



Civic Engagement and Producing Sustainable Communities

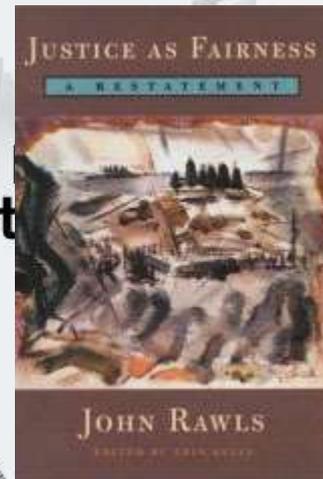
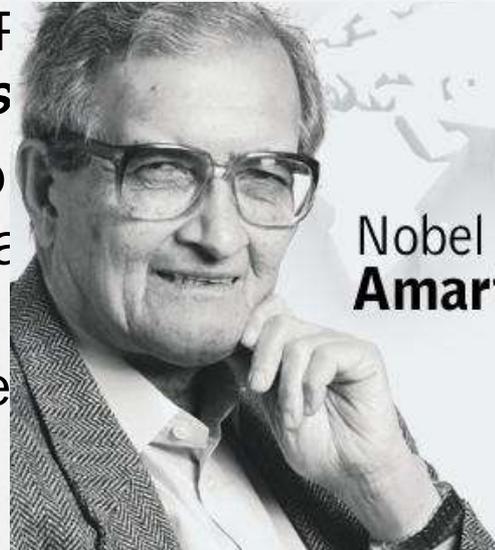
Nels Paulson, PhD

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University of Wisconsin-Stout

What is a “sustainable community”?

- o Two answers:
 - o Amartya Sen: Everyone should have maximum capabilities to get what they value (*freedoms to attain their functionings*)
 - o John Rawls: Everyone should have the *same* *access* to the basic goods of society
- o But also the equality of resources
 - o Make a more just future



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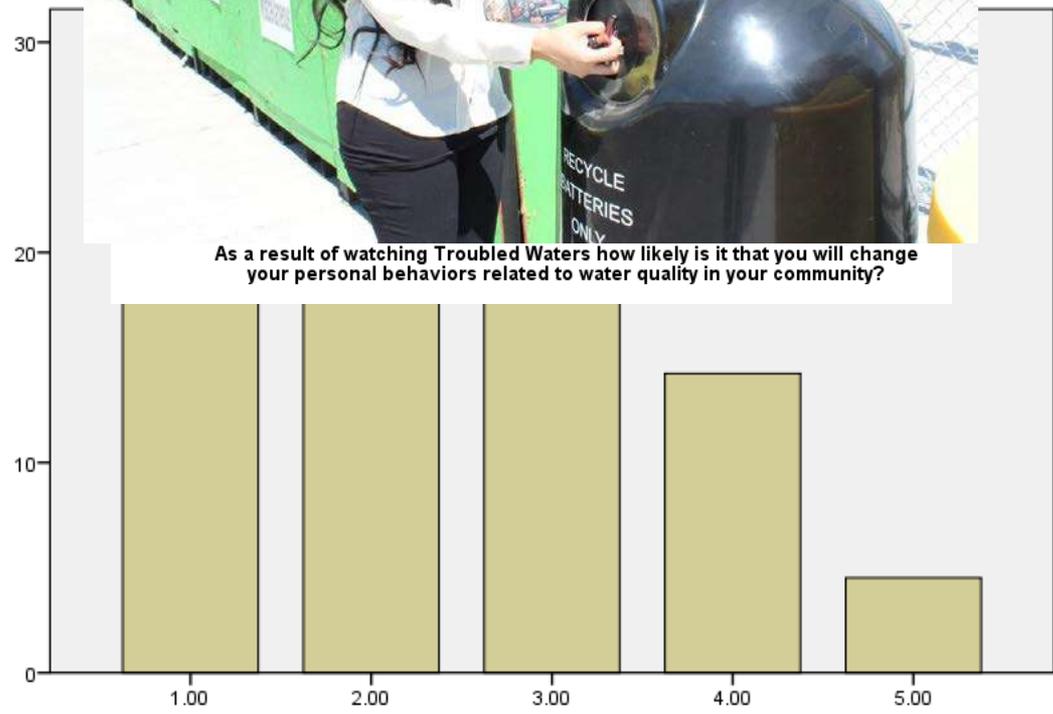
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As a result of watching Troubled Waters how likely is it that you will change your personal behaviors related to water quality in your community?

As a result of watching Troubled Waters how likely is it that you will engage in group activities related to water quality in your community?

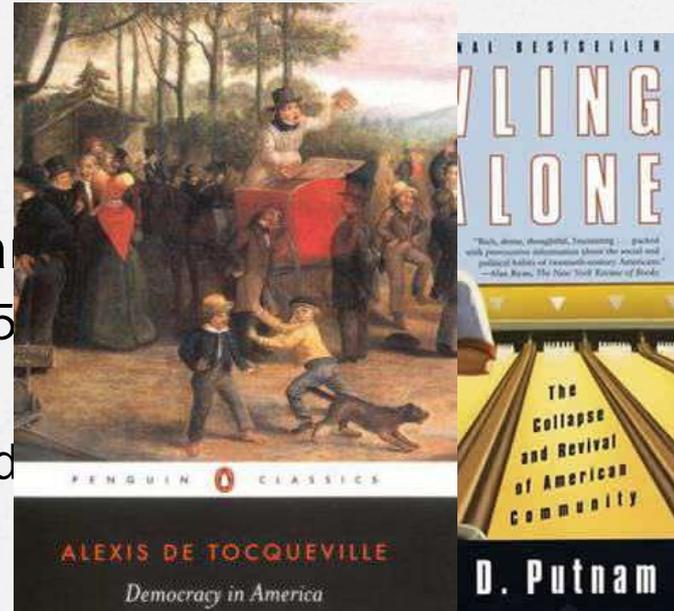
Problems with this individualist mindset?

- o Many.
 - o Social science research and theory abounds
 - o Anomie (normlessness) breeds distrust
 - o • Characteristic
- duce



We need to make democracy work.

- o Alexis de Tocqueville: “Civic mindedness” thrives in America!
- o Thus, people value compromise and have high “social capital”!
- o This was in the 1830s.
- o Things are different today.
- o Trends over the last 25 years
 - o Attending club meetings: 50% drop
 - o Family dinners: 43% drop
 - o Having friends over: 35% drop



And the irony.

- When communities *resist* individualism we find the *highest* rates of self-reported happiness.
- Civic-minded people actively constrain one another, but they talk about it.
- **And** they get the most happiness out of life.
- [Plus, join group cur year.]



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presents:

Over 50 years of evaluating surface water and identifying corrective and protective a

Paul LaLiberte
(DNR Basin Supervisor)
&
Buzz Sorge
(DNR Program & Planning An

- Topics Include:
- What was learned during almost 20 years of studying water quality in the Red Cedar River
 - Examples of things that did and did not work
 - Developing a strategic plan for lake management and what other lake organizations have done.

THE GOAL:
To help the Lake Association identify a path and a role within the larger effort to improve the water quality of the Red Cedar River Basin.
(Update to the version presented at Jake's)



STACHETOFERFEST

LAKE BENEFIT

WATERFRONT BAR AND GRILL

PERFORMANCES BY:
THE EVERGREEN GRASS BAND
THE MAD MAD ONES & PRIZES AND RAFFLE PLUS FREE MUG INCLUDED!

7PM ~ \$10 AT DOOR
ALL AGES / 21+ @ 10PM
ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT
TAINTER-MEMNON LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION



9th Annual Tainter Lake 4th of July Boat Parade

When: Sat. July 4th @ 1:00pm
re: Boats meet north of the Hay River Bridge
ade will begin at 1pm. Boats please arrive 30 minutes prior so we can get lined up and started on time.

ade originators & organizers Marty & Rodi Baumsartner be leading the charge starting at the Hay River Bridge and traveling along the northwest shore past Elk Point, returning along through the channel past Jake's Supper Club and finally ending before the dam.



nder the Tainter-Memnon Lake Improvement Association Annual Meeting & Potluck be held on Tuesday, July 14th at 6pm. Please stop out and enjoy good company, d and learn about all the great things the TMLIA is working on and has accomplished a year. There have been a lot of changes, don't miss out on this opportunity to hear about all that is going on and take this time to share your thoughts.

For information check out www.tmlia.org or our blog (news.tmlia.blogspot.com)



When:
Tuesday,
March 10th
7:00P.M.
Where:
Tainter Town
Hall



www.tmlia.org
www.tmlia.blogspot.com



ate water
of all kinds

- o Examples?
 - o Practical Farmers of Iowa
 - o "Citizen science" education
 - o Local non-governmental organizations (e.g. TMLIA)



making

Webs of Affiliation

- o In addition, it matters that there is *overlap* among groups.
- o If you just talk and participate with one group of people who agree with you about everything then you will get the benefits of personal happiness but...
- o Democracy will fail and society's relationship with nature will be unsustainable
- o So, make sure your groups encourage diversity of values/norms/backgrounds as much as possible!

The Point?
Talk to others.



Thank you.

