

**Together We Decide: Practical Tools for Collaborative Decision Making
February 15, 2023****Link to the recording:** <https://youtu.be/ZsH2Zbzidtw>**eePRO post:**<https://eepro.naaee.org/learning/together-we-decide-practical-tools-collaborative-decision-making>**Speaker: Craig Freshley, professional meeting facilitator, speaker, and author****Highlights of the chat transcript:****Welcome!**

- Anne Umali, NAAEE: Welcome! Great to see you all here!
- Hilla Abel: Hi! From SF Bay Area.
- Elizabeth Waage: Beth Waage- Story County Conservation- Ames, IA
- Laura Lewis: USDA Forest Service - Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, Wilmington IL
- Lara Milligan: Sunny FL! I'm Lara Milligan, Natural Resources Agent with UF/IFAS Extension :-)
- Susie broquist lundegård: Hi, Susie Broquist Lundegård WWF Sweden
- Shannon Conway: Hi I'm Shannon, in Palmer Alaska with the Denali Education Center
- John Watson: Hi from the Municipality of Dysart et al in Ontario, Canada
- Lucy Barton: Cincinnati Zoo in Cincinnati, Ohio
- Amanda Panciera: Urban Ecology Center, Milwaukee WI
- ERICA SNIEGOWSKI: Nine Mile Creek Watershed District, Eden Prairie, MN
- Jaime Gonzalez: Zooming in today from the Bayou City/Space City/Clutch City - Jaime Gonzalez, The Nature Conservancy
- Darcy Young: Narragansett Bay Estuary Program in Providence, Rhode Island. Hi there!
- Jenny Adkins: Jenny- MAD scientist associates from Ohio
- Liz Virgl: I'm from American Bird Conservancy in Houston, TX
- Lea Betty: Conservation Legacy, from the Lake Tahoe area
- Edgar Ortuno: USDA Forest Service Angeles National Forest Arcadia, CA
- Maya Alexander: Hi NAAEE friends! Alliance for the Shenandoah Valley, calling from New Market, VA today
- Jenn Page: unceded territory of the Wabanaki Confederacy, Penobscot Nation (midcoast Maine). Excited about this offering!
- Hadi Veisi: Penn State
- Emma Wharton: Flagstaff, Arizona Grand Canyon Youth

- Anguilla: Bend, Oregon!
- Sarin LoMascolo: Hi again! Sawtooth National Forest. Ketchum, Idaho.
- Anne Umali, NAAEE: Hi, everyone! Joining you all from Frederick, MD.
- Shelby Roback: Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center! Finland, Minnesota
- Kristen Swanberg: Massachusetts
- Raizja Yurivilca: Rai, Earth Force, joining from Conroe, Texas
- Bruce: Delanie, with Bird Conservancy of the Rockies out of Scottsbluff, NE!
- Hadi Veisi: Hadi PSU
- Katrin Hawkins: Massachusetts
- Asa Duffee: I'm here with the Association of Nature Center Administrators, coming from Yellow Springs, Ohio 😊
- Geoffrey Echemu: Hi am Geoffrey Echemu founder of Humane Initiative Uganda
- Jennifer Kollerup: Jennifer Kollerup, Colorado, helping to found Colorado Collective for Nature-Based Early Education
- Jimena Cuenca: Hi! I'm Jimena, part of the NAAEE team, joining from Fairbanks, AK! 🇺🇸
- Anne Umali, NAAEE: Thank you Forest Service! 🌲
- Betty Olivolo: Betty O, Natural Start Alliance/NAAEE living in Maine, Wabanaki land.
- Grace Charabati: Hi! I'm Grace with the NAAEE team. I'm online from Washington, DC
- Daniella Rodriguez: Hi Everyone! Daniella with NAAEE calling in from Blue Hill, ME!
- Anne Umali, NAAEE: Thank you, EPA!!!
- Olivia Walton: Hi Everyone! Olivia with St. Croix Environmental Association, here from the US Virgin Islands
- Anne Umali, NAAEE: Hi!
- Olivia Walton: YAY for Anne!!!
- Geoffrey Echemu: Hello Geoffrey Echemu, Humane Initiative Uganda community based org working on environment conservation and education.

Presentation Outline

- Anne Umali, NAAEE: We'll be giving copies of away of Craig's book — random drawing 😊
- Craig Freshley:

AGENDA

- Theory
- Practical Tools
- Techniques and Solutions
- Resources

- Benefits

GUIDELINES

- Invest now and later.
- Try to apply.
- Ask questions in writing.
- Share solutions in video. And in writing.

TOP TOOLS

- Compelling cause
 - Clear expectations and roles
 - Help people be heard
 - Attitude matters!
- Craig Freshley: NOTES: <https://tinyurl.com/2fbhradz>
 - Sarah Jennings: love the Bill reference as a fellow New Englander
 - Sarah Jennings: yessss! Raizha!

Sharing Examples and Resources

- Judy Braus (she, her) NAAEE: Go, Earth Force!
- Anne Umali, NAAEE: Thanks for up, Raizha!
- Geoffrey Echemu: Thanks Rhaiza for deliberation
- Alyssa Mcconkey: Here is a link to the activity Rai is talking about:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1NRJnL7K2_fwCT_ug_uTcR1qmh3j2BP-m2Mi77eqKW1A/edit?usp=sharing
- Sarah Jennings:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1NRJnL7K2_fwCT_ug_uTcR1qmh3j2BP-m2Mi77eqKW1A/edit
- Lara Milligan: We really struggled to get participation on our virtual community forums during COVID and ended up converting our forum questions to an online survey and got a great response with that approach. Not what we wanted, but how we adapted, and it worked!
- Sarah Jennings: <https://dotstorming.com/>
- Lara Milligan: But I would love to hear success stories with virtual forums.
- Alyssa Mcconkey: Dot Storming: <https://dotstorming.com/>
- Julia Gerwe: Thanks for sharing these resources in the chat, folks!
- Lara Milligan: Dot storming! How fun...also love all these resources
- Jerran Orwig: Jen West - Rockstar!!

- Holly hannaway: I just participated in a webinar that included using a 4 different polls during the presentation to gather group input
- Alyssa Mcconkey: I appreciate the polls to, Jen
- Alyssa Mcconkey: *too
- Anne Umali, NAAEE: Polls can be anonymous too!
- Taylor Bates: <https://www.mentimeter.com/features/live-polling> This is a great tool for in the moment polling.
- Sarah Jennings: oh that is a good one too!
- Anne Umali, NAAEE: Thank you for sharing your tips, Jennifer!
- Raizha Yurivilca: Love mentimeter!
- Craig Freshley: NOTES: <https://tinyurl.com/2fbhradz>
- Lea Betty: Thank you for sharing the links to those tools!
- Betty Olivolo: Is it okay to share the google doc notes with someone who is not attending this webinar?
- Jennifer West: what if a participant shares unsubstantiated or false information?
- Betty Olivolo: Great--thanks!
- Raizha Yurivilca: That's a great idea!
- Geoffrey Echemu: can the notes be forwarded to personal emails after the zoom meeting?

Questions

- Mary Gattis: Really like asking “why you believe ...?”
- Lara Milligan: If that happens, it can go down a rabbit hole and get the discussion off track. I often redirect folks and say...let's not get so focused on the facts/stats...our focus here is ___ and we are focusing on the bigger picture....
- Jennifer West:great tips- thanks Craig!!
- Adrian Ayson: Beyond making sure all voices are heard, and having a process that leads to a strong, well-supported collaborative decision, what are some techniques to help us make the RIGHT decision?
- Lara Milligan: If we want all voices heard...is it best to do targeted community discussion with specific people groups and then combine the data or to try to get them altogether in one room?
- Darcy Young: That's a great question Lara, I'd like to hear about that as well
- Anne Umali, NAAEE: I like having a backup plan...and a way to course-correct just in case you don't make the RIGHT decision!
- Judy Braus (she, her) NAAEE: Thanks to everyone who stepped up. It's so helpful to hear from you! And Craig, thanks for modeling how to do this! :-)

- Siobhan Starrs: Any specific strategies for situations where there a problematic professional / work-place hierarchies in the room that cannot be avoided? Eg - a Director mandating involvement in doer conversations and consensus sessions.
- Hilla Abel: o you have brainstorming exercises that you like? (rather than a free-flow conversation)
- Lucy Barton: second to Hilla's question

Closing

- Raizha Yurivilca: I think those decisions are always evolving... because we never know what is the "right" track. I think being flexible and also getting feedback and be able to change the course of action
- Anne Umali, NAAEE: Thank you, Adrian!
- Anne Umali, NAAEE: +++Raizha!
- Lara Milligan: I'm very excited to look over these resources. I have to head out a little early. Thank you so much for this opportunity. If anyone has done any community discussion around Urban Forestry or Community Trees, I'd love to hear what you did. We are about to embark on that journey here. Lara Milligan - lara317@ufl.edu
- Betty Olivolo: Craig--you are amazing! Thank you so much! And so cool that you also live in Maine!
- Sarah Jennings: Love Mainers!
- Anne Umali, NAAEE: Lots of Maine folks here today 😊
- Sarah Jennings: thanks for everything Craig! This was excellent
- Anne Umali, NAAEE: Thank you so much, Craig!
- Mark Mains: Really good, thank you very much!
- Sarah Jennings: let's all meet at The Lost Kitchen
- Jennifer West: thank you- this was excellent!!
- susie broquist lundegård: Thank you and good night from Sweden 🌙
- Alyssa Mcconkey: Love all these resources! Thanks, Craig and NAAEE.
- Kenneth Rainer: Thank you
- Jimena Cuenca: Thank you!!!
- Geoffrey Echemu: Congrats Craig for such excellent deliberations
- Mary Ann Cernak: Thanks very much for an excellent presentation with some very good practical suggestions.
- Helio Banze: Craig. Thank you so much!
- Sarin LoMascolo: Thank you!
- Raizha Yurivilca: Thank you Greg!!!

- Raizha Yurivilca: Craig*
- Jenn Page: SO GREAT! Really appreciate this Craig and so glad this was recorded. I have a team that will love to see this!
- Hilla Abel: Thank you, Craig - excellent!!
- Also really appreciated the slides at the start.
- Kristen Swanberg: Thank you!! This was so helpful. Excited to dive into the resources
- Adrian Ayson: Thank you!
- Judy Braus (she, her) NAAEE: Thanks, Craig. And thanks to all of you for your input and ideas! :-)
- Emily Kraeske: Thank y'all so much!
- Geoffrey Echemu: Thanks Ann