

The U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution National Environmental Conflict Resolution Advisory Committee

OVERVIEW

The U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution of the Morris K. Udall Foundation has created a federal advisory committee to provide advice regarding future program directions for the U.S. Institute, including: its role in implementing section 101 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4331); identification of critical environmental, natural resources, and public lands issues; opportunities to further the use of collaborative processes; areas in which conflict resolution services are needed; new directions in the field of conflict resolution; and evaluation of services and programs.

Members of the committee, appointed by the director of the U.S. Institute, Kirk Emerson, serve a two-year term and may be reappointed to a second term. Members were selected to provide a balanced cross-section of viewpoints concerning environmental issues and the field of environmental conflict resolution. Accordingly, members currently have affiliations with, among others, environmental advocacy groups, resource users, affected communities, state and local governments, tribes, federal environmental and resource management agencies, the conflict resolution and legal communities, and academic institutions.

Thomas Jensen, of Troutman Sanders in Washington DC is the committee chair and Dinah Bear, General Counsel for the Council on Environmental Quality in the Executive Office of the President is the vice-chair.

The advisory committee has three subcommittees:

NEPA Section 101 Subcommittee:

The NEPA Section 101 subcommittee is examining the common principles between ECR and NEPA Section 101. The subcommittee is also discussing whether ECR helps achieve aspects of the goals laid out in Section 101, directly or indirectly, and is developing a protocol for case studies to explore this topic more thoroughly. This subcommittee is chaired by Lynn Scarlett, Assistant Secretary of Policy, Management and Budget, of the U.S. Department of Interior, and Don Barry, Executive Vice President and General Counsel of the Wilderness Society.

Best Practices Subcommittee:

The Best Practices Subcommittee is working to offer a three-part guide to assist agency employees in planning for public participation for their NEPA analyses. It is hoped that this guide will help provide confidence to agency employees who have not yet tried applying ECR techniques, and increase the rates of success for those who are already experimenting in this arena. In addition, this subcommittee is exploring the potential for the Institute to develop and coordinate interagency training on collaboration and conflict resolution. This subcommittee is also assisting the other two subcommittees when matters pertaining to best practices arise. The co-chairs of this committee are Chris Carlson, Director of the Policy Consensus Initiative, and Governor Michael Sullivan of Rothgerber, Johnson & Lyons, L.L.P.

Affected Communities Subcommittee:

The Affected Communities Subcommittee is working to address methods for effectively engaging affected communities in collaborative processes and dispute resolution. This subcommittee is examining barriers and challenges to participation in these processes and making recommendations to the Institute on how to approach these issues as they arise in both urban and rural settings. The co-chairs are Larry Charles, Executive Director of ONE/CHANE in Hartford, CT, and Stan Flitner, Owner and Operator of the Diamond Tail Ranch in Wyoming.

As documents are produced and approved by the committee and subcommittees they will be posted on the advisory committee's website at <http://www.ecr.gov/necrac/index.html>.

Committee Members:

Don Barry - The Wilderness Society
Dinah Bear- Council on Environmental Quality, Executive Office of the President
Gail Bingham- RESOLVE, Inc.
Brent Blackwelder - Friends of the Earth
Lori Brogoitti - Oregon Wheat Growers' League
Hooper Brooks - Surdna Foundation
Christine Carlson- Policy Consensus Initiative (PCI)
Larry Charles, Sr.- ONE/CHANE
Sally Collins - USDA Forest Service
Placido Dos Santos, Jr. - Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
Raymond DuBois, Jr. - U.S. Department of Defense
John Ehrmann - Meridian Institute
Dwight H. Evans - Southern Company
Stan Flitner - Diamond Tail Ranch
Gary Gallegos - San Diego Association of Governments
Harry Grant - Riddell Williams, P.S.
Thomas C. Jensen - Troutman Sanders, L.L.P.
Bruce Meyerson - Bruce Meyerson P.L.L.C.
Pauline Milius - U.S. Department of Justice, Environment &
Anne Miller - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Mary Peters - Federal Highway Administration
John Raidt - Consultant
P. Lynn Scarlett - U.S. Department of the Interior
Mark Schaefer - NatureServe
Greg Schildwachter - Environment and Public Works Committee- Water, Fisheries & Wildlife Subcommittee
James Souby - Western Governors' Association
Dean Suagee - Hobbs, Straus, Dean & Walker LLP
Michael Sullivan - Rothgerber, Johnson & Lyons, L.L.P.
Terry Williams - Tulalip Tribes of Washington

Surrogate Members:

Cynthia Burbank (for Mary Peters) - Federal Highway Administration
Julia Riber (for Sally Collins) – USDA Forest Service
John Paul Woodley (for Raymond DuBois) - U.S. Department of Defense

Subcommittee Members:

Don Edwards - Justice & Sustainability Associates, LLC
Lynn Jungwirth - Watershed Research and Training Center

Meeting Notice:

The National Environmental Conflict Resolution (ECR) Advisory Committee, of the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution, will conduct its third meeting on Tuesday and Wednesday November 12-13, 2003, at the Westward Look Resort in Tucson, Arizona. The meeting is open to the public. A federal register notice will be issued in mid-October.

For further information about the advisory committee and future meetings, please contact Tina Gargus at gargus@ecr.gov or 520-670-5299.