

Vincent Lake Working Model

"Process" Results

The Vincent Lake Work Group (VLWG) needed a method to deliver its envisioned riparian health outcomes at Vincent Lake. Soon after the group's formation in late fall 1999 it adopted and adapted the four step *Cows and Fish Program* delivery process to achieve this. The VLWG realised this process could help both the VLWG (i.e., the "**team**") develop and deliver its internal group processes as well as deliver the group's objectives to the landowners and users of the Vincent Lake watershed (i.e., the "**target**"). The four steps in the process and the objectives under each for both the team and target are:

Step One - Education & Awareness

Team - The different delivery groups coming together to discuss the problem had to first understand what each member and group's values and issues were and what each could bring to the process. They also had to determine what each of them wanted from the process and what their role within it would be. The resulting VLWG was then able to develop and start delivering the process to the target audience.

Target - The team continues to deliver information and assistance to enhance the target's ecological literacy. A satisfactory result being a shift in attitude and understanding that causes a change in action. In this situation, education is not about what people don't know, it is about teaching them to behave as they are not already behaving.

A secondary objective under Education & Awareness was to determine how, where, or if "enforcement" would fit in. The VLWG struggled mightily with this and concluded that it would adopt a "passive" enforcement strategy with a link to "active" enforcement.

The VLWG defined "active" enforcement as the laying of charges or other actions under the various federal, provincial or municipal legislation. The VLWG will provide information in support of active enforcement but will not participate in it.

The VLWG defined "passive" enforcement as the delivery of sufficient and satisfactory information to riparian landowners and users that will allow them to understand their legal rights and responsibilities as they pertain to all Acts and By-laws describing riparian and littoral areas. The objective was that through this knowledge a shift in attitude would occur that would result in the maintenance of, or recovery to, healthy riparian areas. The VLWG wanted to tell them not what they must do, but rather what they should do in the riparian and littoral areas.

Step Two - Team Building

Team - The team often speaks of the power of "we." The VLWG evolved into a group of separate interests that recognized the value of an end point (e.g., improved riparian health) 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 (i.e., the main Core members) have primary roles in development and implementation of the model. One representative from **Alberta Agriculture**,

Food and Rural Development, Natural Resources Service, Alberta Conservation Association and the Cows and Fish Program formed the Large “C” partnership of for the Vincent Lake Working Model.

- **Small “c”** partners (i.e., outer core members) 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 additional 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 to 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. It will be the community that ultimately must adopt and maintain the appropriate attitudes and behavior that will result in perpetual riparian health.