

## **Team Questions**

### **Restructuring the Power of Decision Making - Portland**

February 2025

#### **What Are Team Questions?**

With each case study, teams focus on several lines of inquiry intended to lift up insights about each case and about the leadership styles and approaches we've seen during the week. Each question is really a topic area, and the sub questions are prompts to get your group thinking, analyzing and engaging the ESP cohort about insights on each topic. Thursday afternoon, teams will have time to discuss and prepare a presentation to the full cohort for Friday morning that distills key aspects of each topic and facilitates class discussion.

#### **The Ask**

1. As a team, discuss the various aspects of the question/topic and ways in which you can share your insights with the full cohort. Make sure all members of the team are engaged.
2. Your job as a team is to synthesize and make sense of the general topic area / question. *Don't get hung up on answering all of the sub-questions*: let those spur you on to helping the group to a deeper understanding of your topic area.
2. With all the tools at your disposal (technology, your class notes, materials shared by presenters, ESP website, etc.) build an engaging 20-30 minute session for the full cohort on Friday conveying your team's insights and that sparks cohort engagement.

#### **The Questions**

##### **Team 1:**

*Erin Anderson, Adam Coble, Jerry Mizar, Sara Slater*

##### **Make sense of the Metro area's evolving public natural resource conservation initiatives.**

Over the last 30 years, Portland Metro area voters have approved several funding initiatives related to natural resource conservation and public access to nature. What's behind the continued public willingness to fund this work? How has it evolved over time? Characterize the leadership aspects of passing and implementing these bond measures. What have been the impacts and the obstacles? What does the future hold for additional public funding for conservation and access in the Metro area?

### **Team 2: Who decides?**

*Jamie Bowles, Jessie Ebert, Ken Fetcho, Ben Mayberry, Millie Jimenez*

Characterize the evolving arc of how decisions have been made about how funds are invested, including geographic priorities, types of work, and the level of involvement of affected communities. What are the leadership insights about how decision making frameworks have changed over time? To what degree have communities been more or less enfranchised in the decision making process? How has an evolved decision making process affected how potential partners, jurisdictions and interests work together?

### **Team 3: Engaging communities**

*Cameron Duff, Anzie St. Clair, Christine Svetkovich, Luke Warthen*

Remind the group about the variety of different community engagement approaches utilized past and present, particularly those you felt were innovative and that changed the outcome of how conservation funding ultimately hit the ground. Why / how has this been important? What are some specific community engagement strategies you might consider applying in your own world? How has leadership shaped the priority and expectation about community engagement?

### **For each team:            Leadership Energy**

In addition to your assigned question, each team should discuss and describe characteristics, moments, or actors that struck you as more or less useful in addressing the needs and tensions facing these communities. Mary Parker Follett: “Unity without uniformity.” ties and organizations. What factors influence where leadership energy comes from for finding solutions? How have different leadership approaches—and different organizational cultures—shaped problem solving? What elements of what you’ve seen or heard this week would you include in your own leadership planning work?