



Beyond Physical Interconnect: New Ways of Working Together

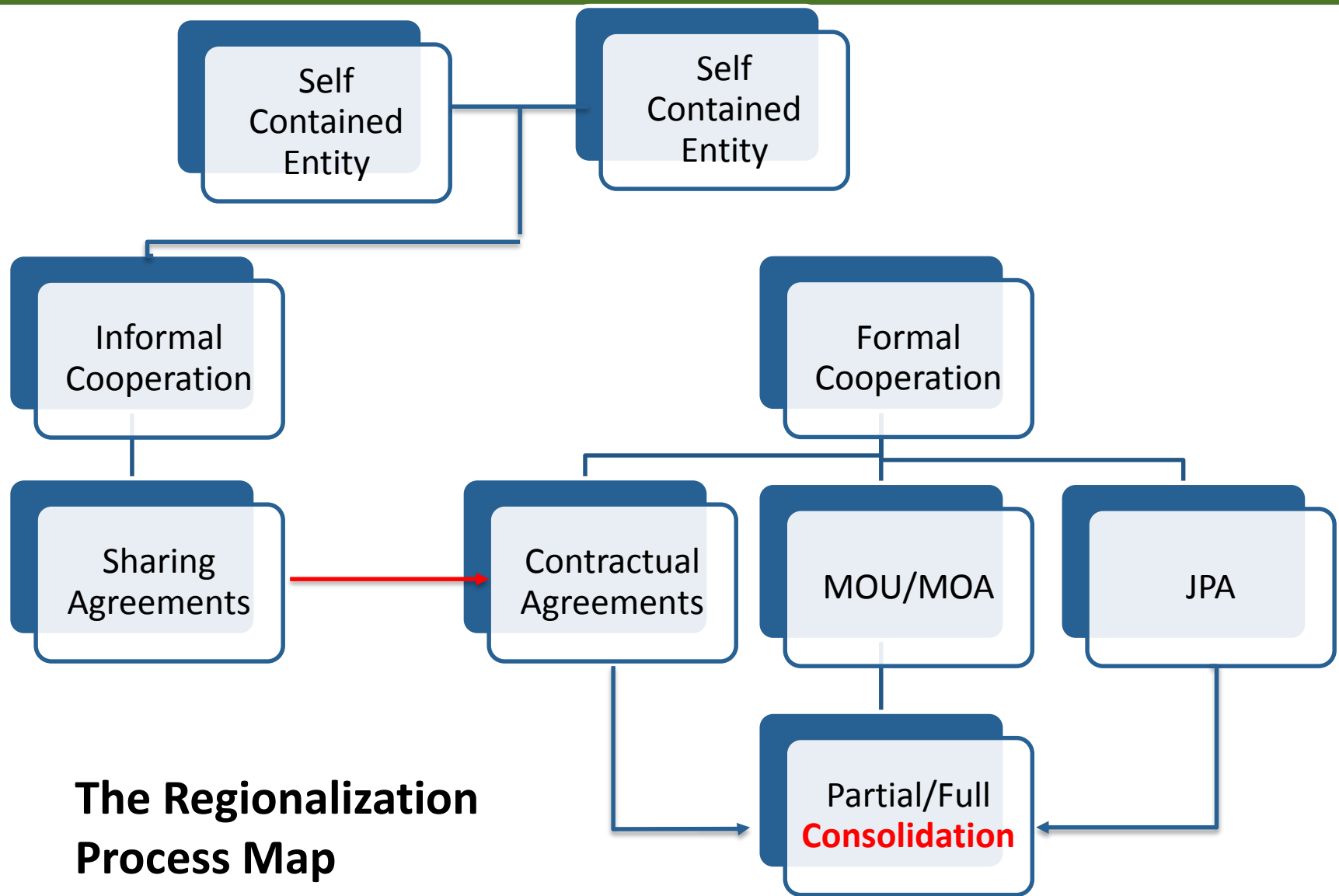


Presenter:

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Today's Objectives

1. Regionalization vs. Consolidation
2. Long Term Sustainability
3. Regionalization Challenges & Opportunities
4. Factors that Contribute to Successful Regional Projects



The Regionalization Process Map

Small Systems ≠ Sustainability

Sustainability is unattainable for small and very small systems

- Lack economies of scale
- Limited resources
- Reactive operating mode
- Limited funding options
- Increasing regulatory and funding requirements
- Absence of redundancy

Sustainability of Volunteers

- Greatest Generation (1901-1924)
 - Many created small systems
- Silent Generation (1925 – 1945)
 - The children of the Great Depression, created and/or maintained small systems
- Baby Boomers (1946 – 1964)
 - The “Special Generation”. Generally bringing change - take over systems to help their parents

Sustainability of Volunteers Cont.

- Generation X (1964 – early 1980's)
 - Working families; commuting long distances
- Generation Y a.k.a. Millennials (1980s -2000s)
 - not living in small communities
- Generation Z (2000s – to present day)
 - Too young!

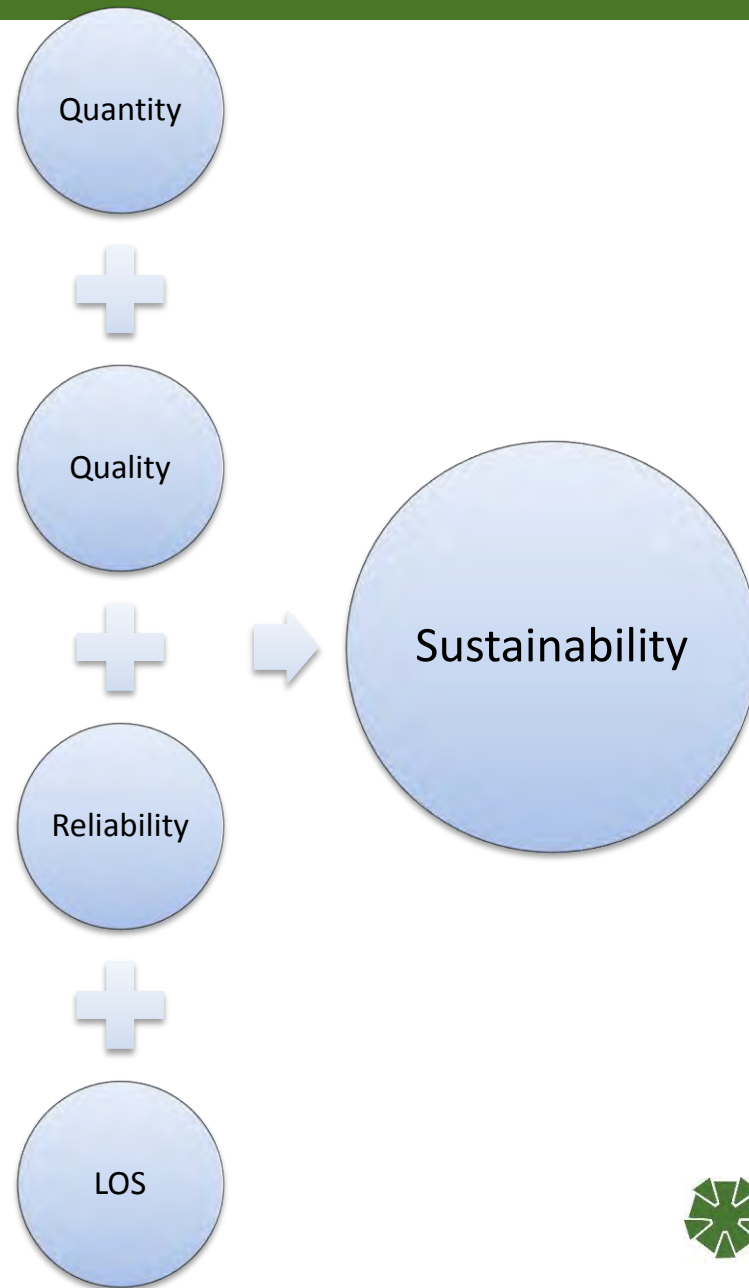
Regionalization Challenges

- Limited number of incorporated towns/cities
- County governments have limited powers
- Water rights' perceived concerns/difficulties
- Long-standing issues between communities
- Water system structures
- That's the way we always done it!
- Perceived lost of identity
- Hard to let go of local control

Factors that **contribute to successful** Regional Projects

1. Leadership
2. Common Vision
3. Established Framework or Structure
4. Transparency
5. Acknowledging the Human Factor
6. Time
7. Information Exchange

Sustainability Model



Transparency – Build Trust

- We all encounter “blockers” keep going, keep getting them information. If you try to go around a blocker they will go underground.
- The whole process is written. History is preserved. The community is not changed.
- First step is to look at each other's records, share a bookkeeper, share meetings.

The Layers of Regionalization

1. Collaboration

- MOU, MOA, bookkeeping contract, O&M contracts, etc.

2. Innovation

- Regional water planning studies, water conservation plans, water rights plans, watershed protection, sewer, energy savings, etc.

3. Integration

- Partial or Full Merger Plan

Some Examples

- New Mexico:
 - Sangre de Cristo Regional - 7 MDWCAs
 - El Valle Water Alliance – 8 systems
 - Lower Rio Grande Public Water Works Authority – 9 systems (13 communities)
- California:
 - North Tulare County Water Alliance – 3 systems (5 communities)
 - Triple A Regional Water Project – 2 systems

ANY
QUESTIONS
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It has been a pleasure!