

Rethinking Community Development *A Grassroots Approach*

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Project Outline

Background

Methods

Results/Relevance

Lessons Learned

What's next?



Background



Deliberative Democracy Exchange

- Initiatives for Democratic Practices: *Creating Spaces for Deliberative Public Life*
- 18-month training



Public Deliberation

- National Issues Forum Institute
- Common Ground for Action

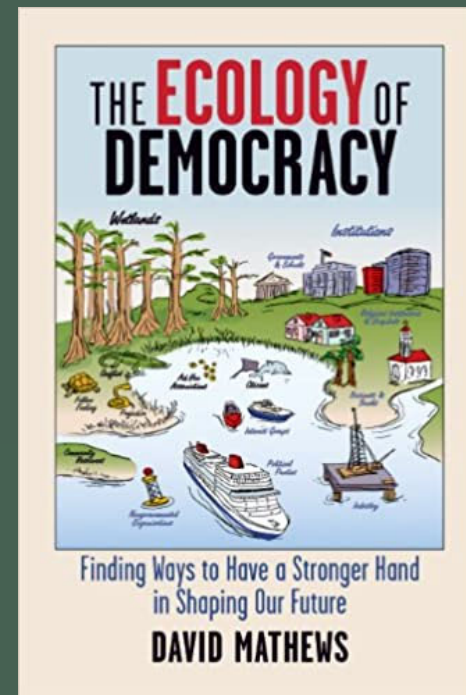


Statewide UF/IFAS Extension

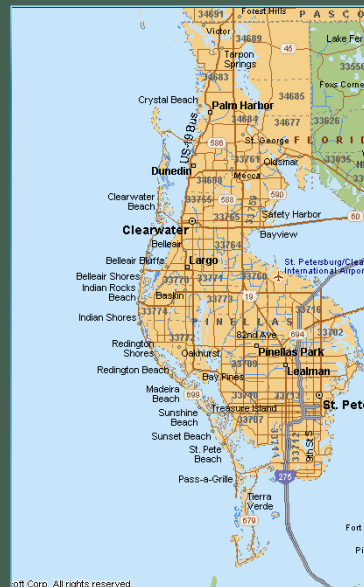
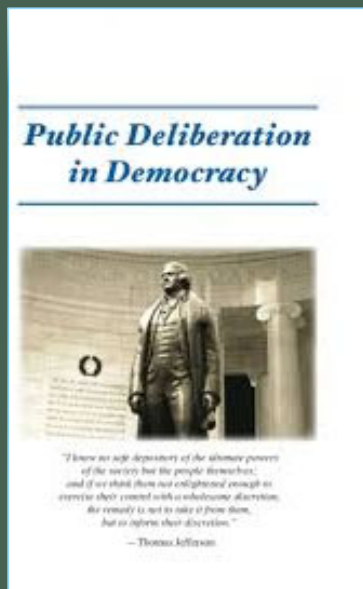
- National with local focus
- Discussion Guides

Initiatives for Democratic Practices: Creating Spaces for Deliberative Public Life

- Cohort participants include universities, community colleges, public libraries, non-profit organizations
- Leadership includes Kettering researchers and National Issues Forum leaders



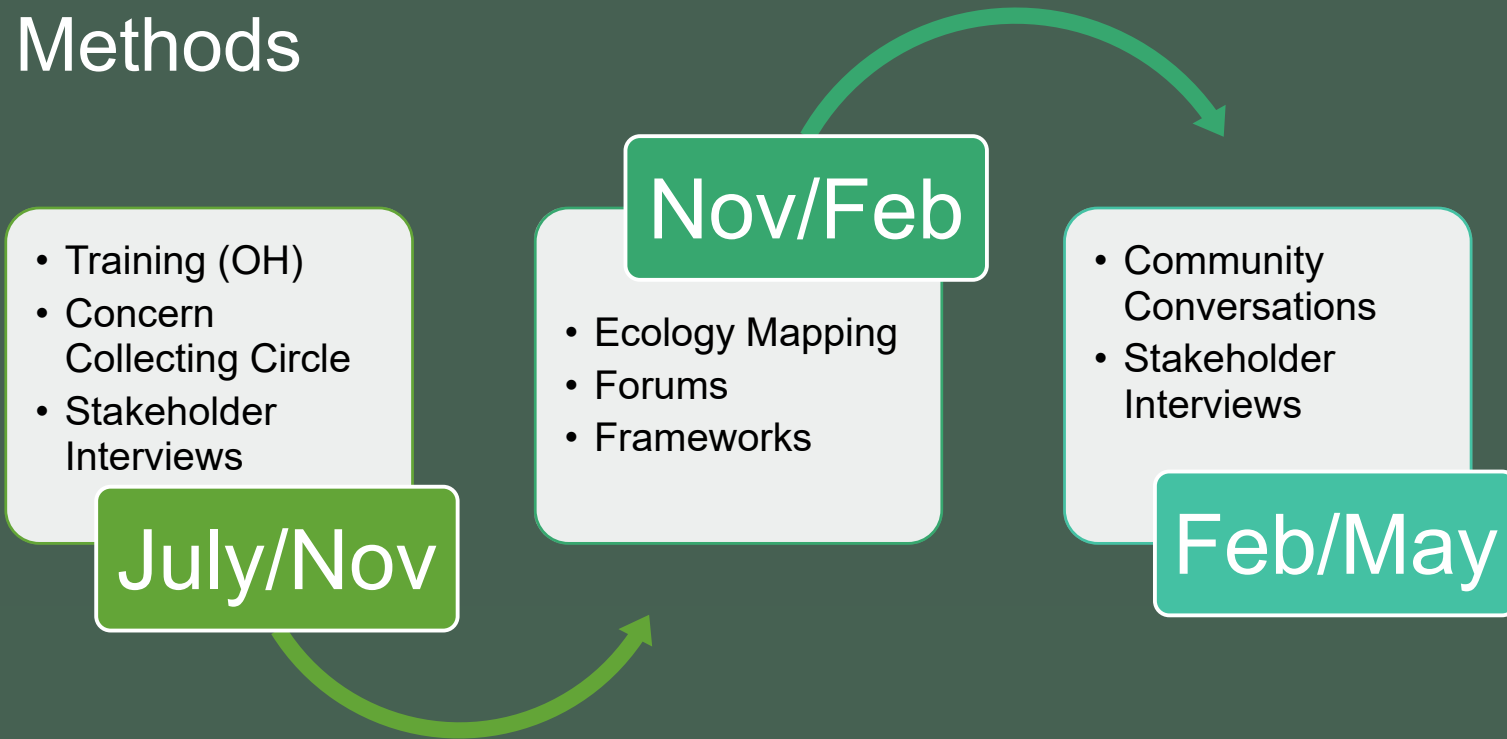
Background – *Project Location*



- Coastal County
- 6th most Populous
 - 975,000 Residents
 - Seasonal Residents
- 24 Different Municipalities
 - Clearwater

DEMOCRATIC LIVING IS NOT A STATION AT WHICH PEOPLE ARRIVE; IT IS A METHOD OF TRAVELING.
Clyde Campbell, President Emeritus, West Liberty University

Methods



Concern Collecting Circle - Questions

- What do you value about your community?
- What comes to mind when you hear the word “sustainability”?
- When you think about how well your community will be able to meet its needs in the future what concerns you?
- Some people call this sustainability. How do you think the city can be more engaged to support sustainability?



CHAT BOX: HAVE YOU BEEN THINKING MORE ABOUT RESOURCE USE DURING THE PANDEMIC?

Results/Relevance

Concern Collecting Circle Output

People in this community don't drive.

Sustainability is a planet and people problem

We need to hear from the older folks and the young people. Make them feel important.

My voice doesn't matter... There are no black people on the council.



Results/Relevance - Ecology Map



Naming and Framing

- Covid-19 has negatively impeded our progress towards developing the issue guide
- Will answers to our concern collecting questions change because of Covid-19?
- Is our original plan still valid? Have priorities changed for stakeholders and the city?
- Have values been affected by the pandemic?



ISSUE ADVISORY

Infectious Disease Outbreaks

How Should We Keep Our Communities Safe?

Hundreds of Americans traveling in South and Central America have recently become infected by the Zika virus currently prevalent in many of those countries and spreading rapidly in others. Adding to this worry, the *Aedes aegypti* mosquitos that carry this frightening disease are widespread in the southern and central United States, and are extremely difficult to control.

It is not the first time we have been threatened by “emerging viruses” that have swept across the globe in recent decades, and it will not be the last. Few will forget the looming threat of the Ebola virus in 2014. Zika, once again, raises the concern among many

Americans about how to respond to international outbreaks of potentially deadly diseases for which vaccines are not yet available.

Compared to the United States, many hotspots for emerging viruses have limited public-health infrastructures and often lack modern sanitation systems. But despite our relative strength in these areas, waves of viruses in recent years have left people wondering how we can keep our communities safe from a global pandemic.

This issue advisory presents three options that represent different ways of responding to this concern, along with downsides for each approach.

About This Issue Advisory

This issue advisory is meant to support deliberative forums in communities of all types.

In productive deliberation, people examine the advantages and disadvantages of different options for addressing a difficult public problem, weighing these against the things they hold deeply valuable. Deliberative forums are not always easy. It will be important to remember, and to remind participants, that the objective of these forums is to begin to work through the tension between collective security, a healthy society, and individual freedoms.

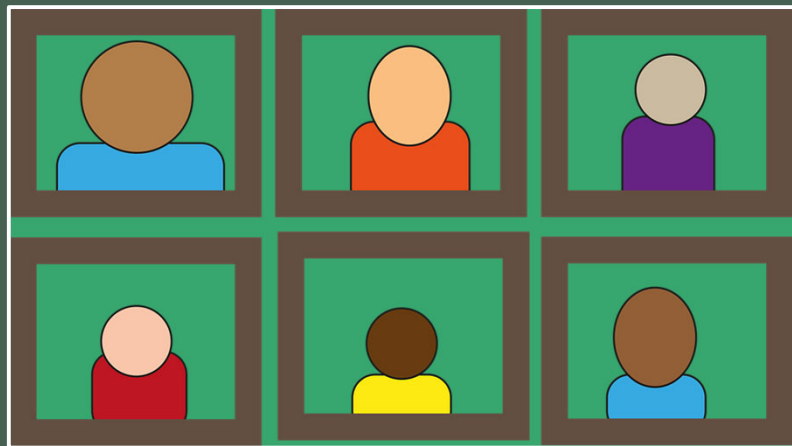
The framework outlined in this issue advisory encompasses several options and provides an alternative means for moving forward in order to avoid polarizing rhetoric. Each option is rooted in a shared concern, proposes a distinct strategy for addressing the problem, and includes roles for citizens to play. Equally important, each option presents the drawbacks inherent in each action. Recognizing these drawbacks allows people to see the trade-offs they must consider in pursuing any action. It is these drawbacks, in large part, that make coming to shared judgment so difficult—but ultimately, so productive.

One way to hold effective deliberative forums on this issue:

- Ask people to describe how the fear (or presence) of infectious diseases, such as Zika, has affected them or their families. Many will have direct experiences to relate. They are likely to mention the concerns identified in the framework.
- Consider the options one at a time, using the actions and drawbacks to illustrate what each option entails. Talk through the drawbacks of each option, as well as the positive aspects.
- Review the conversation as a group, identifying any areas of common ground as well as issues that still must be worked through.

Lessons Learned/Challenges

- Rethinking meetings/forums
- Loss of direct relationships
- Virtual platform
 - Limits access with groups
 - Requires greater management
 - Intentional approaches
 - Is still possible with some adjustments



Value/Replicability in Extension

- Relationship building
 - Strengthen existing
 - New partners in community
 - Value/relevance of Extension
 - Long-term process
- Program Development
 - Local issues
 - Community vitality
 - New Tools

**IT'S ALL ABOUT CONNECTIONS AND VALUE OF DELIBERATIVE
DIALOGUE!**

What's Next?

- More concern collecting: examine how, where possible, if Covid-19 has changed how people respond
- Develop an issue guide based on the values expressed during the concern collecting circles
- Hold virtual forums to test the issue guide
- Hold community forums (if social distancing is no longer required) to address Greenprint
- Report to the city, **community**, and Kettering Foundation

Thank you!

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