



<http://wmich.edu/news/2013/11/10900>

Session 3: Developing an agenda for action for water governance

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Contracting

Start and finish on time?

Provide others with the experience of being listened to?

Respect the value of silences in the conversation?

It is ok to say you do not know/ do not understand?

Appreciate diversity of languages, perspectives and experiences in the room?

To avoid misunderstanding first check your interpretations of others' positions?

Strive to be present in the group conversation at all times?

Give feedback to others at every opportunity eg coffee / lunch?

Individuals can invoke Chatham House rules if they choose to do so?

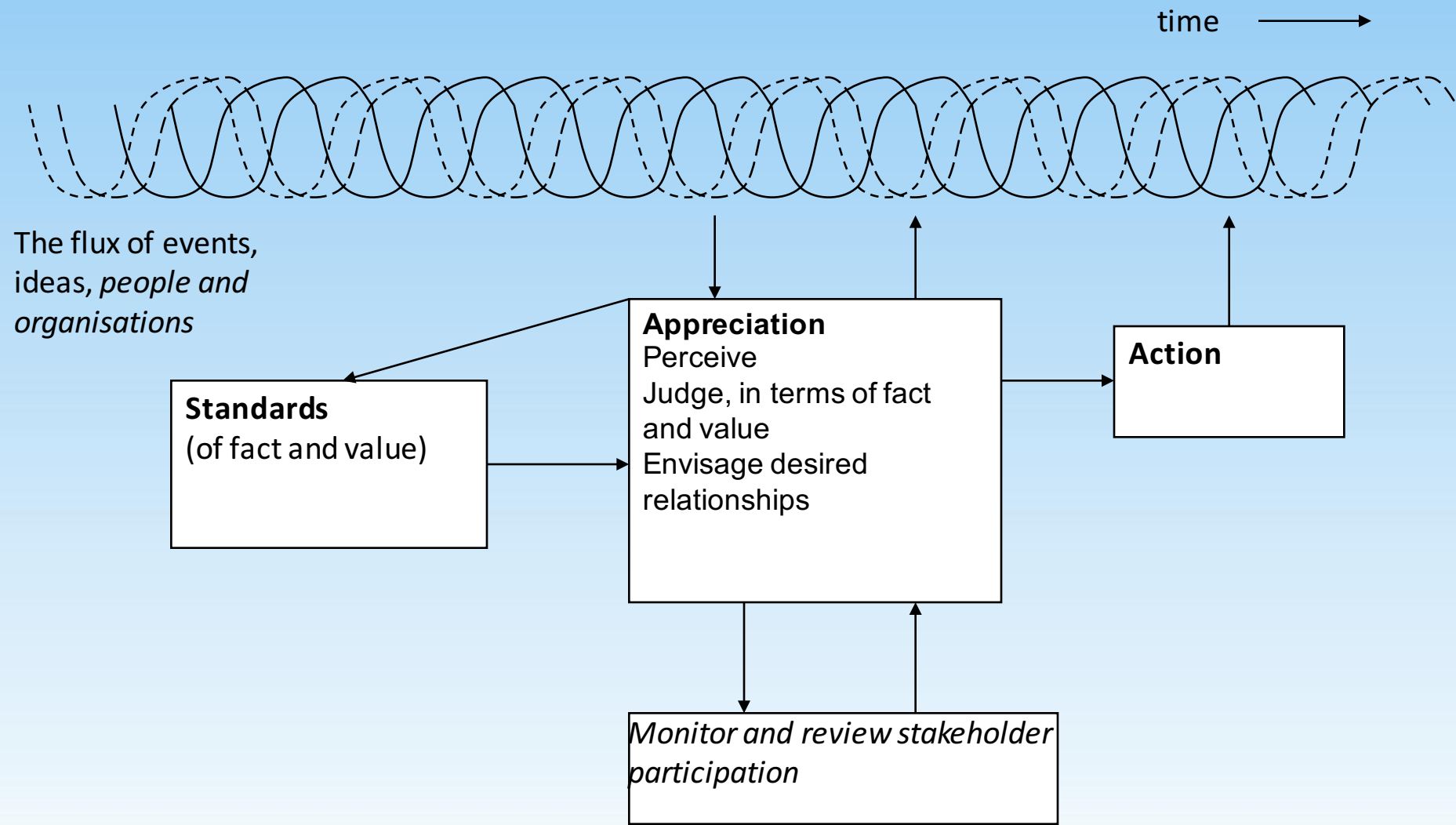
No emails / phones in the room?

Questions to speakers should be based on the concerns of your table?

Permission for photography / audio recording?

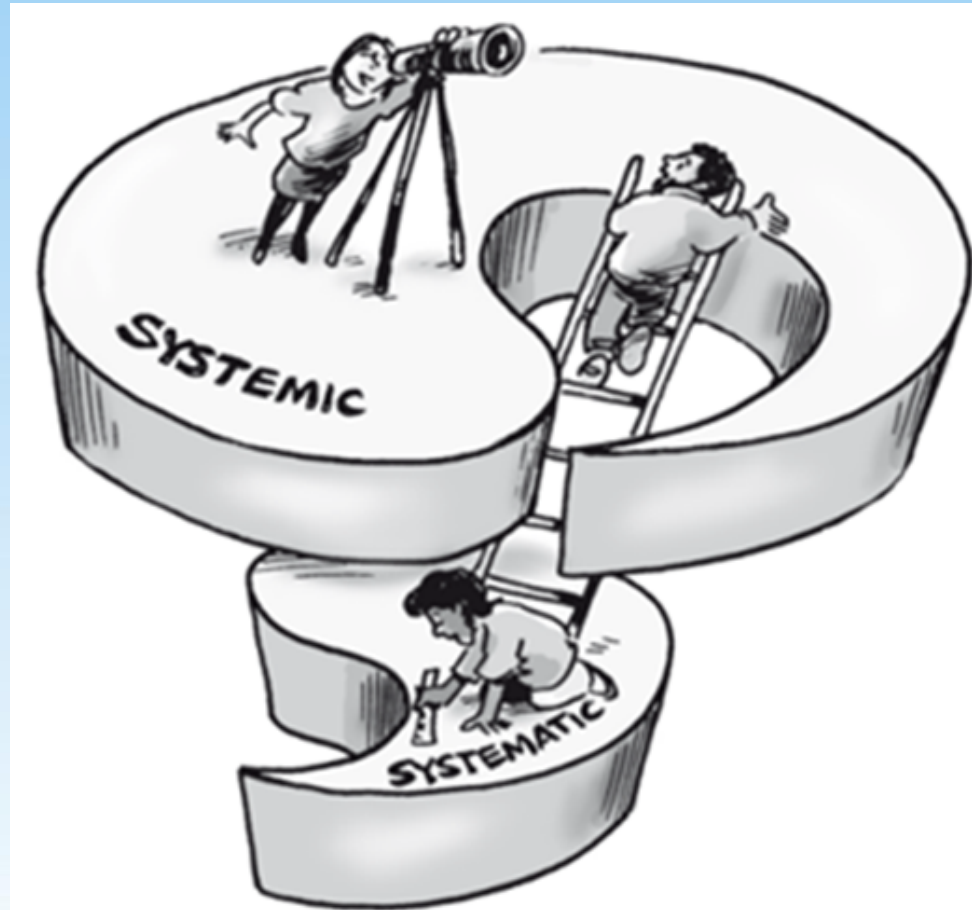
We all take responsibility for monitoring this contract?

Where does action fit into inquiry?



Vickers' appreciative systems model, adapted from Checkland and Casar, 1986

Actions for improving and transforming water governance



Examples of actions emerging from our inquiry

STAKES AND STAKEHOLDING

- **Identify stakeholders**
- **Build stakeholding**
 - Reconcile new and emerging roles
 - Develop shared ownership and responsibility
 - Raise awareness about water issues
 - Meaningfully engage people in water governance

FACILITATION

- **Identify facilitation needs**
- **Provide facilitation**

INSTITUTIONS AND POLICIES

- **Develop conducive institutions**
 - Institutionalise systems thinking and practice
 - Institutionalise catchment science
- **Develop conducive policies**

KNOWING AND LEARNING

- **Co-produce knowledge**
- **Jointly identify what constitutes an improvement**

Examples of actions from this morning's presentations

Allocate and distinguish roles and responsibilities

Manage water at appropriate scales

Encourage policy coherence

Adapt level of capacity through cross-sectoral coordination

Produce, update & share water-related data and info

Mobilise water finance

Ensure sound regulatory frameworks

Promote regular monitoring and evaluation

Develop partnerships

Align planning across the Environment

Continuous sharing of learning

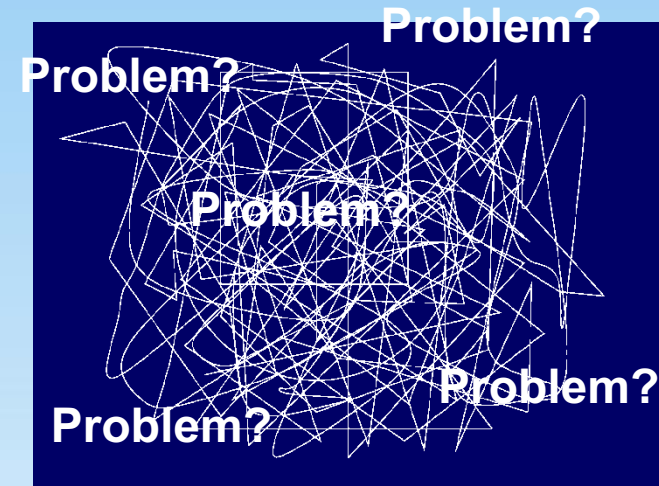
Engage the media

Modelling....

Problem or 'situation'?

Problem

Bounded



Situation - Unbounded

Acknowledges different perspectives

Acknowledges complexity, uncertainty, interdependencies

Acknowledges unintended consequences

Shifts from **problem solving** to **situation improvement**

A situation....



Photograph Courtesy
of the Lycoming County
Historical Society

Systems of interest – examples

'Positioning the current water governance system to a citizen-based 'commons management' mode in order to act responsibly in the interests of future generations. Taking responsibility for trade and processing, supermarket selling environment, distribution of food security, science and technology.'

'A disconnected and opaque system, nominally owned by everyone but managed by EU, Government and water companies, to provide goods and services by delivering public water supply and waste water treatment using inefficient high energy, engineering, top-down regulatory approaches in order to support economic growth and welfare.'

'Supplying potable water to society as part of an integrated approach, finding a better balance between water for people and the environment.'

Identifying situations of interest and forming groups

1. Participants

- Identify two or three situations relating to water governance that are of interest to you as an individual and write them down on post-its
- Stick your post-its onto the flip charts

2. Facilitators

- Cluster post-its
- Nominate contexts for discussion groups

3. Participants and facilitators

- Divide into groups

Identifying possible actions in groups

As a group develop your recommendations for action.

Do this through discussion in the groups, supported by your facilitator.

Elaborate and evaluate suggested actions as you go:

1. Look for ways to improve the situation
2. Think about who would need to be involved and how (including yourself)
- 3 Find any 'key logs in the logjam' in making a change
- 4 Consider possible effects of action
- 5 Look for unintended consequences

Prepare for Reporting back

On a flip chart:

1. Write a one sentence description of your situation of interest.
2. Record actions identified (can do this on post-its first if preferred ...up to you)
3. Make a list of your recommendations for action
4. Nominate a spokesperson to make a short (max 5 mins) report to the plenary.