

great care to emphasize what has worked, what has not and what should be our future priorities for research; the combination of these features certainly sets it apart from some other texts in the field.

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**Adaptive Governance and Water Conflict: New Institutions for Collaborative Planning**

John T. Scholz & Bruce Stiftel (Eds)

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In rapidly growing areas of the USA, development patterns and population increases are amplifying the stresses on natural systems. The resulting problems and conflicts tend to be multi-dimensional and inter-jurisdictional, making it challenging for existing governance institutions to respond effectively. To address these challenges stakeholders are increasingly using collaborative and adaptive arrangements that are better able to respond to these complex situations. Nowhere are the problems of water governance more significant than in the state of Florida.

*Adaptive Governance and Water Conflict* is a carefully conceived and very well organized text that provides important insights into water resource management and governance. The editors begin with an introduction that lays out five challenges of adaptive governance: (1) Who should be involved? (2) How can participants reach policy agreements? (3) How can policy makers use scientific information effectively? (4) How can users and the public learn about policy issues? and (5) How well do decisions respond to natural resource problems? These are five well-conceived questions, which form the backbone of this book through a review of case studies and analysis from practitioners and researchers.

The book presents seven individually authored case studies from around the state of Florida, grouped into themes of water quality, water supply and multi-dimensional problems. The case studies vary in scale from metropolitan region to multi-state river basin. Some cases are well known in the literature (Everglades restoration), while others are relatively unknown (Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin water allocation). In each case study, the author provides a background and then addresses the five issues previewed by the editors. The cases strike a good balance of providing a sufficient snapshot of case specifics while offering some generalizable findings for an audience interested in translating the lessons to other settings.

The two analysis sections of this book provide a range of interesting insights. The first analysis section is composed of four commentaries written by professionals, including an agency scientist, a legal scholar and a former agency director. For example, in Chapter 11, legal scholar Richard Hamann makes a case for litigation as a means to empowering citizens and forcing negotiations. In Chapter 13, the former agricultural commissioner in Florida examines the issue of adaptive governance through the lens of the agricultural community. Most of these are commentaries

related to water governance in Florida generally or specific perspectives in one or two limited cases. These commentaries provide an interesting cross-section of new perspectives on governance arrangements, which are often missing from case study analyses. However, the approach to the commentaries and their brevity mean that the reader needs to have reviewed the case studies to really understand all of the implications and differences.

The final section of the book offers an analysis from a high profile cross section of researchers, including Lawrence Susskind (dispute resolution), John Forester (role of mediators), and Paul Sabatier (advocacy coalition framework). For readers new to the issues of governance and collaboration, these chapters offer excellent individual overviews of conceptual thinking about adaptive governance from some of the leading researchers in the field. For professionals this chapter offers insights into how individual governance cases can be examined through different theoretical lenses.

The one weakness I found in this book was the limited cross-analysis of the theoretical implications. The book structure and concluding chapter focuses on some of the common themes appearing across the cases studies and analyses. However, there is less critical examination of the differences raised in the case studies, commentaries and analysis. An exploration of these differences would be an added asset, because it is not always clear that the authors are all discussing the same thing. For example, are dispute resolution processes and facilitated processes completely analogous to adaptive governance and collaborative planning? Voluntary partnerships and mandated negotiations involve many of the same deliberative concepts, but are they really the same? As a researcher and facilitator myself, I really wanted to gather this group of authors around a table and spend more time exploring some of the differences in their interpretations and conclusions. This is by no means a fatal flaw in the book, but might be a consideration for future editions or new texts.

In summary, *Adaptive Governance and Water Conflict* is a comprehensive summary of the theory and practice of adaptive governance and collaborative planning. Its effort to draw on a range of cases and perspectives in a concise and well-edited volume make it a valuable and accessible text for students, practitioners and researchers.

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