

To Explore the Ability to Fix a Broken Water Cycle: Dust, Snow and Flow in the Headwaters of the Rio Grande and Colorado Rivers

5 THE PATH FORWARD

Given that it's impossible to achieve the Best Possible Outcomes, if it were possible, what would you do?

I think trust and listening are good starting points. Creating a context for that is super important. Trust is [a] stumbling block to overcome; better communication; venue to bring people together. I echo what Duncan said. There needs to be deeper listening on all stakeholders' parts. We often come in with biases based on our own expertise and experiences. Because of that, we aren't able to listen to other points of view, and it erodes the trust. Ask all the stakeholders involved to come together to communicate common goals and to how we can achieve these goals. How we achieve these goals is often how we get into conflict. Listen to the landowners to achieve these goals.

Create structures of collaboration and cooperation using the consensus process so that the usual way of operating and doing business [transforms]. Multifaceted, communication and collaboration. Support Quivira's efforts to continue these conversations and work together to raise funds for community action collaboratives across cultures and communities. Reach out to those who were not on the call today. Nothing is impossible. Finding ways to celebrate the successes as we go that reinforce our ability and/or our accomplishment of these outcomes so that it becomes a virtuous cycle.

Workshops—regional and local—continued monitoring, outreach, education to achieve these goals. What is our goal? We have to put realistic expectations and goals out there. Hello...educate; promote; if doing good, keep doing it. Make things understandable; define what works and does not. Seeing change hit the ground...Having the education component that goes out to collaborative groups and the public. What can landowners do? We are in a dry region—we have to learn to adapt. Frequency of droughts, severity of droughts more severe—how do we adapt? Continued collaboration, communication. Workshops, drought plan in place. Know what your recovery period needs to be. How to learn to mitigate. Do what we said we need to do to achieve best possible outcomes: work with the media, hold workshops and training to educate and build community trust and collaboration.

Communication with all parties. Recognition of differences of culture, language, motivations to come together to talk... Colorado and Rio Grande touch on multicultural and bi-national groups. We need to address what is valued by the peoples of these regions. Mexican people,

tribal people—these views need to be embraced and incorporated into the conversation and decision making and recommendations and actions of local and statewide level. One thing that is very troublesome—many participants in these groups come from an imperialist perspective of ‘how can we help you?’. Recognized the landscapes as distinct, and the opinions of people from these different places.

Talking from a holistic and systems view—who benefits and who is affected by decisions being made? The landscape connectivity and natural variability—panelists have talked about changes driving adaptation or need for adaptation. Recognize the simplicity within the complexity of these systems. To allow talking about and working on these issues. We start with the premise that downstream users don’t agree with upstream users. We need to start with the things that are common between downstream and upstream users.

Train more facilitators, neutral and with at least basic natural resources systems. They don’t need to [be] degreed from a college—you purposefully do not want them to be a specialist, they should be trained to work with people as a generalist. Pulling people together to have repeated meetings. I find in meeting with Native American groups that recurring meetings that can happen with this trained facilitator can lead to very positive outcomes. It is very hard to get regulators out to do coaching—there tends to be a defensive mechanism. These should be paid facilitators. Advocacy for a consultant, or in the agency capacity if willing. If the NRCS or Extension or etc. person understood their role as a coach, instead of as simply technical info relay, then this could work well. Agencies speak on behalf of their agency only—they can’t [speak] on behalf of other agencies, or speak with a unified voice, or a collaborative voice—e.g., tribe, NRCS, BLM can’t get the paperwork started. This could be the work of a technician. I wish the land could speak for itself. A non-profit can often mediate between agencies and people and do what it takes to get things rolling. I speak for a generalist who can take goals and work collaboratively with people.

Use creative tactics to raise awareness and change minds. Organization is Adventure Hydrology. Use the lens of adventure to raise awareness of hydrology. You have to learn about a place to love it, and once you love it, you’ll protect it. Connect people to advance the efforts, support peer to peer learning, collect stories to learn. Likes peer to peer learning and planning to learn. A lot of extension effort is going into awareness. Some Ag Science Centers are adopting these methods. Thinks we can make a difference. Will take training especially. Once people understand it, they will share it readily. A media person. Sees the value and importance of stories. Why not a TV show about regenerative agriculture, similar to Green Acres? People learn and change by hearing stories. More examples are needed. Put success stories in the limelight and make it entertaining. Figure out how to do that in a healthy way. Maybe encourage the art world? Show us examples. Goes beyond science.

I believe in local people with agency solving problems. We tend to gravitate to technical solutions. What’s the context and the questions to ask? How about if we ask who has agency, who are the caretakers of the land, and what are the relationships between them, and how can

we help them learn from each other? I think you're on to something. As scientists we tend to hide behind our science and not get the impact of our work in the field. But there are ways to do that. Africa example: can't see what you need to see. If solution come top down, then lose native knowledge...Empower and resources, things change over time. Information hung up on technical folks, transfer knowledge to local folks. Economic disparities, fix to help initiate knowledge transfer. Need to help each other locally for progress. Start small: Identify one or two landowners who may be well known who make things better over a small amount of time, make them the face on the milk carton as being the best land stewards. Promote local best practices and establish peer-to-peer working groups. Create a special district to galvanize the community and secure funding.

Need to have more tribal producers and residents in this network and leverage what they have done / are doing that can work in concert with NRCS. We know what the problems are and where to start; just need to get everyone in as part of the solutions. Having monitoring at the source level in large checkerboard areas to identify bare ground areas requires that we use resources wisely by leveraging "citizen science" methods to get community members involved. Get NM DOT and AZ DOT support for raising the priority of DOS health issues at a state and federal level. Taking off on Dave's approach, can establish teams like George Whitten to work with Delane Atcity—to share and learn best land mgt practices. State NRCS would have uniform priorities and policies, working with scientists to make sure those tools are usable by land managers and access to groups that link to program priorities so that projects that get funded meet that need. Make a presentation to the Southern Rocky Mountain Ag Conference in Feb about the DOS issue and opportunities to collaborate. Apply for targeted EQIP and RCPP to address DOS.

Interested to hear where Federal Government can be of help—maybe even band-aid solutions to be hopeful in short term. Ecosystem services, carbon credits. Can see pushback from some big companies who think in short term. Economic disparities, need to address. Sometimes restricted, make a change to be more effective that is hard to implement (federal gov employee). For greater good of Navajo Nation.

Let market work for good. Engage capitalized system. Rancher never paid for improvement of water quality...pay farmer to change land cover, you have engaged folks on the ground—all kinds of ideas will flourish. Need to ignite the farmers, when system is fair, the movement will move like wildfire. Mutual fund of investors who want to see change of bare ground. Agreed upon metrics, bring in outside observers to assess. Let people who want change incentivize change, direct market between wants and people who can produce products.

Atomize the water off the California coast, and cloud seeding with cannons.

Conservation [is] key. Efficient, work towards not being dependent on high flows every season. Establish more reservoirs such as at the CO / NM state line to mitigate runoff; deal with

DOS issues at the source through better management of the lands by rewarding people who do the right things with their lands; curtail other sources such as ATVs in the desert.

Native grasses heal. Dad (Gerald Sharp, founder of Sharp Brothers Seed Company) used his life energy to start native grass species and revegetate the country. Had no room for doubt in his mind and neither should we. Should not assume anything. Native grasses will work for us, if properly planted. They'll take care of us, no matter how hard the challenges. Based on their intelligence and DNA, native seeds can do a tremendous work. Father was recognized by Senator Robert Dole. Great improvement that happened in Western Kansas. Did not take a long time. We just need to get started.