

Recognition of of looming dangers has stimulated a wide-ranging remediative response.

The widespread recognition of the dysfunctionality of the American way of life has led to burgeoning movements seeking escape from corporate and federal domination through localization, cooperatives, worker-run businesses, anti-war activism, environmental awareness and remediation, and myriad other non-profit-motivated endeavors.

Regrettably these efforts lack a unified focus, coordination, consistent geographic basis, and compete with each other for scarce resources.

Since there already exist a numerous and growing number of organizations dedicated to grappling with challenges to our welfare—indeed, to our very existence—what purpose is served by adding another? The answer? *The presently existing “civil society” organizations lack a unified focus, coordination, consistent geographic basis, and compete with each other for scarce resources.* Their vulnerability to under-funding and corporate cooption cause the continual energy drain of fighting a rear-guard action.

The proposed Watershed Communities Internet-based organization is designed to:

- Enable *universal participation* by all individual citizens.
- Define and map the local neighborhood as the *elementary school district*.
- Define and map the local connection to the land in terms of the *watershed*.
- Enable *education* about *community, Nature, & the commons*.
- Assist ongoing compatible independent *local initiatives*.
- Limit its local concerns to building *community*, eliminating *hunger and homelessness*, and preserving and restoring the *natural environment*.
- Link local neighborhood Watershed Communities organizations nationally through the *Internet*.
- Build a consistent, comprehensive community and environmental *data-base*.
- Create an *Internet information and coordination hierarchy* from neighborhood, to town, to city, to region, to nation or continent.
- Promote equality
- Insist on the honoring of Constitutional civil rights that guarantee freedom of person, expression, thought, and religion.
- Work for world peace and the delegitimization of technological warfare.

No presently existing organization has such a focus or agenda, one that would be entirely synergetic with existing organizations that seek to build community, heal and preserve the environment, and work for a more peaceful world.

WHY WATERSHED COMMUNITIES ? (very quick read)

Civilization is in decline.

Despite its leaders protestations to the contrary, the industrial and technological aspects of Western civilization have peaked and begun to decline. They have pushed global humanity out of balance with Nature.

Current tenets no longer work.

Finite resources are becoming inadequate for an exponentially growing population. The present operative ideologies and protocols will no longer work.

The powerful have a disconnect with reality.

Nevertheless, those in power cling to their doctrines because they are the source of their power. Thus, politics and public discourse, couched in Orwellian rhetoric, has become disconnected with reality.

The agendas of the powerful guarantee a dystopian future.

Those with power and wealth, aware of the peril to their power, have become shameless in marginalizing their opposition and impoverishing the general population. In the pursuit of this agenda, they see no alternative to leading us down the path of endless resource wars, fossil fuel driven climate change, species and habitat destruction, unassailable plutocracy, and for everyone else but themselves: impoverishment, impotence, and loss of civil rights.

And yet, the exertion of their power has become dysfunctional.

And yet, their internecine power struggles and ideological disconnects with reality render their agencies for exerting their power dysfunctional. The lobbyist dominated Congress is gridlocked. The military cannot win wars. Intelligence is unreliable. Homeland security fosters a climate of fear. Corporations distrust of each other and the government they control produces economic stagnation.

The present path challenges our life support in Nature.

Worse than internal dysfunctionality, the present path poses a challenge to the very source of humanity's existence—the integrity of Nature.