

Public Policy Mediation and Consensus Building: A Method for Effectively Engaging the Public

ParteciP.A.

Salone della Democrazia Partecipativa

Modena, Italy

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What Makes for Effective Citizen Engagement?

- Respect
- Trust
- Impact
- Mechanisms to promote and manage:
 - Learning conversations
 - Information sharing
 - Creation of innovative solutions
 - Deliberations concerning imperfect options
 - Decision-making

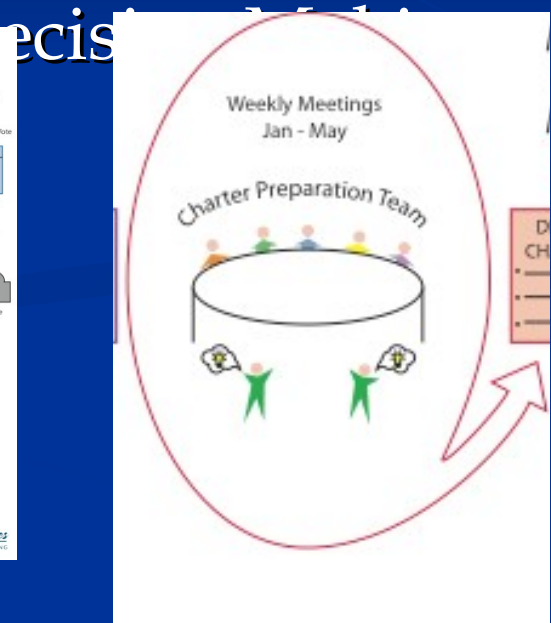
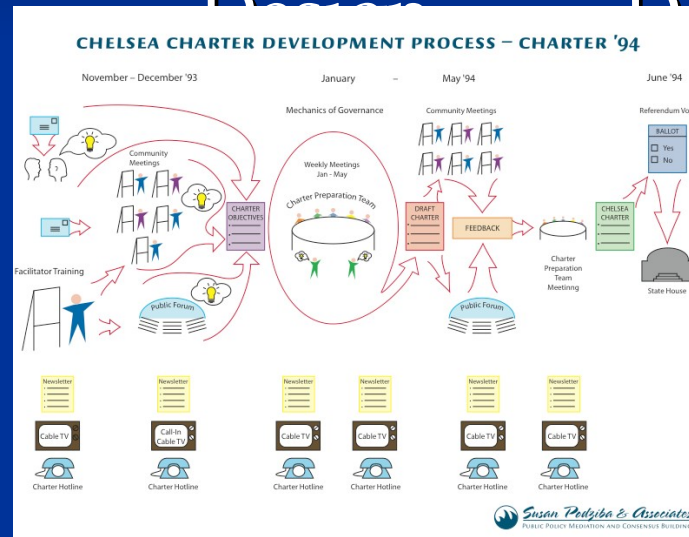
What is public policy mediation?

Process that draws on the collective wisdom of a diverse group of people to reach a common public goal.

Component Parts of Public Policy Mediation

Deliberations

and



Assess the Conflict or Situation

To Determine:

- Overall problem and challenges
- Status quo and its dynamics
- Key stakeholders
- Stakeholder interests
- Scope of issues to be addressed
- Willingness and ability of stakeholders to participate
- Likelihood of success (feasibility)

Design

- What is the overall problem?
- What is the challenge?
- What is the status quo and why must it change?
- Who must participate to ensure successful implementation?
- What entry points for participation may be necessary?
- What information/expertise is needed?

Deliberations and Decision-Making

- Stakeholder representatives discuss issues to develop agreements in concept
- Prepare draft text for review and review.....
- Create and sustain productive norms of communication
- Identify agreements as basis for solution
- Narrow disagreements
- Focus discussions for “March to Closure”
- Frame questions to foster decision making

Three Examples

- Worker Safety Standards for Construction Cranes, U.S. OSHA
- Charter for City of Chelsea, MA
- Casco Bay Estuary Project, Maine

Federal Worker Safety Standards for Construction Cranes

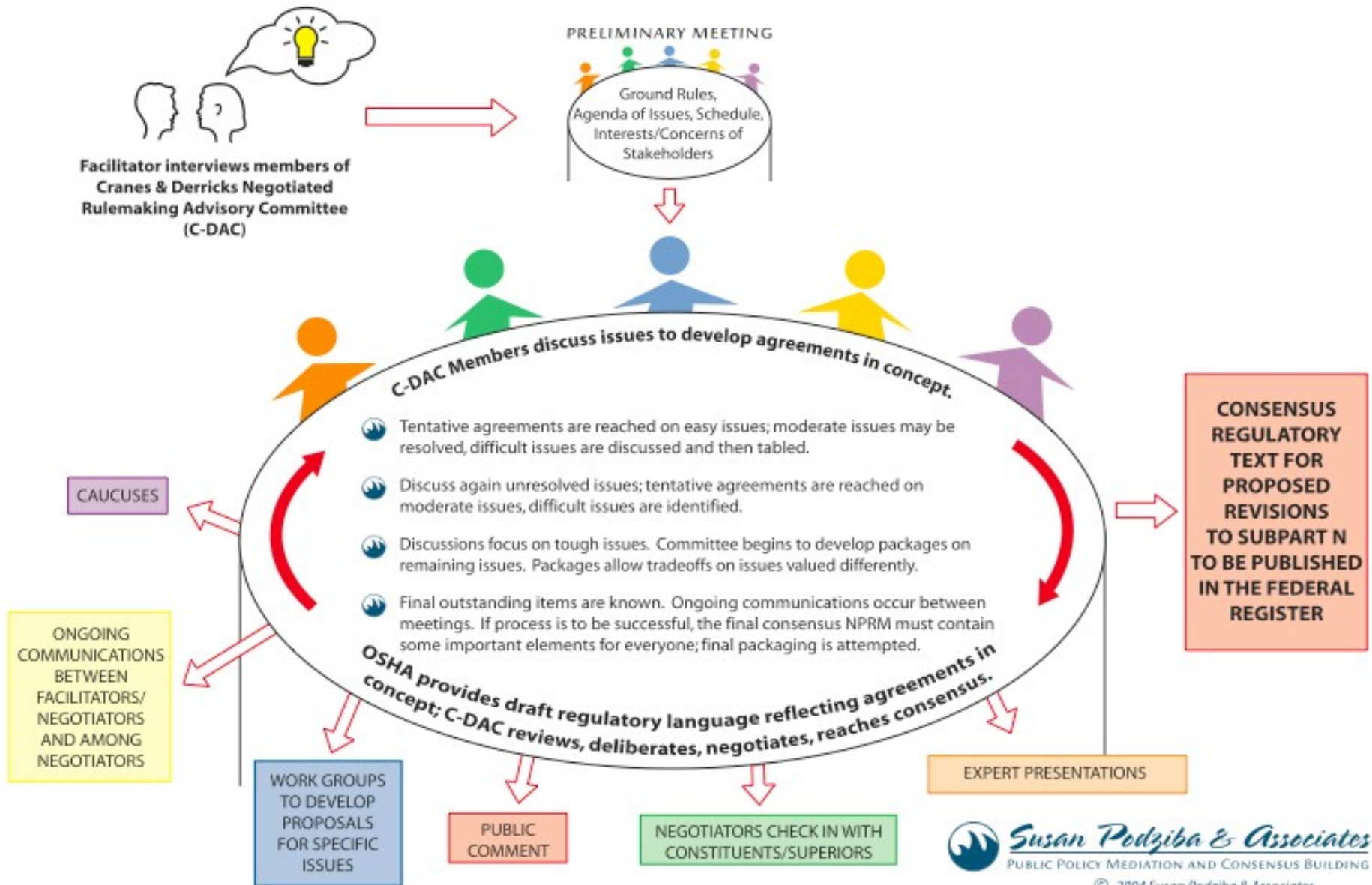
Challenge: Reduce worker fatalities and serious injuries with limited unintended costs and consequences to industry

Status Quo: Existing standards written in 1960s, crane accidents account for highest rate of fatalities and serious injuries in construction

Stakeholders: Labor unions, operators, crane owners, manufacturers, trainers, construction companies, insurance, electrical power line owners, government (23 orgs. represented)

NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING TO DEVELOP WORKER SAFETY STANDARDS FOR THE USE OF CRANES & DERRICKS IN CONSTRUCTION (29 CFR 1926.550 SUBPART N) OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY & HEALTH ADMINISTRATION, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

NEGOTIATIONS: ELEVEN MEETINGS



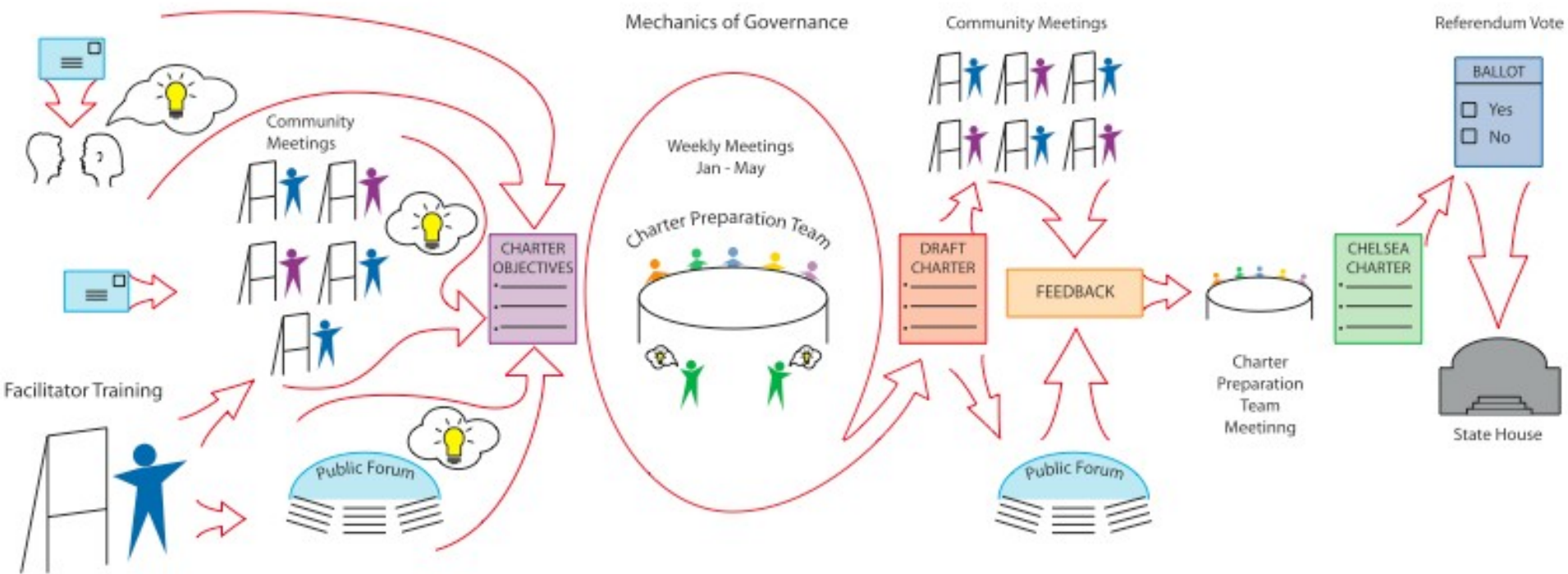
Chelsea Charter Development Process










Challenge: Prepare a new city charter and increase citizen capacity to protect against future corruption (democracy building)

Status Quo: City is in State Receivership; City Charter of 1904 is suspended by the Massachusetts State Legislature

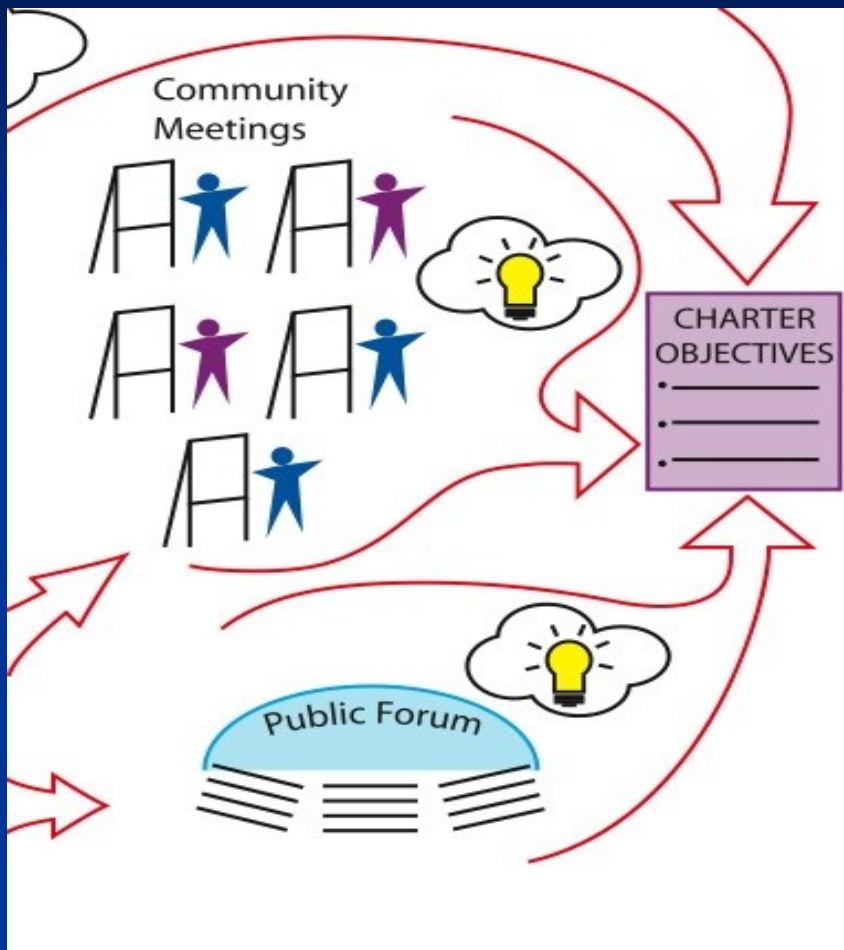
Stakeholders: all sectors of the city, state government

CHELSEA CHARTER CONSENSUS PROCESS



- 
 Newsletter
- 
 Cable TV
- 
 Charter Hotline
- 
 Call-In
Cable TV
- 
 Charter Hotline
- 
 Charter Hotline
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 Charter Hotline
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 Charter Hotline
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 Charter Hotline

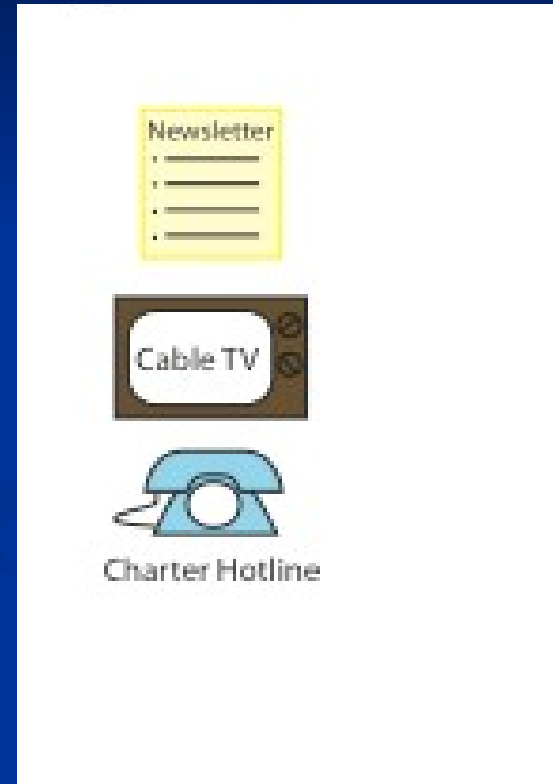
“Reach deep into the community”



- Response to need to engage citizens in democracy building
- Go to residents where they are
- Locals were trained to facilitate pre-designed meetings

Additional Mechanisms

- Multiple entry points for participation
- Outreach to public
- Provide credible information



Create Plan to Protect and Preserve Casco Bay Estuary

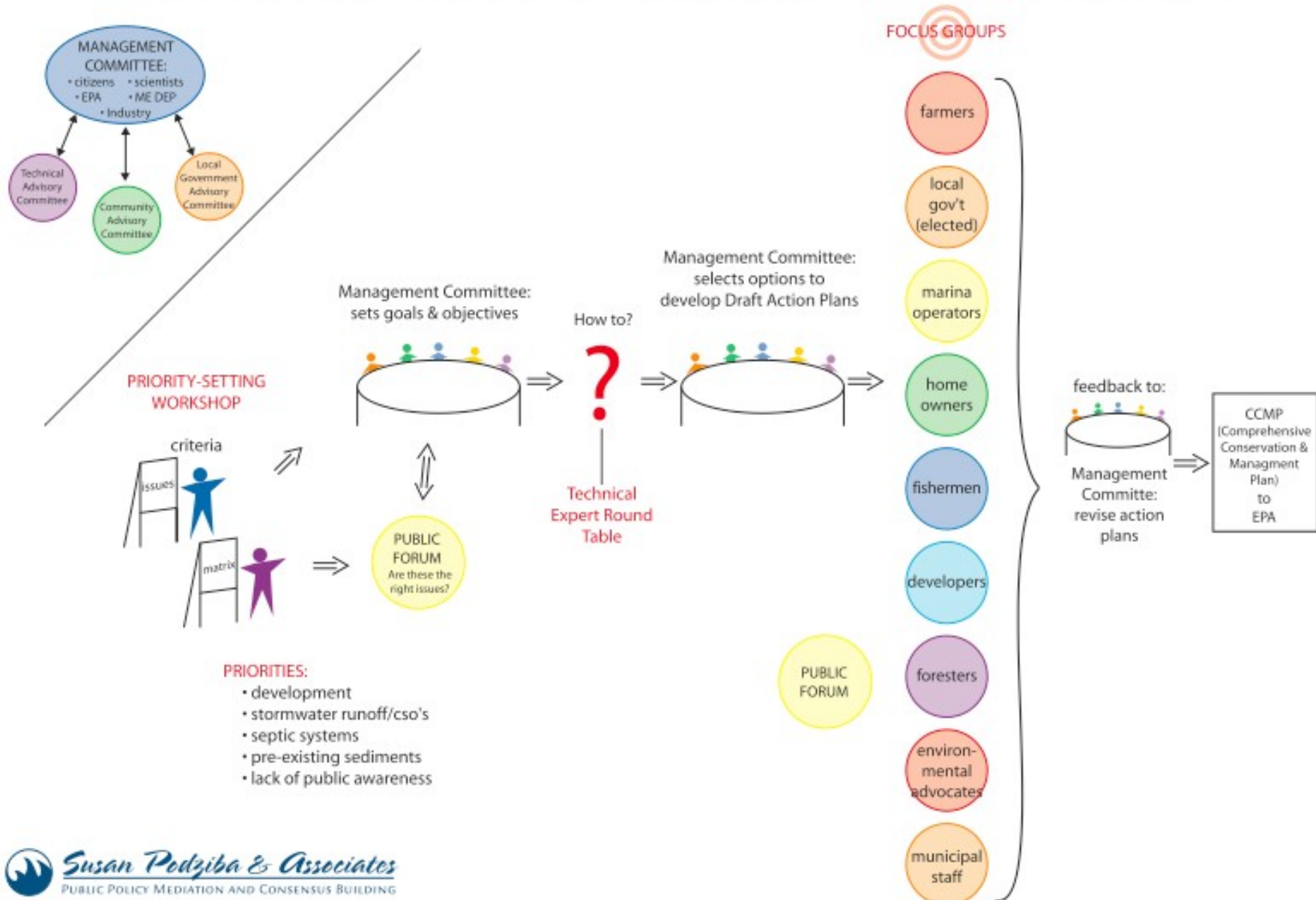
Challenge: Preserve the ecological integrity of Casco Bay and ensure compatible human uses of its resources

Status Quo: Patchwork of activity by 41 communities

Stakeholders: federal, state, and local government; shipbuilding, fishing, real estate industries; scientists; environmentalists; citizens

CASCO BAY ESTUARY PROJECT: DEVELOP 5-YEAR PLAN

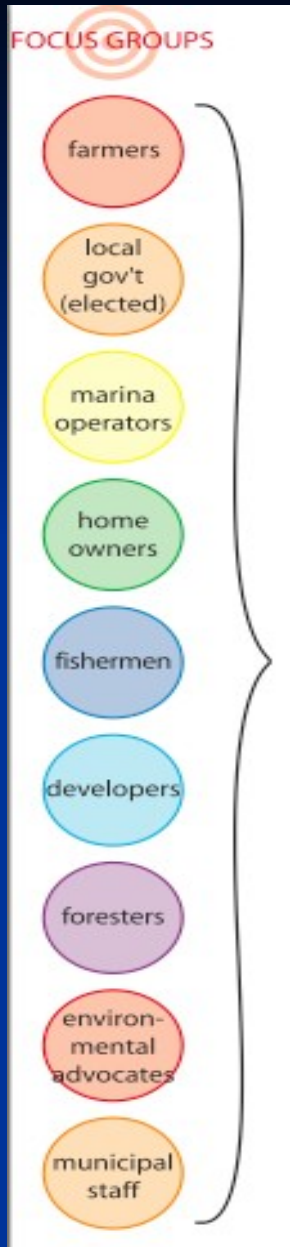
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM



Expert Assistance for Action Plans

- How do we meet our goals and objectives?
- Lay people with strong opinions about what is right but limited expertise on substantive questions.





Advice from Actors

- Limited substantive expertise on vast range of issues
- Advice and buy-in from potential actors

Results

If agreement on all or most issues:

- “Product” uniquely tailored to address the problem
- Commitment / Relationships built to support and sustain implementation
- Progress on complex public policy challenge
- Model of “good governance”

If no agreement on some or all issues:

- Clarity of problem, divergent opinions, options

Questions?