



Sarah K. Walen

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Summary

A Senior Mediator and Program Manager at Meridian Institute with 18 years of experience facilitating policy dialogues, negotiations, and strategy development processes. Expertise and experience in the areas of forest and natural resource management, community resilience, homeland security, hazardous and nuclear waste management and cleanup, energy, air quality management and regulation, and watershed management. Previously, worked for 11 years as a professional geologist and an environmental consultant. Holds an M.S. in Geology with an emphasis in Hydrogeology from the University of Massachusetts.

Meridian Experience

Meridian Institute

1999–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 Mediator and Program Manager

Manages and facilitates policy dialogues, negotiations, and strategy development projects involving teams of facilitators. Conducts convening assessments, designs processes, plans and facilitates meetings, helps participants develop consensus documents, and conducts implementation activities. Selected highlights are summarized below:

- Manages and facilitates the Roundtable on Sustainable Forests, a national multi-party dialogue on sustainable forest management initiated in 1999. In this role, facilitates National Roundtable meetings and the Roundtable's Communications and Outreach Work Group, Executive Leadership Team, and Core Group. Past support of the Roundtable has included the design and facilitation of the Drafting and Outreach Teams developing the Sustainable Forests Action Strategy; the Technical Work Group of the Roundtable; the Western Regional Workshop on Sustainable Forests; the Workshop on Sustainable Forest Management in Indian Country; and the Technical Refinement Workshops on the Montreal Process Criteria and Indicators.
- Facilitated community engagement and resilience-building efforts in the Memphis Urban Area, a process sponsored by Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the

Community and Regional Resilience Institute (CARRI). Used that experience to contribute as part of the CARRI team to the design of the Community Resilience System, a web-based, collaborative approach to community resilience building.

- As part of Meridian’s efforts to assist the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in designing and facilitating collaborative approaches between government and the private sector on critical infrastructure protection, served as the lead facilitator assisting the Freight Rail and Maritime Sectors, segments of the Transportation Sector, in establishing industry sector coordinating councils.
- Managed and helped to develop Meridian’s work convening and facilitating collaborative community watershed groups in New Mexico to improve water surface quality and comply with Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. Served as the facilitator of the Cimarron Watershed Alliance and the Rio Jemez Watershed Group.
- Please see <http://merid.org/staff/swalen> for a full list of projects completed.

Previous Experience

Consultant

Silver Plume, Colorado 1998–1999

Mediator and Facilitator

Provided neutral, third-party mediation, facilitation, and general conflict management services in a variety of settings. Served as a mediator and facilitator of regional and national multi-party processes addressing a range of issues associated with the environment, natural resource management, agriculture, and other community issues.

The Keystone Center

Keystone, Colorado 1994–1998

Associate, Science and Public Policy Program

Provided neutral, third-party mediation, facilitation, and general conflict management services to resolve regional, national, and international disputes over land use and natural resource management, environmental quality and public health, science and technology, agriculture, and food and nutrition issues.

Rizzo Associates, Inc.

Enfield, Connecticut 1993

Senior Scientist

Conducted environmental site assessments, provided technical review of reports, managed projects, and prepared project budgets and proposals.

Environmental Compliance Services

Agawam, Massachusetts 1994–1998

Senior Hydrogeologist/Technical Director

Provided technical review and guidance for environmental site assessments and remedial investigations. Developed and coordinated quality assurance/quality control and technical training programs. Supervised and performed environmental site assessments, remedial investigations, and remedial actions. Prepared proposals and cost estimates, and coordinated the college internship program.

IEP, Inc.

Northborough, Massachusetts 1982–1988

Senior Hydrogeologist

Managed and performed environmental site assessments, groundwater discharge permit evaluations, remedial investigations, and remedial actions. Provided technical review

and assistance for a diversity of water-quality and resource studies, and prepared proposals and cost estimates. Developed and coordinated a health and safety training program to meet the standards of the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Education**University of Massachusetts**

M.S., Geology, emphasis in Hydrogeology
1983

Smith College

B.A., Geology
1977