



THE PARK CITY VISION: *A nation as good as we can ecologically be!*

REPORT FROM THE 2006 MSWG WORKSHOP

Inspired by the quality growth strategy Envision Utah © and challenged by the Intermountain West's energy-environment nexus, MSWG's June 26-28, 2006 Park City, UT workshop produced three policy pillars for "*A nation as good as we can ecologically be!*"

Presentations, discussion, networking and tours inspired legal pillars that will support a new American ecological vision that's anchored in our historic sense of community, volunteerism and determination to do better. These pillars will be reflected in law that will bring out our best:

Differentiate Good Performers that are good citizens that exceed requirements to address environmental and ecological needs beyond their strict legal duty;

Protect Good Samaritans that voluntarily improve and restore the environment alone or in partnership with others;

Reward Good Risks that produce environmental and ecological results for the community and demonstrate good governance in the free enterprise system.

The Park City Vision of "*A nation as good as we can ecologically be!*" is the product of the first stop on MSWG's Path to Washington that seeks to "establish an environmental law that supports innovation and performance." The Path is MSWG's strategic direction that was prompted, in part, by a 2005 dialogue at Harvard University that identified hard-edged law, politics and culture as diminishing America's sense of community and ability to achieve its full environmental and ecological potential.

The Park City Vision embodies the spirit of "Enlibra," a philosophy of community that moves beyond "us and them" to a "we" and achieving together what we cannot do alone. At the 2005 Michigan workshop, Prof. Sallyanne Payton planted the vision's seeds when she told MSWG to move the environmental dialogue beyond "the isms." This year, the vision and pillars emerged from four plenary and 40 breakout sessions on the key regional topics of energy, water and land, as well as climate, forestry, manufacturing and Envision Utah's © collaborative strategy.

These are the messages from Park City:

- The legal framework on minimum standards should remain and be enforced;
- A complementary legal framework is needed for regulated entities that go beyond the minimum;
- Some un-regulated entities also want to help and can be more formally engaged;

- Many environmental and ecological goals will not be met by regulations alone and somehow we need to reach beyond government to do the job;
- America's volunteer spirit described by Alexis de Tocqueville in 1835 is alive in theory but needs clear signals in law, politics and culture to unleash its real potential.

The next major step on The Path to Washington is in September when MSWG's Directors and Policy Academy Regents meet to review work plans and the Park City Vision. Many projects are still concepts but these will get prompt attention: The first is with the Environmental Council of States and is headed by David Paylor, Virginia environmental director. The project will **document the results of performance-based programs**. The second, from MSWG's Ecological Innovation and Integration Committee, chaired by Bob Donaghue of the Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources will produce **case studies** in industrial ecology, land restoration and ecological thinking and action. The third is the Adam Smith-Rachel Carson project that will **explore links among business governance, risk and environmental performance**. The fourth will be a law school project to **explore the ecological Good Samaritan concept**.

Several announcements were made in Park City. Internship Committee Chair, Prof. Nicole Darnall from George Mason University announced a collaborative governance and sustainable business practices **internship program** to serve all sectors. Boris Krasnopolski, deputy director of the Russian Academy of Sciences, proposed a **MSWG partnership with the Russian Academy** in research and education on energy, minerals, forests and sustainability in eastern Russia. Scholars, coordinated through Prof. Neil Gunningham from the Australian National University, agreed to form an international **network on collaborative environmental governance**. Rick Otis, Deputy Associate Administrator of the EPA Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, supported MSWG's strategic direction, saying America needs to accelerate the pace of environmental protection while remaining competitive. He said MSWG is a great forum for discussing issues that will shape the next generation of environmental law.

Two new committees will be created because of Park City. Each will support education and dialogue for The Path to Washington. The **Business, Energy and Environment Committee** will focus on energy efficiency, technology and markets. The **Public Health, Environment and Sustainable Community Committee** will focus on the nexus of community health, environmental protection and economic sustainability.

Park City presentations will be found at www.mswg.org. Thanks to the Utah Dept. of Environmental Quality and Intermountain Section of the American Waterworks Association, sponsors, presenters, volunteers and attendees for making the workshop a success.

June 17-21, 2007 in Madison, WI is the second workshop on The Path. The theme is "**America Leapfrogged?**" and it seeks worldwide ideas to develop the Park City Vision and pillars. Contact Jeff Smoller: Jeffrey.Smoller@dnr.state.wi.us. Meeting rooms are available at no charge for associated meetings. Topics already include: innovative environmental governance; product stewardship; green infrastructure; scholars' network; health and communities; business and energy efficiency; water infrastructure; Scandinavian forestry; creating a young leaders' network. MSWG needs volunteers and financial support for the workshop and The Path.