

YLAG 2: OVERVIEW OF FACILITATED PROCESS

Elements

- Includes multiple stakeholders, interests, perspectives, solutions, options
- An agreed-upon process
- A series of facilitated meetings
- Outcomes focused on group's mission

Pros and Cons of Using a Facilitated Process

Pros of the Facilitated Process

- Several Interests have a stake in the solution
- More perspectives usually produce a better solution(s)
- Search for a solution that satisfies the largest number of interests
- Avoid costs associated with poor decisions

Cons of the Facilitated Process

- Requires time and energy from participants
- Working through some conflict may be uncomfortable

Facilitator's Role

- Help you agree upon a process
- Help you get through the process, including staying focused and on task, manage process
- Setting the tone for discussion
- The Role of facilitator does **not** include:
 - involvement in discussion content
 - advocacy for an interest (or solution or recommendation)
 - taking meeting minutes and managing all logistical details

Participant's Role

- Meeting attendance
- Communication with constituents
- Preparation
- Responsibility for the process
- Develop recommendations

Facilitation principles

- Genuine participation and contribution
- An inclusive process
- Information is a critical resource to be freely shared among all participants

- Learning is a key component of the process
 - about other interests
 - about technical issues
- All participants agree on the process for making decisions and recommendations
- Everyone is equally responsible for the process and what comes from it
- The environment is one of mutual respect

Proposed Process Steps

- Introduction to group's charge, the process, and the Yahara System
- Technical sessions to learn about the Yahara System and components involved with or affected by the setting of lake levels such as:
 - System Overview
 - Hydraulics of the system
 - Flooding issues
 - Groundwater issues
 - Low flow and navigation issues
 - Fish and wildlife issues
 - Public use and safety
 - Economics
- Development of criteria for recommendations
- Provide public input sessions (flooding, access and navigation)
- Field tour of lake issues: ground truth sessions (possibly 1-2 trips)
- Review of gathered data and criteria
- Draft recommendations
- Recommendation editing and revisions
- Distribution and implementation planning of final recommendations

Communication Guidelines

- One speaker at a time
- Stay on task
- Listen to learn
- Everyone contributes, no one dominates
- Respect time limits

Other items to consider

- Website and distribution of information of the group to others with interest
- Additional public education events
- Field trips