

Conservation Leadership Workshop: Exploring Ideas for Increasing Impact

Post Workshop Summary and Next Steps

9 March 2007

This two-hour workshop explored a set of “adaptive leadership” principles and how they can help individuals and organizations more effectively address conservation challenges. Over 20 people participated, representing natural resource agencies, non-profits, and academia. Jim Manolis (Minnesota DNR) began by presenting a brief primer on “Adaptive Leadership” principles drawn from the pioneering work of Ronald Heifetz and colleagues (see attached powerpoint and references therein). Following this, participants split into small groups and engaged in lively discussion reflecting on each of the leadership principles. Then, Brian Stenquist (Minnesota DNR) facilitated a larger-group discussion that drew out key observations from the small group discussions. Finally, a small panel of “wise integrators” offered their reflections and comments on the topic (Kristen Nelson, social scientist, University of Minnesota; Katie Fernholz, Executive Director of Dovetail Partners; Keith Wendt, Manager of MNDNR’s Policy, Research, and Planning unit). Overall, there was a spirit of deep thinking and personal searching, and many participants commented that the material and discussions were thought provoking and useful. **Next Steps:** Jim and Brian will initiate a similar session for those who missed it, along with a series of readings and discussions for those who would like to delve more deeply into the topic. We will focus on applying the leadership principles to specific conservation challenges in Minnesota.