



7910 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 450, Bethesda, Maryland 20814, U.S.A.
Tel.: 1-301-656-8274 • E-mail: info@wfs.org • Web: www.wfs.org

**Creating More Robust Foresight Networking
for Communities and the Public Sector**

**(HILTON ORLANDO BONNET CREEK, Orlando, Florida;
FLAGLER/GILCREST ROOM)**

Friday, July 11, 2014

With communities and public sector organizations challenged by fast-paced change and increasing complexity, a networked approach can assist in identifying key trends and opportunities as well as emerging challenges before they reach crisis proportions. Building and operating networks and collaborations can enhance our ability to exchange information on best practices in community and organizational foresight by identifying trends, opportunities and challenges which can inform our direction-setting decisions and implementing actions. This morning will discuss experiences with foresight networks at the international, national, and community levels and will seek your input on the needed networking capabilities.

Following requests by these groups at their meeting last year in Chicago, the World Future Society has committed to expanding its support for networks and groups. To gain a deeper understanding of the needs and preferences of our members engaging in building self-organizing networks and groups, we are scheduling this working meeting of the Communities of the Future network and the Public Sector Foresight Network to work together to share experiences, best practices and needs for networking.

Morning: Networking Practices (FLAGLER/GILCRIST ROOM)

8:30 am Welcome and charges for the day

Ken Hunter, WFS Board Chair

Nancy Donovan, U.S. Government Accountability Office and the WFS
Public Sector Foresight Network

Rick Smyre, President, Communities of the Future

8:45 am Welcoming and keynote address by Florida community and foresight
leader--Rick Weddle, President and CEO, Metro Orlando Economic
Development Commission

Practices and experiences of foresight network builders:

- 9:15-9:45 am Public Sector Foresight Network initiatives
- Building the international network – Nancy Donovan
- U.S. Federal government foresight network building – James-Christian Blockwood (US Department of Veterans Affairs, Director of Strategic Studies, Office of Policy & Planning)
- 9:45-10:15 am Communities of the Future network initiatives:
- Young professionals for community transformation – Rick Smyre
- Creative Molecular Economy network – Jim Damici
- Future Forward College Network – Benita Budd
- 21st Century Neighborhood academy network – Randy Patrick
- Chamber of Commerce executives network – Virginia Gibbs
- 10:15 am Break
- 10:30 am Working groups on advice to WFS on supporting communities of common interest and practice. FYI, WFS has already upgraded its software to include the capabilities to support groups and is developing the staff skills needed. We will divide into working groups of 6 to 8 people for 40 minutes of compiling recommended policies and practices for (1) mobilizing and sustaining self-organizing networks of volunteers to engage in robust collaboration with high levels of participation, (2) operating with the “World Future Society” brand and promoting very best practices, and (3) creating sustainable financing for the network activities. We will have 20 minutes for the working groups to report their recommendations.
- 11:30 am Open discussion, summary and closing remarks by Ken Hunter, Rick Smyre and Nancy Donovan
- Noon Adjourn for Lunch (on your own)

Public Sector Foresight Network (FLAGLER ROOM)

1:00-1:15 p.m.

INTRODUCTIONS

Nancy Donovan, GAO (Co-Founder of PSFN)

Dr. Clem Bezold, Chairman, Institute for Alternative Futures (IAF)
(Co-Founder of PSFN)

Ken Hunter, WFS Board Chair

1:15-3:00 p.m.

DEVELOPING SCENARIOS

Developing scenarios to determine future Canadian Army requirements and concepts

Lieutenant-Colonel Chris Rankin & Peter Gizewski, Canadian Army Land Warfare Centre

Developing scenarios for public health

Dr. Clem Bezold, IAF

The History and Future of Scenarios & the U.S. Coast Guard

CDR Eric Popiel, US Coast Guard

Facilitated discussion on scenarios

3:00 - 3:15 p.m.

BREAK

3:15 – 3:45 p.m.

INTEGRATING FORESIGHT, EVALUATION & SURVEY METHODS

Using “Prospective Evaluation Synthesis” & grounded foresight to design education-related study for Congressional use

Jamila Kennedy, US GAO, Education, Workforce and Income Security Team

Facilitated discussion of use of multiple methods

3:45 – 5 p.m.

NETWORKING ON WHAT YOU NEED FOR FORESIGHT WORK

Ken Hunter will kick off discussion with his thinking on core capabilities for foresight

5:15 – 6:45 p.m.

NETWORKING RECEPTION (CASH BAR)