

Lake Associations – What Are They?

Organizations of community members contributing to the preservation of lakes through:

- Volunteerism
- Financial investments
- Education

Lake Associations in Minnesota

- Estimated 500+ across the state, over 100K estimated membership statewide.
- One of the largest volunteer bodies in MN.

However,

- Most of work goes unnoticed.
- Historic lack of communication between them, the public, and policy makers.

Some Results from the Concordia College Study:

- Lake Associations have median annual budget of \$12,500 - \$6.25 Million in direct lake contributions,
- About \$400K annually for fish stocking,
- Lake Associations contribute about 1.2 million volunteer hours annually.

Collaborations

Ranked Order of Top 7 Organizations Worked With

- 1) DNR
- 2) County Government Units (County Commissioner, Emergency Management).
- 3) Soil Watershed Districts
- 4) Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates
- 5) Law Enforcement (Sheriff, Police)
- 6) City Government Units
- 7) Other State Governmental Units

Concerns with the DNR

“The Association and its membership have really stepped up to the AIS threat that we have for the other lakes. However, DNR continues to get in the way of providing help and guidance. We need active support from the legislature to fix the DNR. Protecting the natural resources should be the main goal of DNR rather than access.”

Concerns with Insufficient Support

“MN lakes are public waters and too much responsibility is shouldered by lake homeowners to attempt to adequately protect the lake's natural ecosystem. Even with more authority there would be insufficient volunteer hours to manage the granted authorities and lack of expertise to properly manage the project(s).”

Power Analysis – Resource Managers

Current State



Ideal State

- Lack of time, resources to get work done
 - Controversy
 - Working in Politically charged organization
 - Siloed efforts
- Partnerships
 - Public Support
 - Broad Constituency
 - Coordination and Communication between agencies/departments and institutions

Power Analysis – Associations

Current State



Ideal State

- Lack of time, resources to get work done
- Mounting problems
- Political power/No authority
- Bear costs of degraded lakes and management
- Lack of expertise

Partnerships

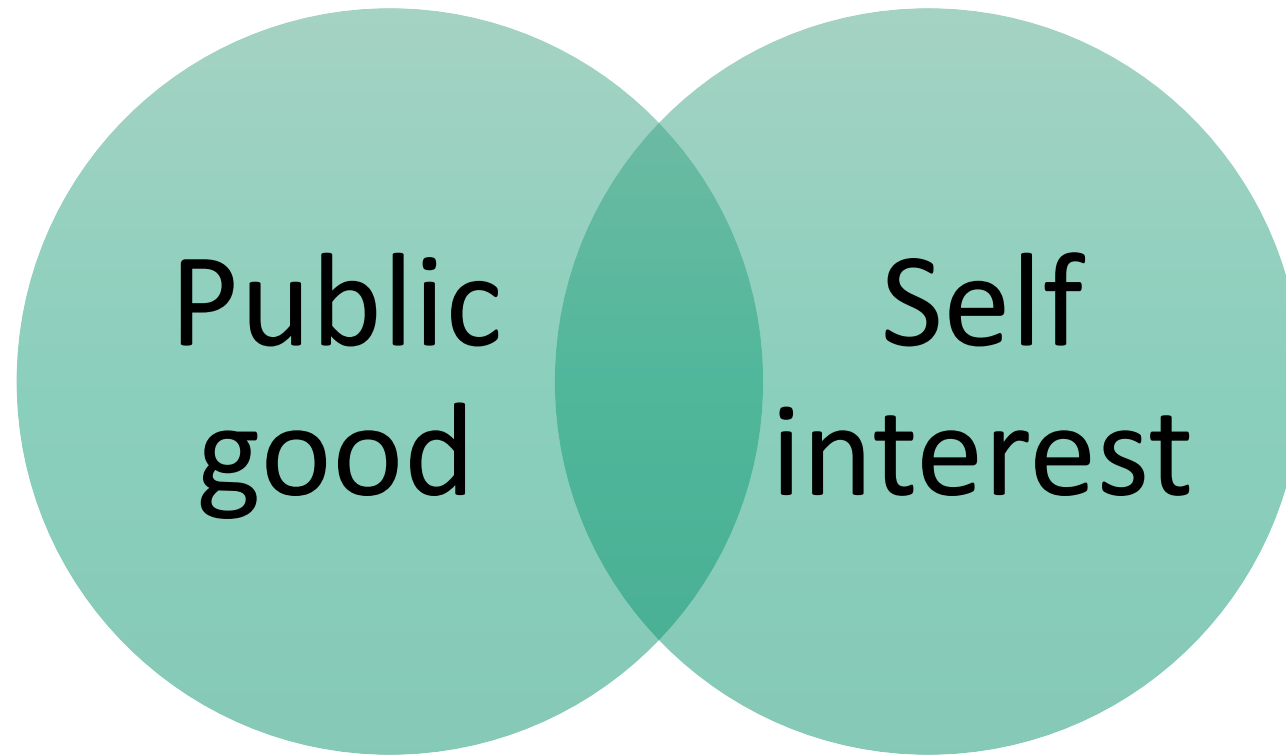
Progress achieving goals

Authority

Share costs/ liability

Capacity/training

Area Where Public Policy Is Made



Civic Governance Pilot Project

Purpose: Develop the civic imagination, leadership, and infrastructure needed to organize sustainable partnerships between government and community with the capacity to address complex public policy issues.

- **Civic:** The work of citizens. “Civic” is a qualifier that indicates that our work is framed in the tension between democratic principles and develops the capacity of the *populous* to govern for the good of the whole within that tension.
- **Govern:** To rule over by right of authority; to exercise a directing or restraining influence over; to guide; to define problems, contribute to solutions and act as a policy maker.
- **Policy:** Principled course of action. Policies provide a compass for governance; they are the result of taking bearing and setting direction. They provide the basis for rewards and sanctions. Policies require continual evaluation and feedback. Individuals and institutions have policies.
- **Agenda:** Plan for action. “We believe in this principled course of action (policy) and therefore we will do x, y and z (agenda).”

Civic Standards guide all decision-making

- All those impacted by the problem are stakeholders and help define the problem in light of civic principles and the realities of their situation.
- All stakeholders are accountable for contributing resources (leadership/time, knowledge, constituencies & dollars) to solve the problem.
- All stakeholders are engaged in decision-making and policy-making that contributes to the common good. (Civic leaders take primary responsibility to organize transparency and accountability in the process of governance.)
- All stakeholders implement policies grounded in civic principles in the places where they have the authority to act.

Working towards the ideal state

- Defines problems and jointly contributes resources for the public good - more work gets done.
- Builds civic infrastructure, improves trust, develops broad cross sector base.
- Organizes community support for work early, before it happens.
- Builds community support for water preservation/restoration efforts.
- Fills gaps between siloed departments, agencies, organizations, and public and organizes effort and resources between them.
- Provides way to hold partners accountable and manage tension between public good and self interest – manages controversy.

Thank You!



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