



“A voice for ecological innovation and integration”

2006-2008 Strategic Theme

Over the next two years, MSWG will explore how new laws and policies can better align the legal system with the natural system to foster greater environmental performance through innovation and stewardship.

Current environmental laws will be the foundation of our efforts and we will build on their achievements. We will make the case for an ecological vision that goes further than the status quo by:

- Describing, clearly and simply how advanced ecological thinking is important to effective environmental protection and restoration laws and policies;
- Documenting specific actions by businesses, governments and citizens that produce greater environmental results than the minimum required or expected;
- Describing the importance of those examples;
- Providing practical ideas on how those specific examples can help us create better local, state and national laws and policies.

Background: Environmental regulations have significantly reduced pollution over the past 35 years. But new environmental challenges and a global economy that are different than 35 years ago are straining them. MSWG will explore a closer integration of environmental law with natural law because of the significant challenges we face and the need to reacquaint us with the importance of natural cycles and systems. Although current environmental laws do not consider long-term sustainability, we will explore ways to integrate that concept into our legal structure. This effort will honor the MSWG practice of collaboration and cooperation across all sectors.

The Strategic Themes and Direction Committee is responsible for this strategic theme, using MSWG's network, tools, activities and projects. It will determine the timing and nature of its products, sharing information throughout. It also will issue a report by January 2009 to inform officials and the public. The chair is Bob Donaghue, director, Pollution Prevention Assistance Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Contact: Bob_Donaghue@p2ad.org or 404.651.5120

November 7, 2005

Jeff Smoller, President
PO Box 7921

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Madison, WI 53707 Phone: 608-266-2747

jeffrey.smoller@dnr.state.wi.us
Fax: 608-266-6983

Draft 4.0
MSWG 2006-08 themes 11.05.02.doc