

Public Policy *Needs You*

Rob McDaniel
WSU Extension



A little about Rob:

- Applied Anthropologist by training
- 30+ yrs in WA community development
- 27 yrs in Extension Administration
- Focus - organizational development, local economic development, policy development, mediation and program administration

The Approach to Our conversations

- Quick overview of a complex topic
- Why Extension should engage
- The *How to Engage* makes up the rest of this workshop

(If you have questions/comments -
Please speak up)

What is Public Policy?

Lack of consensus on definition (Kirkland)

- **Public Policy** = “Input, Process, Output, Feedback. “ (David Easton)
- **Public Policy** = “Outcome of the struggle over who gets what.” (Clarke E. Cochrane)
-
- **Public Policy** = “Whatever governments choose to do.” (Thomas Dye)

Two “Working definitions” for today

1.) **Public policy** defined as:

- laws, regulatory measures, and/or courses of action
- concerning a given topic
- promulgated by a government entity
- *for the public good.*

(modification of Kilpatrick,

www.musc.edu/vawprevention/policy/definition)

Two “Working definitions” for today

2.) Public Policy :

- Identification of a *problem*
 - Selection of a *response*
 - Involving government *action*
 - Aimed at achieve *societal goals*
- (modification of Gaffney, 2012)

What is “Good” Public Policy?

In the midst of a national political struggle about this question

I’m going to skirt the issues of defining *good* by using an operational definition and use the Golden Rule

That which efficiently and effectively allows government to serve the public interest.

Rob's Elements of “Well Crafted” Public Policy

- Inclusively established
- Reasonably Agenda-neutral
- Addresses a well-defined issue
- Data-driven
- Parsimonious (\$)
- Clear, Achievable outcomes
- Capable of Full Implementation
- Evaluable

Examples

Big P – Little P

Big P.....

FOREIGN POLICY
TAX POLICY
EDUCATION POLICY
HEALTH POLICY
CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY

Little P.....

Georgia Overnight Adult 4-H Chaperone Policy
Purdue Master Gardner Volunteer Sex & Violent Offer Background Check
UC Research & Extension Centers Firearms Policy

What you as an Extension Professional bring to the table

- Trusted source of information/expertise
- Reasonably Unbiased but Data driven
- Understanding of local situation
- Tradition of inclusion
- Logic Model orientation
- A certain Humility

Why Engage in Public Policy?

When there's a vacuum of public input, lobbyists usually fill it. But when there's public input, the people usually win.

Morgan Carroll

I have come to the conclusion that politics are too serious a matter to be left to the politicians.

Charles De Gaulle

One of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors.

Plato

Comments, Questions,

Suggested Reading

- Science, Technology, and Public Policy.*** Richard Barke, 1986. CQ Press. ISBN: 0-87187-394-X.
- An Introduction to the Policy Process.*** Thomas A Kirkland. 2005. M.E. Sharpe. ISBN: 978-0765614896 .
- Science, Technology, and Policy Decisions.*** Anne L. Hiskes & Richard P. Hiskes, 1986. Westview Press. ISBN: 0-86531-631-7.
- Knowledge and Public Policy.*** Judith Eleanor Innes, 1975. Transaction Publishers. ISBN: 0-88738-810-8.
- The Politics of the Administrative Process.*** James W. Fesler and Donald F. Kettl, 1991. Chatham House Publishers. ISBN: 0-934540-81-0.
- Making Environmental Policy.*** Daniel J Fiorino, 1995. University of California Press. ISBN: 0-520-08597-3.
- Evaluating Public Policy.*** Frank Fischer, 1995. Nelson-Hall. ISBN: 0-8304-1278-6.
- Public Policy; Crime and Criminal Justice.*** Barry W. Hancock & Paul M. Sharp, 1997. Prentice-Hall. ISBN: 0-13-235516-7.
- Policy Paradox & Political Reason.*** Deborah Stone, 1988. Harper Collins. ISBN: 0-673-39751-3.
- Policy Analysis; Concepts and Practice.*** David L. Weimer and Aidan R. Vining, 1992. Prentice Hall. ISBN: 0-13-683145-1.
- Policy Analysis by Design.*** Davis B. Bobrow and John S. Dryzek, 1987. University of Pittsburgh Press. ISBN: 0-8229-5392-7.
- Public Policy; An Evolutionary Approach.*** James P. Lester and Joseph Stewart, Jr., 1996. West Publishing. ISBN: 0-314-06750-7.