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Takeaways
MSWG Path to Washington
Austin, Texas Dialogue
May 6, 2008

- The next generation of environmental law needs to systematically foster partnerships because the problems are too great for any one stakeholder. Trade associations can be leveraged to assist.
- Local control with federal and state review of results is the correct way to go in most instances, not the reverse. There must be accountability.
- Local citizens know how to get things done. The system needs to give more than lip-service to local ownership and public input.
- Next generation policies and tools like GIS must support people who want to “connect the dots” for sustainability. The current system is in denial of complexity and a barrier to integrated solutions.
- The air planning process is an obstacle to addressing the most dangerous community health risks and diverts scarce resources to lesser risks.
- A revolution like the 1970s should give responsibility to the people on issues like sustainability, community health, water availability, energy and equity than the government. They need the room and protection to experiment. Small scale solutions are important and a pilot project system involving universities as honest evaluators is critically needed.
- Regulatory compliance monitoring using technology and transparency makes more sense than paper-shuffling. Then use government inspectors where the risks are the greatest and performance the worst.

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