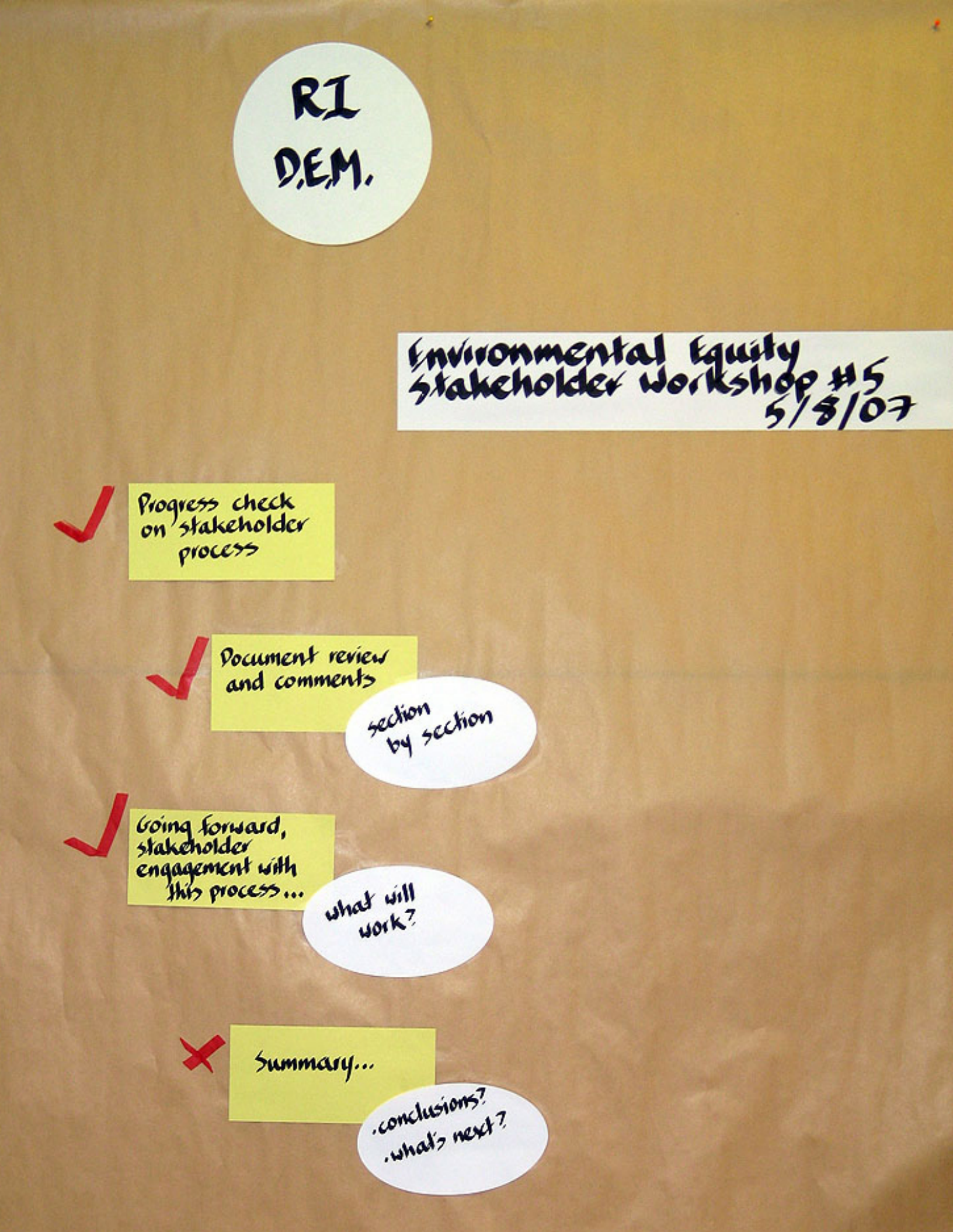

RI
D.E.M.
Environmental Equity
Stakeholder Workshop #5
5/8/07
Progress check on stakeholder process
Document review and comments
section by section
Going forward, stakeholder engagement with this process...
what will work?
Summary...
.conclusions?
.what's next?

Status check...

Grant application to EPA

declined / still looking for other sources and committed to work

Drafted DEM fact sheet

translate to Spanish

Prov. environmental justice forum

Liz and Terry to provide content to workshop series/ full conference

Apply what we've learned here to other parts of DEM

in conversation w/ the director

also, apply to Emergency Environmental Response

Homeland Security $ to do this?

create replicable templates

Draft policy/practice document

it'll be a dynamic doc. and in a form staff will be able to use

update doc. based on lessons learned

Title 6 appeals process in motion

if you get $ from us, you have to have this process in place

Survival Spanish training for DEM staff

some cultural sensitivity training as well

DEM 5/8/07 P2

Progress check on stakeholder process... this process has worked well and produced results!

++	+	−	−−

I'm usually cynical about getting concensus from a diverse group

and I'm confident we have something to apply

It's doable and based on the right thing

The owner/developer view isn't present... that's why I'm in the "+" category

eg. there's an inordinate amt. of brownfields owned by municipalities

so this process will be more about municipalities and not single owners

Doesn't capture the fear of the owner that would make this problematic

majority of our process is in the commercial area

can't make the process so onerous we drive them away

I'm seeing productivity and possibility of an achieving the goal

initially, I didn't feel the commitment

Overall, I feel uncertainty

this isn't so much about a specific outcome but rather

overall direction

and how this'll get applied over time

this will roll out

need 1 more version to field test w/ staff

I see a glimmer of hope but it's hard to teach an old dog new tricks

Not addressing what your personal agenda is

Still top-heavy... not enough community involvement

both citizens and municipalities

The competing demands of the members didn't allow full input of time

didn't give enough time to it

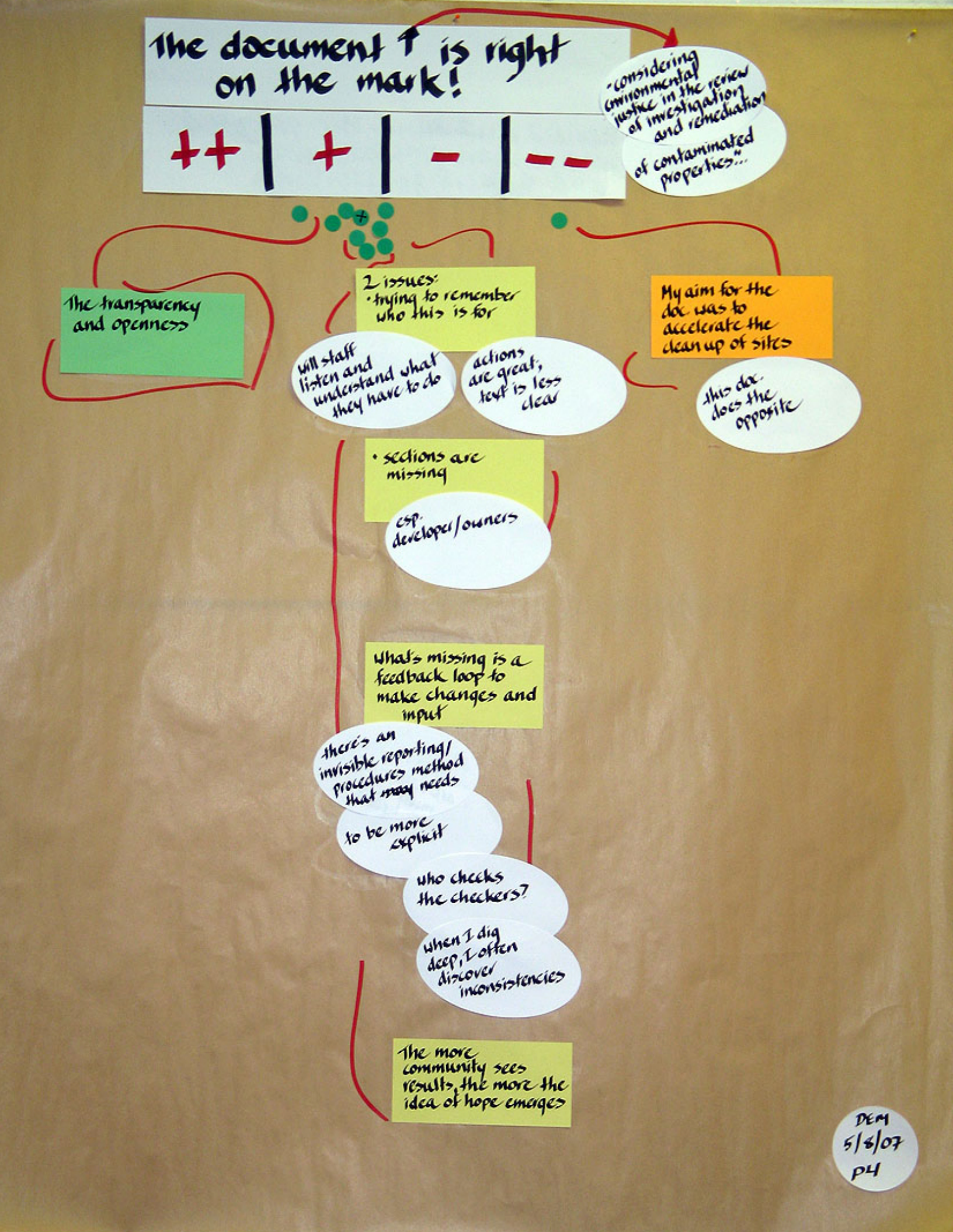
Not enough resources to move it along faster

Not enough diverse stakeholder response

both depth and breadth

The 1st mtg. was unpleasant and could've put people off

DEM 5/8/07 P3


the document ↑ is right on the mark!
++ | + | - | --
considering environmental justice in the review of investigation and remediation of contaminated properties...
The transparency and openness
2 issues:
• trying to remember who this is for
will staff listen and understand what they have to do
actions are great, text is less clear
My aim for the doc was to accelerate the clean up of sites
this doc. does the opposite
• sections are missing
esp. developer/owners
What's missing is a feedback loop to make changes and input
there's an invisible reporting/ procedures method that may needs
to be more explicit
who checks the checkers?
when I dig deep, I often discover inconsistencies
The more community sees results, the more the idea of hope emerges
DEM 5/8/07 p4

In detail, what's required to improve the document...

Section by section review

Introduction

Technical changes

Introduction is the "hook"

has to contain jargon DEM staff understands and can apply

① Mission
② Mandate to achieve mission
③ EJ tool implementation

④ Specific definition & specific criteria that all staff need to know.

Further recommendations

① Compare to other guidance documents founded in regulation.

② DEM version
Lay version
Owner version

③ Customized introduction

Policy statement

Technical changes

"the dark before the dawn"

Clarify the problem of enviro. injustice:

"Historically, people of color & economically disadvant. populations

have borne disproportionate burden of environmntl contamination..."

Pg 3, 2nd ¶

Replace or supplement vague lang. with:

The Dept's objective is to improve outreach & communication w/the public

Through:
- culturally & linguistically appropriate outreach
- timely distribution of info & public notification
- improved access to up-to-date info thru many media

Further recommendations

DEM
5/8/07
p5

Site discovery and public petitioning

Technical changes

Most urban sites can find at least low levels of contamination → will every complaint get LOR?

"will" or "will work" to publish inventories (already do?)

can the listing be connected to GPS visuals to see the site?

technically, it's possible

the challenge is linking it to GPS

Resources:
- Board of Realtors
- OSHEAN

and one more:
- Prov. Plan

"Attempt" to respond in language is vague
May raise suspicion

Further recommendations

LOR based on "more?" risk than surrounding area? or point sources?

Highlight access #

will

Baseline notice

Technical changes

Is the Law.

Further recommendations

Repeal it.

Identifying communities of concern

Technical changes

Create grass-root identification tools and...

highlight specific areas of concern for individual(s) groups to relate to + influence

GLOBAL WARMING SYSTEM at neighborhood level sharing data

GIS - influencing awareness of our individual impacts on each

Further recommendations

develop from within-i local mapping - in depth over-lay. cummulative exposure

where are the... dumps, underground fuel tanks, dry cleaners, etc

looking at the potential for cumulative risk

2. establish generational needs - possibilities

3. not all communities start out on same page.

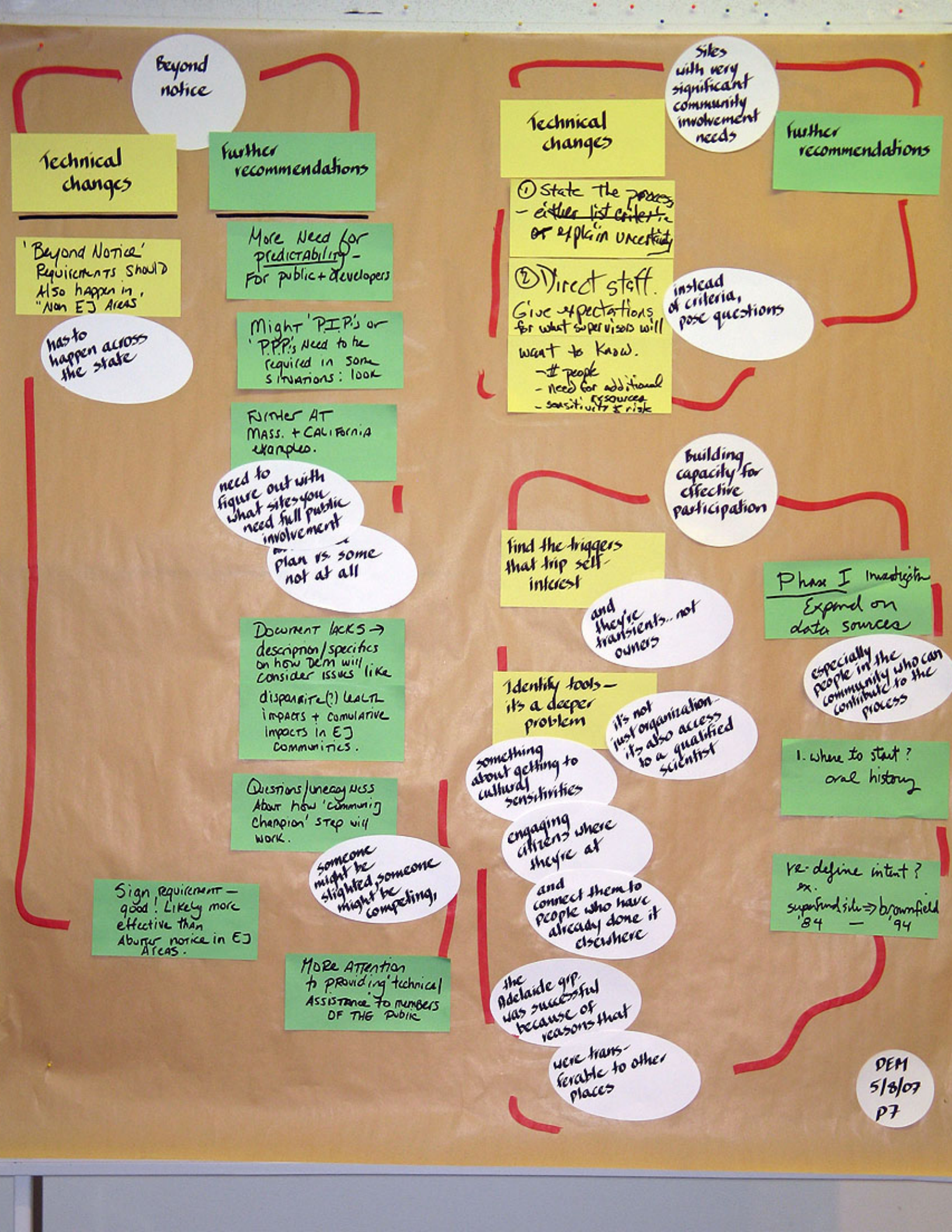
1. awareness level of community (segments)

if they have a role in identifying what's in their community

they're going to feel more "ownership" of their community

create stewardship in the community... everyone participates in solving the problem

DEM
5/3/07
p6


Beyond notice
Technical changes
Further recommendations
'Beyond Notice' Requirements should also happen in "Non EJ Areas"
has to happen across the state
More Need for predictability - For public + developers
Might 'P.I.P.'s or 'P.P.P.'s Need to be required in some situations: look
FURTHER AT MASS. + CALIFORNIA examples.
need to figure out with what sites you need full public involvement
plan vs. some not at all
DOCUMENT LACKS → description/specifics on how DEM will consider issues like disparate(?) health impacts + cumulative impacts in EJ communities.
Questions/uneasyness About how 'community Champion' step will work.
someone might be slighted, someone might be competing,
Sign requirement — good! Likely more effective than Abutter notice in EJ Areas.
MORE ATTENTION to providing technical ASSISTANCE to members OF THE PUBLIC
Sites with very significant community involvement needs
Technical changes
Further recommendations
① State the process - either list criteria or apply in uncertainty
② Direct staff. Give expectations for what supervisors will want to know. - # people - need for additional resources - sensitivity & risk
instead of criteria, pose questions
Building capacity for effective participation
find the triggers that trip self-interest
and they're transients... not owners
Identify tools — it's a deeper problem
it's not just organization - it's also access to a qualified scientist
something about getting to cultural sensitivities
engaging citizens where they're at
and connect them to people who have already done it elsewhere
the Adelaide grp was successful because of reasons that were transferable to other places
Phase I Investigation Expand on data sources
especially people in the community who can contribute to the process
1. where to start? oral history
re-define intent? ex. superfund site ⇒ brownfield '84 — '94
DEM 5/8/07 P7

future stakeholder involvement... how do we best do it?

to finish this process?

this group reconvenes to help with the meetings

3a

engage the community

3b

municipalities

3c

professional service providers

Build a network of key community organizations in target areas and brief them!

Yes | Maybe | No

Do it because it's the least networked out there

Yes... other people have to weigh in on this

We're not done yet

1

Do another version of the doc; distribute it electronically to get comments; revise it and then test it

Other comments for the document

Have to figure out at what sites and what conditions would this kick in

Difference between the experienced brownsfield guy and the neophyte

if the process is graspable, then they'll be able to do it again

2

Test it as a pilot

take a real site through the steps

to see how it works

other processes?

Re: incentives for the developer:

commit to timely action by DEM

speeding up the timeline has to be done in concert w/ the community's knowledge and organization

if this was in place when I did my development, I would have been very happy because I would've known the risk and had more predictibility

DEM 5/8/07 P8