Focus Areas

Meridian Institute focuses on four areas of work:

- Convening and facilitating **multi-party, problem-solving and conflict resolution** processes,
- Assisting diverse parties in **creative alliances** and partnerships,
- Designing processes which **assist organizations in achieving sustainable policies** and durable decisions, and
- Advancing the **understanding of collaborative decision-making** processes.

In all four focus areas, Meridian facilitators apply experience from projects conducted at the local, state, national, and international levels to the interplay of environmental, health, economic, and social issues. Specific topics that Meridian facilitators have addressed include: environmental and natural resource policy and management; occupational safety and health; public health; agricultural policy; trade; sustainable development; and alternative approaches to regulation.

Recycled, Chlorine-free paper

Meridian Institute
Connecting People To Solve Problems
P. O. Box 4005
Dillon, Colorado 80435

Meridian Institute

Connecting People To Solve Problems

Meridian Institute Mission

Our **mission** is to increase society's ability to solve problems and resolve conflicts arising from the integration of environmental, health, economic, and social issues. We accomplish our mission through third party, neutral facilitation which will help people:

- Identify critical issues,
- Utilize creative problem-solving and conflict management, and
- Implement effective, durable solutions.

Core Values and Beliefs

Often the difference between a successful solution to a problem or conflict and a failure is an effective process. Success often requires the systematic interaction of key parties in a fair, well-designed process that achieves a concrete conclusion. We believe this is true of multi-party, public policy-making, as well as internal, organizational decision-making.

We are committed to bringing impartiality, integrity, inclusiveness, and respect for differences to a process that connects people to solve problems.

DSW 138446

STLCOPCB4038401

Facilitating Multi-Party, Public Policy Processes

Meridian's senior professionals design and facilitate dialogues that identify issues, resolve complex disputes, and generate effective solutions that can be implemented. Meridian's facilitators have led many ground-breaking negotiations and dialogues that have resulted in consensus solutions to controversial public policy issues. Multi-party dialogues can assist decision-makers and interested parties anticipate or resolve issues associated with regulations, legislation, and policy initiatives, as well as treaties and other international agreements.

Meridian Institute facilitators apply their extensive experience, trusted relationships, and familiarity with public policy decision-making to design and facilitate appropriate problem-solving and conflict resolution dialogues.

Assisting Diverse Parties To Create Alliances and Partnerships

Meridian facilitators assist organizations interested in pursuing innovative partnerships and alliances designed to meet the challenges of integrating environmental, health, economic, and social issues. Companies, non-governmental organizations, government agencies, international organizations, and others increasingly seek opportunities to form working relationships. These include opportunities to address project or facility-specific objectives (e.g., achieving sustainability, environmental, or social objectives), as well as joint pilot projects and policy initiatives. The success of designing, convening, and implementing these efforts is often enhanced by the assistance of a neutral party familiar with the issues, stakeholders, and procedures.

Meridian facilitators can identify opportunities for strategic partnerships and alliances, structure the collaboration, and assist in its successful implementation.

Facilitating Within Organizations

Everyday, organizations face the challenge of interacting with a rapidly changing world. Meridian facilitators design internal, collaborative processes to assist governments, companies, citizen and environmental organizations, and others to assess the changing external public policy environment; determine how to effectively meet organizational goals within that context; and, develop new ways of engaging external parties to develop and implement solutions that integrate environmental, health, economic and social concerns.

Meridian's expertise in process design, objective familiarity with the public policy arena, and experience working within diverse organizations presents a unique resource to entities seeking internal assistance.

Advancing Collaborative Decision-Making Processes

Over the last twenty-five years, collaborative proccesses have made a significant contribution to public policy decision-making. Meridian Institute is devoted to critically analyzing developments in this field, communicating those findings, and seeking to continuously improve its own application to more effectively connect people to solve problems. As we learn more about what constitutes effective decisions, sound process, and durable partnerships, we are committed to documenting, disseminating, and discussing our experience and learning from others.

Meridian facilitators recognize their responsibility to return to society the knowledge and learning of the organization through lectures, publications, and seminars, and to increase the capacity for all parties to participate effectively.

Organization and Staff Overview

The Meridian Institute is a not-for-profit organization located in the mountains of Colorado, 70 miles west of Denver. The five founding partners of Meridian Institute offer over seventy-five years of combined professional experience in developing innovative, consensus-building processes for some of the most challenging public policy issues of the 1980's and 1990's. The reputation, skills, and experience of Meridian's facilitators present a unique value to those seeking to make sustainable decisions within and between organizations.

In addition to the partners, Meridian works with professionals who have a wide range of expertise and can participate in project teams with Meridian staff. Meridian is dedicated to ensuring that our project teams reflect the diversity of skills and experience necessary to effectively address the issues at hand.

Dr. John R. Ehrmann has pioneered the application of collaborative processes for almost two decades. He has extensive experience in legislative and regulatory processes dealing with environmental, natural resource and other policy areas related to sustainable development, including the President's Council for Sustainable Development and the National Commission on Superfund.

Dr. Michael T. Lesnick has twenty-five years of experience with collaborative processes. He has facilitated many national and international, ground-breaking dialogues, including the National Advisory Committee on Food Safety, Assembled Chemical Weapons Demilitarization Dialogue, and International Forestry Roundtable. He has extensive experience working within organizations and has researched the effective use of collaborative decision-making.

Connie Lewis has for the last ten years focused her mediation and facilitation work on a variety of natural resource and environmental quality issues, including biodiversity, ecosystem management, forestry, plant genetic resource conservation, wildlife management, pollution prevention, protected area management, and facility siting.

Timothy J. Mealey has been involved with public policy dispute resolution and consensus building for over a decade and-a-half. He has facilitated more than thirty collaborative decision-making processes on a wide range of issues, including projects such as Federal Facilities Environmental Restoration, International Food Security, and the Endocrine Disruptor Screening and Testing Advisory Committee.

Barbara L. Stinson has more than a decade of experience in designing, facilitating and analyzing collaborative processes. Her expertise and insights have helped public and private sectors pursue innovative approaches to identifying problems and solving conflicts, particularly on air quality, transportation, land use, and natural resource management issues.

For more information contact one of the partners at:

Meridian Institute
P.O. Box 4005 • Dillon, CO • 80435
970-513-8340 • Fax 970-513-8348

DSW 138447

STLCOPCB4038402