

CONTROVERSY!

2023 National Stream Restoration Conference

Kip Mumaw, PE

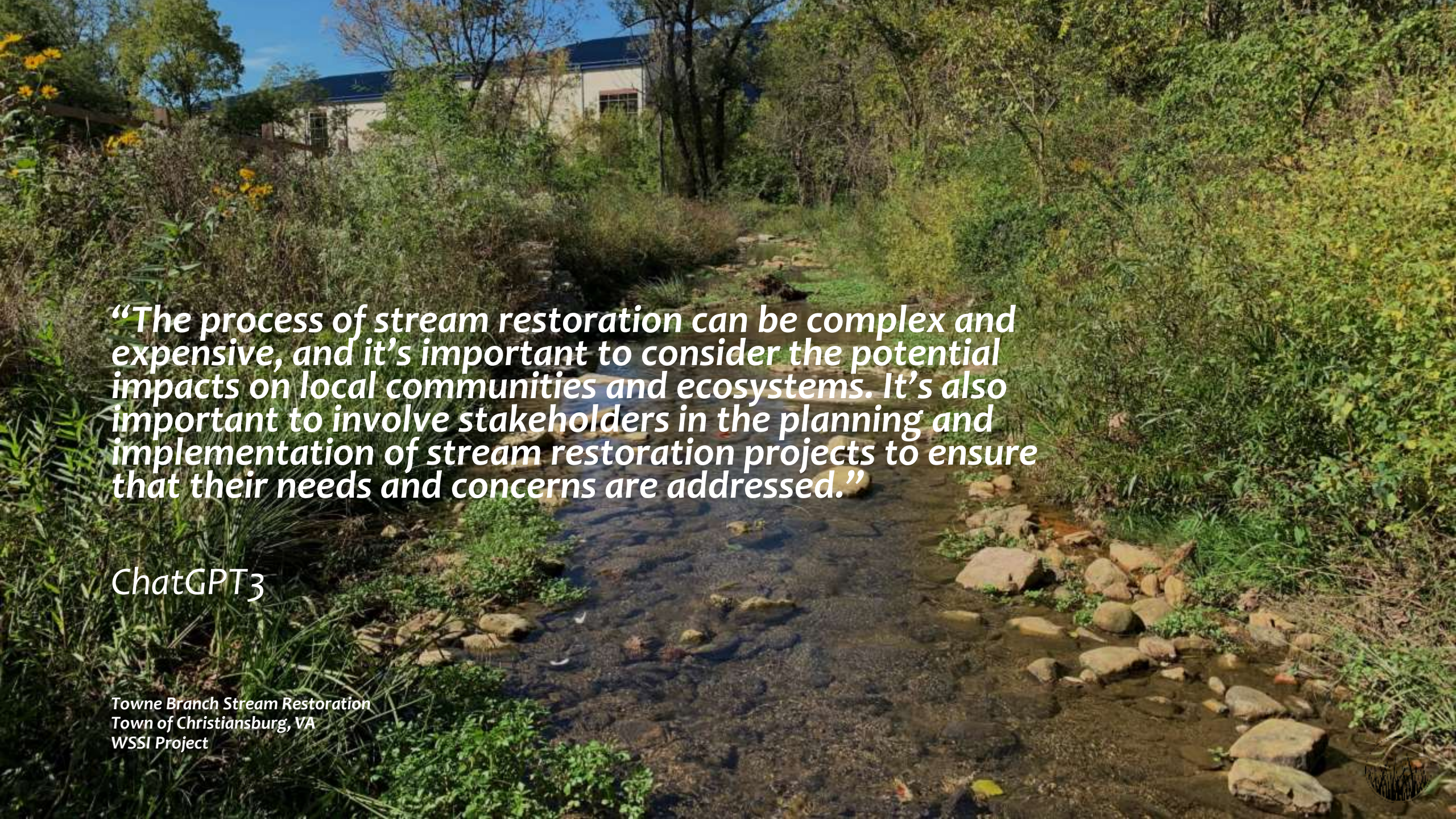
Nathan Staley, PE



ECOSYSTEM SERVICES



photo credit: richmondmagazine.com



“The process of stream restoration can be complex and expensive, and it’s important to consider the potential impacts on local communities and ecosystems. It’s also important to involve stakeholders in the planning and implementation of stream restoration projects to ensure that their needs and concerns are addressed.”

ChatGPT3

Towne Branch Stream Restoration
Town of Christiansburg, VA
WSSI Project



A group of people, including children and adults, are gathered around a stream in a wooded area. They appear to be engaged in a restoration project, possibly planting trees or clearing debris. The stream is rocky and surrounded by bare trees, suggesting a late autumn or winter setting. The people are wearing jackets and hats, indicating cool weather. The scene is captured from a low angle, looking down the stream.

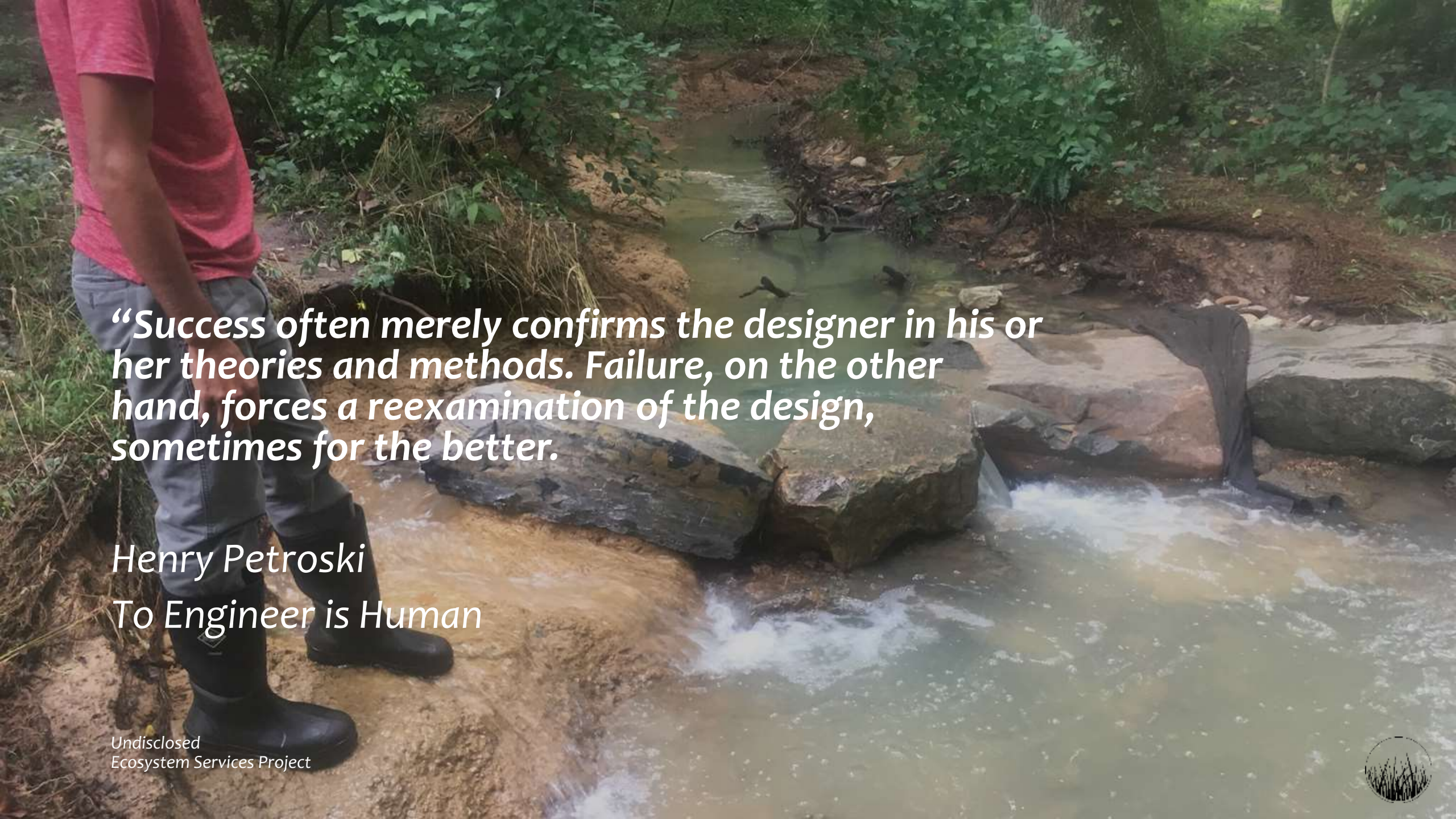
“The community will want to help us restore the stream.”

Anonymous participant(s)

*Symposium on Urbanization and Stream Ecology
(SUSE5) (Cross, 2022)*

Kids Trout Fishing Day – Snakeden Branch
Reston, VA
WSSI Project





***“Success often merely confirms the designer in his or her theories and methods. Failure, on the other hand, forces a reexamination of the design, sometimes for the better.*”**

**Henry Petroski
To Engineer is Human**

Undisclosed
Ecosystem Services Project





***“Restoring a habitat, no matter how well
intentioned, produces casualties”***

*Robin Wall Kimmerer
Braiding Sweetgrass*

Linville Creek Restoration
Rockingham County, VA
Ecosystem Services Project

A lush green stream flows through a dense forest. The water is clear and reflects the surrounding greenery. The banks are lined with tall grasses and various trees, creating a vibrant and natural setting.

“Judgment hinders imagination”

*Roger Fisher & William Ury
Getting to Yes*

*Ivy Creek Restoration
Albemarle County, VA
Ecosystem Services Project*

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Initial outreach that focuses on the issue, avoids assumptions, and casts a wide net.
- Seek consensus on goals, not solutions.
- Clearly define the process timeline (be realistic) and milestones for decision-making.
- Establish meeting protocols that allow participation by all, not just the most vocal
- Stakeholder outreach should favor listening first, adapting the process based on feedback to provide an appropriate level of education/background in order to address concerns.
- Be clear about consequences of tradeoffs and communicate risks and project constraints.



REFERENCES & FURTHER READING

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Fisher, Roger, William Ury, and Bruce Patton. 2006. *Getting to Yes*. 2nd ed. New York, NY: Penguin Putnam.

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Zhang et al. 2022. Spatial asynchrony in environmental and economic benefits of stream restoration. *Environmental Research Letters*. Lett. 17. <https://doi.org/10.1088/1748-932/ac61c6>



THANK YOU!

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