



Watershed Characterization & Planning Workshop: Worksheet 2

This worksheet helps **individuals and groups preparing to pursue a watershed characterization or plan** think through their approach and choose a process that best meets their needs

Please review each statement and circle the number that best reflects your opinion for each:

1-strongly disagree 2-disagree 3-neutral 4-agree 5-strongly agree ?-don't know

As you finish each section, reflect on some next steps you might take based on your responses.

Motivation and Focus						
We are clear on the focus of our watershed characterization or plan based on our current understanding of watershed conditions or issues (e.g., sediment, flooding, contaminants, nutrients, water quality, aquatic habitat, instream issues, watershed restoration)	1	2	3	4	5	?
We are clear whether our watershed characterization or plan is reactionary (responding to a specific problem), anticipatory (preparing for a known change), or exploratory (seeking to understand watershed conditions to inform next steps).	1	2	3	4	5	?
We have identified a few key partners by asking who is/is not interested in this process and why.	1	2	3	4	5	?
We have had conversations with key partners explore possible goals and narrow our focus.	1	2	3	4	5	?
<i>What do the answers to these questions tell us about our next steps?</i>						
Exploring Approaches						
We understand the different types of watershed characterizations or plans and know which approach might best meet our needs.	1	2	3	4	5	?
We have reviewed products from other watershed characterizations or plans to help clarify our scope and focus.	1	2	3	4	5	?
We have reviewed the budgets and timelines of watershed characterizations or plans with similar scopes so we know how much we might need.	1	2	3	4	5	?
We have approached potential funders or reviewed relevant grant guidelines and requirements.	1	2	3	4	5	?
<i>What do the answers to these questions tell us about our next steps?</i>						



Laying the Groundwork						
We know what kinds of data and information are available to help us understand the land, water, and people of the watershed.	1	2	3	4	5	?
We have identified a lead organization and/or individual for this project/planning effort who has community-support and capacity to take on the work.	1	2	3	4	5	?
Based on the project we are interested in, we understand the type of contracted or skill-based capacity needed to accomplish the work we are setting out to do (e.g., technical consultants, project manager, neutral facilitator, etc.).	1	2	3	4	5	?
<i>What do the answers to these questions tell us about our next steps?</i>						
Working with Partners and Communities						
We have talked to potential partners to be on the leadership team for the process and envisioned what their roles might be.	1	2	3	4	5	?
We have existing (positive) relationships with key constituents, or if we don't, we know who does.	1	2	3	4	5	?
We have thought about how we might engage the broader community, including customized strategies to reach people who have been historically excluded from planning processes.	1	2	3	4	5	?
We have identified people or organizations that might have an important role in subsequent implementation.	1	2	3	4	5	?
<i>What do the answers to these questions tell us about our next steps?</i>						

What is the first thing you will do when you get back to your home or office?

Adapted from Strategic By Nature, Inc by Strong Outcomes LLC. This self-assessment is modeled after the "Watershed Planning Wheel" and other planning resources and experience with inventory, characterization, and planning processes.