



Barbara L. Stinson

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Summary

Cofounder of and Senior Partner at Meridian Institute, with over 25 years of experience in the conflict resolution field, facilitating policy dialogues, negotiations, and strategy development processes. A recognized leader in the field of facilitation and consensus building, with strong substantive expertise and experience in agricultural development, alternative energy development, ecosystem restoration, global climate change, air quality management, land use change, natural resource management, and low-level radiation disposal. Most recently, has specialized in creating effective collaborative processes for building institutions, developing long-term plans and strategies, and launching new initiatives. Holds a Master's in City Planning, Environmental Policy, and Mediation from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Meridian Experience

Meridian Institute

1997–Present

Meridian Institute designs and facilitates collaborative processes that help diverse parties identify critical issues, build relationships and trust, construct innovative solutions, and implement durable decisions. These collaborative processes address challenges at the local, state, national, and international levels, and involve leaders from government agencies, industry, nongovernmental organizations, and international institutions. Meridian also assists organizations in conducting strategy development and planning.

Senior Partner

Cofounded Meridian in 1997 with four partners. Serves as program director of the organization, involved in program and project development and workload distribution. Also involved in all aspects of strategic planning, human resources, finance, IT, and marketing. Designs, manages, and leads policy dialogues, negotiations, and strategy development projects involving teams of facilitators. For these projects, conducts convening assessments, designs processes, secures financial support, plans and facilitates meetings, helps participants develop consensus documents, and conducts implementation activities such as press releases and briefings. Selected highlights are summarized below:

- Project director for the Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa, which is creating a broad partnership in Sub-Saharan Africa to support the implementation of cost-effective aflatoxin management programs and technologies.
- Project director for the Hydraulic Fracturing Forum, a steering committee and forum

on hydraulic fracturing in partnership with the University of Wyoming's School of Energy Resources, the Ruckelshaus Institute, and the Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources.

- Project director for Denver's Regional Air Quality Council meetings, which focused on developing regional air quality strategies for ozone nonattainment.
- Project director for the Council on Sustainable Biomass Production, which focused on creating an independent, third-party certification system for second-generation biofuels production in the United States.
- Project director for the interdisciplinary, interagency Everglades Restoration Coordination and Verification (RECOVER) project, which developed and is implementing an adaptive management strategy for the recovery of the Everglades over the next 30 years.
- Project director for strategic planning and facilitation services for CYMMIT (the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center). Provided process design and facilitation assistance for internal task force deliberations, a SWOT analysis, scenario building, and external stakeholder consultations.
- Please see <http://merid.org/staff/bstinson> for a full list of projects completed.

Previous Experience

The Keystone Center

Keystone, Colorado 1985 and 1991–1997

Senior Associate (1991-1997), Intern (1985)

As a Senior Associate, provided neutral, third-party mediation, facilitation, and conflict management services to resolve natural resource, environmental quality, and science and technology policy conflicts at the local, regional, and national levels. Conducted convening assessments, convened parties for discussion, and developed and finalized consensus documents that contributed to federal agency regulatory efforts and national legislative efforts.

ICF Technology, Inc.

Bellevue, Washington 1989–1991

Associate

Served as a conflict management and public involvement specialist for this national environmental consulting firm, which provided environmental analysis and engineering services to public agencies in the Northwest and around the United States. Developed a public involvement manual and provided training for the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Environmental Restoration and Waste Management. Assisted the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX, in the design and implementation of a multi-party, consensus-based remedial action plan for an arsenic-contaminated Superfund site in Tacoma, Washington.

Tahoe Regional Planning Agency

Tahoe, California 1986

Consultant

Analyzed the effectiveness of a two-year consensus planning effort used to redraft the regional plan in the Lake Tahoe region. Interviewed participants, documented the planning process, and evaluated the achievements of this multi-party dialogue, which was designed to settle the complex environmental and development issues present in this prosperous, highly scenic region.

Harvard Program on Negotiation

Cambridge, Massachusetts 1984–1985

Research Assistant

Examined electric utility disputes nationwide to determine their potential for mediation. Interviewed utility consumers, managers, and regulatory agencies to assess the need for innovative conflict management strategies. Ultimately, three projects were selected to undergo mediation of site-specific disputes. Assisted in the design of a pilot mediation project.

Education**Massachusetts Institute of Technology**

M.C.P., City Planning, Environmental Policy, and Mediation

1986

University of Colorado

B.A., Environmental Conservation

1982