

A Seat at the Table

Caitie Nigrelli University of Illinois Liaison to EPA-GLNPO AOC Conference September 11, 2019







Partner Challenges

In the video...

Manage community impacts

Solve technical problems

Build trust

Overcome skepticism

No liability release

Also...

Speed of the program

Multiple entities coming to agreement on project plans

Reservations

Relationships between environmental organizations and industry can be hostile... we had to break the mold of how we approached it... nobody really knew how it was going to end up. All we knew is that we needed to restore this river and it was only going to happen if we all worked together.

- Jill Jedlicka, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper

There's always some trepidation about entering into an agreement with a large price tag like this one... there's some uncertainty involved, but I think the feeling at the county was that the benefits that could be derived from the project far outweighed the risks.

- Steve Keith, Milwaukee County

We had several reservations... When have you ever heard of the U.S. EPA saying they're going to partner with you as a business partner, work to save money, and share the cost? Thirty years in the business, I never heard of that. It's a great program.

-Joe Janeczek, Tyco Corporation



Partner Benefits

In the video...

Power granted to signatories to guide and direct the project

Community benefits

Money

EPA's technical skills

Also...

Focus on science, not litigation

GLLA Cost-Share Flexibility

Cash

Clean Water State Revolving Funds

Brownfield activities

Settlement agreements Judicial consent decrees

In-kind Contributions

- Access
- Land for staging
- Space in a landfill
- Technical assistance

State bond programs

Creative Cost-Share Examples

If you think about being creative with cost-share this was a success story because the disposal site was one that Ohio EPA was working with the landowner to get closed. We needed the material, and we were able to get the material from the dredging.

- Amy Jo Klei, Ohio EPA

Tyco Corporation was involved in a dredging project at the Menominee River. Under an administrative consent order, we were required to dredge to a certain level. By using the Great Lakes Legacy Act, we went further. We dredged an additional couple hundred thousand yards of sediment out of the river.

-Joe Janeczek, Tyco Corporation

The city and the county both contributed \$350,000, staff time as well, but in return we leveraged about \$35 million [from all the partners] to complete the job.

- Adam Payne, Sheboygan County Administrator

Dynamics of Multi-Partner Collaborations

You don't have to give up too much. You don't have to move out of the comfort zone that you need to be in representing your interests, but yet you could recognize the value to somebody else of making a compromise and that just makes decision making faster and easier. And that's how it worked on this project.

-John Morris, Honeywell

I really leave the success of this project to this community working group that was really empowered to make decisions as it relates to the overall plan for the project.

-Chad Pelishek, City of Sheboygan

We not only can allow more than one non-federal cost-share, but we actually encourage [it]. And many of our projects if not most, we have multiple non-federal cost-share partners because there's different types of expertise and different types of resources that we need to get these projects done.

-Amy Pelka, EPA



www.greatlakesmud.org

Caitie Nigrelli



cmccoy2@Illinois.edu



@Gr8LakesLady