



The Collective Action Continuum: Identifying the Critical Elements for Environmental Improvement

National Monitoring Conference, Denver
Jenny Biddle
George Mason University
April 29, 2010

Collective Action

- Act of coming together to achieve a common goal
- Consensus decision-making



The Three C's of Collective Action

- Cooperation
- Coordination
- Collaboration



The Three C's of Collective Action

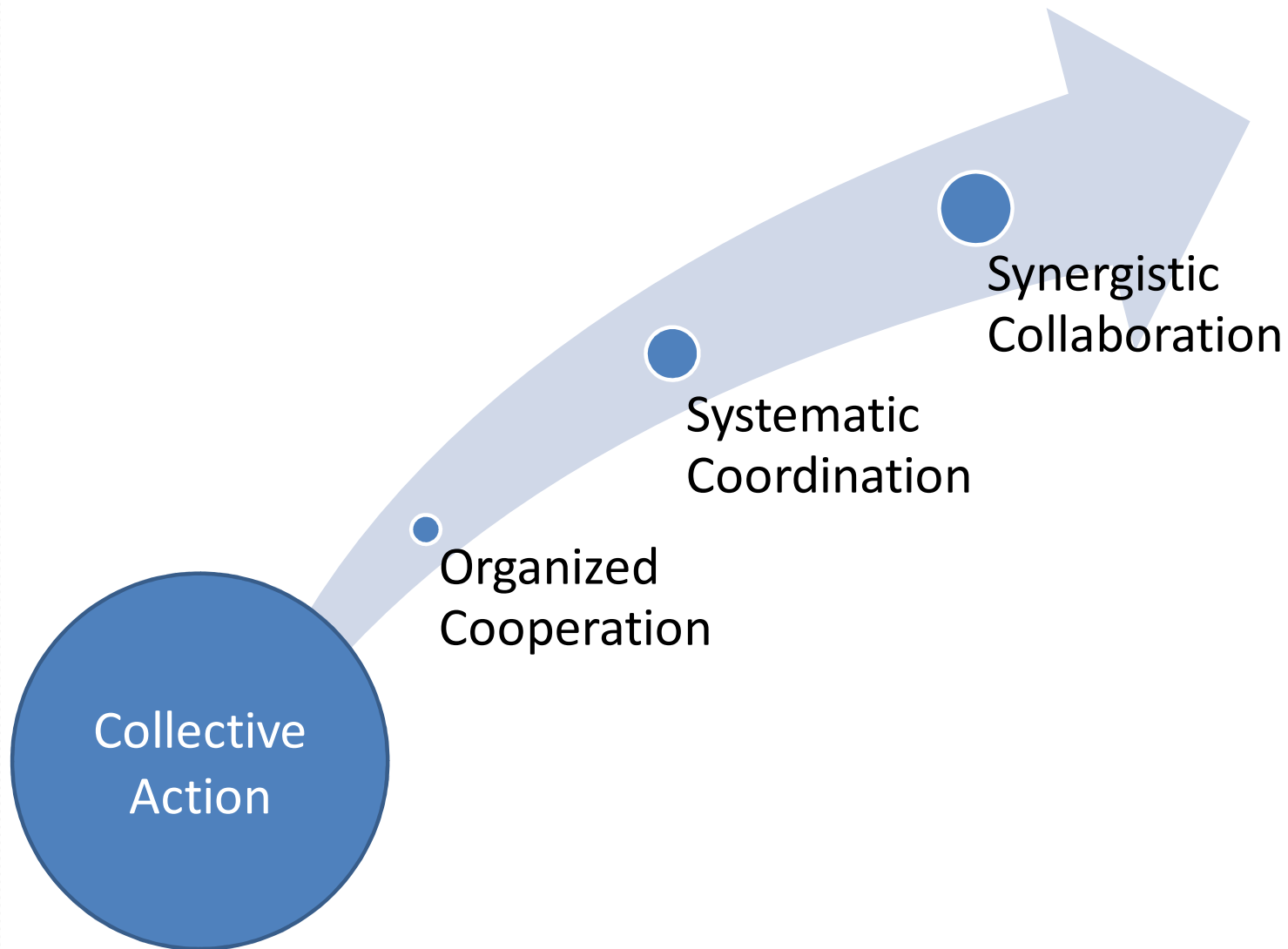
- *Organized* Cooperation
- *Systematic* Coordination
- *Synergistic* Collaboration



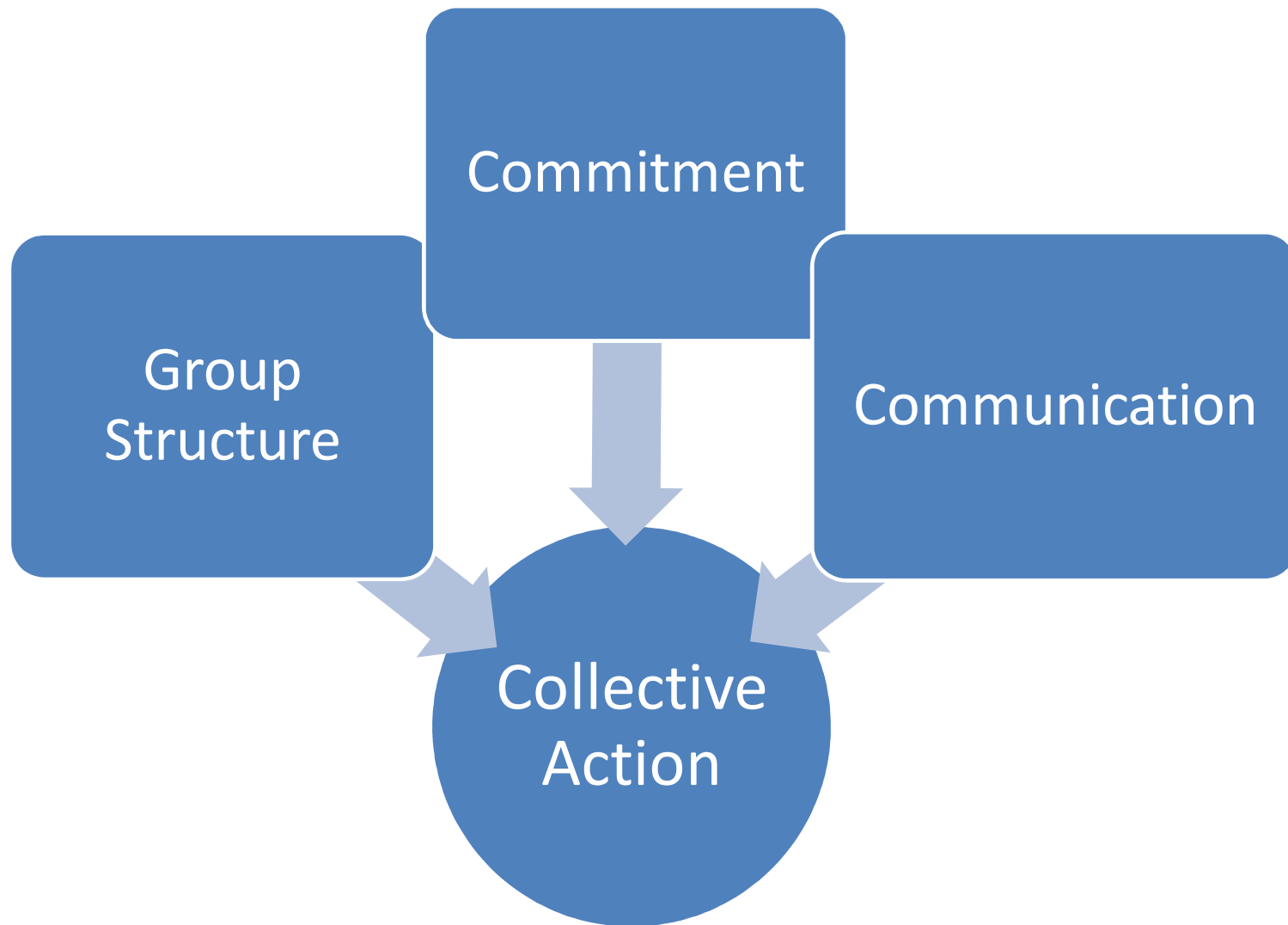
The Three C's of Collective Action

- *Organized* **C**ooperation -requires some level of recognition by each partner of a common interest or goal.
- *Systematic* **C**oordination –involves the coordination of actors' time and resources involves specialized participation and formulated planning.
- *Synergistic* **C**ollaboration -viewed as a higher-order level of collective action, involving the systematic implementation of a plan through self-perpetuating action.

Collective Action Continuum

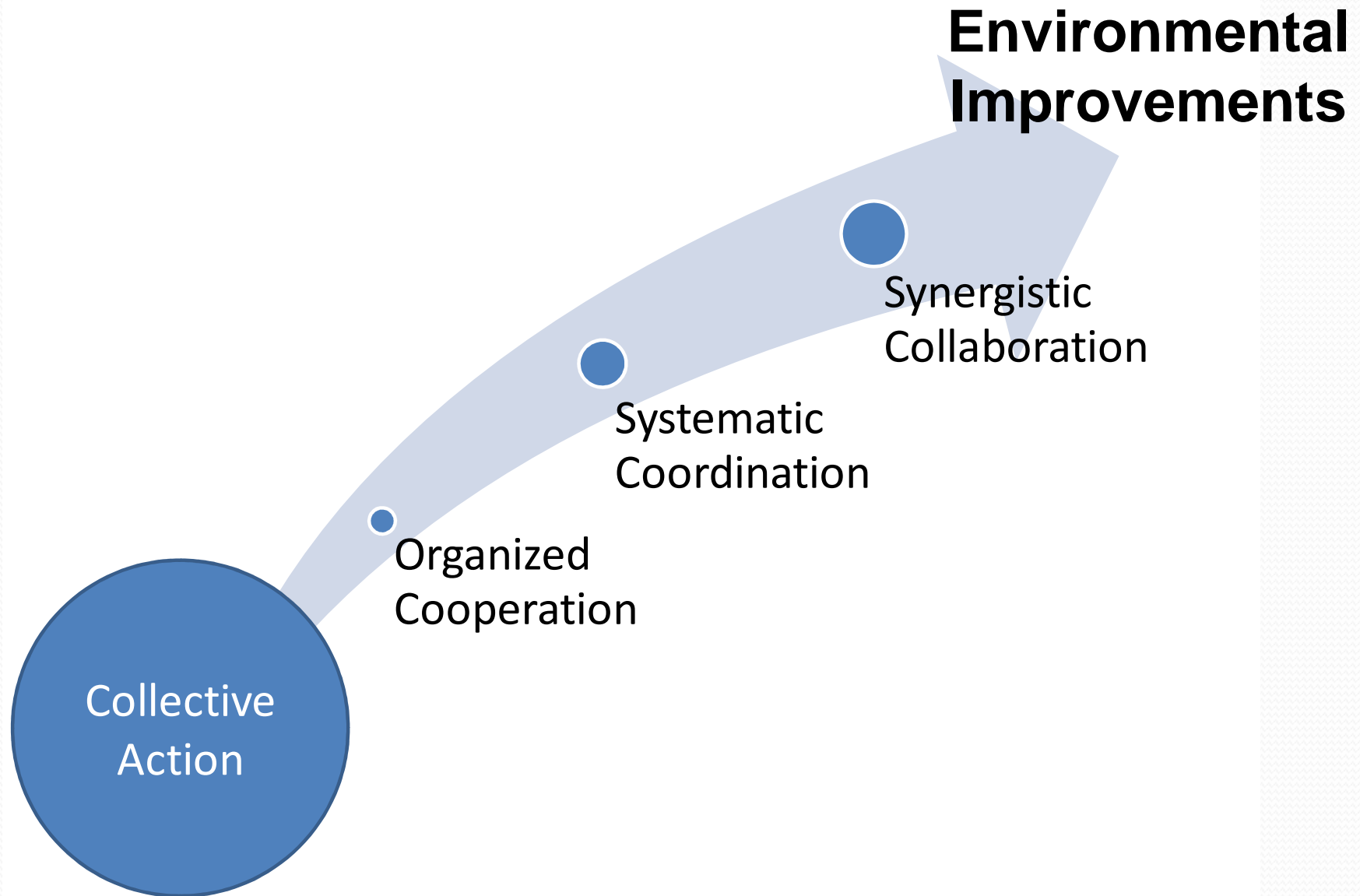


The Three Elements of Collective Action



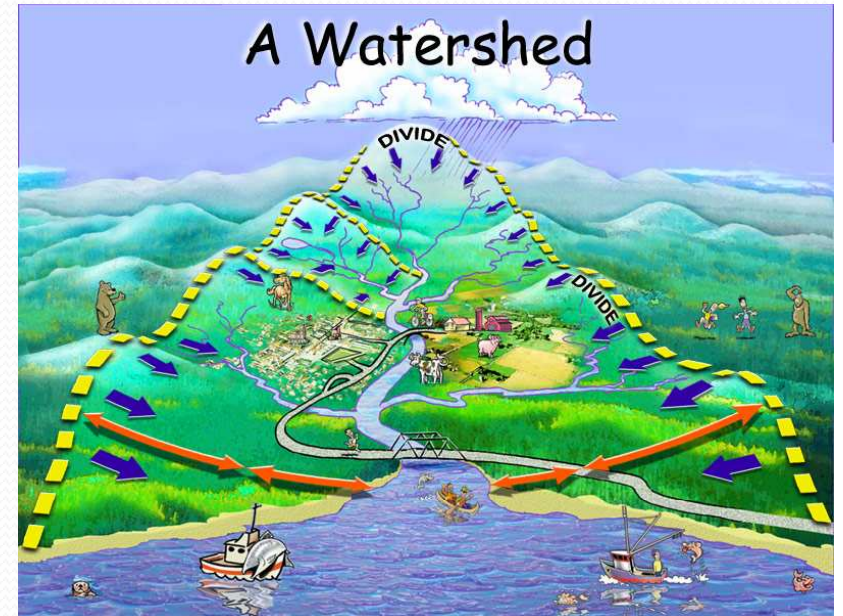
| Elements of Collective Action | Group Structure | Commitment | Communication |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Components of Elements | Clear Mission Statement | Individual Participation | Frequency |
| | Individual Perception of Role | Human Resources | Mode |
| | Knowledge Capabilities | Technical Resources | Written, formal documentation |
| | | Financial Resources | |

Collective Action Continuum



Watershed Partnerships

- Type of Collective Action
- Watershed approach
- Stakeholders





National Monitoring Program (NMP)

- S. 319 of CWA
- Long-Term Monitoring Projects to Document Water Quality Improvements from BMPs
- Program in 1992 and consists presently of 28 watershed projects from across the country
 - 26-completed.

National Monitoring Program (NMP)

- Water Quality Monitoring Design
 - Paired watershed (2 paired sites-2 control/2 treatment)
 - Upstream/downstream
- Water Quality Variables
 - Chemical- nutrients, DO, BOD, conductivity, bacteria
 - Physical- flow, TSS, temperature, turbidity, acidity
 - Biological- fish, macro invertebrates, habitat

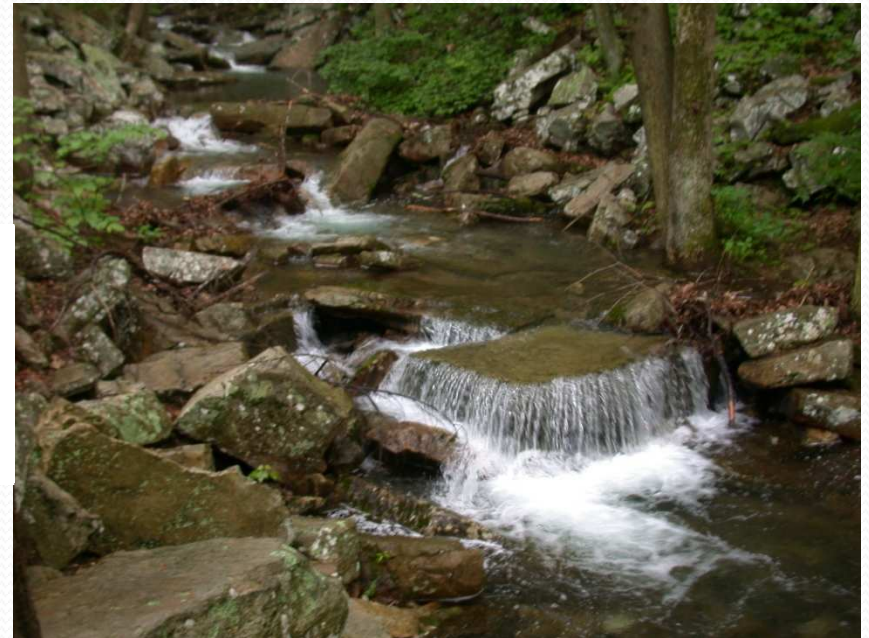
Research Design

- Surveyed participants of the 26 watershed projects on:
 - group structure
 - commitment
 - communication
- NMP longitudinal water quality data used to:
 - assess environmental improvements
 - relationship with elements

Preliminary Findings



?





Contact Info:

Jenny Biddle

jennybidds@gmail.com

202-566-1281