

Vincent Lake Working Model

"Process" Step - Checklist

When you have an idea of where you want to go, you always need a path to follow. The Vincent Lake Work Group (VLWG) found this path in the four step *Cows and Fish Program* delivery process. You can use this process as the framework for building your own working group as well as delivering your message to your target audience. Under each of the step you will find suggested ideas and guiding philosophies to consider when you start charting the course for your initiative.

Step One - Education & Awareness

"Education is not about what people don't know, it is about teaching them to behave as they are not already behaving."

Working Group

- ☑ Set up a formative meeting that includes any individuals or groups you think might be interested in supporting your initiative. Use this meeting to share and learn what each member and group's values and issues are and what each could bring to the process. Also discuss and determine what each of them wants from the process and what their role within it should/could be.

Target Audience

- ☑ The working group needs to acquire, develop and deliver information and assistance to enhance the target audiences ecological literacy. The result being a shift in attitude and understanding that causes a change in action. Hopefully to a more riparian friendly way of acting.

Step Two - Team Building

"Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success." Henry Ford

Working Group

Team - The power of "we." The VLWG evolved into a group of separate but similar interests that recognized the value of an end point and were willing to adapt and overcome to collectively reach that point without unduly compromising their individual and representative responsibilities. Working together, many of the VLWG had to bend in regards to their needs and wants, but no one "broke." The result was an initiative that was more powerful than any member could have mounted individually.

To assist in delivering this concept to the target the VLWG developed three levels of "partnerships."

- **Large "C"** partners have primary roles in development and implementation of the model. One representative from **AAFRD, NRS, ACA and the Cows and Fish Program** formed the Large "C" partnership of for the Vincent Lake Working Model.
- **Small "c"** partners have major supporting roles in the development and implementation of the model. The small "c" partners for the Vincent Lake Model currently include one or more staff members from the large "C" partners as well as representatives of the **County of St. Paul, Summer Village of Horseshoe Bay and staff from the Riparian and Wetland Research Program of the University of Montana.**

- **Consultative** partners have specialized or supporting roles in the model but typically do not have long term involvement. Existing or proposed consultative partners for the Vincent Lake Working Model currently include representatives from groups such as **Water Resources Div. of NRS, PFRA, Real Estate Agencies, Ducks Unlimited, the Living by Water Project and long term residents of Vincent Lake. There will be more.**

Target - The VLWG is currently trying to attract individuals or local groups as large “C”, small “c” or consultative partners to assist in the development and delivery of the model. We will assist individuals develop local groups to facilitate partnership opportunities and delivery of riparian health activities at their lakes.

Step Three - Tool Building

Team - The VLWG uses a "reiterative" approach to the development and delivery of the various tools it can use to promote riparian health. This approach involves taking a take good tool idea, developing it, applying it, reviewing its performance, improving it as required and applying it again. Repeat until satisfied. The VLWG has three categories for tools; tools we have, tools we are building and tools we plan to build.

Target - The target group can participate in the reiterative approach used by the team to develop and deliver tools.

Step Four - Community Based Action

Team - Core team members live in the area of the project. Local team members working with local target audiences, sharing mutual local knowledge on mutual problems has a higher potential for success than having team members from “afar” promoting the initiative.

Target - The VLWG continues to raise the awareness in the Vincent Lake watershed and surrounding community of riparian health issues and the options for dealing with them Several tools have been used including community meetings, newspaper articles and targeted mail outs. However, how this step will ultimately unfold is not yet clear. But the VLWG knows what it would like to see! Its ultimate goal through developing and delivering this model is to have riparian health assessment, restoration, and protection activities occurring on the landscape directed by local groups. The “team” can then fall back to a more “resource” and monitoring role.