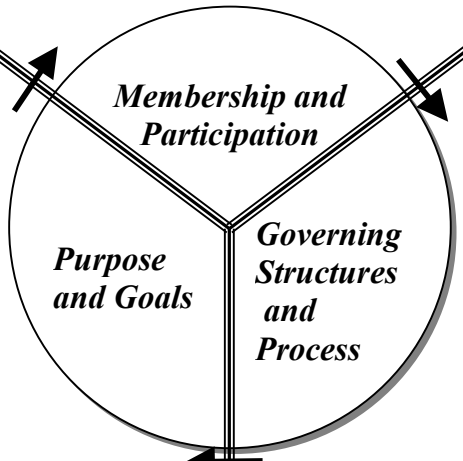
Developing Cooperative Projects:
Three Essential Elements for Effective Participation

- Are the right people here?
- Do people listen and engage?
- Do you feel like you belong? Is everyone included by the culture of the group?
- What are the benefits of this group for you?
- How strong and positive are the relationships, the level of trust?
- Does this group handle conflict and turf issues effectively?

Membership develops trust and the who and why of participation.

Begin here follow clockwise



- Why has this group come together?
- Do you share an understanding of the problem?
- Are the goals clear and worthwhile?
- Is the planning process mutually agreed upon?
- Does the group agree on strategy and implementation plans?
- Is internal coordination and communication done well?
- Does the group evaluate and adapt its plans?

Purpose and Goals provide direction for the group and keep the project on course.

- Does the group hold each other accountable?
- Is the power distributed appropriately?
- Do you have a clear role, a chance to add value and make a difference?
- Do you have authority to carry out your responsibilities?
- Is the distribution of resources clear and equitable? Are there agreements on money and fundraising?
- Is decision making clear and effective?
- Are there agreements on public presence, media and credit?

Governing Structure and Process distributes power and provides opportunities to act and influence what is important.