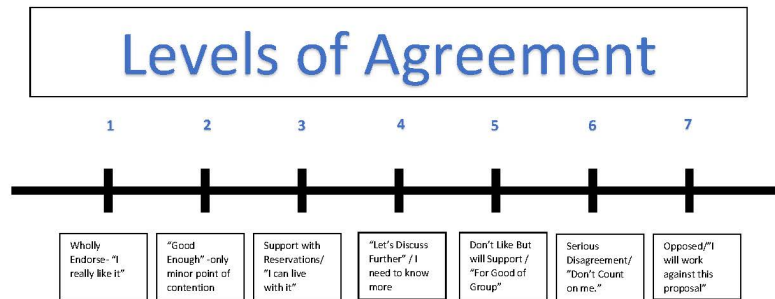


Reimagining Our Westmoreland Levels of Agreement-Intergovernmental Cooperation 09/23/2019 Results

The purpose of Levels of Agreement is to explore the acceptability of an intergovernmental proposals in a safe non-binary (yes/no) way. Scenarios are explored and the non-committal, variant approach encourages creativity and problem solving. Here is Levels of Agreement worksheet used:



Proposal	
Date	
Your Name	
Your Organization	

Comments

Adapted from Gradients of Agreement Scale, Sam Kaner & Duane Berger, Community of Work, 1987
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Scenarios are introduced to get the conversation started. After a review of levels of agreement, participants discuss how to tweak the proposal before expressing levels of agreement again. The levels of agreement are confidential, unless the participant wants to share their name with the facilitator. After repeat iterations, a proposal that has an acceptable level of agreement may move into the formal stage of crafting agreements to address:

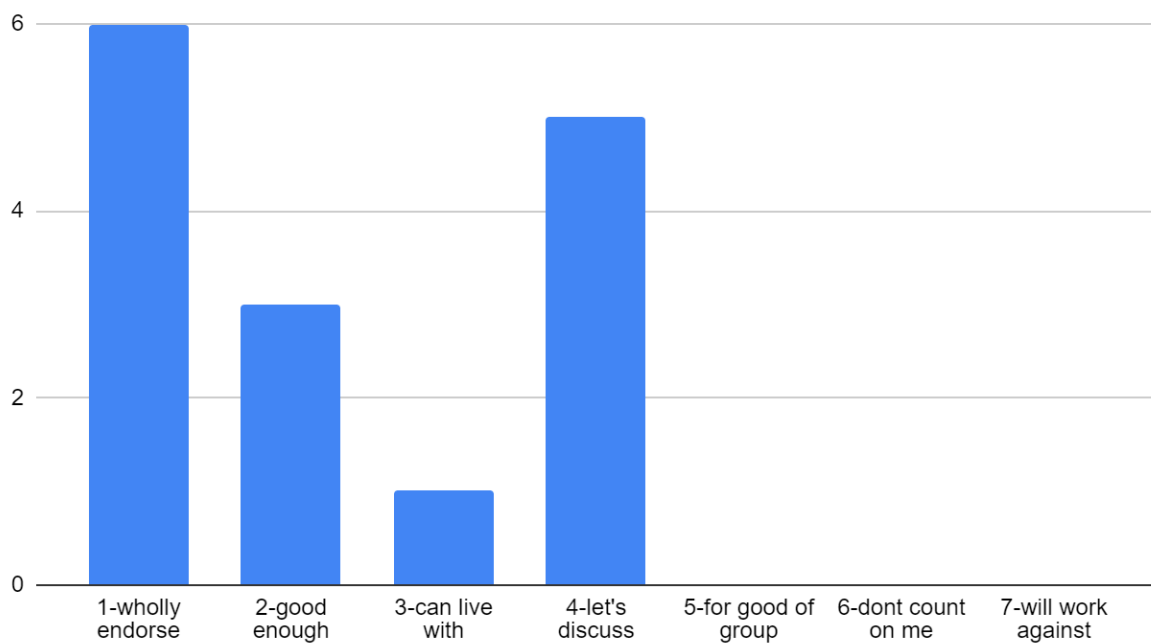
- Governance
- Funding
- Operations
- Performance Measures
- Other requirements or issues

The first use of Levels of Agreement for Reimagining Our Westmoreland occurred September 23, 2019. This initial exercise shows support for Intergovernmental Initiatives from the 15 individuals representing municipalities 8 in Alle-Kiski Planning District. To be determined, next steps and further use of the Levels of Agreement tool.

Scenario 1- Ad hoc Planning Group

Imagine...The tremendous asset of a river winds its way through a necklace of small towns and rural communities. Unique vistas, flora and fauna, and a revived ecology abound. Individuals “in the know” find these assets and enjoy them, but there is no strategy to protect them or for the local economy to benefit from these visits. Some municipalities are starting to develop access points to the river, trails, and commercial activity. Some of these changes are welcomed; others not so much. Municipal leaders reach out to fellow municipalities and to other levels of government and jointly work on projects. No structure was adopted in this effort - people just got to work! Elections have a significant impact on the momentum of the project. As such, leaders decide to formalize the working relationship and municipalities adopt intergovernmental cooperation agreements and develop a long range plan.

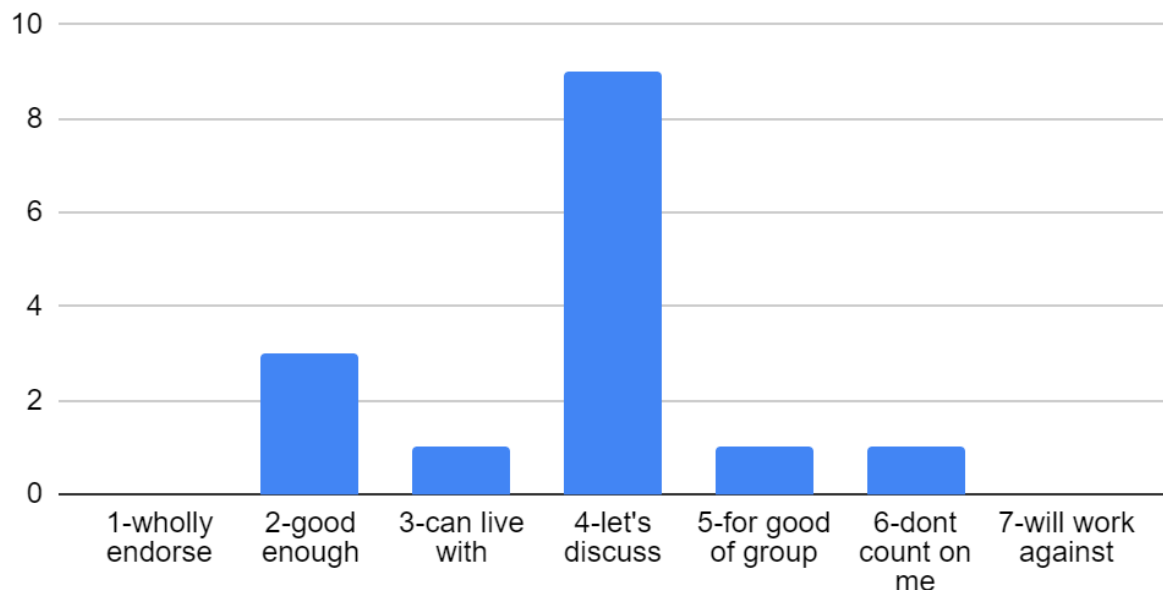
Levels of Agreement -Ad Hoc Planning



Scenario 2 - Parks Pro Circuit Rider

Imagine...Municipal leaders know that parks in the region are enjoyed by residents from all of the municipalities. They also know that their own staff capacity to run the parks varies by municipality. It is recognized that purchasing, events and promotion, maintenance, staffing, volunteers and other management issues would benefit by a parks and recreation professional. One municipality steps forward and is willing to employ such a professional and that person will serve as a "circuit rider" and tend to the needs of the participating municipalities. It's their employee and they draft an agreement for other municipalities to adopt if they would like to use these services. Each community must execute the agreement each year. The host municipality sets the compensation of the professional and each community pays a fee and hourly rates for the worker's time.

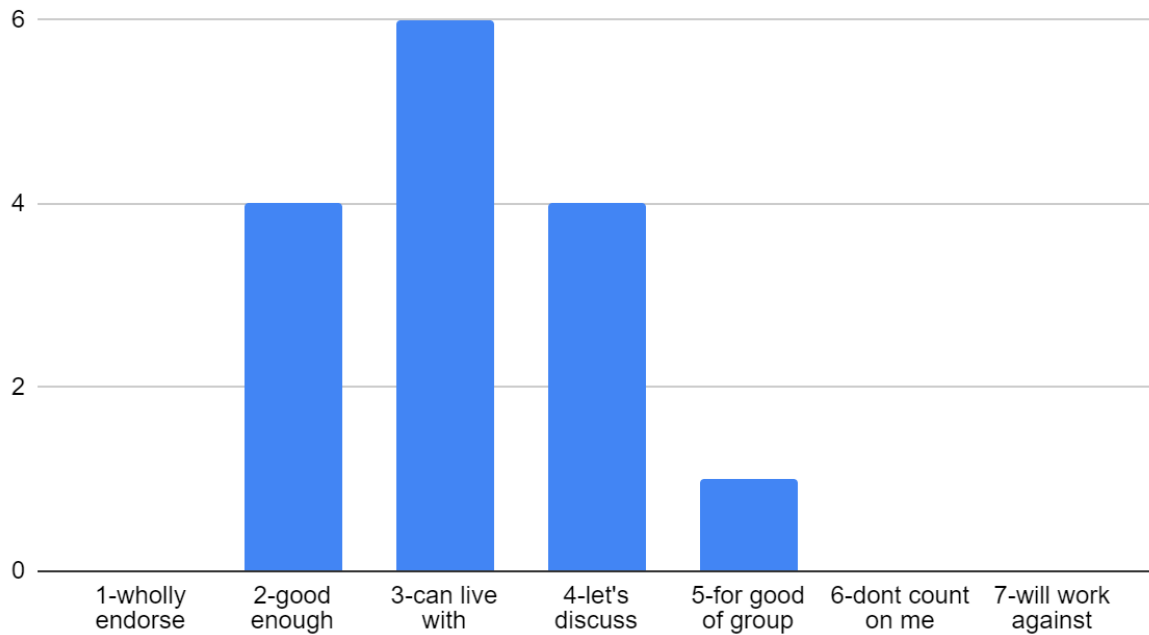
Levels of Agreement - Parks Pro Circuit Rider



Scenario 3 - Council of Governments

Imagine...After a facilitated process about the priorities of the region, officials decide to create a formal structure as allowed by the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act and form a Council of Governments (COG). Each municipality would adopt an ordinance establishing the COG. Each municipality would be responsible to send a delegate to the COG. By-Laws would be developed to govern its operation. Dues would be established to provide some working capital and to bind the members to the pact. Early decisions would be around what programs to perform, staffing, and planning. Some programs would be voluntary and much of the work would fall to volunteers and/or existing local government staff in early stages.

Levels of Agreement - COG



Scenario 3 - Regional Policing

Imagine...After education and informal discussions, a committee examines options and gets expert advice from the Department of Community and Economic Development. That process recommends a regional police force with a shared governance and funding structure. Perhaps this would include representation based upon population, or assessed value, or some other formula. The bottom line is, those details would be resolved through negotiation. And that negotiation would net a lasting solution that would be assumed to continue on an ongoing basis, with an annual appropriation made from each participating municipality. More than just a transaction of funds for a service, each participant would have a responsibility to work towards the regional success, including actively participate in discussions and decisions about programs, levels of service, and funding.

Levels of Agreement - Regional Policing

