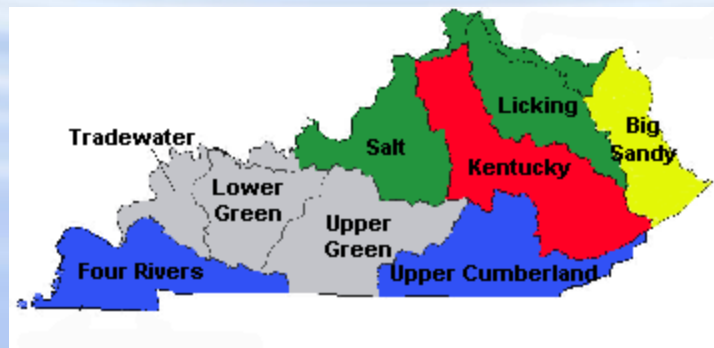


Chapter 1 – **Get Organized**

- Overview of KY Watershed Initiative
- Collaborative Planning
- Identify preliminary scope and goals

Kentucky's Watershed Management Initiative

- Collaborative partnership between Kentucky Division of Water and over 50 state, federal, and non-profit organizations to guide water quality assessment and planning.
- Uses geographic boundaries of watersheds to guide the planning process. There are 5 basin-management areas.



Kentucky's Watershed Management Initiative

- Stream Assessment Cycle:
 - Each year water monitoring focuses on a basin-management area (1 or 2 river basins).
 - This monitoring data is reported as the “Integrated Report Volume I” formally known as the “305(b) Report to Congress.”
 - The assessment process cycles through the basin-management areas every five years.
 - The assessments identify streams with excellent water quality that need further protection, as well as polluted (impaired) streams that need a clean-up plan.
 - If a stream does not meet state standards, it is listed in the “Integrated Report Volume II” formally known as the “303(d) Report to Congress.”

TMDLs

- If a stream is polluted, the state must limit pollutants in streams to prevent them from getting worse.
- One way to limit pollutants is to establish a scientifically-defensible limit on the amount of pollutant, or “load,” that a stream can carry and still meet water quality standards.
- This limit is called a “Total Maximum Daily Load,” or TMDL. It will determine whether new permits to discharge the pollutant may be issued, and it may affect existing permits.

Water Quality Enforcement Programs

- Discharges of pollution by pipes into a stream are prohibited by the Clean Water Act except by permits (KPDES) issued by the Kentucky Division of Water.
- KPDES permits are held by a variety of industries, coal mines, wastewater treatment plants, and other entities.
- KPDES permits impose limits on discharged pollutants to protect the water quality of the receiving stream. Some streams (especially in protected areas) have higher standards than others, but there's minimum below which conditions should not fall, regardless of whether the stream currently meets the standards.

Water Quality Enforcement Programs

Programs of the Division of Water or other state agencies that address pollutants entering streams include:

- Permits requiring “No Discharge” of wastes to streams from confined animal feeding operations;
- Water withdrawal permits that maintain minimum stream flows;
- “Section 401” permits related to filling or channelizing streams; and
- Floodplain permits that prevent unnecessary development in floodplains.
- Kentucky Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (KPDES) permits

Why Use Collaborative Watershed Planning?

- **Strength in Numbers:** we can accomplish more working as a team
- **Diverse Expertise:** collaboration draws on expertise and information of a wide range of people who live on the land and know the community
- **Bring everyone along:** involving everyone who has an interest in the project means it will be more acceptable to the community and easier to keep going.
- **Creative solutions:** working through issues with a group produces solutions not thought of by one person.

Indicators of successful collaborations

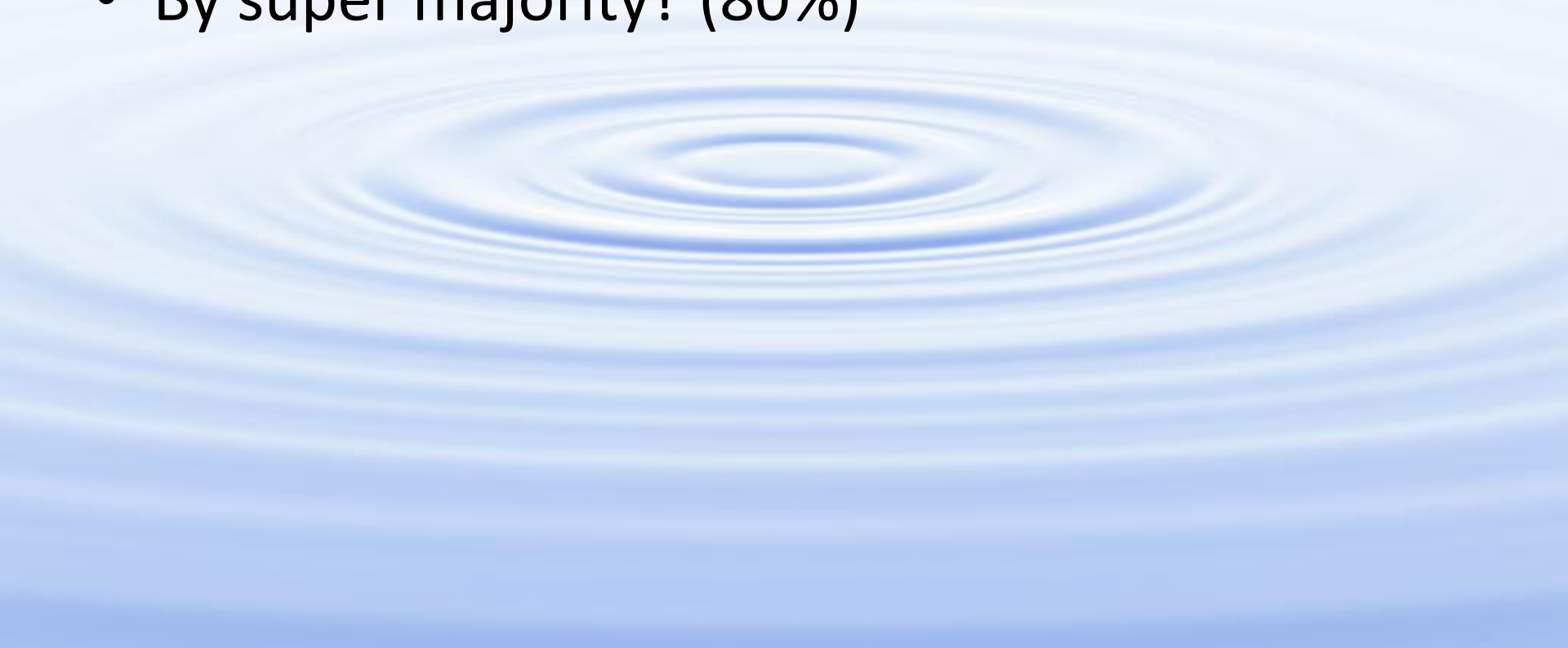
- **Broad representation**
- **Local knowledge**
- **Effective communication**
- **Common vision**
- **Collaborative decision-making**
- **Pooled Resources**

Creating Ground Rules

- **Let's create our ground rules.**
 - **Some suggested ground rules from guidebook-**
 - **Start and stop meetings on time**
 - **Speak one at a time without interrupting**
 - **Assure that everyone is heard**
 - **Have a strategy for making decisions**
- **It's important for the group to set the rules.**
 - **What sounds good for this group?**

How will we make decisions?

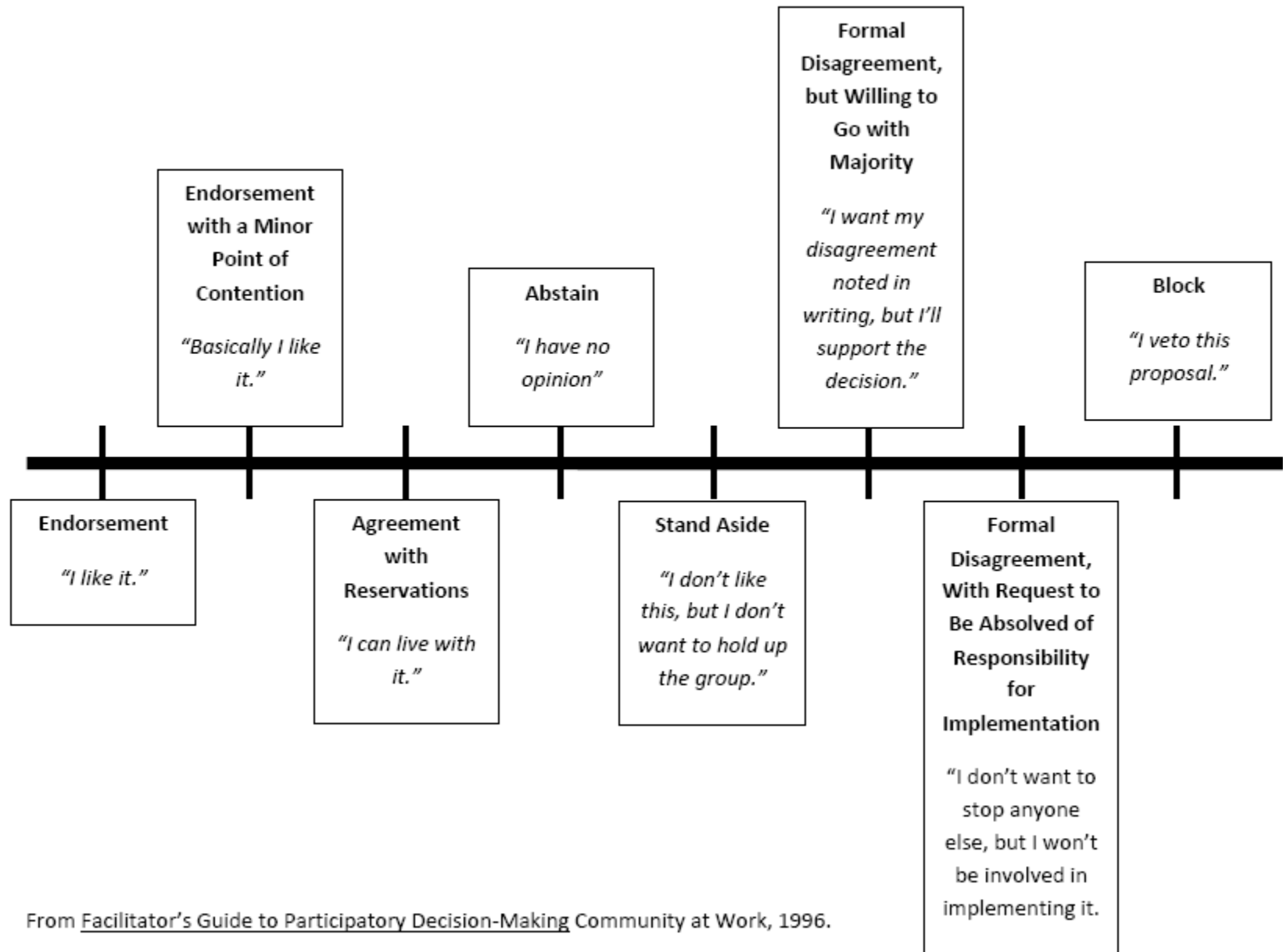
- By consensus? (all agree)
- By majority? (half plus one)
- By super majority? (80%)



If consensus sounds good...

- One option for difficult decisions is to decide by consensus using the Gradients of Agreement Scale.
- This scale make it easier for participants to be honest. Also, members can let the group know that they have less-than-whole-hearted support without fearing that their statement will be taken as a veto.

Gradients of Agreement



From Facilitator's Guide to Participatory Decision-Making Community at Work, 1996.

Developing the Scope of your Plan

The term “scope” describes the boundaries of your project including:

- The geographic area of your watershed;
- The issues affecting your waterway; and
- The challenges of restoring and protecting it.

Developing the scope of issues

- If there is an impairment in your waterway, your plan must address this at a minimum.
- Consider protection as well as restoration in your planning.
- The broader your scope, the more complex and specific your plan will be.

Developing Preliminary Goals

- Bring everyone to the table and have an inclusive process.
- Set broad goals at first, which will be refined as more data is collected.
- Preliminary goals may be:
 - Improve conditions for native fish
 - Make wading safe in parks
 - Restore wetlands for more diverse wildlife
 - Clean up littered stream corridors

Developing our Goals

- Now let's use the Roundtable input as a guide to develop preliminary goals for our plan!



The planning process used in this Guidebook will get a little more complicated, but for now it looks like this:

Organize planning group



Define Scope



Set Goals