

Meeting Summary

Date: February 4, 2010

To: National Water Funders Forum (January 13 – 15, 2010) Participants

From: Scott McCreary and Rebecca Tuden, CONCUR, Inc.

Re: Summary of Deliberations and Next Steps from the National Water Funders Forum

I. Introduction

This Memorandum presents a summary of the discussion, deliberations and identified next steps from the January 13 – 15, 2010 National Water Funders Forum (Forum). The Forum was sponsored by the Water Funders Collaborative and convened by The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread in Racine, Wisconsin. Invited participants included representatives from over 27 funders. A full roster of participants is included as Attachment 1 and the meeting agenda is provided in Attachment 2. Scott McCreary and Rebecca Tuden of CONCUR, Inc. served as facilitators for the Forum and produced this meeting summary.

Impetus for the Meeting

The impetus for the Forum was based on a growing concern in the foundation community that current efforts to support water resource management fall short of what is needed to prevent an overall decline in natural ecosystems while also sustaining the water needs of our human population. This concern is coupled with the realization that new opportunities are emerging. Together, these trends suggest that the time is ripe for more innovative and comprehensive solutions to water resource management.

Several proactive foundation staff members formed a planning team and proposed convening water funders from across the nation to share insights, explore future prospects and strategies and discuss “big picture opportunities.” Another impetus was the aim to build on the deliberations and outcomes from a 2006 funders-only session convened by the Consultative Group on Biological Diversity (CGBD), held in Boalt Hall at the University of California, Berkeley.

Meeting Goals

The overarching goals for convening the Forum were as follows:

- Give participants an opportunity to learn from other water funders with different geographic and/or strategic priorities and to get a better sense of each others’ capacities and “wisdoms.”

- Explore whether or not there are things water funders can do together, collaborate on, and share information about on an on-going basis that would increase the effectiveness of the work that is being funded.
- Understand the distinctive features of the water funding community and how they relate to the structure of water issues.
- Invite new philanthropic partners to participate and engage in water issues beyond this meeting.

Overview of Meeting

Lynn Broaddus (The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread) convened the Forum and welcomed the participants to Wingspread. Participants engaged in a mix of plenary and breakout deliberations, and engaged in a series of exploratory discussions on funding strategies, emerging national initiatives and legislation. On Day Two, attendees delved into focused discussions on water grant-making topics involving ecosystem restoration, equity and the commons, and collaborative funding strategies. Major emphasis on Day Three entailed strategizing suggestions for potential mechanisms for and the scope of collaborative efforts. Participants identified near-term, midterm and long-term activities for multi-foundation collaboration. Participants were encouraged to actively participate throughout the conference and to provide confidentiality of individuals' viewpoints or perspective.

This memorandum summarizes intended next-steps and synthesizes key themes raised in the discussion panels and break-out sessions. Section II highlights the informational briefings and key themes and concepts provided throughout the meeting. Section III outlines the next steps articulated in the final session.

II. Grant-making, Funding Strategies and Emerging Initiatives

Opening Presentations

Steve Whitney (The Bullitt Foundation) opened the meeting by providing historical context, principally an overview of the last major gathering of national water funders organized by CGBD in 2006. He noted that the 2006 briefing had a different focus and included substantial involvement from academics and advocates as experts on water. He also noted the moderately significant overlap of year 2006 and year 2010 attendees; with 10 foundations represented at both meetings and 17 additional foundations represented at Wingspread. Critical findings from 2006 that provided impetus for this meeting include:

- While water policy and water resource management is getting more complex, there is opportunity inherent in this complexity;
- There is strong merit in looking nationwide at innovation and practice;
- We need to recognize the inherent and pervasive linkages among climate change, energy and water resources;
- Opportunities for water use efficiency and demand management are important: prevailing assumptions about water demand may be inaccurate and therefore inadequate;
- There is need to strengthen groundwater management, including measurement, regulation, and joint management with surface water.

Following Steve Whitney's presentation, Jane McAlevey presented findings from her report, *Conversations with Freshwater Funders*¹, and discussed potential implications. Her inquiry was based on in-depth interviews with 25 funders involved with freshwater grant-making, coupled with a review of their grants made in the 2005-2006 timeframe and a quantitative analysis of 2009 grants. Based on data available at the time of her synthesis, she distilled the total number of grants and parsed the percentage and number of grants made by geography and category. She noted that information from significant funders in California and other western states were not included in the data and subsequently under-represented in the analysis.

Key findings from the report included both concentrations of effort and identification of gaps which may point to unmet aspirations. She identified a focus on the agriculture sector as a missing component in addressing water resource issues – more specifically pointing out that the majority of interviewees agreed that there needs to be a strategy to address the environmental impacts and to engage the political influence of the agricultural industry at the local, regional and state level. She suggested a consistent categorization and tracking of grant activities could help increase collaboration across funders. She put forth that one tool to help assess opportunities and build capacity could be to conduct a power analysis on water resource management issues.

Funding Strategies

Panelists Michael Fischer (CGBD), Judy Adler (Turner Foundation), Stuart Clarke (Town Creek Foundation), and Jennifer Sokolove (Compton Foundation) discussed varying strategies and tactics to help achieve desired outcomes and adapt to decreased endowments. Michael highlighted the joint Krautkramer² fund as an example of pooled resources. Judy described how assistance to on-the-ground non-governmental organizations achieved broader success. Stuart described his foundation's efforts to clarify and streamline its goals. Jennifer discussed funder-grantee relationships and explored issues surrounding long-term funding of projects.

Key observations and themes include:

- *Adopt an Inter-disciplinary Approach with Other Environmental Issues:* The funders acknowledged that advocates in water resource issues tend to be more fragmented than other areas. The participants highlighted the many sectors that, while closely linked, are not well integrated with water resource management. Efforts to illuminate the nexus between water and disciplines such as energy, climate change, green infrastructure and sustainability could help leverage more resources and provide more comprehensive solutions.
- *Use Funder Relations to Gain Efficiency in Grant-Making:* Participants acknowledged that forming coalitions and partnerships with other funders could leverage more resources. Familiarity with on-the-ground organizations and strategies to enhance local capacity (i.e. funding for general support) can also improve effectiveness. Enhancing communication or serving as convener with different sectors such as government, non-philanthropic or private sources provide opportunities to conduct a broader range of activities. Harnessing constituencies that better reflect the predominant demographics can provide more success than relying solely on traditional supporters.

¹ Jane McAlevey's Report "Conversations with Fresh Water Funders" (January 2010) is available upon request. Contact Jane McAlevey, jmcalevey@igc.org.

² Named for the late, water attorney John Krautkramer and operated by the San Francisco Foundation; the fund drew contributions from multiple foundations to create a pooled funding source.

- *Align Resources with Aspirations:* Participants acknowledged that while foundations' aspirations often exceed their resources, making it difficult to achieve their stated goals, there is power in collaboration to optimize efficiency and leverage resources. The participants acknowledged the utility for foundation grant-making to have clearly-defined priorities. Identifying core program goals can sharpen foundation focus, better target resources and streamline efforts. A core program goal could be as simple as filling a funding gap to address new issues as they arise. However defined, with any targeted resource alignment, it is important to prepare grantees to develop an "exit strategy" which can allow for a redirection of foundation funds to new opportunities as they arise. Another suggestion was for foundations to hold themselves accountable to the same standards as those expected of their grantees.
- *Recognize that Definition of "Winning" has Shifted:* Participants acknowledged that sustaining ecological health requires a comprehensive set of solutions. Providing a healthy environment for the long term will require a paradigm shift in the culture and a fundamental change in how the social and political workings view responsibilities for water management. It was suggested that measures of accountability and success be expanded beyond measurements of water quality.

Opportunities for a National Agenda

Verna Harrison (Keith Campbell Foundation for the Environment) and Mark Van Putten (ConservationStrategy LLC and Wege Foundation) identified critical national opportunities with high leverage, especially based on regional ecosystem restoration initiatives by the federal government, such as those for the Great Lakes and Chesapeake Bay. They suggested that these opportunities merit near-term attention and urged that fellow foundation staff consider the merits of joining these initiatives. The panelists also stressed that ground-breaking policy at the regional level can pave the way for national changes. These conversations stressed the importance of partnering with supportive government officials ("Lisa Jackson, Lisa Jackson, Lisa Jackson").

Issues of National Importance:

- Federal funding for restoration of the Great Lakes, Chesapeake Bay and the Everglades has increased significantly and, with grassroots support, should increase affording significant opportunities to leverage philanthropic investments, perhaps through working with the new "America's Great Waters" NGO coalition.
- Pending Clean Water Act modifications strengthening enforceability of agricultural provisions and storm water requirements for Chesapeake Bay Region. These modifications also provide opportunity to integrate green infrastructure into regulatory requirements.
- EPA's proposal for a new national stormwater program includes an invitation to the public to identify more protective requirements needed for specific regions with specific mention by EPA of Chesapeake Bay as an example.
- Changes to Surface Transportation Act that would strengthen protection of aquatic resources for new road construction.
- Emerging federal action on planning for adaptation to climate change could build on existing restoration plans for regions such as the Great Lakes, Chesapeake Bay, the Everglades and other "great waters" to assure planning occurs at an appropriate watershed scale and includes "green" adaptation options.

- Pollution of water bodies and drinking water by endocrine disruptors and pharmaceuticals could be addressed through reauthorization of the Toxic Substances Control Act to screen new chemicals and increase control over the “manner and method” of product.
- New federal initiatives to address the global safe drinking water and sanitation crisis are creating opportunities for public-private partnerships among philanthropy, government and corporations.

Synthesis of Break Out Sessions

The attendees were organized into three smaller discussion groups to more closely investigate three topics. These discussions are summarized below.

Group 1: Large-Scale Ecosystem Restoration with moderator Ron Kroese (McKnight Foundation) and panelists Molly Flanagan (The Joyce Foundation), Steven Whitney (The Bullitt Foundation) and Pamela Wiley (Meyer Memorial Trust). This work group discussed the different scales of restoration work, varying time frames for restoration efforts, and the difficulties inherent in predicting the ultimate success or outcome of an effort. They also acknowledged the strength in collaborating with multiple organizations and funders. Case studies described included the Mississippi River Collaborative which focused on enforcement of Clean Water Act requirements; the Great Lakes collaborative effort which emphasized support for coalitions and targeted political engagement; and the Willamette Basin Initiative approach which partnered with a state agency to address the river's broader floodplain and morphology concerns. Steve Whitney described the Carpe Diem project, which aims to build a network around climate change and western water management.

Group 2: Equity Rights and the Commons with moderator Harriet Barlow (HKH Foundation) and panelists Nikhil Aziz (Grassroots International), Jon Jensen (Park Foundation) and Sam Passmore (Charles Stewart Mott Foundation). The discussion summarized the link between the commons world view and achieving equity rights. "The commons" was expressed as "the natural and socially established wealth (such as public libraries) that we inherit together and are responsible for preserving for future generations, privileging no use above the value of sustainability." Discussants supported efforts to suffuse commons thinking into environmentalism. Several foundations are supporting an exploration by Vermont Law School and others to create a new legal framework to give standing to the commons. Internationally, "the commons" is increasingly seen as a framework for integrating equity with the environment, a trend US funders are encouraged to study.

Group 3: Lessons Learned from Collaborative and Cooperative Funding Strategies with moderator Moira McDonald (Walton Family Foundation), Marilu Hastings (Cynthia and George Mitchell Foundation), Mary Scoonover (Resources Legacy Fund) and Anne Summers (The Brico Fund). The participants discussed the various potential partners to work with including involving more grass roots constituencies, partnering with the corporate community, partnering with other foundations and, focusing on legislative change. Participants also touched upon the many linkages between water and energy issues and opportunities for enhanced collaboration in these areas. A set of propositions were set forth illustrating the distinctions between water and energy (e.g. water has no known substitutes; petroleum-based energy has many substitutes). The Resources Legacy Fund described its recent effort to develop a reform agenda and its collaboration with academic partners and identification of key players.

III. Emerging Agreements on a National Water Agenda

Workshop participants agreed they are attracted to a community of work on water issues and want to take steps to enhance their ability to work together. The Forum also welcomed leadership from CGBD and the Environmental Grantmaking Association (EGA) to discuss teaming opportunities for coordination and support of this venture.

In considering a national agenda, some participants suggested that a shared federal agenda brings more clout to the foundations and that issues akin to changes in storm water regulations are supportable on a regional scale by geographically-focused funders. Some participants suggested that water issues lacked the cohesion necessary for an overarching agenda; while other members proposed that a shared vision is critical to affect meaningful and substantive reform. A few participants expressed strong interest in developing game-changing leadership on national water issues. The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread expressed willingness to help support such an effort. The summary of specific action items advancing a national water agenda, as discussed in plenary, is provided in Table 1.

An *ad hoc* poll was created and used to measure participants' interest in a range of potential water-related issues. The following topics receiving the broadest support for further collaboration included (*not* listed in hierarchical order): 1) agricultural issues; 2) storm water and green infrastructure; 3) nexus between water and energy; 4) climate change and adaptation; and 5) equity and the commons. Attendees subsequently determined that Equity and the Commons issues are best addressed if woven throughout water policy issues rather than as a discrete topic. Jumana Vasi (Charles Stewart Mott Foundation) summarized the results of this poll and provided the Areas of Collaboration Matrix (Attachment 3).

Later in the workshop, participants organized into workgroups and discussed and drafted preliminary strategies for collaborating on each topic. The agricultural work group discussed a range of compliance, coordination and grassroots activities to explore. The storm water work group considered focusing efforts in key areas such as staying abreast of state and federal activities, influencing federal spending on green infrastructure and targeting legislative and regulatory opportunities. Table 2 identifies the specific action items for each separate work group topic; including those summarized in plenary and the full range of suggestions raised in the breakouts.

In conclusion, conference participants expressed excitement and identified and committed to work on a series of priorities on water resource issues. They also endorsed creation of a joint coordination function engaging the staff and capabilities of both CGBD and EGA.

TABLE 1: WATER RESOURCE PRIORITIES FOR NEAR-TERM, MIDTERM, AND LONG-TERM ACTION DEVELOPED IN PLENARY SESSION

Responsible Party	Action	Due Date
ACTIVITIES IN NEAR-TERM (1 - 2 months)		
Jen Sokolove and Verna Harrison	Convene conference call exploring engagement in current federal Clean Water Act issues	NEAR-TERM
Jen Sokolove	Explore opportunities for collaboration with CGBD's Working Group on Land and Water and consideration of a national water agenda	NEAR-TERM
Jason Babbie (EGA), Michael Fisher (CGBD)	CGBD and EGA to explore coordination and leadership roles for the National Water Funders Forum including : -creation of sub-issue working groups in agriculture, storm water / green infrastructure, climate change and adaptation, water-energy nexus and; -varied institutional architecture for providing administrative and coordination support role	NEAR-TERM
Jason Babbie	Convene EGA funder discussion at upcoming conference in Boston.	FEBRUARY 23-24, 2010
Jason Babbie	Develop Water Funder Community List-Serv	COMPLETED
Jumana Vasi	Distribute list showing self-identified coordinators for each priority subject (See Attachment 3)	COMPLETED
Steve Whitney (Carpe Diem)	Convene meeting of Western states and explore opportunities for collaboration on water and energy issues	MARCH 2010
Marilyn Hastings	Highlight nexus between water and energy and seek opportunities for further collaboration at upcoming energy funders conference in Austin, TX	APRIL 2010
Verna Harrison	Share updates on federal stormwater developments	NEAR-TERM
Moira McDonald	Distribute a list of agricultural funders	NEAR-TERM
Tim Morris	Share Canada's document summarizing other nations' national efforts on water	COMPLETED
All	Identify "ambassadors" to engage participation from other grant-making communities	NEAR-TERM
ACTIVITIES in MIDTERM (By End of 2010)		
Steve Whitney	Convene a follow-up conference of National Water Funders	MIDTERM
Steve Whitney and Lynn Broaddus	Develop the concept of a national water agenda with possibility of creating a national commission (modeled after the Pew Commission on Oceans)	MIDTERM
ACTIVITIES in LONG-TERM		
David Rankin	Recognize importance of innovation and price and figure out a way to engage corporate sector on this issue	LONG-TERM

TABLE 2: IDENTIFIED ACTIONS AND POTENTIAL STRATEGIES FOR NEAR-TERM, MIDTERM, AND LONG-TERM ACTION DEVELOPED IN BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Responsible Party	Action	Due Date
SUB TOPIC AGRICULTURE (1) - PRIORITY ACTIONS REPORTED BACK TO PLENARY		
Ron Kroese / Scott Cullen	Partner with Sustainable Agriculture and Food Network to consider opportunity for a working group on water	NEAR-TERM
Alex Echols	Coordinate action on Farm Bill legislation	MIDTERM
Harriet Barlow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct a power-mapping analysis or other modes of stakeholder assessment to inform strategy on agricultural issues - Fund analysis to foster the link between water and public health communities - Fund more pilot projects to promote innovation - Create mechanisms to bring water and agriculture NGO's and groups together – fund these activities 	MIDTERM
TBD	Identify specific geographic areas to push for de-delegation of state programs in view of state budget cuts	MIDTERM
Alex Echols*	Evaluate comprehensive decisions on agriculture and opportunities to shift outcomes (e.g. where we grow crops)	LONG-TERM
AGRICULTURE – ADDITIONAL ACTIONS, STRATEGIES AND IDEAS DEVELOPED IN BREAKOUT		
Alex Echols*	Mississippi River Basin Initiative	NEAR-TERM
Alex Echols*	Work on practice standard with USDA and NRCS with attention to the following issues: Bio reactors, Drainage WRP and Monitoring	NEAR-TERM
TBD	Fund scientific assessment of P application rates and aligning mechanisms to reduce application rates and application on P “saturated” soils	MIDTERM
TBD	Fund investigative journalism - identifying the big picture choices in Ag that are off track for long-term environment	MIDTERM
TBD	Fund compendium of case studies (from states) that can inform broader action	MIDTERM
TBD	State level structures for local actions – i.e. manure spreading on frozen ground, atrazine on sandy soils etc.	MIDTERM
TBD	Fund thinking on strategies and structures for political wins – i.e. power structure/coalitions/leverage	MIDTERM
TBD	Citizen suit provisions in state water law – i.e. on fertilizer, pesticide application/feedlots etc.	MIDTERM
TBD	Engage NRCS in “McKnight” NRC assessment of agriculture and water – engage USDA to feel responsibility and include in its mission requirements	MIDTERM
TBD	Landowner engagement & leadership	LONG-TERM
Alex Echols*	Build bridges between environmental and farmer communities	LONG-TERM
Alex Echols*	Develop environmental metrics that measure quality of environment directly and address a link to agriculture pricing that engages the implications of long term food security with existing opportunities	LONG-TERM
Alex Echols*	Resolve ecosystem service issues	LONG-TERM
Alex Echols*	Address conservation compliance concerns: Include nutrient management; restore some conservation compliance; continuous cover	LONG-TERM
TBD	Strengthen activist capacity – be the agents to de-isolate issues	LONG-TERM

Responsible Party	Action	Due Date
TBD	Build structural links with energy community	LONG-TERM
TBD	Renewable fuel standards	LONG-TERM
TBD	Tax code to promote better environmental practices	LONG-TERM
PARTICIPANTS	Jumana Vasi, Charles Stewart Mott Foundation Ron Kroese, The McKnight Foundation Moira McDonald, The Walton Family Foundation Stuart Clarke, Town Creek Foundation Harriet Barlow, HKH Foundation Alex Echols, The Philanthropy Roundtable Zoe Rothchild, Northwest Fund for the Environment Nikhil Aziz, Grassroots International	
SUBTOPIC (2): STORM WATER AND GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE – PRIORITY ACTIONS REPORTED TO PLENARY		
Molly Flanagan and Scott Miller	Identify universe of funders working on this issue and convene conference call to discuss priorities and next steps	NEAR -TERM
Molly Flanagan	Lead on gathering collective studies and reports on stormwater/green infrastructure efforts. Convene teleconference to request studies and reports. Work with work groups to explore options for synthesizing reports and exploring additional actions	MIDTERM
Molly Flanagan	Create mechanism for exchanging information and keeping everyone informed. Information to consider tracking includes: identifying municipalities, funders and organizations active in the issue, status of EPA rulemaking	MIDTERM
Molly Flanagan and Scott Miller	Arrange a dialogue with American Rivers at upcoming EGA meeting to explore green infrastructure ideas	MIDTERM
Ruth Goldman	Explore the nexus between storm water / green infrastructure and smart growth with funding community	MIDTERM
STORM WATER AND GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE – ADDITIONAL ACTIONS AND IDEAS DEVELOPED IN BREAKOUT		
Judy Adler*	Arrange call with the EPA (Nancy Stoner) to discuss how we can better intersect and support / drive EPA’s storm water and GI strategy	NEAR -TERM
TBD	Work on administrative and rule-making pieces around stormwater and green infrastructure. Especially in the cities with combined-sewer overflow problems and crumbling infrastructure	MIDTERM
TBD	The Joyce Foundation has funded work to promote green infrastructure in the Great Lakes region. Some of that work is focused on changing municipal codes and state storm water permitting, etc. Work with Center for Neighborhood Technology and American Rivers. State stormwater permits come up for review every 5 years and present opportunity for updates that include green infrastructure	MIDTERM
TBD	Consider the “green” reserve in SRF dollars and identify ways to change states’ priority-setting process for projects.	MIDTERM
TBD	Compile inventories describing where investment dollars are going and barriers to funding (e.g. State Revolving Fund). Partner with American Rivers on this effort	MIDTERM
TBD	Brico Fund and Bullitt Foundation are both working on buildings that are net-zero water/energy (Milwaukee/Seattle)	MIDTERM
TBD	Review pending Net-Zero report	MIDTERM

Responsible Party	Action	Due Date
TBD	Support and disseminate results from studies that pertain to green infrastructure and storm water. (e.g. project that TRFF is doing and what it will take to get decentralized sewage in place - due for push in 2011)	LONG -TERM
PARTICIPANTS	Scott Miller, Russell Family Foundation Jen Sokolove, Compton Foundation Amy Panek, Park Foundation Dave Rankin, Great Lakes Protection Fund Molly Flanagan, The Joyce Foundation Phyllis Bowman, Sapelo Foundation Ruth Goldman, Consultant to the Barr Foundation Lynn Broaddus, The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread	
SUBTOPIC (3): CLIMATE CHANGE AND ADAPTATION – PRIORITY ACTIONS HIGHLIGHTED IN PLENARY		
John Nordgren	Coordinate the linkage between CEQ meeting and foundations	NEAR -TERM
John Nordgren/ Mark Van Putten	Explore how large-scale restoration plans can be modified to incorporate climate change impacts and adaptation strategies	NEAR- TERM
John Nordgren	Coordinate development of strategy to improve coordination with other funders on this issue and advance opportunities for sustainable infrastructure	LONG -TERM
Steve Whitney	Lead dialogue exploring merits of convening “Commissions” as part of a national water agenda	LONG -TERM
John Nordgren	Work to ensure that all major conservation/restoration efforts (e.g. Great Waters Initiative) include climate component	LONG -TERM
John Nordgren	Work to ensure that climate adaptation strategy is pursuing sustainable solutions and to build climate change into water resource planning (e.g. CA’s integrated, regional water management planning)	LONG -TERM
CLIMATE CHANGE AND ADAPTATION – ADDITIONAL ACTIONS, STRATEGIES AND IDEAS DEVELOPED IN BREAKOUT		
Johnson and Bullitt Foundations, others	Create a federal water policy agenda and set of priorities – informed by Johnson Foundation convening, Carpe Diem and other discussion groups or commissions, others?	NEAR- TERM
TBD	Build climate change into water resource planning (e.g. California’s integrated regional water management planning)	LONG -TERM
TBD	Examine Bay Conservation and Development Commission’s partnership with Netherlands to identify where and how hardening of coast lines is necessary and desirable	LONG -TERM
PARTICIPANTS	Anne Summers, Brico Fund Steve Whitney, Bullitt Foundation Michael Fischer, Consultative Group on Biological Diversity Mark Van Putten, Wege Foundation Hawley Truax, Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation John Nordgren, The Kresge Foundation Mary Scoonover, Resources Legacy Fund	

Responsible Party	Action	Due Date
SUBTOPIC (4): WATER/ENERGY NEXUS – PRIORITY ACTIONS HIGHLIGHTED IN PLENARY		
Marilu Hastings	Convene Energy/Water Funders Meeting; Topics to Explore - Consider formation of water-energy working group - Identify low-hanging fruit: ie: solar water heating, energy use in water treatment - Look into outreach/education opportunities: export lessons from the meeting to larger world - Analysis of work underway: look at opportunities to develop top 5 needs/objectives and how to fund them	APRIL 2010
Marilu Hastings	Highlight linkage between natural shale/biofuels with water quality concerns at upcoming Hewlett meeting in DC	FEBRUARY 2010
WATER/ENERGY NEXUS – ADDITIONAL ACTIONS, STRATEGIES AND IDEAS		
Marilu Hastings	Create an active working group: subgroup of water funders	TBD
Marilu Hastings	Look into the National Research Council Report/analysis; develop a research and policy agenda	TBD
PARTICIPANTS	Marilu Hastings, Cynthia and George Mitchell Foundation Scott Cullen, Grace Communications Foundations Russell Van Herik, Great Lakes Protection Fund	

* - Indicates individuals who, after the meeting had adjourned, indicated their willingness to participate in this task in a leadership role or in partnership with other funders.

Acknowledgements

The following foundations and organizations, as part of the Water Funders Collaborative, provided their financial support for the meeting: The Bullitt Foundation, Keith Campbell Foundation for the Environment, Consultative Group on Biological Diversity, Grace Communications Foundation, The Joyce Foundation, The Kresge Foundation, The McKnight Foundation, Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, Park Foundation, Sapelo Foundation and the Turner Foundation, Inc. The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread sponsored the Forum and served as host and convener.

Identification of salient topics and creation of the provisional meeting agenda was a joint effort of the planning team members; Harriet Barlow, Molly Flanagan, Jumana Vasi, Steve Whitney, Sarah Wright and Scott McCreary. Other planning contributions to the Forum were provided by Judy Adler, Scott Cullen, Jon Jensen, Amy Panek and Lynn Broaddus.

Attachments

1. Meeting Participants
2. Agenda for January 13 – 15, 2010 National Water Funders Forum
3. Areas of Collaboration Matrix

ATTACHMENT 1
National Water Funders Forum, January 13-15, 2010

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Judy A. Adler ♦

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Scott Cullen ♦

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Ruth Goldman

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♦ - - *Signifies these individuals were members of the planning team for this meeting.*

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Steven Whitney ♦
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Sarah Wright ♦
The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread
Racine, WI

♦ - - *Signifies these individuals were members of the planning team for this meeting.*

ATTACHMENT 2

National Water Funders Forum

sponsored by

Water Funders Collaborative*

and

The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread

January 13-15, 2010

Statement of Purpose

To convene water funders who work regionally or nationally in the U.S. to develop an understanding of each others' priorities, a sense of our national priorities and policy needs, and to develop a shared sense of how the foundation world can best help solve the nation's water challenges.

"Don't undertake a project unless it is manifestly important and nearly impossible."

– Edwin Land

** We thank the following foundations and organizations for their financial support:*

The Bullitt Foundation, Keith Campbell Foundation for the Environment, Consultative Group on Biological Diversity, Grace Communications Foundation, The Joyce Foundation, The Kresge Foundation, The McKnight Foundation,

Program

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

3:00 p.m. Hospitality Guest House

4:00 p.m. Plenary Session Living Room/The House
Welcome, Introductions, and Overview

Welcome to Wingspread

Lynn E. Broaddus

The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread

Review Overall Workshop Purpose

Harriet Barlow

Harold K. Hochschild Foundation

Scott McCreary

CONCUR, Inc.

Rebecca Tuden

CONCUR, Inc.

Participant Self-Introductions

Review Meeting Agenda and Format

CONCUR, Inc.

Review Overarching Goals
and Specific Meeting Objectives

Molly M. Flanagan

The Joyce Foundation

CONCUR, Inc.

Wednesday, January 13, 2010 (continued)

4:30 p.m.

Setting the Stage:

Building on the 2006 Water Funders' Briefing

Steven Whitney

The Bullitt Foundation

- What were the major outcomes and results from the 2006 effort?
- What themes particularly resonated?
- What are some early successes; where are there some remaining opportunities?

4:45 p.m.

Presentation and Discussion: The McAlevey Report

Present and confirm Strategic Plan vision and goals as outlined in proposal

Jane McAlevey

Institute for Global Communications

6:15 p.m.

Showcarding

What are each foundation's two most important current initiatives as they relate to "creating something bigger" within the water funding community?

6:30 p.m.

Hospitality

Wingspread

7:00 p.m.

Dinner

8:15 p.m.

Adjournment

Evening hospitality will be available in the Living Room of the Guest House.

Thursday, January 14, 2010

Breakfast will be available from 6:30 a.m. to
8:15 a.m. in the Living Room of the Guest House.

8:30 a.m. Plenary Session Living Room/The House
Strategies Funders Use/
What Is Different Now Since 2006

Leader:

Michael L. Fischer

Consultative Group on Biological Diversity

Panelists:

Judy A. Adler

Turner Foundation, Inc.

Stuart A. Clarke

Town Creek Foundation

Jennifer Sokolove

Compton Foundation

Organizing Questions:

What is a useful way to describe the continuum of different styles of water issue grant-making?
How do foundations make choices between responding to grantee requests vs. adopting a more
entrepreneurial or directive for funding stance? Where do workshop attendees fit on this
continuum?

How does the timeframe needed to accomplish results play into foundation funding decisions?
How do decadal or multi-decadal problems fit the foundation model?

What are the new or evolving opportunities in the water arena since the 2006 meeting?

How does the choice to fund a “core grantee” vs. tackling a substantive issue area play into
funding strategies?

Thursday, January 14, 2010 (continued)

10:00 a.m. Break

10:20 a.m. Strategies Funders Use/
What Is Different Now Since 2006 (continued)

11:00 a.m. Scan National Level Issues

Panelists:

Verna E. Harrison

Keith Campbell Foundation for the Environment

Mark Van Putten

ConservationStrategy LLC

Organizing Questions:

What major pieces of federal legislation or policy initiatives present points of access and create opportunities?

What issues recur on a national scale (even if they don't within federal legislation or policy)?

What is the relative "readiness or "ripeness" of these respective pieces of legislation or policy, or issues arenas?

12:00 noon Summary, Synthesis, and Observations

Jon M. Jensen

Park Foundation

Lynn E. Broaddus

CONCUR, Inc.

12:15 p.m.

Luncheon

Wingspread

Thursday, January 14, 2010 (continued)

1:15 p.m.

Small Groups Discussion

The House

In small groups we will investigate the themes of extrapolating on regional successes, bridging geographic scales, framing water issues relative to the water commons and exploring the merits of collaborative/cooperative funding strategies. We are also hoping that we will explore and point the way as to how these breakout session issues support “building something bigger.”

Group 1:

Studio

Large-Scale Ecosystem Restoration:
Extrapolating from Regional Success Stories
and Bridging Scales of Grantmaker Engagement

Leader:

Ron Kroese
The McKnight Foundation

Panelists:

Molly M. Flanagan

Steven Whitney

Pamela G. Wiley
Meyer Memorial Trust

Organizing Questions:

How can we harmonize the efforts of different foundations that are working at different scales?

How has working at different scales forced the need to bring new players or new kinds of players to the table? Have different grantmaking approaches been used at different scales?

How can these different scales of projects be extrapolated to the next scale? How can regional success be extrapolated to a national scale?

How is success defined in terms of the bigger picture and how is it recognized as contributing to the bigger picture?

Thursday, January 14, 2010 (continued)

Group 2:

Board Room

Equity, Rights and the Commons:
A New Frame in Water Funding

Leader:

Harriet Barlow

Panelists:

Nikhil Aziz

Grassroots International

Jon M. Jensen

Sam B. Passmore

Charles Stuart Mott Foundation

Organizing Questions:

Could the rights and commons problem frame be a useful way to bridge the traditional separation of water quality and water quantity? What are some of the advantages of this commons frame of reference?

What are the challenges and obstacles in getting institutions to use a “water commons frame of reference”?

For funders who cannot adopt the commons frame, what is an alternative frame that allows them to support worthwhile work and how much funders with different such frames work constructively together?

What are some concrete successes in focusing equity and rights? What are some future opportunities?

Thursday, January 14, 2010 (continued)

Group 3:

Lower Level A

Lessons Learned from Collaborative
and Cooperative Funding Strategies

Leader:

Moira T. McDonald

The Walton Family Foundation

Panelists:

Marilu Hastings

The Cynthia and George Mitchell Foundation

Mary J. Scoonover

Resources Legacy Fund

Anne Summers

The Brico Fund

Organizing Questions:

What are examples of successful and less successful collaborations?

How can we characterize different kinds of collaborations: joint funding vs. networked arrangements for grantmaking?

Are there lessons we can draw from other policy domains?

Are there current case studies that rigorously document collaboration among foundations?

3:30 p.m.

Break

4:00 p.m.

Plenary Session Living Room

Small Group Reports

Moderator:

CONCUR, Inc.

Thursday, January 14, 2010 (continued)

Organizing Theme for All Breakouts:

What were the main outcomes and insights from your small group deliberations?

What are the implications of the work of your breakout session for the broader water community; how can we amplify it to the national scale and how does it inform our future action steps?

Summary, Synthesis, and Observations

Amy Panek

Park Foundation

Lynn E. Broaddus

CONCUR, Inc.

5:30 p.m.

Leisure

6:30 p.m.

Hospitality and Optional Tour

Wingspread

7:00 p.m.

Dinner

8:15 p.m.

Adjournment

Evening hospitality will be available in the Living Room of the Guest House.

Friday, January 15, 2010

Breakfast will be available from 6:00 a.m. to 7:45 a.m. in the Living Room of the Guest House.

8:00 a.m.

Final Small Groups Discussion

Living Room/
The House

(Participants will be split into 3-4 different groups in which all groups will discuss all questions)

Overall Theme:

Consider the consequences of inaction and refresh the sense of possibility of cooperative funding to build something bigger.

Breakout Questions:

- *Fundamental Question*
Do we all agree that we need to elevate the primacy of funding water issues?
- *Potential Next Steps*
Developing and formalizing a Water Network
Considering a National Water Funder Agenda
Taking action as a Water Network

<i>Group 1:</i>	<i>Leader:</i> Zoe R. Rothchild Northwest Fund for the Environment	Studio
<i>Group 2:</i>	<i>Leader:</i> Scott Cullen Grace Communications Foundation	Board Room
<i>Group 3:</i>	<i>Leader:</i> John R. Nordgren The Kresge Foundation	Lower Level A
<i>Group 4:</i>	<i>Leader:</i> Lynn E. Broaddus	Lower Level B

Friday, January 15, 2010 (continued)

10:00 a.m.	Break	
10:20 a.m.	Plenary Session Living Room/ <u>Small Group Reports</u> <i>Moderator:</i> CONCUR, Inc.	The House
11:00 a.m.	Plenary Session <u>Next Steps and Final Comments: Moving Forward, New Initiatives, Timelines, and “Champions”</u> <i>What can be the terms of engagement in which everyone can benefit?</i> CONCUR, Inc.	
12:15 p.m.	<u>Session Wrap-Up</u> <i>Plans for meeting summary and next steps</i> Planning Team CONCUR, Inc.	
12:30 p.m.	Luncheon	Guest House
1:30 p.m.	Conference adjourns Transportation departs from the Guest House.	

ATTACHMENT 3
National Water Funders Forum, January 13 – 15, 2010

AREAS OF COLLABORATION MATRIX

<u>Area for Collaboration</u>	<u>Interested Foundations</u>	<u>Interested Coordinators</u>
Agriculture & Water	Campbell, CS Fund, Brico, Environmental Grant Making Association (EGA), Environment Now, HKH, Johnson, Joyce, Kresge, Meyer Memorial Trust, Northwest Fund, McKnight, Park, Sand County, Town Creek, Turner, Walton, Z Smith Reynolds, Great Lakes Protection Fund (GLPF), Grassroots International	Alex Echols, Stuart Clark, Scott Cullen Verna Harrison, Moira McDonald
Climate Change Adaptation	Bullitt, Compton, Johnson, Kresge, Meyer Memorial Trust, Gordon, Grassroots International, Environment Now, HKH, Mott, Northwest Fund, Resources Legacy Fund, Russell Family Foundation, Z. Smith Reynolds	John Nordgren
Clean Water Act (esp. through Chesapeake Initiative)	Campbell, Town Creek F [Johnson, Park, Mott - larger CWA strategy]	Verna Harrison, Stuart Clark
Ecosystem Services	Bullitt, Sand County	Alex Echols
Great Waters National Restoration Initiative	Brico, Bullitt (Puget Sound), Campbell, Joyce, Kresge, McKnight, Town Creek, Z Smith Reynolds	Molly Flanagan, Verna Harrison
Green Infrastructure & Stormwater	Bullitt, Compton, Environment Now, GLPF, HKH, Johnson, Joyce, Meyer Memorial Trust, Northwest Fund, Park, Russell Family Foundation, Sapelo, Turner, Walton	Phyllis Bowen, Lynn Broaddus, Molly Flanagan, Scott Miller
Green Infrastructure & Water Efficiency	Compton, Russell Family Foundation, Turner, Z Smith Reynolds	Judy Adler
Landowner Leadership	Meyer Memorial Trust, Sand County Foundation	Alex Echols

ATTACHMENT 3
National Water Funders Forum, January 13 – 15, 2010

AREAS OF COLLABORATION MATRIX

<u>Area for Collaboration</u>	<u>Interested Foundations</u>	<u>Interested Coordinators</u>
Mining & Water	Grassroots International, Kresge, Mitchell & Energy Foundation, Mott, Park, Turner	Jumana Vasi, [Marilu Hastings & Amy Panek (esp. natural gas shale)]
National Water Agenda	Park, Joyce, Bullitt, Mott	Judy Adler, Molly Flanagan, Sam Passmore, Steve Whitney
Public Rights to Water/Water Commons (Equity and the Commons)	Bullitt, CS Fund, Compton, Environment Now Grassroots International, HKH, Park, Mitchell, Northwest Fund, Town Creek	To be determined
Transportation & Water	Campbell, Johnson, Russell, Sapelo, Environment Now	Phyllis Bowen, Verna Harrison, Scott Miller
Urban Rivers	To be determined	To be determined
Water Efficiency	Compton, Environment Now, GLPF, Gordon, Joyce, Kresge, Mitchell, Walton, Resources Legacy Fund, Turner, Z. Smith Reynolds	To be determined
Water/Energy Nexus	Bullitt, Energy Foundation, EGA, HKH, Johnson, Compton, Grassroots International, Kresge, Gordon, GLPF, Park, Sapelo, Turner, Z. Smith Reynolds	Judy Adler, Phyllis Bowen, Lynn Broadus, Scott Cullen, Marilu Hastings, John Nordgren
Water Management (including Southeast water wars)	Environment Now, GLPF, Joyce, Kresge, Resources Legacy Fund, Sapelo, Turner, Z Smith Reynolds	Judy Adler, Phyllis Bowen, Hawley Truax