

**Real Deal Planning Subcommittee**  
**Notes of meetings**  
**12/9/14, 12/16/14**

These notes are intended to show the breadth of the discussion about the draft schedule prepared by Heidi Luckenbach with input from the Subcommittee, and the Road Map for the Consensus Building Process.

**Road Map for the Consensus Building Process**

A variety of approaches were suggested:

**1. The Consensus Building Process is the “How” of the Cttee’s work**

One member proposed to consider the Consensus Building process as the How of the Cttee’s work, compared to the substantial part of the work already contained in the Work Plan. This “How” component will enable the Cttee to develop the capacity to reach agreement once the facts have been sufficiently clarified.

**2. Simplify the process and build on existing consensus**

One member noted that the Cttee has sufficient consensus to assemble some proposed solutions and see what Cttee Members think of them. For example, there is significant agreement about the need for more storage. This would be a simple approach that will allow the Cttee to make immediate progress.

Other members felt that there is, as yet, no consensus about anything, as we have not yet discussed things with real facts and in real terms. So this proposal is premature. This approach was not considered further.

**3. Build the process as if developing a case before a court:**

WSAC is like a jury. We have barely had an opening statement; we now need to have the facts presented in a way that builds the case step-by-step in a logical sequence

- Problem Statement
- Baseline
- Scenarios based on reality
- Vetting of alternatives
- Composition of Portfolios

Later in the discussion, one member asked whether the Cttee should re-visit its charter as a reference point for the development of the Consensus Building Process. Others felt that it would be better simply to compose a series of tasks in a logical sequence.

**4. But how will Consensus Building actually work?**

The members discussed their concerns about how the consensus building process works in practice.

- One said he was worried about the “soft stuff”, that is, the tools and techniques that Cttee members will use in order to build consensus. Few, if

- any, of the Cttee members have political backgrounds, so many / most of us will be learning by doing. How we can make sure that everyone is similarly aware of, and competent and comfortable with those tools and techniques.
- One explained that, while keeping an open mind to all alternatives it is important to prioritize the values that we hold to be important by giving high weights to relevant criteria. How can the consensus building process accommodate prioritization of values and simultaneously allow productive deliberation about alternatives?
  - One felt that the development of hypothetical contingency agreements is too ethereal for meaningful discussion at this stage, but agreed with others that it would be useful to review examples of contingent agreements, and acknowledged that, before the end of the process, the Cttee will be “fact-challenged” so it will need to be able to consider contingency agreements.

In response to these questions about the way that consensus building works, a facilitator suggested the Cttee might benefit from an explanation of interest-based negotiation, which is the basis of collaborative consensus building, as well as case-studies of the process and outcomes of some other, relevant consensus-based decision processes.

One member noted that the basic Problem Statement is “How do we get agreement on a recommendation for the Council?” The answer to this problem statement includes the various steps in the consensus building process and understanding how interest-based negotiation works and how members will negotiate around their interests and their positions.

Another member proposed starting the process with a basic discussion of interest-based negotiation, then proceeding to build provisional agreements on a series of issues that each provide a step towards the eventual agreement. In this way the Cttee will fill the Consensus Building Road Map with a series of useful steps.

### **5. How to recognize and avoid impasses**

One member emphasized the need to include joint fact finding in this process in order to provide a way out of impasses.

Another member recognized that awareness of the possibility of failing to produce a coherent agreement could serve as a motivator to keep the Cttee on a productive track, and suggested that this awareness should be accentuated when the Cttee reached key points at which it might fail.

### **6. How to prepare portfolios without completion of all technical assessments?**

One member suggested that, since many alternatives are variations on a particular theme, thematic alternatives can be developed to enable portfolios to be compiled without preparing technical evaluations of all alternatives.

### **7. How to prepare Scenarios swiftly and efficiently?**

One member suggested that the task of preparing scenarios could be assigned to Kaffeeklatches in which members would collaborate to increase each others' understanding and develop scenario proposals outside of the Cttee's meetings.

### **8. Can the Cttee's work schedule be shorter?**

One member proposed aiming to conclude the work of the Cttee in July. Others felt that three or four meetings would be needed for the agreement phase. Planning for a shortened approach was not considered further.

### **9. Should there be a Joint Work Session with the Council**

Members considered the proposal to hold a joint work session with Council in April.

- This would be an opportunity to engage with the Council and help them understand the work of the Cttee.
- Some members were concerned that this might precipitate premature politicization of the Cttee's work
- Other members felt that the Cttee needs to hear from the Cncl, to know what's on their minds, and ensure that the Cttee knows what the Council cares about.

### **10. Who will present Enrichment Sessions during Real Deal?**

Someone will ask Cttee members to provide the Friday session with a list of desired speakers for Real Deal. The Sub-Cttee will then, based on direction from the Cttee and after receiving recommendations from the technical team, develop a list of proposed speakers that will help the Cttee make effective decisions.

### **11. Additional detail for Technical Work Plan**

A member asked that additional detail be provided regarding the flow, timing and content of the Technical Work Plan prepared by Heidi Luckenbach and supplemented by the RDP Sctee's discussions. Staff agreed that that information would be provided as the plan firmed up. The Subcttee recommends proceeding with this draft schedule for the Real Deal process.