

An Introduction to Intermunicipal Organization

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Authority for Formal Intermunicipal Cooperation

General Municipal Law §119-u

General City Law §20-g

Town Law §284

Village Law §7-741



Benefits of Intermunicipal Cooperation

- Addressing local problems that have cross boundary impacts
- Meeting federal and state mandates
- Cost sharing and efficiency



Types of Intermunicipal Watershed Councils

- I. Strictly Intermunicipal
- II. Hybrid
- III. Informal Cooperation



Strictly Intermunicipal Key Characteristics

- Only municipal representation
- Projects focus on local decision-making power
- Function most effectively if there is parallel nongovernmental group working toward same goals



Strictly Intermunicipal Structure

- Generally supported by municipal dues or in-kind staff to provide for facilitation, as well as grants for specific projects
- Detailed bylaws defining how Council will operate



Hybrid Models

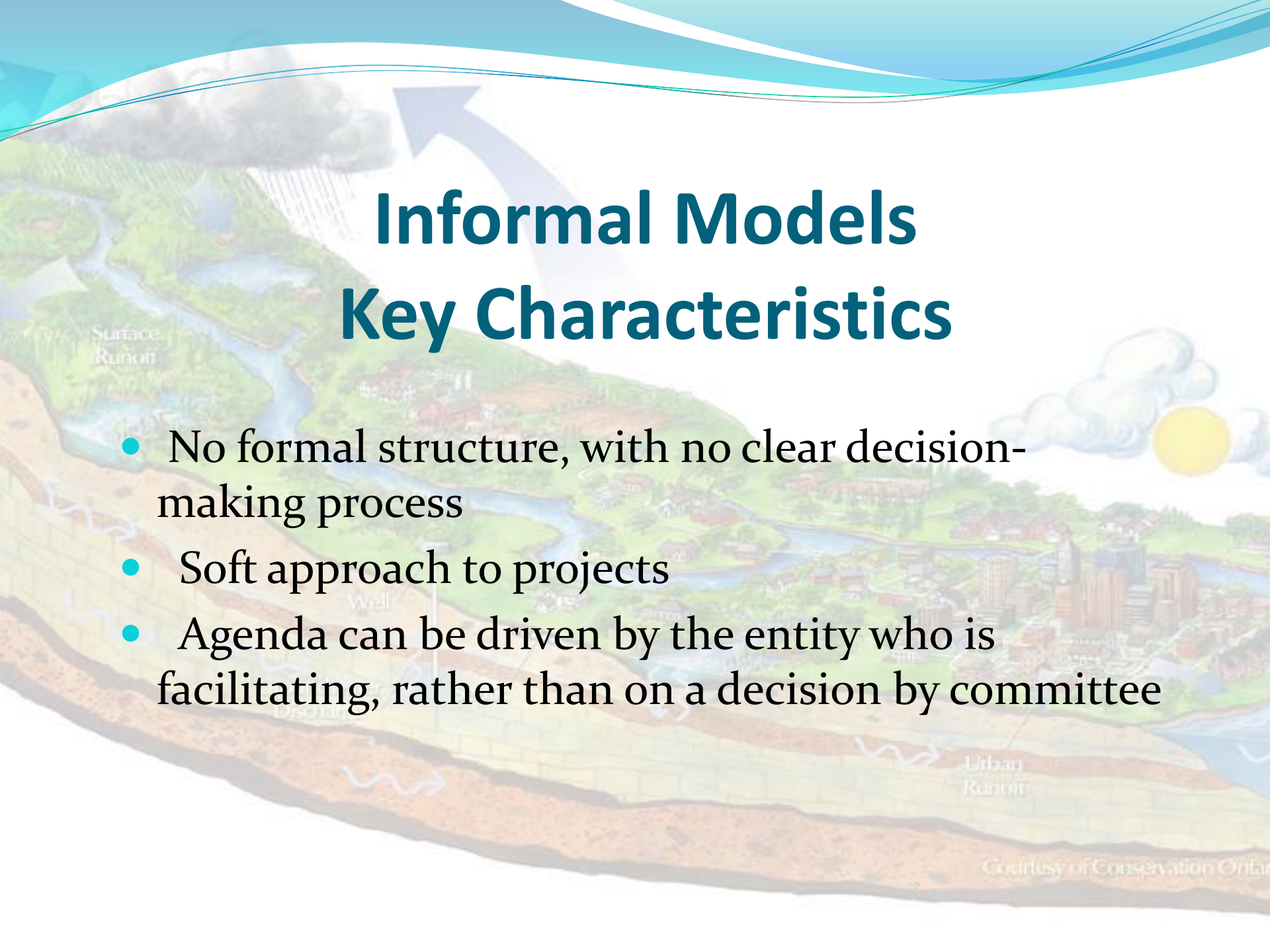
Key Characteristics

- Include both municipal and non-municipal representation. Two types:
 - Councils with non-voting non-municipal membership
 - Councils with voting non-municipal membership
- Projects range from education to restoration
- Ensures interested parties working toward same overall goals



Hybrid Models Structure

- Municipal dues and in-kind support for facilitation, grants for projects
- Supported by many committees
- Bylaws include membership requirements, voting procedures, committees, funding or in-kind support arrangements



Informal Models

Key Characteristics

- No formal structure, with no clear decision-making process
- Soft approach to projects
- Agenda can be driven by the entity who is facilitating, rather than on a decision by committee



Forming an Intermunicipal Council

- Make sure all parties are invited to participate in the formation process from beginning
- Evaluate what type of council will work best for your watershed
- Create a shared vision for the council
- Articulate expectations of each municipality
- Design council to ensure ongoing funding for day-to-day facilitation



Adopt an Intermunicipal Agreement

- Describe authority to enter into Agreement and make clear that this Agreement does not impinge upon each individual municipalities decision-making
- Describe expectations of members, organizational structure, and provision that operating procedures will be adopted
- Include a method for dispute resolution
- Adopt the agreement!

Questions?

Thank You!

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