

Time for the closer....





When Worlds Collide: Perspectives on Local Government and Academic Collaboration

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Presentation Purpose & Outline

- I. Orientation to (my) perspective – Local Government
- II. Opportunities for academic collaboration to complement our work
- III. When worlds collide: Our Differences ... and Challenges

Part I: (My) local perspective....



My background....

- Academic: science, policy and economics
 - One of these days I'll finish that PhD!
- Professional:
 - Peace Corps, tribal, academic, consulting ... then
 - Local Government! (King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks)
 - all 4 divisions!
- Science Section Manager
 - best job in King County!

King County Government

- Not the only local government – many more
- Wide range of local and regional services –
 - Natural Resources and Parks one of many departments
- Strong commitment to environmental goals



Department of Natural Resources and Parks

- 4 Divisions: Solid Waste, Wastewater, Parks +
- **Water and Land Resources**
(stormwater; rivers; rural & regional services, environmental lab) +
- **Science and Technical Support!**
(much of our work focuses on water quality & watershed health)

Science and Technical Support

- Our group: ~35 environmental scientists
- We provide data & info for regional environmental management
 - monitoring programs (with KCEL)
 - scientific support to internal county programs
 - grants & agreements
- Customers – mostly internal
- Many collaborations



Science and Technical Support Section's Annual Science Seminar

2014 SCIENCE SEMINAR
2015 SCIENCE SEMINAR
FALL 2016 SCIENCE SEMINAR

November 7, 8 AM to 12 noon

FALL 2016 SCIENCE SEMINAR

Presented by the Water and Land Resources Division
Monday, November 7, 8 AM to Noon
King Street Center, 8th Floor Conference Center



AGENDA

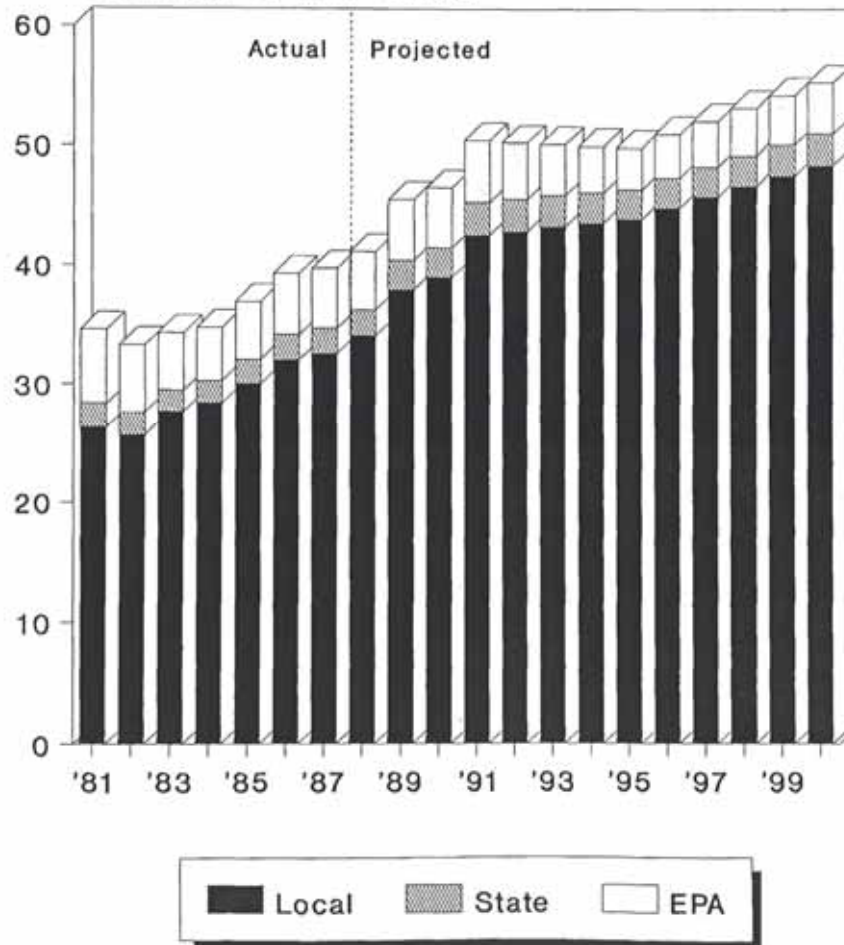
8:05-8:15	INTRODUCTION	Dave White
SESSION I	FISH AND HABITAT	Moderator: Scott Stoback
8:15-8:30	Fish use of oxbow habitats in the Lower Snoqualmie Valley	Kolin Higgins
8:35-8:55	Juvenile Chinook habitat use in the Bear Creek watershed	Josh Kube
8:55-9:15	Rainbow Bend: Evidence that removing a levee and restoring the floodplain can replace a flood prone mobile home park with a refuge for salmon	Josh Lattinell
9:15-9:30	Kokanee fry abundance monitoring informs supplementation adaptive management	Jim Bower
9:35-9:55	The effects of added large wood on the physical habitat and thermal conditions in the Upper Raging River	Kate Macneale
9:55-10:15	PCBs in fish - method changes, challenges, and what it means for trends and management	Richard Jack
10:15-10:30	BREAK	
SESSION II	CLIMATE CHANGE	Moderator: Jamie Stroble
10:35-10:55	Overview of King County's 2015 Strategic Climate Action Plan and progress to date	Matt Kuzhark
10:55-11:15	Energy usage by King County and within King County: status and trends	David Bourdette
11:15-11:35	Projected climate change impacts on rainfall patterns in King County	Guilherme Mauer
11:35-11:55	Developing a strategy for addressing sea level rise in King County	Jim Simmonds
11:55-12:00	CLOSING REMARKS	Dave White



If you have any questions or comments, please contact Kate O'Laughlin at 477-4730 or Jim Simmonds at 477-4822

Public Expenditures by Level of Government to Maintain Current (1987) Levels of Environmental Quality

In Billions of 1988 Dollars



EPA, 1990

Perspectives on our work (Science Section)

- Local level: where things get **implemented** – guides our work
 - e.g., what actions are needed; are they effective; status and trends
- Want our scientific work **to be used**
- Concern for **cost effectiveness**
- Need to keep “**big picture**” in mind
- **Communication** with clients critical
- **Project management** also key (timeliness, cost, and quality)
- **Very mission driven**

We need to be humble...

- We are not a “research” institution
- Scientific support, monitoring is optional
- Decision making is, and should be, “political” – we can’t make decisions – but we can assist...

Part II: Areas for Potential Collaboration



Potential collaboration - how

- Grants
- Special projects/contracts
- External review committees
- Student projects
- Other

Benefits of collaboration – why

- Enhances credibility – objectivity (UW, others have outstanding reputation)
- Keeps us current
- Enhances our work – things we might not be able to do
- More efficient
- FUN! (we are fans of academia)

Questions we address...may need help with

- Effectiveness monitoring – are things working; adaptive management
 - Project level, and overall
- How to optimize our long term monitoring programs
- Climate change – how to prepare, mitigate



More questions/needs

- Make full use of our monitoring information
 - Tell stories about the past
- Forecast what will happen in the future
- How to bring about watershed-based program integration
- Other areas of specialized expertise

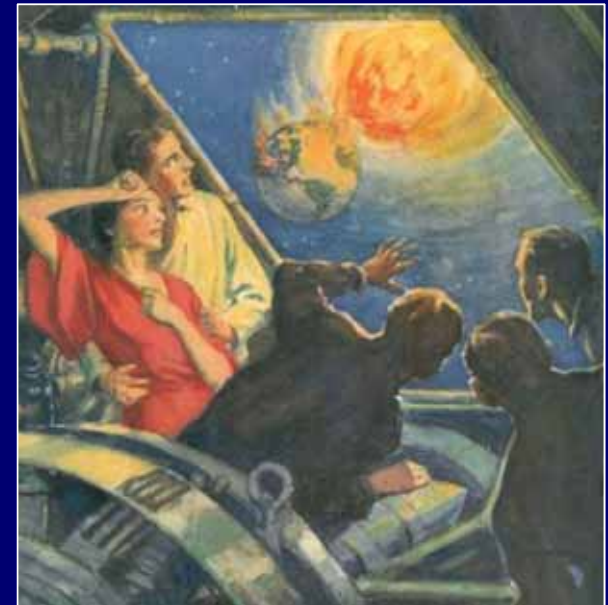


More questions/needs (interdisciplinary)

- How to advance equity and social justice
 - What information to provide
 - How to provide it
- How to better communicate scientific information
- Social sciences:
 - Economics:
 - How to motivate individuals' behavior
 - Least cost solutions
 - Political science: watershed organizational arrangements



Part III:
Challenges with collaboration...
(where worlds collide)



Some challenges...

Local Government - Science

- Driver – how to solve problems

Academic

- More emphasis on problem identification, less on practical solutions



Some challenges...

Local Government - Science

- Communication with client (program, decision-maker) critical
- Need for client “control”; accountability, messaging

Academic

- Research more independent, removed from those implementing
- More “freedom”

Some challenges...

Local Government – Science

- Reward: if information is used, gets implemented
“actionable”

Academic

- Reward: furthering the discipline, getting published, recognized

Some challenges...

Local Government - Science

- Audience:
 - Practitioners
 - Lay audience
 - Decision makers

Academic

- Audience:
 - Scientific community

Some challenges...

Local Government - Science

- Bureaucracy



Academic

- Bureaucracy



“Transaction costs”

We are all busy

Conclusion-what does it all mean?

- Greater collaboration – all for it!
- Opportunities there ... but so are challenges (mixed results)
- Collaboration has gone better when there has been good communication, clarity on expectations, alignment of objectives and expertise ... and
- **Recognition/appreciation of each others' roles, drivers, strengths, limitations**
- It's worth it: we're all mission driven



Time for the party!