THE WATER DIPLOMACY FRAMEWORK

ACKNOWLEDGE KEY ASSUMPTIONS

Water is a flexible resource.

Science, policy and politics combine to create water networks.

Water networks are complex.

Assumption #1:
Water networks are open and continuously changing.

Assumption #2:
Water network managers must take account of uncertainty, non-linearity and feedback.

Assumption #3:
Water networks need to be managed using a non-zero sum approach to negotiation.

THEORY: CHARACTERIZE WATER NETWORKS PROPERLY

Distinguish among simple, complicated and complex water networks.

Identify appropriate domains, levels and scales.

Recognize that the natural, societal and political domains (NSPD) are interconnected.

Locate problems on the certainty-uncertainty and agreement-disagreement continua.

Understand what it means to operate in the Zone of Complexity.

PRACTICE: MANAGE WATER NETWORKS PROPERLY

Recognize that simple, complicated and complex water networks require different management approaches.

Ensure appropriate stakeholder representation.

Engage in scenario planning and joint fact-finding.

Emphasize value creation.

Mediate informal problem-solving and seek consensus.

Commit to adaptive management (AM) and organizational learning.

Implement an appropriate management strategy for each water network.