

SEAWA Guiding Principles and Values

Objective:	To establish a common understanding of how SEAWA members, including Board Directors and Committee members, will present themselves, information, and interact with each other and the public.
Context:	The SEAWA is a cooperative and collaborative organization. All Council activities must establish and support these principles.

1. Basic philosophies

- 1.1 Fix the problem, not the blame
- 1.2 Development is not bad, but there is bad development
- 1.3 While the SEAWA seeks to achieve some convergence on philosophical principles, it would never be in the alliance's best interests to promote uniformity of thought.

2. Guiding Principles:

- 2.1 Discussions are intended to encourage openness and transparency in the consideration of issues (please, no hidden agendas).
- 2.2 Function with honesty and integrity.
- 2.3 Make certain that our goals and intentions are made public to all.
- 2.4 Embrace a collaborative, consensus-based approach¹.
- 2.5 Building good working relationships is as important as fixing problems.
- 2.6 Help each other to be right.
- 2.7 Respect and value the opinion of others, especially when those opinions are different than your own.
- 2.8 Remember that in discussion, anything can be said as long as it is done in a civil way. Open criticism of fellow members should be avoided. The focus is on illuminating the issue not on apportioning fault.
- 2.9 Submissions should be fact-based. Opinions are welcomed, but please identify them as opinions.
- 2.10 Be willing to compromise, when necessary.
- 2.11 Take a sustainable, watershed level and ecosystem approach to addressing issues.

¹ "Consensus" means a decision is arrived at with a "high majority support" (between 70% to 80% support) with the following conditions,

- (a) everyone is satisfied that a sufficient range of options has been looked at, and
- (b) everyone agrees that the preferred option is capable of achieving the intended outcomes, and
- (c) all concerns about the preferred choice have been noted along with the decision (as "subject to" statements), and
- (d) there is a clear mitigation response if these concerns turn out to be significant factors.

- 2.12 Focus on what can be done, not what can't.
- 2.13 Ensure all SEAWA decisions and actions are transparent to all Members and the general public.
- 2.14 Have fun.

3. Guiding Values:

- Integrity (honest representation)
- Accountable
- Proactive
- Wisdom
- Practical
- Cooperate/Cooperation
- Balance between economy, social and environment
- Visionary
- Open to other's ideas
- Unified Watershed
- Financially sustainable
- Each voice has value
- Conduit between all stakeholders that are engaged in the development and management of a sustainable watershed