From:	Michael Lawler
To:	Mohr, Jason
Cc:	Kristi Kline; Jim Peterson; Milton William; Downey, Michael; Emily Schembra; Hurtle, Kimberly
Subject:	case studies for WPIC
Date:	Friday, October 23, 2015 4:36:36 PM

Hi Jason, Your request to the Montana Arts Council was forwarded to me by a friend who received the request and works for MAC. She thought my experience having served as a "citizen at large" on the Lower Missouri River Basin Advisory Council might qualify me to reply. I think not but I will try.
First, i expect you have already contacted Michael Downey at DNRC. If not, I would do so and specifically ask him for names of people who might do a case
study on the formation of a local/regional watershed council and other local water issues that were resolved in the political arena (local or local/state).
Second, your request references the Legislature, ie you hope the case studies prove valuable for them. In that case i would make two suggestions. One,
contact Jim Peterson, former President of the Senate and long active in water policy issues in the State. I would ask Jim to write a case study. Second, you want Jim with his insider perspective to draft a readable case study which provides a lively narrative focused on the politics of a matter, examines how the political dynamics impacts the outcome(s), and finally looks closely at key political choices that were made. i have read one of Jim's speeches to an international gathering. He writes well about complex matters. Jim's email is jimpetersonranch@gmail, cell is 366 4043.
Third, I would contact Kristi Kline of Kremlin, Montana, kjfarm@midrivers or945 2043. Ask Kristi if her work with Montana Rural Water Systems can provide
a good case study on how local groups get organized and what are the primary ingredients to staying around a few years. What gives them staying power?
Fourth, I listened to all the folks from the Mussellshell during my tenure on the Basin Advisory Council. I do not know who would write it. However, the
question is what enabled them to outlast all the talk and bickering and self interest and wind up with a working group of folks that do not forget proper self interest but have a real fine working idea of what constitutes the public good or the good for the whole group of stakeholders. Their success is remarkable in
the annals of local organizing (and I have been around since the sixties working in the Southern States). A case study on how this happened would be invaluable and well worth reading. A case perhaps "out side the box" of the Legislature but would be appreciated for just that difference.

I have done lots of case studies and selected lots of case studies, ie for workships, academic courses, post graduate professional education,etc. My advice would be: 1. write for your audience 2. make it fun 3. make it interesting 4. don't try to tell people what you think is right 5. use case studies that teach
folks the best possible questions and not the answers, the case is best that teaches folks to think deeply regardless of the answers they come up with.
Do not be timid. Select real and meaty stuff that your audience will think about for a long time. That is your job.

There is an ocean like gulf between here and the East Coast. So, I do not think it safe for me to assume you have already taken a look at the Harvard Business School case method and their cases. If you have already read some and grabbed their model. Great. I think that model of case study learning has a good track record and is a good model with which to begin.

I hope this is of some use to you. I applaud the effort. I would like to hear how your work progresses on this.
Sincerely,
Mike Lawler