SYSTEMS EVALUATION:

How we THINK about Evaluation affects how we DO evaluation
Systems Thinking applied to Evaluation
Knowledge = Information × Thinking
DISTINCTIONS RULE: Any idea or thing can be distinguished from the other ideas or things it is with

SYSTEMS RULE: Any idea or thing can be split into parts or lumped into a whole

RELATIONSHIP RULE: Any idea or thing can relate to other things or ideas

PERSPECTIVES RULE: Any thing or idea can be the point or the view of a perspective
Hypothesizes, predicts...

Your Program

Feedback
“Say...what’s that mountain goat doing way up here in a cloud bank?”
How we think the system works

How the system actually works
50 people

60% blue, 40% red

1. Perfect representation

3 blue districts, 2 red districts

BLUE WINS

2. Compact, but unfair

5 blue districts, 0 red districts

BLUE WINS

3. Neither compact nor fair

2 blue districts, 3 red districts

RED WINS
OUR BLESSED HOMELAND

OUR GLORIOUS LEADER
OUR GREAT RELIGION
OUR NOBLE POPULACE
OUR HEROIC ADVENTURERS

THEIR BARBAROUS WASTES

THEIR WICKED DESPOT
THEIR PRIMITIVE SUPERSTITION
THEIR BACKWARD SAVAGES
THEIR BRUTISH INVADERS

TOM GAULD
Mutually Reinforcing Activities

Collective Impact
Growing recognition that a significant challenge facing water quality protection and restoration, in a resource constrained context, is the necessary reliance on community resources for implementation of these activities — thus community capacity is a LIMITING FACTOR in this system.
Wisconsin Think Water School
Lakes Team

**Limiting Factor:** How do we enhance capacity?

- Member Capacity
- Relationship Capacity
- Organization Capacity
- Program Capacity

*Adapted from Davenport (2015)*
Proud tradition of excellence in building the monitoring and support network to manage this (part of the) problem.
References


Thank you!

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