

Appendix 2. Presentation methods: a PowerPoint-style slide presentation and a theater performance.

Background

Two different methods, a PowerPoint-style slide presentation and a theater performance were selected to present to the workshop participants the socioeconomic scenarios (appendix 1). The ultimate goal was to convey the same sense of the scenarios by using different methods. The slide presentation was given by a scientist who described the defining features of the scenarios using maps, graphs, and tables. For the theater performance, we worked in collaboration with the theater director and the four actors to develop a script. We decided to convey the various dimensions of the socioeconomic scenarios by developing four characters (a retiree, coffee shop owner, hipster and farmer) representative of the Upper Merrimack River Watershed residents in the year 2100 as it is described below.

Script outline

The year is 2100 and a group of citizens from the Upper Merrimack Watershed region of NH are gathering for a regional discussion concerning future use of a 200-acre tract of land along one side of one of the region's lakes. The owners of the land (which has been used over the years as an access point to the lake) are planning to sell. Some citizens would like to see the land purchased for conservation use, and to continue public access to the lake. Community Dialogues, a statewide association that helps communities plan and facilitate discussions on important decisions, has organized several of these events around the region.

This particular session is being held at the Coffee Shop owned by Susan. The coffee shop is between the area's large urban center and the lake. Several people have arrived early for the event, Jim, a retiree who owns a home on the lake, CJ, a computer engineer who lives in the nearby urban center, Amy, who runs a small farm with her husband along a river that feeds the lake. They engage in a discussion while waiting for others to arrive and the formal event to begin. The same themes discussed within workshop 3 and workshop 4 but they differ in order to convey information about the selected socioeconomic scenario (Fig.2). For example, traffic congestion (Backyard Amenities scenario) versus public transportation and biking (Community Amenities scenario).