

State of the Valley Symposium 2006

COLLABORATIVE SOLUTION MAKING SESSION

Notes and Next Steps

The communities and counties of the Roaring Fork and Colorado River Valleys have accomplished many things to ensure growth benefits the region to the greatest extent possible. Given this next wave of growth pressures, what are there actions, policies, agreements that would better enable communities and counties to take full advantage of the economic trends facing the region while ensuring its future livability and how do we head in that direction?

David Chrislip, Author *Collaborative Leadership* and Principal, Skillful Means led a large group discussion at the 2006 State of the Valley Symposium on the usefulness and application of collaboration for community problem solving. The discussion ranged from critical elements for a successful collaborative effort to evaluating the collaborative efforts that have occurred in the Roaring Fork and Colorado River Valleys over the years as well as an assessment of where the region is in regard to future collaborative efforts.

These notes briefly summarize David's presentation, the large group discussion, and proposed next steps.

Collaboration

To work together in an inclusive and constructive way to address shared concerns. There are no pre-determined solutions. Solutions emerge from the collaboration. It is important to frame problems in ways that are open all perspectives and possible solutions rather than sides. Ultimately, the quality of the engagement will determine the quality of the outcomes.

Four critical aspects of collaboration:

1. A Focus for Collaboration
 - What is there to collaborate about?
2. Inclusion
 - Who participates?
3. Constructive Process
 - How do stakeholders work together?
4. Strong Facilitative Leaders
 - Who guides the process toward meaningful results?

Regional Collaboration Assessment

On a scale of 1 to 5 (with 5 being the best)

What is the level of agreement on concerns?

Low	-----X-----5-	High
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There is agreement on a number of concerns. The priority of importance might vary throughout the region.

How inclusive are the efforts?

Narrow	-----X-----5- ←	Broad
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Efforts try to be inclusive, but with people's busy schedules only the "engaged few" really participate. This is an ongoing challenge that seems to getting more difficult to address

