

RTOC Strategic Planning Webinar

Thursday, April 18, 2013

Dial-In Number: (866) 299-3188

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Strategic Planning

- Strategic Planning is a process by which we can envision the future and develop the necessary procedures and operations to influence and achieve that future. ~Clark Crouch
- If you don't know where you are going, you will wind up somewhere else. ~Yogi Bera

Good Strategic Plans

- Are Flexible
- Can respond to internal and external changes
- Do not replace more comprehensive work plans
- Identify Goals and Priorities that are linked to values that are measurable, specific, targeted and time sensitive
- Are living documents and can be revised as it becomes apparent
- Are used as a management tool (only if they have a long term focus)

Strategic Planning Framework

Strategic Visioning Process Diagram developed by the Grove, San Francisco



What's happened so far ~ 2011

- 2011 – RTOC co-chair announces RTOC strategic plan development
- Spring 2011 – Began strategic conversations
- Summer and fall 2011 – Worked on identifying “focus areas” and drafting document

What's happened so far ~ 2012

- Winter 2012 – Shared work with entire RTOC (Tribes and EPA)
- August 2012 – Strategic Conversations Café at RTOC provided opportunity for everyone to talk together about what has worked, what hasn't and what makes sense for the RTOC to work on next – a “reality check”
- Fall 2012 – Small group worked on summarizing Café conversations into key strategic directions

What's happened so far ~ 2013

- February RTOC 2013 – Shared work with entire RTOC (Tribes and EPA)

Clarifying questions and comments

- What clarifying questions do you have?
- Are there any comments or concerns that people want to raise?

What's Next

- Get general agreement on strategic directions that the RTOC should focus on over the next 1~2 years
- Identify key actions for each strategic direction
- If there are a lot of activities, narrow down and choose the top 2~3 activities that make sense for the RTOC to focus on.
- Get general agreement on the key activities

What's Next

- Submit final draft plan for approval by RTOC
- Identify and agree on a schedule that RTOC can use to review our strategic activities and identify what we should do in subsequent years

Strategic Planning for RTOC

- We have consciously tried to include many opportunities for the entire RTOC to have strategic conversations together (which can take longer)
- We only meet 4x a year and have lots of other work to do

Strategic Planning for RTOC

- We have spent some time defining/clarifying the differences between work at the following levels:
 - Program
 - Tribe
 - Caucus
 - Workgroup
 - Entire RTOC
- We have focused on making the plan inclusive and perfect sometimes forgetting that it is a living document and can be “revised” anytime we think appropriate.

RTOC level work

- Prepares correspondence to EPA HQ on behalf of all tribes
 - National policy changes
 - Budgetary requests
 - Letters of support
- Requests consultation
- Analyzes policy changes
- Provides data to tribes

RTOC Workgroup level

- Develops data to support the work of RTOC
 - Policy changes
 - Budgetary requests
 - Drafting comment letters
 - Briefing Papers
- Gets adequate data to analyze changes to policy, budgets, etc.
- Provides a forum for discussions on niche topics

RTOC Strategic Directions (draft)

- Ensuring Agency Policy reflects Tribal Priorities
- Protecting Program funding from Fiscal Climate
- Partnering with Outside Agencies to leverage resources
- ?

Strategic Directions Feedback

- Are there other possible Strategic Directions to add?
- Are there changes to make to what we have so far?

Strategic Directions (draft)

- Identify key actions that can be taken at the RTOC level to support each strategic direction
 - Focus on those actions that are at the RTOC level, not the workgroup, programmatic or tribal levels

Key Action Suggestions

- Protect core program funding: engage AIEO regarding the new GAP guidance and revised Guidebook; undertake detailed review, make thorough comments, conduct education and outreach activities to R9 tribes and support tribal understanding of and participation in the process.
- Reinvigorate support for the President's proposed tribal multi-media implementation program: we learned at the last RTOC meeting that AIEO decided not to request funding for this program during the most recent budget process. This position is NOT supported by tribes and needs to be overturned.

Key Action Suggestions

- Protect tribal water program funding through budget process and other tasks as needed: including targeted 106 funding to make TAS meaningful; continue to increase or remove the cap on 319 funding; and achieve a tribal set aside for wetlands program funding. This includes tasks to gather information to justify budget requests, such as encouraging/assisting R9 tribes to complete WQ assessments.
- Work to ensure all R9 tribes have access to technical assist for drinking water and wastewater utility operations: identify gaps in coverage/access and identify reasons for those gaps; work with other agencies / TA providers on regional level to address these needs, and undertake other advocacy as necessary.

Key Action Suggestions

- Protect tribal solid waste program funding and ensure agency policy reflects tribal solid waste management and implementation needs: this includes taking the lead on invigorating multi-agency efforts to address tribal solid waste program needs, perhaps through the Infrastructure Task Force using the model employed by the ITF to identify and address drinking water/ wastewater needs; engaging AIEO regarding the GAP guidance and guidebook, as described above; ensuring robust tribal participation in any efforts to revise EPA's performance measures regarding tribal solid waste issues; and any other work that is appropriate or necessary to ensure that EPA's Agency-Wide Plan appropriately addresses tribal program development and needs.

Key Actions Feedback

- Are there other possible Key Actions to add?
- Are there changes to make to what we have so far?

Thanks for Joining Us Today!!!