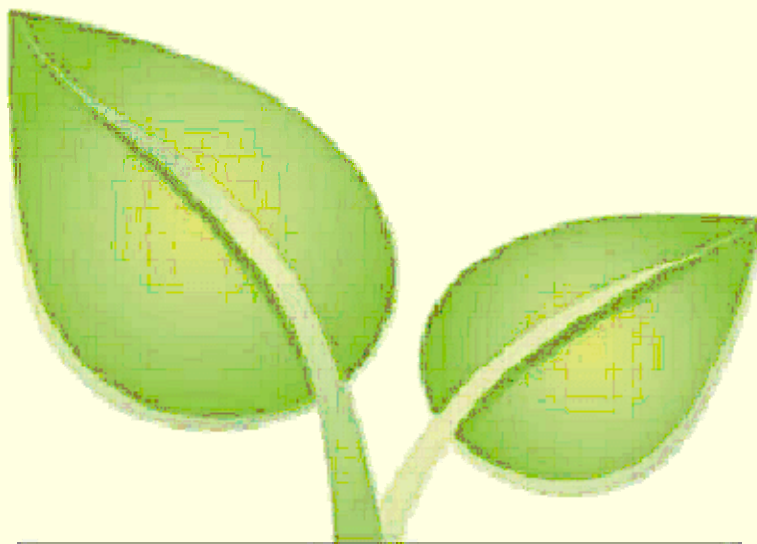




Environment and Public Policy Section
2008 Conference

May 19, 2008



***Nurturing Conflict Resolution
Skills, Practices, and Programs
Amid Institutional Changes***

EPP 2008 Preliminary Conference Announcement and Program May 19, 2008

Introduction

The 2008 EPP Section Conference addresses the opportunities and challenges facing practitioners and government programs in applying and teaching conflict resolution skills in the changing institutional environment of collaborative planning and problem solving. Sessions explore the interplay between conflict resolution practice and social, cultural, political, and organizational aspects of institutional change.

The Conference is held in collaboration with the United States Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution and in conjunction with USIECR's National Environmental Conflict Resolution (ECR) Conference on May 20-22. The Conference draws on the extensive experience of collaborative leaders from government agencies as well as environmental and public policy practitioners who partner with different institutions.

Location

The EPP conference is at the same location as the USIECR conference, the Doubletree Tucson Reid Park in Tucson. The hotel is located ten minutes from downtown Tucson and Tucson International Airport.

Conference Website

The conference website contains registration forms, the full conference program and other support materials at: <http://www.mediate.com/acrepp/pg26.cfm>

Registration

Registration forms are located on the website. Registration fees are as follows:

- \$140 ACR Member Conference Rate
- \$155 Non-Member Conference Rate
- \$80 Student Conference Rate

* Register early! After April 30, conference rates will increase by \$25.

Accommodations

Hotel rooms at the Doubletree Tucson Reid Park are available for \$104 per night (contracted under USIECR's Environmental Conflict Resolution Conference (ECR 2008 Conference)). Rooms for the EPP Conference as well as the ECR conference can be reserved through the website at <http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/TUSBTDT-ECR-20080518/index.jhtml> or by calling the hotel at 520-881-4200. The availability of rooms for Sunday night at the conference rate may be limited. If you are unable to reserve a room at the conference rate for Sunday night through the website, please call the hotel directly.

Program

Time	Activity or Session Title and Description	Organizer, coordinator
8:15	Registration + happy milling about	
8:45	Welcome	EPP Co-Chairs – Michael Elliott and Carolyn Penny
	Conference overview	John Stephens
9:00	Opening Plenary – Can We Take Credit? Are We To Blame?	Moderator: Lucy Moore, Lucy More Associates, Inc.
	Our mid-year conference this year explores the kinds of changes that have occurred in four areas as they relate to our work – political leadership, organizations, society as a whole, and resources. No small undertaking! In the spirit of thinking big and bold, we will ask “agent provocateurs” and participants alike to reflect on how much influence our profession may have had on these changes. Are we as effective as we think we are? How do we know? How can we learn more? Is our influence always beneficial, or are there examples where we as individuals, or we as a field, have done more harm than good?	<p>“Agent Provocateurs”:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Susan Springer, Intrinsic Consulting • Martha Bean, Principal, Collaborative Focus (invited) • Frank Dukes, PH.D., Institute for Environmental Negotiation, University of Virginia • Kirk Emerson, Institute Director, USIECR (invited)
10:00	Break	
10:15-11:15	<p>C1-A</p> <p>“The Good, the Bad, to the Best: Fostering Collaborative Leadership, From Theory to Practice”</p> <p>Participants will gain insight, inspiration and practical ideas for ways to foster collaborative leadership – models, how it can be taught, how it can be sustained, why it may fail, and practical lessons for EPP practitioners. Every EPP practitioner interacts with community, business, and government leaders in various ways – whether listening, modeling, coaching, training, or guiding. An understanding of collaborative leadership – its theoretical underpinning, key components and skills, applications, and challenges – will enrich every EPP practitioners’ practice. Panelists experienced with teaching and facilitating collaborative leadership will serve as the guides for an informed and interactive discussion with participants.</p>	<p>Moderator: Tanya Denckla Cobb, Associate Director Institute for Environmental Negotiation, Virginia Natural Resources Leadership Institute, University of Virginia</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leeanne Smith Nurse, USEPA Office of Research & Development, National Center for Environmental Research (Invited) • Steve Smutko, Ph.D. Department of Agriculture and resource Economics, North Carolina Natural Resources Leadership Institute, North Carolina State University (invited) • Juliana Birkhoff, Ph.D., Senior Mediator, Consensus

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| 10:15-11:15 | C1-B – Fostering Diversity: The Native Network and Other Intercultural Experiences | <p>Building Institute</p> <p>Moderator: Dexter Albert
Intrinsic Consulting and
member of the Navajo Nation</p> |
| | <p>If there is an ADR buzzword in recent years it is “collaboration.” In an effort to encourage native participation in the field, USIECR fostered a collaboration between practitioners of the standard North American model (which most of us Practice), and practitioners of traditional tribal dispute resolution models. In its fourth year, the Native Network has become a valuable forum for those on both sides of the cultural divide to exchange ideas and share tools. It has also become its own learning ground, as more people become members, and changes in resources, leadership, and organizational priorities impact participants and the forum itself. The Native network must look at sensitive issues of power and money, as members grapple with the future of this collaborative effort. This session will include reflections from three presenters, and an interactive discussion about the unique challenges of collaborating across cultural boundaries.</p> | <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dexter Albert, Intrinsic Consulting • Sarah Palmer, Senior Program Manager, Native American and Alaska Native Environmental Program, USIECR |
| 10:15-11:15 | C1-C
“Staying afloat during shifting political and resource tides: A case study from the Oregon statewide Network of Watershed Councils” | <p>Moderator: Robin Gumpert, DS Consulting, Portland</p> |
| | <p>Lessons from a case study of a statewide system of local watershed councils committed to collaborative decision-making that has remained relevant through several political, resource and organizational changes since its start in the early 90s.</p> | <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Moriarty, Executive Director of the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils (invited) • Tom Byler, Director of the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. (invited) |
| 11:15-Noon | Short Snack 1 – Implications for the EPP Section of the Broadening of the Field to Include Collaboration Professionals | <p>Suzanne Orenstein,
Independent Facilitator</p> |
| | <p>Facilitated discussion of the following questions:
Is there any significance for the EPP profession and for the ACR EPP Section of expanding the profession to include collaboration and public participation practitioners?
What changes can we anticipate in the field as it addresses a multiplicity of approaches to collaboration?
How can the EPP field best be described at this point</p> | |

	<p>in time? Are our descriptions useful to project sponsors? What can we improve?</p>	
11:15-Noon	<p>Short Snack 2 – How will ECR remain relevant in a future of profound environmental, social and political change?</p> <p>This “short snack” will pose a set of provocative questions about the relevance of EPP practitioners and institutions in a time of "creative destruction" driven by significant climate change. For example: What are the key political institutions and values that support EPP? What is the potential for a profound loss of confidence in these institutions and values over the next decade, and what are the implications for EPP? Participants will wrestle with these questions, test initial responses, and hopefully find common ground for continuing a discussion.</p>	<p>Moderator: Michael Harty, Principal, Harty Conflict Consulting and Mediation</p>
11:15-Noon	<p>Short Snack 3 – Learning from Cross-Cultural Practitioners</p> <p>Summary of key lessons learned from top intercultural practitioners and from comprehensive research on how world views shape practices, as well as insights from speaker’s work with intercultural training. Are there subtle variations between approaches that shape what happens on the ground. Can engaging them or ignoring them affect our ability to make change. Session will focus on implications and practice suggestions.</p>	<p>Rachel Goldberg, Assistant Professor, Salisbury University</p>
Noon	<p>Lunch and Open Space Networking</p> <p>Conference participants will grab box lunches and lead or join networking discussions organized using Open Space Technology. Add the topic you want to lead to the Marketplace board. Or check the Marketplace to see the discussion you want to join.</p> <p>Open-Space Principles:</p> <p>Whoever comes are the right people. Whatever happens is the only thing that could have. Whenever it starts is the right time. When its over its over.</p>	<p>Open Space Organizers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Janet Fiero, Senior Associate America Speaks • Evan Paul, Associate, America Speaks
1:45- 2:45	<p>C2-A Political leadership turnover in a collaborative process: lessons for planning, intervention and implementation</p>	<p>Sarah Read, President, The Communications Center, Inc.</p>

	<p>Lessons on how to have a process endure through changes of appointed and elected officials, and an examination of how public processes can validate a change in political leadership. Includes how to use the Herrmann Brain Dominance Instrument www.hbdi.com for group education.</p>	
1:45- 2:45	<p>C2-B “Conservation and the Gospel of Community: Social Identity and Changing Context in Community-based Environmental Conflict.”</p>	<p>Todd Bryan, Ph. D., Senior Associate, The Keystone Center, Denver</p>
	<p>Lessons from a longitudinal study of the Quincy Library Group that explores the role social identity and changing context plays in the transformation of a community-based environmental conflict. Will include an identity-based exercise to show how the construct works and how to apply it in conflict assessment and management.</p>	
1:45- 2:45	<p>C2-C Birthing Freedom: Large-Scale Institutional Transition Involving Race and Education</p>	<p>Frank Dukes, PH.D., Institute for Environmental Negotiation, University of Virginia</p>
	<p>Exploration of design challenges for an intervention in a very large organization addressing a highly divisive issue. Based on case of a systematic, coordinated effort involving the University of Virginia community in how the community can complete the transition from the legacy of slavery and segregation to a community of shared understanding and purpose.</p>	
2:45	<p>Break</p>	
3:00- 4:45	<p>C3-A Multiple Metamorphoses: The Changing Role of Facilitated Groups and the Facilitator in Long Term Projects</p> <p>This session will explore the changing role of group and of the facilitator in long-term conversations regarding environmental and public policy issues.</p>	<p>Moderator: Cindy Cook, Adamant Accord, Inc.</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nedra Chandler, Principal, Cadence • Nicholas Dewar, Senior Facilitator, ICF Jones & Stokes

3:00- 4:45	<p>C3-B Learning from OD: Systems Thinking and Contracting</p> <p>Many of the principles of organizational development, including systems thinking and contracting, are similar to those in EPP mediation. The differences can inform us about our own assumptions and processes as mediators. This session will include a demonstration of system mapping that is directly applicable to conflict assessment and client contracting, as well as an opportunity for participants to create their own system map and relate it to contracting.</p>	<p>Presenter: Mary Orton, Principal, The Mary Orton company, LLC</p> <p>Commenter: John Stephens, Ph.D., Public Dispute Resolution Program, University of North Carolina</p>
3:00- 4:45	<p>C3-C Societal trends, political leadership, and Congressional politics: Can federal legislation truly be developed collaboratively?</p> <p>The session will highlight the political and societal factors that are driving an increasing number of collaborative processes that bring together public and private entities to provide broad consensus to influence critical legislative outcomes. Examination of the United States Climate Action Partnership (USCAP), a collaboration of 32 businesses and NGOs will be compared with other “legislative coalitions” that have used professional facilitators.</p>	<p>Co-Moderators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kevin Bryan, Mediator, Meridian Institute • Kristy Buckley, Mediator, Meridian Institute
4:45-5:15	<p>Wrap up: Reflections on the Conference</p>	<p>Moderator: TBD</p>
	<p>Announcement for EPP-USEPA dinner groups</p>	
5:15	<p>Reception</p> <p>“What not to wear” – Join us for an evening of good fun as we roast our facilitation and mediation fashion faux pas.</p>	<p>Master of Ceremonies: Dave Batson, Conflict Prevention and Resolution Center, USEPA</p> <p>Please contact Juliana Birkhoff (Senior Mediator, Consensus Building Institute) or Cindy Cook (Adamant Accord, Inc.) if you have a fashion faux pas to share.</p>
7:15	<p>EPP-USEPA dinner groups</p>	<p>TBD</p>