August 1-5, 2011 Baltimore, MD

SESSION PROPOSALS
DUE JULY 30

Minimum Length:
4 Speakers – 1.5 hours
The Time is NOW for a National Coalition for Ecosystem Restoration

GEER 2010
Bill Leary
Cheryl Ulrich
As lead Administration policy advisor to Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush for ecosystem restoration issues, including the Everglades, coastal Louisiana, Great Lakes, Chesapeake Bay, Missouri River, Mississippi River, and San Francisco Bay, it was evident to me that there was a great need for additional collaboration and coordination if they were to succeed.
Four Challenges of Large Scale Ecosystem Restoration Implementation
(Northeast-Midwest Institute)

1. Ecosystems are huge and complex!
   ◦ Wide interests with little in common
   ◦ Hundreds of miles away
   ◦ Across state and national boundaries

2. Common definition of “restoration”
   ◦ Historic condition?
   ◦ Just make ecosystem healthier?
   ◦ Or simply more resilient?
Four Challenges of Large Scale Ecosystem Restoration Implementation

3. Must achieve with GREAT uncertainty
   ◦ Exploited by their detractors
   ◦ Risk taking and trust

4. Expensive
   ◦ Consistent funding challenges
   ◦ Continues to force re-prioritization
5. Climate Change
   ◦ Considerable uncertainty
   ◦ Impossible to manage
   ◦ Makes these great restoration efforts irrelevant?

   Greater competition for the funding with those coastal areas impacted by sea level rise

   Precisely why we need a NATIONAL Coalition!
Ulrich Adds A Sixth!

- Horizon Oil Spill
  - Immediate and Long-term Destruction to Gulf Coast Ecosystem
  - Louisiana Coastal Area Restoration and Mississippi Coastal Improvements Programs
    - Borrow Areas – Contaminated Sediment Issues
    - Potential Shift in Funding Priorities?

If ever there was a WAKE-UP call, this is it??
Obama’s Direction to the Navy

- Comprehensive assessment of post-spill needs and define Federal assistance on overall recovery

- Plan will develop an approach that will ensure economic recovery, community planning, science based restoration of ecosystem and environment, public health and safety efforts and support of individuals and businesses who suffered losses due to the spill.

- Plan shall identify long and short term objectives and how achievement of these objectives will be measured
Unique Moment in History
Large Voting Block Within Congress

- Top nine large ecosystem restoration efforts
  - 21 of our 50 states
  - 125 million people
  - 40% of US population

- Add in the Columbia River (NW Pacific)
  - 27 states
  - 50% of the US population!!
It’s The Economy, Stupid!

- Challenges of the economic justification of ecosystem restoration – USACE – Habitat Units??

- Health of ecosystem tied to health of the economy

- Need to translate into regional economic impact, including tourism, commercial and recreational fisheries, and property values.
John Austin Brookings Institute Economics of Restoration

- Green economy and Blue economy
  - Water is a place definer/magical backdrop

- Great Lakes Restoration Plan

- 25 Bil cleanup yields 80–100 Bil payoff

- Must do national analysis for all the large ecosystem restoration programs!
NRC, EAB and NCER See The Need!

  - Unified National Program
  - Adaptive management – Institutional constraints
  - Incremental Adaptive Restoration

- Environmental Advisory Board (2006)
  - What’s needed – Training, Facilitate learning from projects, Advocate for Ecosystem Restoration
  - Implementation Elements – Strong leader, Resource commitments, Partnerships with Academia and Industry

- NCER Conference Attendees
  - Request for collaboration to bridge our bi-annual conferences
Collective National Response
The Time is Now!
The time is NOW!

When we unite with passion, compassion, faith, positiveness, and hope.... When we truly come together and leave behind the greed and self-indulgence, we will then truly have hope.

Author Unknown