



## Overview & Accomplishments of the UW-Extension Systems Thinking Team

November 2006

**Who are we:** The UW-Extension Systems Thinking Team (STT) includes University of Wisconsin faculty and staff primarily associated with the Community, Natural Resource and Economic Development (or CNRED) program area within Cooperative Extension, a division of University of Wisconsin-Extension. CNRED is Wisconsin's educational network serving people and their communities in seeking positive change. CNRED educational programs support community goals, including:

- local leadership training
- economic development
- public policy issues
- natural resources protection
- land-use planning
- shared decision-making & consensus building
- organizational development

**STT vision and desired outcomes:** The UW-Extension Systems Thinking Team seeks to create meaningful impacts, in the wider Wisconsin community, by actively participating in a learning environment; in which, we use our collective wisdom and creativity to transform and sustain ourselves as educators and as a team. The STT team purpose includes learning, practicing and sharing systems thinking and learning organizational concepts, methods and tools both within the UW-Extension institution and with other organizations, institutions, communities and businesses.

### What have we accomplished:

- Hosted *Exploring Transformational Education through Questions that Matter: Extension World Café*, at the Statewide CES Trust & Transformation: Cooperative Extension Conference, September 2005.
- Presented at the Rock River Coalition, *Systems Thinking: Linking Land, Water, and Communities*, August, 2005
- STT sought and received funding from the CNRED Program Office to host the *Systems Thinking Summit*, June 2005.
- STT sought and received a scholarship to support our work from 2005 *ESP's Professional Development Grant* and *Special Program Funds* to attend the 2005 Pegasus Conference, November 2005.
- Seven STT members attended the 2005 Pegasus Conference, *Embracing Interdependence: Effective and Responsible Action in Our Organizations and the World*, in San Francisco, California, as a team, which gave the STT members access to a coach while at the Conference.

- Presented at the *2006 Spurring on the Momentum: National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals Conference*, in San Antonio, TX -- *Lessons from the Street for Extension Professional: Connecting Systems Thinking and Community Development*, six members participated in presentation.
- Developed and presented a STT Poster about our work for the Spring JCEP Conference, April 2006.
- Presented a one-day long learning session on *Systems Thinking and Organizational Learning* at the Southern District CNRED educators Meeting, May 2006.
- Jane Silberstein used systems thinking tools in her work with the Eco-Municipalities being implemented in Ashland and Bayfield Douglas Counties.
- Designed and sponsored a three-day workshop for UW-Extension faculty and staff, *Systems Thinking Summit: Seeing the Whole to Help Address Complex Issues*, June 2006.
- Hosted the *Southern District All-Faculty & Staff Extension World Café*, September 2006.
- Held a two-day *STT Retreat Visioning and Planning Session*, October 2006.
- Five STT members attended the *2006 Pegasus Conference, Leading Beyond the Horizon: Bringing Tomorrow into Today's Choices*, in Waltham, MA, as a team that included access to a coach while at the Conference, November 2006.

**Who makes up the STT:** (\* STT Co-team Leaders):

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