The Issue

Staff (agencies & NGOs) receive phone calls from individuals with project ideas.

These individuals don’t know where to start.

Restoration staff have limited capacity to help to the degree necessary.

How can these motivated & passionate individuals be assisted in getting from their idea to a real project?
The Solution

Build a “toolkit” that would guide non-restoration professionals from concept to construction.

Create something that is applicable across different regions.

Use listening sessions to gather needs and ideas.

Use a steering committee with representatives from all regions to develop the ideas into a tool.
The Process

Listening Sessions
Gather ideas from restoration partners

Recommendations
Summarize and shape ideas into a tool with the Steering Committee

Website
Craft a tool based on Restoration Partner’s ideas and Steering Committee’s recommendations
Listening Sessions

Purpose: to gain insight on the regional needs for assisting residents/communities/partners in developing a project idea, and the path to preparing a successful project proposal.
Areas represented

- In Person Meetings
- By Phone
Who we talked to

- Grassroots Organizations
- Restoration Professionals
- Government agencies
- Watershed Groups
- Universities
- Non-profits
- Homeowners-turned-activists
What we covered

• Background/Project Goals
• Regional Coastal Concerns
• Challenges & Barriers
• Partnerships
• Existing Resources
What did we hear?
Regional Partnerships

• Networking is very important and quite advanced, usually well established.

• Sea Grant, Conservation Districts, place-specific watershed groups, regulatory jurisdictions, watershed groups


http://www.savebay.org/image/cleanups/IMG_1105.jpg
Regional issues

Restoration needs:

- Invasives, erosion, stormwater, contaminants, shellfish & fish habitat, loss of coastal wetlands

Concerns/project ideas most often heard about:

- Flooding, oyster castles, erosion, private property protection, invasive species control

Regional Challenges & Barriers

- Capacity – need more people
- Funding that matches scale and type of projects
- Lack of knowledge, or unrealistic expectations, of project development - process, components and timelines
- Maintaining up-to-date informational resources
- Ecological fluency – both residents and gov’ts
- Regionally-specific terminology and sensitivities

http://seagrant.gso.uri.edu/special-programs/coastal-state-discussion-series/
Toolkit Audience
If you had a Magic Wand…

• What component (resource) would you add to this toolkit?
Magic Wand Waving

• You need a person. “It’s less about the tool and more about who’s holding it”.
• Networking tools.
• A list of example projects that can be visited.
• A list of benchmarks for the process of building a project from idea to construction.
• A dichotomous key for different project types to solutions.
Differences Across Regions

Grant matching:
- barrier to smaller groups
- unavailable for early phases

Permitting:
- timing and complexity
- viewed as necessary

Networking:
- size (capacity) of potential partners
- size of jurisdictions
Toolkit Structure

- Flooding
- Greening
- Water Quality
- Invasive Species
- Wildlife & Fish Habitat Restoration
Toolkit Structure

- Explanations and descriptions of topic from various regions.
- Description of how restoration can help.
- Examples of projects that address topic via hyperlinks to external projects by partners.
- Video links to existing videos.
- Topic project-specific checklist and timelines.
- Specific team member expertise that might be necessary.
- Potential contacts to other partners that could be of assistance, via hyperlinks.
What it will look like
Thank you for your time!
Take Action to Restore Our Coastlines

Find tools and information you need to launch a restoration project in your community.
Local Needs. Local Actions.

Once you have started with our tools, we recommend you connect with your state, regional, or local government agencies, organizations, and other similar resources. Our coastlines are dramatically different from one part of the country to another. Different habitats and species, different laws and regulations, different politics and culture all may require different approaches.
The “why”

Why restore a coastal habitat?
Our coastlines provide value in many ways.

**It’s Home**
40% of the U.S. population live near our coastlines. By 2075, 75% of U.S. residents will live within 50 miles of the coast.

**Jobs**
The U.S. coasts support more than 51 million jobs. They include commercial and recreational fishing, commerce and shipping, coastal tourism, and recreation.

**Climate Change**
Well-functioning coastal wetlands hold carbon within the soil, helping curb climate change. Average carbon sequestration rates are several times greater than for forests.

**Habitats for Important Species**
Estuaries, where fresh water & saltwater mix, produce more food than most midwestern farmland. 75% of commercial fish species and 80-90% of recreational fish species depend on these areas.

**Storms & Flooding Protection**
Estuaries serve as buffers to protect shorelines from storms, flooding, and erosion. Coastal wetlands provide an estimated $23 billion dollars in hurricane protection.

**Clean Air & Water**
Healthy coastal areas filter pollutants, improving air and water quality.
Wetlands and other fish and wildlife habitats have declined dramatically.
The U.S. lost an average of 80,000 acres of coastal wetlands each year from 2004 to 2009. Loss of habitat has reduced populations of fish and shellfish worth billions of dollars. Habitat restoration will help fish and wildlife recover.

Polluted Runoff
Development brings more roads, roofs, and parking lots. When it rains, runoff polluted with sediment, bacteria, pathogens, chemicals, and nutrients flows into our waters. Restoring clean water is important for fishing, swimming, boating, and drinking.
Considerations Rejected

Database of projects - too difficult to maintain, no identified owner or party responsible to maintain. Numerous databases exist that catalog a variety of restoration projects (e.g. The Nature Conservancy, NOAA, Living Shorelines Academy, etc.), so resources are better spent referencing these rather than creating a new database.

Networking lists – not realistic to keep up with personnel changes or to represent the complexity of the networks available. An alternative would be to provide a list of terms to search with which do to searches.

Permit requirements – much too regional and much too project specific to be able to represent accurately. Regulations change frequently. The scale of the project dictate how many and which permits would be involved.

A live person (online chat function) – not realistic at current funding level. There was a discussion around having a peer-volunteer option but the consensus was that this would not be sustainable.
 Toolkit Brainstorming

The audience and target end users:
- Residents, neighborhood groups in City
- Stewardship partners
- Schools and scouts
- Waterfront landowners
- Industry and business owners
- Smaller and moderate size NGOs
- Municipalities

Municipalities are in need of this kind of tool.
Private homeowners: don’t own big enough parcels for habitat projects but the majority of the shoreline is owned by private landowners and restoration isn’t going to happen without them.
Create a tool that is as close as possible to having an individual guide through project development. Encourage team building and networking.
## Steering Committee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Region</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marilyn Latta</td>
<td>California Coastal Conservancy</td>
<td>Pacific Southwest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeff DeQuattro</td>
<td>Alabama TNC</td>
<td>Gulf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kent Smith</td>
<td>Florida Fish &amp; Wildlife Conservation Commission</td>
<td>Atlantic Southeast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kevin DuBois</td>
<td>Lafayette Wetland Partnership</td>
<td>Mid-Atlantic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capt. Al Modjeski</td>
<td>American Littoral Society</td>
<td>Northeast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robin Weber</td>
<td>Narragansett Bay</td>
<td>North Northeast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sam Lovall</td>
<td>Friends of Detroit River</td>
<td>Great Lakes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lori Clark</td>
<td>Island County Natural Resources</td>
<td>Pacific Northwest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dawn Spilsbury Pucci</td>
<td>Island County Salmon Recovery</td>
<td>Pacific Northwest</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
What was our purpose

• To gain insight on the regional needs for assisting residents/communities/partners in developing a project idea, and the path to preparing a successful project proposal.