



PERSONAL CONNECTIONS WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEADERS



J. Steven Glass, Board Chair
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Key to Ciudad SWCD success

- Complex, diverse, competitive constituencies
- Personal connections are necessary to avoid getting lost in the shuffle
- Connections cultivated and maintained by Supervisors over years in public service
- Local entities important for personal connections
 - County governments
 - Municipal governments (cities, towns, villages)
 - Special districts (flood control, irrigation, water utility)
 - Intergovernmental collaborations: ***Specific focus offers best opportunities for communication and new personal connections***



Intergovernmental Collaboration

- Middle Rio Grande MS4 Stakeholders
 - 19 cities, towns, villages, counties, flood control authorities and tribes
 - Primary partnering area: Federal pilot watershed-based storm water permit issuance
 - *Ciudad SWCD provided grant-funded professional facilitation services in permit negotiations with USEPA*

Successful



Intergovernmental Collaboration

- Middle Rio Grande Stormwater Quality Team
 - 10 local stormwater agencies (cities, villages, counties, flood control authorities)
 - Primary partnering area: Federal stormwater permit public education compliance support
 - *Ciudad SWCD provides reportable public education and collaborative grant writing support*
 - *MRGSQT funds elementary school watershed health education program*

Successful



Intergovernmental Collaboration

- Mid Region Council of Governments
 - Water Resources Board: 19 regional agencies (cities, towns, villages, counties, irrigation district)
 - Primary partnering areas: Water quantity planning, watershed health
 - *Ciudad SWCD joined WRB in 20 14; Two other SWCDs followed*
 - *SWCDs participated in updating the local Regional Water Plan*
 - *Ciudad SWCD representative elected WRB Chair in 20 16*

Successful



MID-REGION
Council of Governments
OF NEW MEXICO

Bernalillo County



- Primary partnering areas
 - Upland forest health (WUI)
 - Watershed restoration (WUI)
 - Federal stormwater permit compliance support
 - *Greenprint* low impact development master planning initiative
- Unique funding relationship
 - ***1% of 20 14 Open Space mil levy earmarked for SWCD to support County cooperative programs***
 - County Commission side-stepped issue, but County staff implemented funding

Successful

Bernalillo County



- Personal contacts: A mixed bag
 - District 1 Commissioner (rural): Supports partnering and SWCD funding
 - District 2 Commissioner (rural): Supports partnering, advocated for tax set-aside to support SWCD
 - District 3 Commissioner (urban): Noncommittal
 - District 5 Commissioner (WUI): Supports partnering, but opposes SWCD funds from County
 - Water Resources Program Manager: Supports partnering for stormwater permit compliance
 - Open Space Program Manager: Supports partnering for watershed improvement, upland forest health, urban LID master planning

Successful

City/ County Water Authority



- Strong partnering potential
 - Initiated Rio Grande potable water treatment in 2008: Urban runoff impacts
 - Watershed health, water quality and quantity, local ag, public education support ABCWUA mission
- Personal contacts: A challenge
 - Executive Director: *Opposes SWCD messaging* about river contamination from urban runoff
 - Operations Manager: Cites storm water as possible future water source, *opposes messaging about future water shortages*
 - Solids Management Superintendent: Supports markets for composted biosolids, but *stymied by utility policies*

Unsuccessful



Lessons Learned

- Personal connections with local officials are crucial to continued SWCD recognition and success
- Local officials respond best to SWCD collaborations that support their agency's goals
- Personal connections must be cultivated and maintained through regular contacts over the long term
- Intergovernmental collaboratives can be good sources for developing personal connections
- Not all connections will be productive at first – persevere!

