Environmental Conflict Resolution: Perspectives from Research and Practice

William E. Hall, Ph.D.
Conflict Resolution Program, Georgetown University

Water, Conflict, and Cooperation: Practical Concerns for Water Development Projects

Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

January 6, 2010
Questions about ECR

- When is a situation ripe for ECR?
- What is the goal of an ECR process?
- What gets ECR started?
- What makes ECR work?
- What are the results of ECR?
When is a situation ripe for ECR?
Curle’s Progression of Conflict Model

Figure 4. The Progression of Conflict
What is the goal of ECR?
Public Involvement and ECR Process Options

- **OUTREACH**
  - **Purpose:** To provide information
  - **PROMISE:** We will keep you informed

- **INFORMATION EXCHANGE**
  - **Purpose:** To provide & exchange data, opinions and options
  - **PROMISE:** We will listen, acknowledge your concerns & aspirations, & provide feedback on how your input influenced our decision

- **RECOMMENDATIONS**
  - **Purpose:** To obtain useful & influential advice or comments
  - **PROMISE:** We will take your advise or comments into account when making a decision

- **AGREEMENTS**
  - **Purpose:** To reach workable agreement or settlement
  - **PROMISE:** We will work in good faith to reach an understanding that we all can support & we will implement it as agreed

- **STAKEHOLDER ACTION**
  - **Purpose:** To empower Stakeholders to take action
  - **PROMISE:** We will support your decision & assist in your implementation of it

---

**Consensus Processes**

Adapted from the International Association for Public Participation (2007)
What gets ECR started?
Turning Points Framework*

Source: Hall (2008)

*adapted from Druckman (2001, 2004) and Laue (1987)
First and Last Turning Points

First Turning Point: Consideration/Beginning of Negotiation

- **Precipitant:** Procedural (\(\_\)/External
- **Turning Point:** More Abrupt
- **Consequence:** Procedural/Toward Agreement

Last Turning Point: Final Agreement/End of Negotiation

- **Precipitant:** Substantive/Internal
- **Turning Point:** More Abrupt
- **Consequence:** Substantive/Toward Agreement

Source: Hall (2008)
What makes ECR work?
Case Context
- Willingness to collaborate
- Number of participants
- Degree of case difficulty

ECR deemed appropriate

Appropriate parties engaged

Parties have time, skills and resources to engage

Participants effectively engaged

Agreement is reached

Agreement is of high quality

Working relationships improve

Appropriate mediator / Skills and practices add value

Relevant high quality trusted information integrated

Source: Emerson, Orr, Keyes, and McKnight (2009)
What are the results of ECR?
Fish and water effects include several elements:
- Habitat
- Passage
- Water quality and flow

Source: Hall, Goodwin, and Rowe (2008)
## Value of Additional Fish From Using ECR Processes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Steelhead Trout</td>
<td>$72</td>
<td>$3.96</td>
<td>$1.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Chinook</td>
<td>$104</td>
<td>$8.32</td>
<td>$1.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Chinook</td>
<td>$104</td>
<td>$12.48</td>
<td>$4.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coho</td>
<td>$104</td>
<td>$6.24</td>
<td>$62.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$104</td>
<td>$31.00</td>
<td>$70.72</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Rowe and Hall (2006)
ECR Process Achieved Better Environmental Results (EPA Water Cases)

Source: Hall, Goodwin, and Rowe (2008)
Less Time To Reach And Implement A Decision (EPA ECR Cases)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Change in hours per week</th>
<th>Superfund</th>
<th>Permitting</th>
<th>Enforcement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of weeks over which savings occur</td>
<td>-27</td>
<td>-56</td>
<td>-41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated hours saved per week</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated value of time saved</td>
<td>-2106</td>
<td>-728</td>
<td>-533</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>($133,731)</td>
<td>($46,228)</td>
<td>($33,846)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Hall, Goodwin, and Rowe (2008)
Closing Remarks
References


Contact Information

William E. Hall, Ph.D.
Adjunct Assistant Professor
Conflict Resolution Program
Department of Government
Georgetown University
weh27@georgetown.edu