

Engaging your Board

OWEB 10th Biennial Conference

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Presented by:
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Introductions

- Dianna Smiley, SOLV
- Dedee Wilner Nugent, The Collins Group

What we hope to accomplish today

Tell us:

- Your organization & your role
- For what purpose(s) do you want to engage your board?
- What results are you looking for from today's presentation?

Setting expectations

- Why a written job description is important
- Review DOJ booklet for basic board responsibilities
- Other important responsibilities of the board:
 - Fundraising
 - Committee leadership
 - CEO management
 - Volunteer recruitment/outreach

Activity

- Take 3 minutes to write down some specific things you wish to include in your own board job description

Developing Your Board

- The stages of board development

Activity

- Show of hands for the stage each board is at in the room

Tips for getting to the next stage

- ID a more mature organization as a role model, invite ED and board chair to speak to your board
- Develop an organizational structure that you aspire to with written job descriptions
- Put volunteer recruitment into your annual work plan, with a goal of recruiting several new working committees within 1-2 years

Recruitment

- Your criteria: Critical skills vs. representative constituencies
- Where to find great new board members
- How to identify and cultivate them ahead of the time you need them

Activity

- Take 3 minutes to write down some of the critical skills your board needs to recruit for (either at board or committee level)

Dynamic Meetings

- Why well planned agendas are important to board development
- Information, action, input: advanced agreements on delineation of decision making responsibility
- Goal: 80% of time spent in generative discussions
- If a work session needs to be part of the agenda, put it at the end

Dynamic Meetings

- Mission Moment: take time in every board meeting to feature a program element, success story, testimonial from a satisfied client, recent news coverage documenting impact in the community, etc.

Dynamic Meetings

- Recognition moment: take time in every meeting to recognize a volunteer, partner, old or potential new board member, etc. for the role they played

Resources

- Network of Watershed Councils' new training director
- BoardSource (national)
- TACS (statewide)
- Independent Sector (national)
