THE WILLIAM D. RUCKELSHAUS CENTER

Chris Page

Senior Project & Development Lead

Chris Page is a versatile and effective facilitator and strategist with more than 20 years of experience on Pacific Northwest natural resource and governance issues. He works closely with parties to assess complex situations with big picture thinking and a systematic approach. His listening skills, positive attitude, flexibility, and focus on results enables groups to work efficiently and productively. His written and verbal communication skills bring clarity and precision. His ability to understand and bridge conflicting perspectives enables groups to come together and accomplish challenging goals.

Chris has done development work throughout his career since 1991 including donor and major gift cultivation; foundation and government grant research, writing, management, and reporting; special event coordination; direct mail appeals; donor stewardship; and special project fundraising.

KEYS AREAS OF EXPERTISE
 Facilitation/Mediation
 Dispute Assessment/Conflict Resolution
 Project Management
 Strategic Planning
 Public Involvement/Visioning
 Fund Raising
 Organizational Development

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS
 US Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution (ECR)
  National Roster of ECR Professionals
 International Association for Public Participation

EDUCATION AND TRAINING
 University of Washington (UW)
 MPA, Environmental Policy, Evans School of Public Affairs, 1999
  Certificate, Conservation Biology, UW, 1999
 B.A., Cultural Anthropology, Williams College, 1990

Selected Project Experience

Long-Term Sediment Management in the Spirit Lake/ Toutle-Cowlitz River System, 2018-2019:
Chris served as project manager, interviewer, analyst, and primary author of a report on the issues and potential for a systemwide collaborative consortium for long-term sediment management in the Spirit Lake/ Toutle-Cowlitz River system (after the massive quantities of sediment deposited by the 1980 eruption of Mount St. Helens put the region at ongoing risk of moderate and potentially catastrophic flooding). Chris explored prospects for a collaborative system-level entity to identify the resources and studies needed to inform long-term management decisions. His assessment found conditions favorable to a collaborative process, even given the different economic, cultural, and social priorities of regional stakeholders and the respective roles of federal, tribal, state, and local authorities and other groups in the region. Based on the suggestions of interviewees, Chris articulated a process design for the highest likelihood of success, suggested potential funding sources, and outlined next steps toward convening a task force or other collaborative body.

Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force (SRRTTF), 2013-2018:
Chris facilitated five years of collaborative, community-based Task Force (of public agencies, private industries, and environmental nonprofits) in an innovative, watershed-wide approach to reducing toxic chemicals in the Spokane River. In November 2016 (ahead of schedule), the SRRTTF reached consensus agreement on a Comprehensive Plan to bring the Spokane River into compliance with water quality standards for (polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). Chris helped SRRTTF members to secure project management services to implement that Plan. He developed and framed agenda topics and process options, anticipated (and helped parties resolve) issues facing the Task Force, oversaw SRRTTF public communications, and managed the planning and execution of small work group meetings and annual technical workshops to identify best practices in finding and reducing PCBs.

Selected Project Experience, continued

State Oversight of For-Profit Degree-Granting Educational Institutions & Private Vocational Schools, 2016-2018: As project manager, facilitator, analyst, and primary author of three reports the Ruckelshaus Center submitted to the Washington state Achievement Council (WSAC), Chris led a team exploring issues and opportunities regarding the state's regulation of 600+ higher education institutions. The report identified gaps and inconsistencies in state oversight and provided dozens of specific recommendations to bolster student guidance and protections, ensure schools provide the outcomes they advertise, and build partnerships to achieve efficiencies and increase transparency. Chris catalogued stakeholder interests, designed a collaborative process to address issues, and facilitated dozens of workgroup meetings. He presented workgroup findings to committees of the state House of Representatives and state agencies (WSAC, the Workforce Training & Education Coordinating Board, and the Department of Licensing) to guide them in enhancing oversight of career colleges and degree-granting schools in partnership with the state legislature.

Coeur d'Alene Basin Natural Resource Trustees, 2016-2017: After a referral from the Spokane River project, Chris conducted a situation assessment of the Coeur d'Alene Basin Natural Resource Trustees: the U.S. Department of Interior, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Coeur d'Alene Tribe, and State of Idaho. Since 2011, these governments have worked to develop a plan to return natural resources, harmed by mine-waste contamination, to a healthy condition. As it neared completion of this $140M Restoration Plan, the Trustee Council identified a need to improve working relationships and enhance collaboration among members. Chris held confidential interviews with current and former Trustees and provided an incisive, honest appraisal of the Trustee Council's collaborative dynamics. Following delivery of that report, the Trustees asked Chris to design and facilitate a two-day workshop in March 2017 for the Trustees to identify an improved structure and model for collaboration on implementing restoration projects.

Public Records Requests and Local Governments in Washington, 2013: For this situation assessment, Chris served as a project manager, interviewer, analyst, and primary author of a report the Center submitted to the Washington state legislature on issues and interests around public records requests to local governments. After conducting background research, Chris identified and interviewed a balanced cross-section of parties to capture a wide range of perspectives and situation dynamics. He led team meetings to synthesize and articulate the major issues and key parties involved, and aggregated as common themes and recommendations for next steps. Chris orally presented preliminary findings to two committees of the WA House of Representatives before finalizing the written report that summarized the interests and perspectives of key parties and analyzed and explored the prospects for a collaborative process to resolve differences.

Capitol Lake Assessment, 2014: Chris served as project manager, interviewer, analyst, and primary author of a report the Ruckelshaus Center submitted to the state Department of Enterprise Services (DES) exploring issues and opportunities regarding the future management of Capitol Lake in Olympia, which faces long-standing water quality and invasive species challenges—and widely divergent opinions among local parties as to how to address them. The assessment explored the perception by different parties of the relevant information base along with entities' various positions and interests and the dynamics of the situation. Chris identified and talked with a balanced cross-section of parties to capture a wide range of perspectives before analyzing the prospects for a collaborative process to address the issues. Chris orally presented findings at a historic joint committee meeting of the State Capitol Committee and the Capitol Campus Design Advisory Committee. DES and state legislators found the report constructive and balanced, and plan to take action on its recommendations.