Building Community Capacity

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Photo by Matt Zoschke

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In addressing community issues (watershed issues) you'll need…

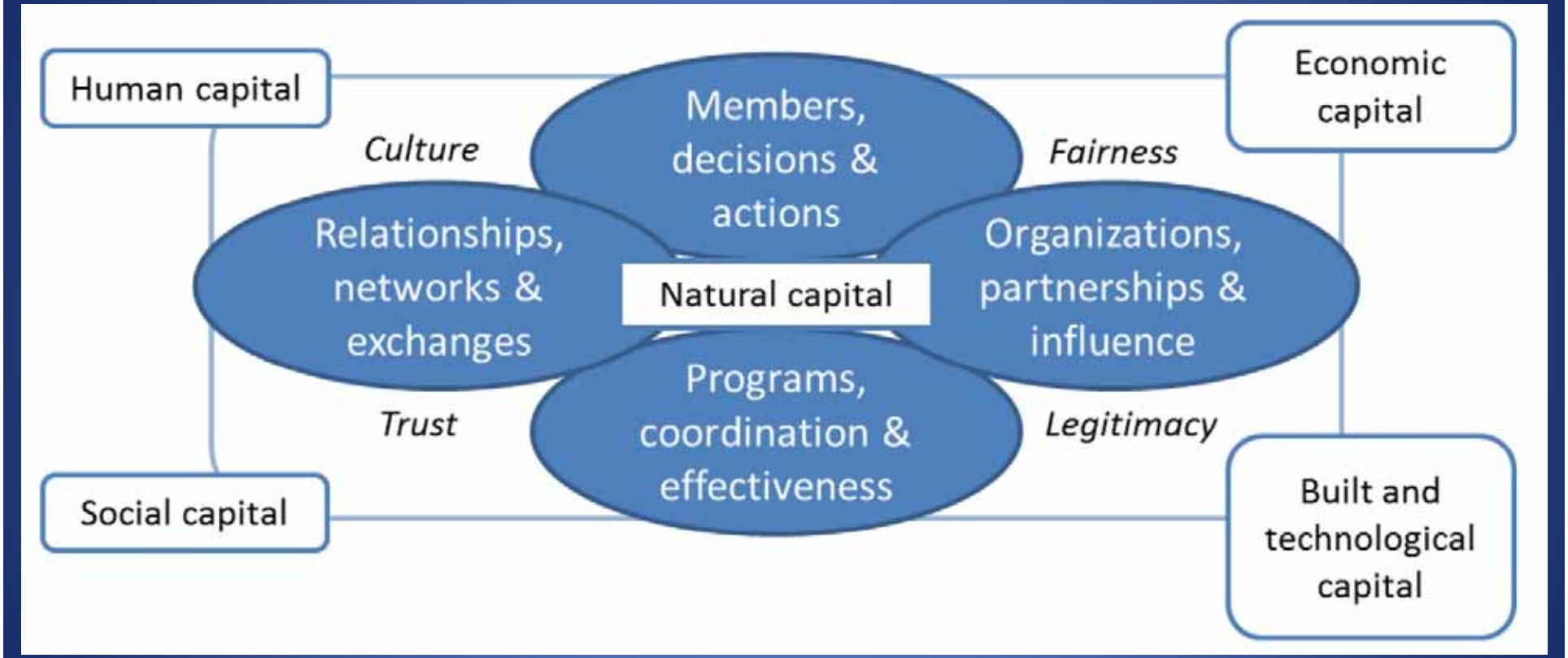
- Knowledge
  - of the community
  - of the issue
  - of possible solutions/methods
  - of how to evaluate success
- Well-defined Purpose and Goals
- Active participation and action from the Community

What is Community Capacity?

- ***"The interaction of human capital, organizational resources, and social capital existing within a given community that can be leveraged to solve collective problems and improve or maintain the well-being of that community"*** **(Chaskin et al., 2001)**

- ***"Community capacity building is about promoting the 'capacity' of local communities to develop, implement and sustain their own solutions to problems in a way that helps them shape and exercise control over their physical, social, economic and cultural environments."*** **(Western Australian Department for Community Development, 2006)**

What is Community Capacity?



Adapted from Davenport & Seekamp, 2013

What is Community Capacity?

- Think about an aboriginal or ancient community
- How did they solve community problems?
- Very dependent upon the human resources in the community
- All members of the community were likely affected by the problem
- All members of the community would likely be affected by solutions
- Good solutions would need to be sustainable

Community Assessment Tools

- Information gathering and analysis
- One-on-one meetings/interviews
- Focus groups
- Surveys
- Evaluation of efforts

Community Assessment

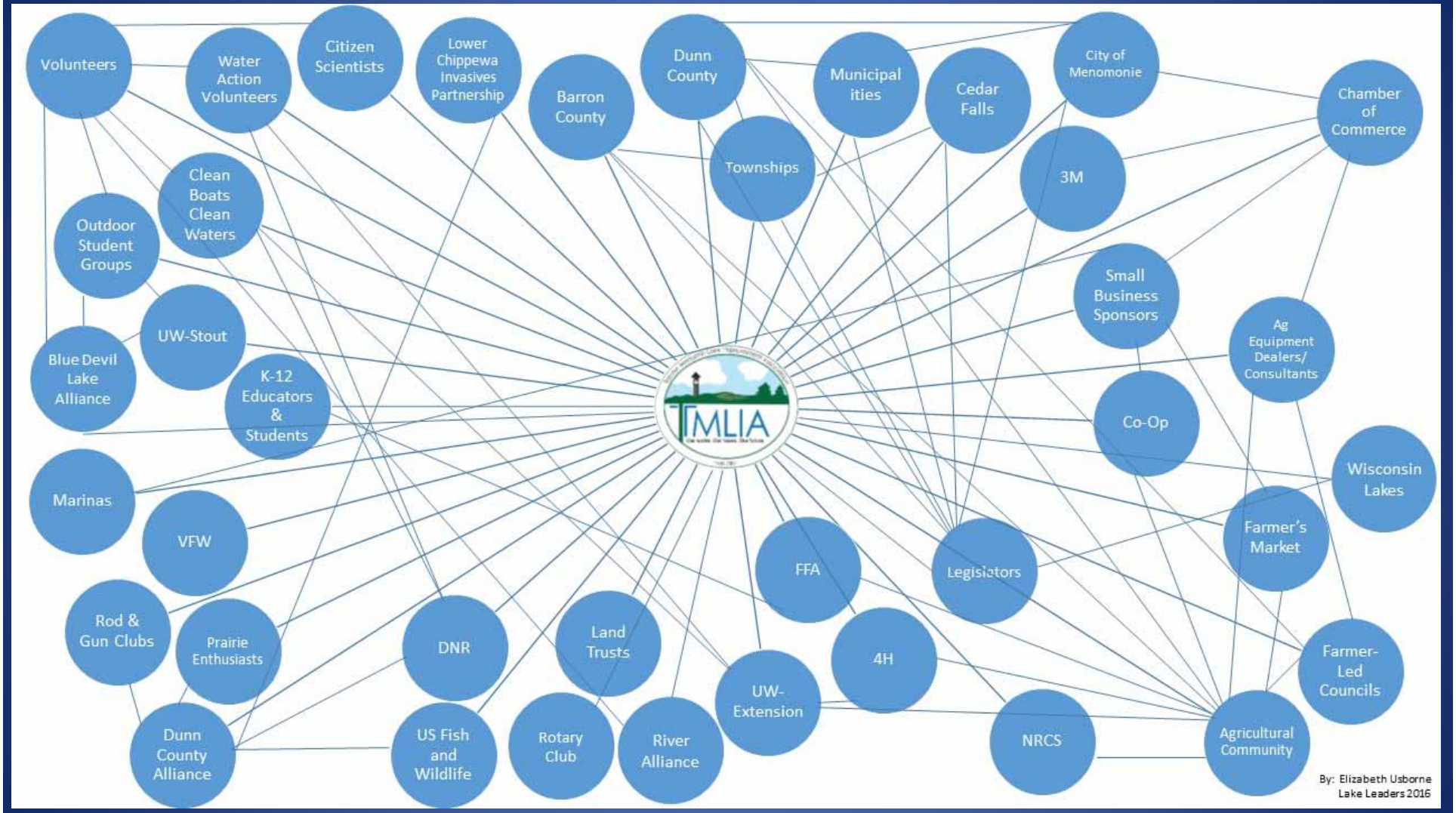
Table 1. Community Assessment Worksheet

What questions do you have about your community's engagement in water projects? As you review this worksheet, check off the boxes that relate to questions you have about your community.

- ❑ **How can I better engage community members?**
  - ❑ Who are community members?
  - ❑ Are members aware and concerned about community or water resource issues?
  - ❑ Are members motivated to take action to address community or water resource problems?
  - ❑ Are members able to take action to address community or water resource problems?
  - ❑ What drives actions? What constrains actions?
- ❑ **How can I tap existing social networks or encourage community members to work together?**
  - ❑ How do community members interact? Are social interactions positive? Is there conflict?
  - ❑ How are information and ideas exchanged in the community?
  - ❑ How do members influence one another? (e.g., Who are leaders? Who do people trust?)
  - ❑ Do strong social networks exist? Do they include diverse members?
  - ❑ Do members cooperate to address community or water resource problems
  - ❑ What drives cooperation? What constrains cooperation?
- ❑ **How can I develop or strengthen partnerships with community organizations?**
  - ❑ What organizations exist to address community or water resource issues?
  - ❑ Are they influential in the community?
  - ❑ Do organizations engage and unite diverse community members?
  - ❑ Do organizations effectively address community or water resource problems?
  - ❑ What drives organizations influence? What constrains influence?
- ❑ **How can I create, strengthen or coordinate programs to address water resource issues?**
  - ❑ What programs exist to address community or water resource issues?
  - ❑ Do programs effectively engage diverse community members?
  - ❑ Are programs coordinated across organizations? Is there conflict?
  - ❑ Are programs successful in addressing community or water resource problems?
  - ❑ What drives program success? What constrains program success?
- ❑ **How can I increase the likelihood that water resource planning and management is viewed as fair and legitimate in the community? How can I build trust?**
- ❑ **How do cultural differences shape community engagement in water resource planning and management?**

From "Community Assessment" by Mae Davenport, 2015

Community Connections



Multilevel Community Capacity Model

Davenport & Seekamp, 2013

Civic Governance

Civic Governance *is a new approach to policy making that produces the civic infrastructure needed to govern for the common good and sustain democracy as a just system of governance.*

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Civic Governance

Civic Standards *guide all decision making:*

- All those impacted by the problem are stakeholders and help define the problem in light of civic principles and the realities of the situation.
- All stakeholders are accountable for contributing resources (leadership/time, knowledge, constituencies and dollars) to solve the problem.
- All stakeholders are engaged in decision making and policy-making that contributes to the common good.
- All stakeholders implement policies grounded in civic principles in the places where they have the authority to act.

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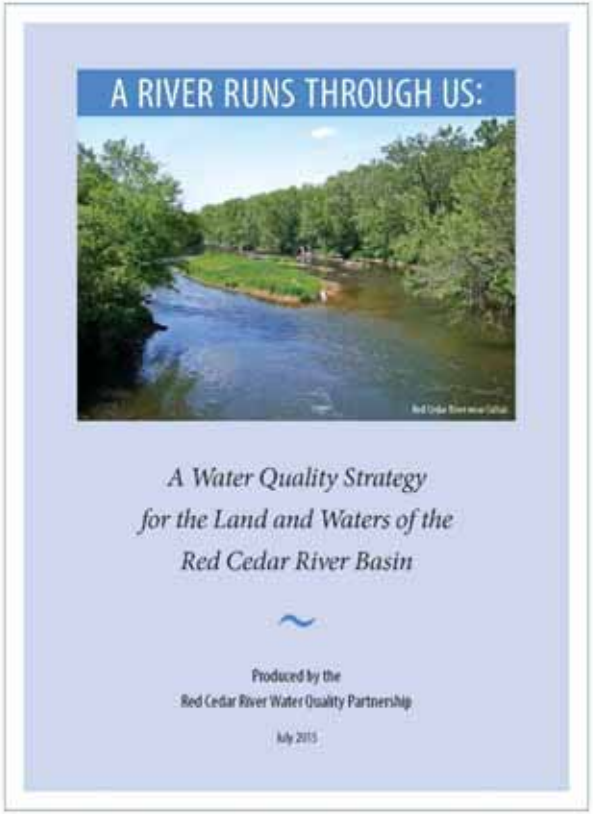
Example: Red Cedar River Water Quality Partnership

- Dunn Co Land Conservation
- Barron Co Land Conservation
- Dunn Co UW-Extension
- Barron Co UW-Extension
- WDNR
- NRCS
- City of Menomonie
- 3M Corporation
- West Wisconsin Land Trust
- UW – Stout
- Tainter/Menomin Lake Improvement Association
- Desair Lake Restoration, Inc.
- Red Cedar Lakes Association
- Big Chetac and Birch Lakes Association
- Chetek Lakes Protection Association
- Farmers Union
- UW-Extension

Red Cedar River Water Quality Implementation Plan

- Ten Year Plan
- Aims for an “interim” goal of 40% reduction of NPS phosphorus inputs (186,000 lbs) to Tainter Lake
- Approved in January, 2016. Meets federal and state guidelines for watershed planning (US EPA’s “Nine Key Elements of a Watershed Plan”)
- An entire chapter on Civic Engagement

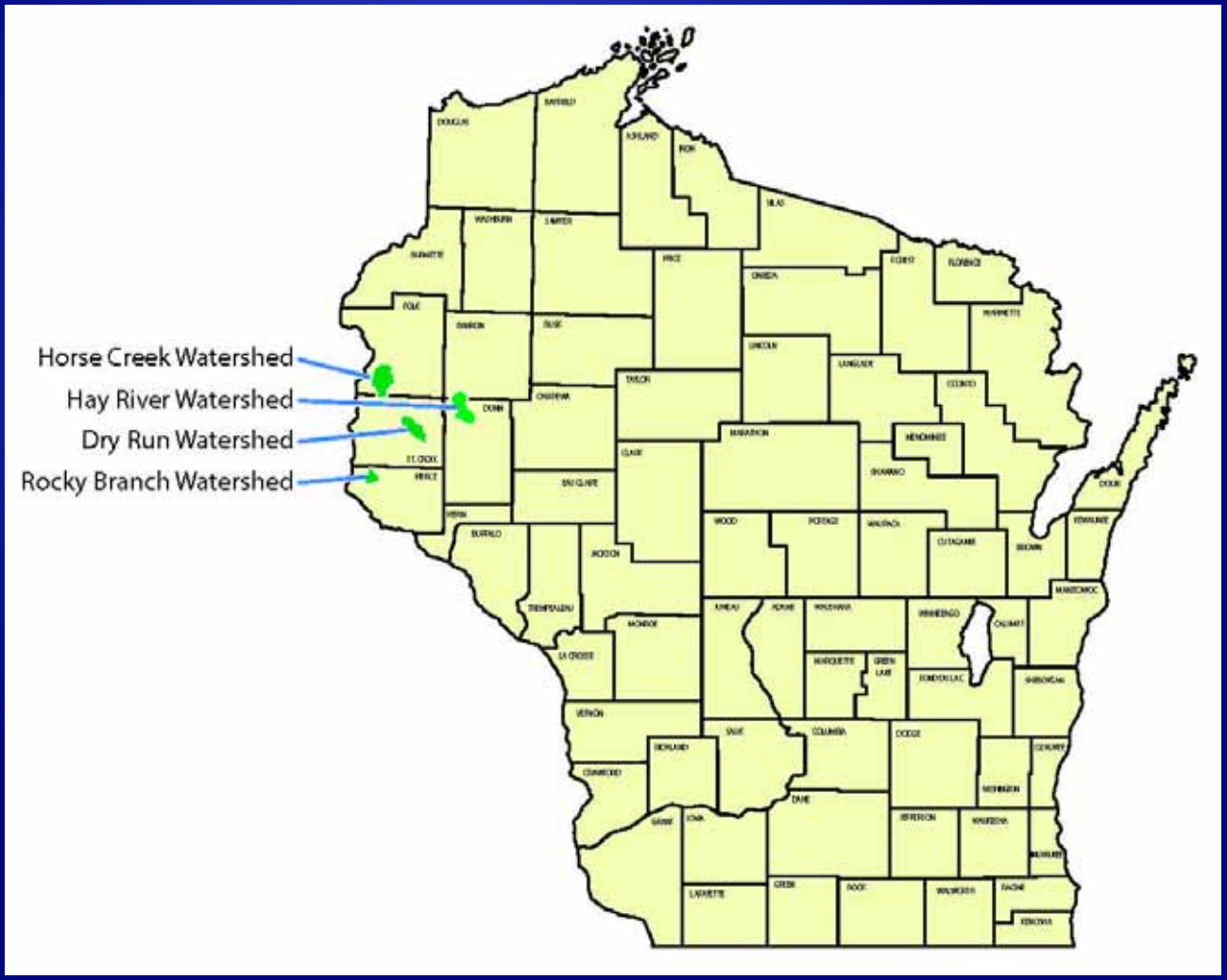


Practices and Projected Load Reductions

BMP	Lbs P reduced
No-Till Farming Practices (60,000 – 86,000 acres)	63,000
Manure Storage Structures (50)	34,000
Nutrient Management Plans / Practices (86,000 acres)	31,500
Cover Crops (107,000 acres)	18,000
Traditional Conservation Practices (10% of cropland)	11,000
Treatment of Milk House Waste (50)	6,600
Urban Storm Water Control (non-permitted)	5,700
Stream Buffers on Riparian Frontage (10%)	4,700
Barnyard Upgrades (68)	3,800
Replace Failing, Critically-Located Septic (440)	420
Storm Water Control on Rural Properties (2200 lots)	220
Wetland Restorations (200 acres)	210
Past Barnyard Reductions	27,000
Total	**206,150**

Example

Farmer Led Council project



Example

Farmer-Led Council Project

Utilizing incentive payments that they themselves decide on, farmer-led watershed councils can:

- **Reduce phosphorus runoff**
- **Improve water quality**
- **Enhance agricultural productivity and profitability**

Julia Olmstead

Questions

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