

# Story Problem 1 – Focus Areas

## Blue Team

## Members

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- Erin McDonough, MUCC
- Lisa Root, DNRE
- Mike Shriberg, Ecology Center
- Bill Creal, DNRE
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- Tim Diebolt, DNRE
- Dan Lork, DNRE

# Boundaries:

## Assumptions and Principles

- Focus areas are for the state as a whole, not strictly the dept.  
- will drive DNRE's agenda
- Dept. will look at focus areas with a perspective on partners' roles in delivery – dept. to shed and realign activities to match resources and strengths to achieve focus areas
- Economics and public health are considerations for all focus areas
- Focus areas are foundation, outcomes derived from them – outcomes would be achieved by Dept plus partners
- “Natural Resources” is used as primary term but includes “Environment”

# Consensus Focus Areas

- Responsible Resource Use
- Healthy Communities
- Public Engagement
- Leadership and Coordination

# Responsible Resource Use

- “Responsible” deliberate choice of term vs. sustainable or wise
- “Resource” includes energy, minerals, forest, land, wildlife, water
- “Use” encompasses management, development, and protection
- The responsible use of our natural resources is fundamental and critical to Michigan’s future.

# Healthy Vibrant Communities

- Healthy vibrant communities are both dependent on natural resources and created by natural resources.
- Strong urban core/towns: strong economically and environmentally
- “Place-based” focus
- Based on the establishment of places where people want to live, work and play in Michigan
- Reduced threat due to sprawl
- Conservation community engaged in broader discussions on Michigan’s future prosperity (e.g. MML, BLM, etc.) relative to nat. resource component of healthy communities – infrastructure role of department

# Public Engagement

- Based on need for engaged citizenry that understands, values, and responsibly uses our natural resources.
- Need to engage and educate youth, both in using and understanding resources – future generation critical. (e.g. working with Big Bros/Big Sisters, etc)

# Leadership and Coordination

- As the agency charged with protecting all of our resources, the dept. plays the primary leadership and coordination role...
- Will more fully engage partners (conservation community) - in some cases partners will take the lead not the agency
- Transition will take place as vision is implemented (vs. putting out today's fires) – strategically use resources we have leading toward greater benefit

# Observations

- Different perspectives led to broader thinking
- Team identified External (resource use) /Internal (healthy communities) – linkage between two (Public Engagement) and process to make it happen (Leadership and Coordination) – without planning it this way, ended up to be around this framework
- Team was not bogged down by working through each focus area before laying out all possible ideas - did some ground truthing to make sure we were able to carry forward focus areas toward outcomes
- Free expression of ideas; all engaged – egalitarian discussion, mutual respect
- Almost all had connection to at least one person around the table (implicitly inclusive)
- Common goal (lump of clay) but not in context of large group