labor with subject matter knowledge and expertise.
- Larger sources of funds comparatively and greater ability to redistribute as needed.
- Often manage large areas with significant natural resources.
- Can be engaging and motivated partner where the collective objective sync.
- While less bureaucracy, also accountable to stakeholders.

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- Not all are created equally and some far more progressive with natural resource protections.
 - Limited by cost and “bottom line”. Designed to be profitable not charitable and can limit capacity.
 - Can be reserved or apprehensive to partner.

Industry and Utilities Advantages & Limitations



Companies that contribute their operational, strategic, or technical expertise to projects. They collaborate with clients to determine project parameters, develop project plans in line with business objectives, and assign project tasks and resources.

- Subject matter expertise. Larger the organization, usually the greater wealth of experts covering multiple sectors.
- Create business though representing client needs and objectives.
- Seldom bound by logistical challenges others face and can help move projects quicker through a process.
- Often passionate individuals willing to work the hours others are not.

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- Reliance on funds from other sectors.
 - No internal mechanism for funding. Limited in obtaining grants and funds due to for profit status.
 - Designed to be profitable not charitable and can limit capacity.

Private Sector Advantages & Limitations





Thoughts/Questions?

