



**Lessons Learned: 20 Years of
Practical Experience in the US**

Session 5

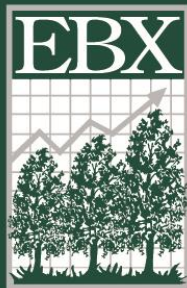
To No Net Loss of Biodiversity and Beyond

**Environmental Banc & Exchange, LLC
George Kelly**

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London, England**

LESSONS LEARNED

- Need strict and clear regulations to drive compensation - no exemptions. Voluntary approaches are not successful.
- Uniform standards, uniform mitigation practices and a clear certification and validation process are the keys to effective on-the-ground mitigation. Investments will be made once standard as set. Avoid ad hoc approach.
- A national standard on process with regional technical variation is an appropriate approach. This is the current approach under the Clean Water Act.
- Payment systems (in-lieu fees) undermine effective compensation because true costs are often understated and the monies often do not get spent on compensation. This approach should be used only as a last resort.



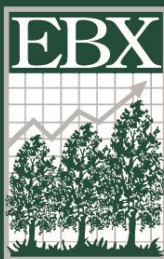
LESSONS LEARNED (Cont.)

- Baseline condition of sites is important for both impact and mitigation sites.
- A consistent mitigation currency is necessary for both the impact and mitigation sites.
- Existing reference sites are helpful for monitoring the performance of compensation sites.
- Offsets impose a cost for impacting resources through the permit process. It begins to place a value on our resources, although not a true measure of the total value.



LESSONS LEARNED (Cont.)

- It has been over 10 years for wetland / stream system to mature. It is still evolving with new 2008 standards. Conservation banking is somewhat constrained due to unclear legislative language requiring offsets. It has been over 10 years and it still needs refinement.
- Enforcement is a key to creating markets and many times this is a local cultural issue as much as a legislative issue. Is there local support?
- No Net Loss can be defined in multiple ways: area-based, function-based or programmatically.



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