

FEEDBACK FROM TOPSAIL BEACH CITIZEN ROUNDTABLE TO FACILITATOR – March-April 2010

Data collected and document prepared by Lydian Altman, School of Government

SOG PLG facilitator(name): John Stephens				
Date and Client Group: 3/6/10 and 3/20/10 Topsail Beach Roundtable Discussion NOTE: COMPILED FROM ONLINE CONFIDENTIAL SURVEY. Responses received from 4 of 16 participants.				
1. The interests and needs of all our group members were successfully balanced in the design of our agenda.				
Strongly Disagree (1)	Disagree (1)	Neutral	Agree (1)	Strongly Agree (1)
Comments, examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We were never able to fully address the environmental issues or the idea of doing nothing at all. Nothing was balanced 				
2. We were encouraged and enabled to contribute our skills and perspectives in positive and appropriate ways for the success of the event.				
Strongly Disagree (1)	Disagree	Neutral	Agree (2)	Strongly Agree (1)
Comments, examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Second day better than the first. Several strong outbursts were allowed, rebuttals were never encouraged. 				
3. During our event, we were able to openly express our differences of opinion in respectful ways.				
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral (1)	Agree (1)	Strongly Agree (2)
Comments, examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A few did but many did not 				
4. I was satisfied with the amount of discussion we had for each topic on our agenda.				
Strongly Disagree	Disagree (2)	Neutral	Agree (1)	Strongly Agree (1)
Comments, examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We had too much discussion from some and not enough from others. There should be a time limit. Because the group was not evenly balanced the discussion wasn't either 				

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5. I left the event with a clear sense of what was decided and who is responsible for what will happen next.				
Strongly Disagree	Disagree (1)	Neutral	Agree (2)	Strongly Agree (1)
Comments, examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Town is already looking for new ways to delay the recommendations from our group! The Board was not happy with our outcomes. • Let me just say that John never understood the true dynamics. How could he? We who live here have been a part of the whole mess, and it is still not fixed 				
6. Overall, our time together was productive.				
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral (3)	Agree	Strongly Agree (1)
Comments, examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By the end of the second day there was a form of agreement reached but it is not binding and way too complicated to be clear. • We understood or heard each other in new ways, we gained information that will help us make decisions, or we made decisions that needed to be made. 				
7. Our facilitator seemed to fit or adapt to the culture and norms of our group/community.				
Strongly Disagree	Disagree (1)	Neutral (1)	Agree (1)	Strongly Agree (1)
Comments, examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He seemed to have no information about beach nourishment or how it would impact the island. Having no opinion is one thing; having no knowledge is another. • Did he ever understand how skewed the groups make up was? We tried to be polite but in doing so we were not truthful at times. 				
8. I'd say the best thing about having a facilitator for this event was:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I think we could have reached this goal without a facilitator. • John was unbiased and knew nothing about our problems and issues. He did an excellent job! • Everyone was forced to listen and to be polite 				