RI Dept. of Environmental Mgt.

Building the EJ Community Network... workshop #2... 2/1/08

Who's in the room?

What to look for in a contaminated site

Guidance policy for considering environmental justice in the review of investigation and remediation of contaminated properties

presentation and discussion

Pulling it all together... how to make the comm. network work?

Feedback on environmental justice policy and practices...

What works?

Clearly a concentrated effort to address overlooked communities

DEM taking extra care to be respectful is very good

We see evidence of DEM changing the way it does things

Mobiline higher ed.

What can be improved?

Re: public communication huge opportunity w/ huge cost

counter the perception that its too difficult and too big

Understand population and language and adjust to these factors

what happens when they speak a language other than spanish, etc?

The sign gives a scary impression and doesn't communicate message well

there's no mention of brownfield or risk

Must get better at helping people understand environmental language

what does 'x' do 10 ppm mean? how much is this?

Caution about someone hijacking the process

financial incentives/disincentives for for-profit v. not-for-profit

it wasn't intended to do that - if so, need to revisit it

Brownfields is a huge industry - create a 'model' for others to see and learn

centralize knowledge, become known for solving it

in RI, brownfields is driven by housing and not-for-profits

Need to translate technical to easier language to understand

caution about language use so that people don't get scared

A process chart of best practices for development

how we move a project from A-Z

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Pulling it all together – how to make the community network work ...

based on draft of principles and practices

Draft principles

What's unclear?

How do you deal w/ other causes "piggybacking" on DEM?

Who does the work is a complicated question

What's missing?

Justice is the proper sharing of benefits and burdens

Move from sustainability to resiliency

Must add accountability to transparency

demonstrate performance so that people trust them

Transparency is about getting to the truth about clean-up

not just a cheap solution

1 full process that focuses on clean-up first saves $ in long-term

The 2nd to last principle is really a practice

communicate proactively to reach broader audience

restate it as a practice

Draft practices

What's unclear?

What's missing?

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How can we make this practice real and useful...

How do we make the quality of non-online comm. equal to online?

Public campaign ?

Discounted ads on RIPTA buses?

How do we benefit from past experience more effectively?

votes on what worked, didn't work

Educate about contamination ?

Open mtgs in communities on this haven't worked unless there's been a direct issue need on the table

Integrate existing networks ?

Yes to formal network and tap into informal networks

and the underground networks as well

tap into the unestablished nodes

Distinguish between those who know and those who want others to know

Reveal how DEM works ?

How do we know the consultants know what they're talking about?

relates to clarity and standards

aggregating recommendations based on use of consultants

in the absence of standards, use precautionary principles

however, what about biasing the responses?

TA ?

Permanent infrastructure ?

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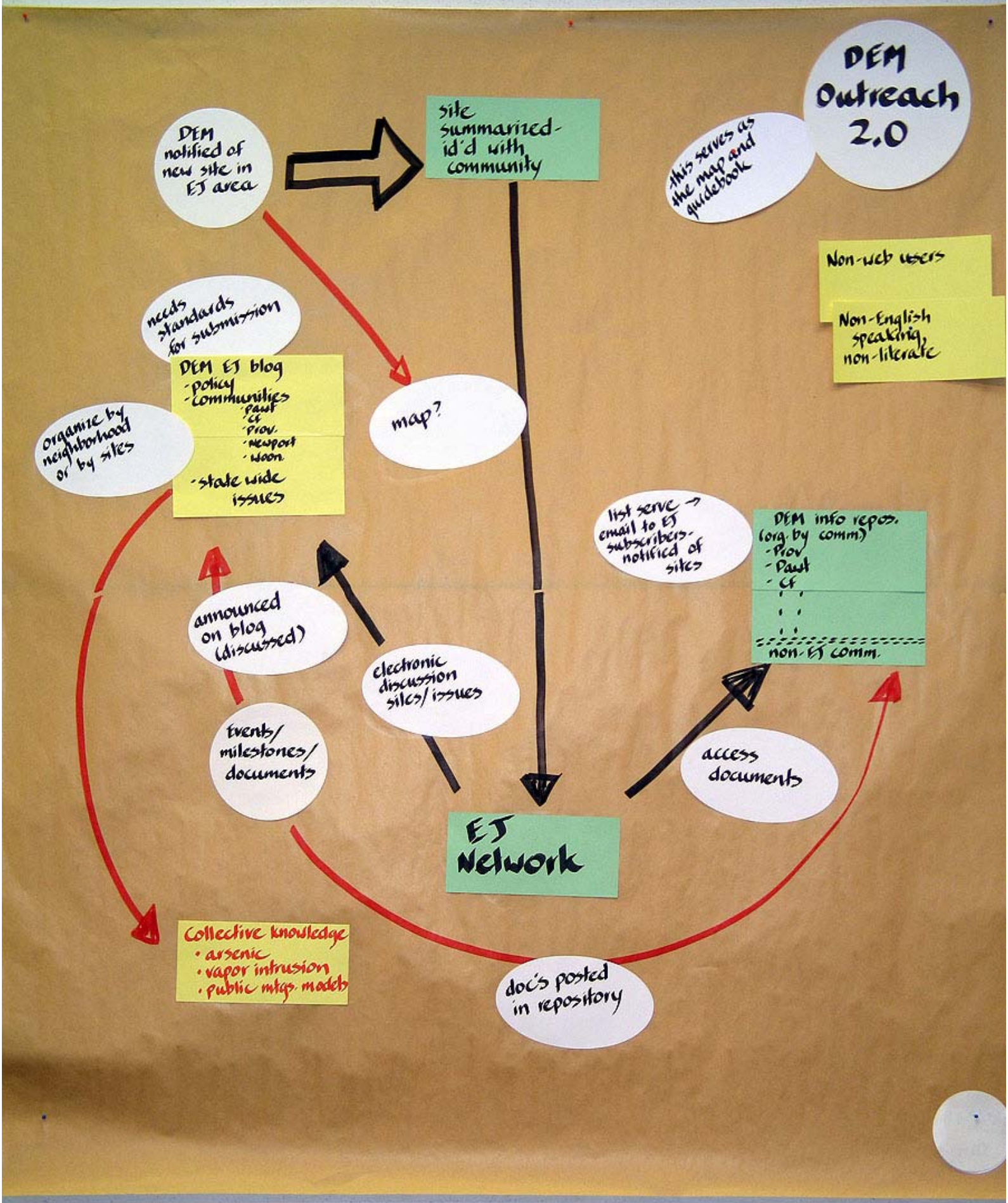
DEM Outreach 2.0
DEM notified of new site in EJ area
site summarized - id'd with community
this serves as the map and guidebook
Non-web users
Non-English speaking, non-literate
needs standards for submission
DEM EJ blog
- policy
- communities
- Paut
- Cf
- Prov.
- Newport
- Woon.
- state wide issues
map?
organize by neighborhood or by sites
list serve → email to EJ subscribers - notified of sites
DEM info repos. (org. by comm)
- Prov
- Paut
- Cf
non-EJ comm.
announced on blog (discussed)
electronic discussion sites/issues
events/ milestones/ documents
access documents
EJ Network
Collective knowledge
• arsenic
• vapor intrusion
• public mtgs. models
doc's posted in repository