

## VOTING RESULTS ON QUESTION # 2

**“How should we organize on a watershed basis to move swiftly and surely towards achieving the identified priority actions?”**

### **votes**

### **organizational structure**

- 1 Loose-knit communications NETWORK, where all groups agree to speak to each other more often, and perhaps get together periodically to identify and discuss common issues. No common identity, leadership or joint action.
- 8 Structured ALLIANCE, where there is a common identity, with leadership responsible for regular communications, such as scheduled regular meetings, action alerts, newsletter and activities calendar. Group may take and issue a common position. No dues or staff.
- 26 A watershed ASSEMBLY, where member groups get together on a regular basis, discuss and agree upon common positions, which are formally transmitted via Chair, President or staff. These groups have financial capability (but often under the auspices of one of the member groups), with dues and other income, and usually staff.
- 52 A new umbrella ORGANIZATION, which is independently structured and legally established as a non-profit corporation in Michigan. Wide array of financing options, with full time staff serving under a duly elected Board. Member organizations maintain their independence, but also work under the umbrella organization.
- 2 combination of ASSEMBLY and ORGANIZATION

### **Comments added on flip charts:**

Group 4 - Pros and cons :

Network

- + important in tight budget times
- + starting point for any of the models below
- prone to turnover

Alliance

- + not much financial contribution
- + common name/vision – unified focus
- limited impact, no staff – dependent totally on volunteers for coordination
- diverse interests could slow progress

Assembly

- + better communication ability
- potentially political (voting)
- diverse groups/turf wars could slow progress
- could dilute resources (redundancy/inefficiency)

Umbrella organization

- + provides “standing” to go for funding – govt. & private
- + opportunity to build trust
- + the highest form of commitment to make things happen
- + the best potential for creating business/economic development case
- it’s scary

Make sure existing active organizations are represented  
Which of these encourage “ownership” by all entities/individuals?

Advantages of a combo

RE: ORGANIZATION

- Devil in the details, diverse, give credit
- Not too centralized – do not lose small units and voices
- Representatives are workers, action people
- With established entities support