

Facilitation/Collaboration Support Resources

Developing and Maintaining Partnerships

Federal Mining Dialogue, May 2018

Sometimes it is helpful to work with a facilitator on your partnering efforts. This document provides some options for finding facilitation/collaboration support for your project and or working group. In addition, there are books and training resources that may be useful to enhance your own facilitation/partnership building skills.

Facilitation/Collaboration Support Options

Agency Alternative Dispute Resolution Program Offices

What it is?

Most agencies have a program that specializes in alternative dispute resolution. These programs provide support to their agencies with mediation, facilitation, and training services. They can provide you information on how to get a Shared Neutral (see below section) to support your project/working group. In addition they may have contracts for facilitation support that you can utilize instead of having to go through the full contracting process.

How do I get in contact?

Talk to your supervisor, or your human resources specialist, to see if they can assist you getting in contact with the office. You can also search online for your agency's name plus "alternative dispute resolution."

Shared Neutrals Program

What it is?

Interagency mediation/facilitation program that is supported by over 40 federal agencies. In addition, some Federal Executive Boards partner with state, local and tribal agencies as well as federal partners. Shared Neutrals include mediators, facilitators and trainers. If there is a shared neutral local to the area that support is needed, it will be provided to you at no cost. If a Shared Neutral will need to travel to provide support, travel costs are paid by the requesting agency. Shared Neutrals have an agreement with their supervisors for how many days they can commit to providing support during the fiscal year, so your facilitator may have some limitations with their availability.

How do I get in contact?

Contact your agency's headquarters alternative dispute resolution (ADR) program office. They will be able to help you navigate the process to bring on board a Shared Neutral.



Facilitators can be very useful for meetings with partners. Their time management skills can help keep meetings on track, while identifying and making time for important conversations that may not have been part of the original agenda.

U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution

What it is?

The U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution (Udall Foundation), is an independent executive branch agency that provides support with resolving environmental, public lands, and natural resources conflicts nationwide that involve federal agencies or interests. The Institute provides the following services: 1) mediation/facilitation through the use of their staff, or 2) mediation/facilitation support through a person(s) on their roster of environmental conflict resolution professionals, and/or their native dispute resolution network, 3) training on conflict resolution associated with environmental topics.

How do I get in contact?

Contact your agency's headquarters alternative dispute resolution (ADR) program office. They may have a person that works with the Institute that they can get you in contact with. Also, you can use the contact information on the following website: <https://www.udall.gov/AboutUs/ContactUs.aspx>.

Books and Other Resources

Getting to Yes, by Roger Fisher & William Ury

Making Collaboration Work: Lessons from Innovation in Natural Resources Management, by Julia M. Wondolleck & Steven L. Yaffee.

Training

Environmental Protection Agency - Conflict Prevention and Resolution Center

Provides training to Environmental Protection Agency employees

<https://www.epa.gov/adr/alternative-dispute-resolution-training-epa-staff>

Department of Interior - Office of Collaborative Action and Dispute Resolution

Provides training to Department of Interior employees

<https://www.doi.gov/pmb/cadr/programs/training>

Partnership and Community Collaboration Academy

Webinars are free for Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife managers, specialists and front line supervisors. You must apply for the program.

<http://www.partnership-academy.net/managingbynetwork/>

U.S. Forest Service - Collaboration and Partnership Training Resources

Training to U.S. Forest Service employees, as well as free online training resources to non-employees)

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/prc/tools-techniques/collaboration/?cid=STELPRDB5408799>

U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution

In person training opportunities

<https://www.udall.gov/OurPrograms/Institute/OpenTrainings.aspx>