



Bradford R. Spangler

bspangler@merid.org • Office/Mobile +1.970.389.2850

PO Box 1829 • 105 Village Place • Dillon, Colorado 80435, United States

Summary

A Senior Mediator and Program Manager at Meridian Institute with experience designing, convening, and facilitating multi-party collaborative processes since 2004. Has designed and facilitated a wide range of collaborative processes on a variety of issues, including disaster planning, response, and recovery; community resilience; freshwater management; water sector innovation; climate adaptation; climate policy; clean energy; and hydraulic fracturing. Prior to joining Meridian, worked at RESOLVE (a nonprofit dispute resolution organization) and the University of Colorado's Conflict Research Consortium. Earned a B.A. in Anthropology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and an M.A. in Cultural Anthropology with an Interdisciplinary Graduate Certificate in Environmental Policy from the University of Colorado at Boulder. Past Co-Chair of the Association for Conflict Resolution's Environment and Public Policy Section.

Meridian Experience

Meridian Institute

2008–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, collaborative problem-solving, and strategy development projects. Conducts convening assessments, designs collaborative processes, plans and facilitates meetings, helps participants build and document consensus, and conducts implementation activities. Selected highlights are summarized below:

- Project manager providing process support to the [Alliance for National and Community Resilience \(ANCR\)](#) in their development of community resilience benchmarks for model codes in the United States. Meridian is serving as an interface between ANCR's Technical Director and subject matter experts assembled to review, recommend modifications to, provide additional information on, and validate community resilience benchmarks in 18 functional areas of community resilience.

- Facilitation coordinator for the [Resilience Dialogues](#), a public–private partnership that connects community leaders to national experts via online facilitated dialogues, to help them understand climate risk and lay the groundwork for long-term resilience building. Train facilitators, assist with facilitating live dialogues, and provide process input on related implementation tasks. The Resilience Dialogues is managed by the American Society of Adaptation Professionals in coordination with the U.S. Global Change Research Program and the American Geophysical Union.
- Lead facilitator of a technical training for drinking water and wastewater utility managers and consultants, in collaboration with the Water Utility Climate Alliance, the Creating Resilient Utilities Initiative of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and other water sector partners. Crafted a dynamic agenda and coordinated expert trainers to deliver this two-day training focused on three important dimensions of building the resilience of water sector utilities: (1) the fundamentals of climate science, including sources of uncertainty to consider in long-term planning; (2) methods for adopting planning approaches for making adaption decisions in the face of uncertainties about how the climate will change; and (3) communications best practices for building a business case for climate resilience. Trainings were held in Colorado, California, and Oregon in 2017 and 2018.
- Project manager and lead facilitator for a program assessment of The Kresge Foundation’s Climate Resilient and Equitable Water Systems (CREWS) initiative. The assessment involved a review of grantee proposals, reports, and key publications, as well as interviews with current grantees and additional experts working at the intersection of water, climate resilience, and equity. The findings were presented in a public report released in August 2018. This work was funded through a subcontract with American Rivers, a CREWS grantee.
- Lead facilitator of a nine-month process to develop the [Water Utility Climate Alliance \(WUCA\) 2017–2021 Strategic Plan](#). WUCA is a coalition of 12 of the United States’ largest water providers, who are dedicated to collaboratively advancing water utility climate adaptation.
- Lead facilitator for a variety of stakeholder engagement activities for the U.S. EPA’s [Creating Resilient Water Utilities](#) (CRWU) since 2014. Facilitated the Climate Resilience Evaluation and Awareness Tool (CREAT) 3.0 Working Group to identify and implement enhancements to third version of the CREAT risk assessment software (2014–2015). Facilitated development of CRWU’s *Workshop Planner: Climate Change and Extreme Events Adaptation* with technical assistance providers from the Rural Community Assistance Partnership. Designed and facilitated numerous workshops for utility personnel, consultants, and government agency representatives to enhance capacity for building the resilience of water sector utilities to extreme weather events and long-term climate change impacts.
- Provided planning and facilitation support for The Johnson Foundation’s Freshwater Forum, a series of conferences examining U.S. freshwater challenges (2009). Lead author and mediator of the process to develop the consensus report *Charting New*

Waters: A Call to Action to Address U.S. Freshwater Challenges, which represented the outcomes of a June 2010 summit of executive-level leaders from diverse sectors. Provided facilitation support for expert convenings and authored eight reports through the second and third phases of The Johnson Foundation's [Charting New Waters](#) initiative, which focused on implementing the principles and recommendations espoused in *Charting New Waters* (2011–2012) and catalyzing the transformation of U.S. water infrastructure (2013–2014).

- Staff leader for Meridian's internal resilience program area and member of Meridian's [Community and Regional Resilience Institute \(CARRI\)](#) team supporting community and regional efforts to build resilience to natural and manmade disruptions. Facilitated work groups in Gulfport, Mississippi (2008–2010); provided facilitation support to the Community Resilience System Initiative (CRSI), a national stakeholder dialogue (2010–2011); based on CRSI outcomes, developed content and process guidance for the Community Resilience System (CRS), an online resilience assessment and planning tool, and supported CRS pilots (2011–2012). Supported the Campus Resilience Pilot Project, which adapted the CRS for application to university and college campuses (2013).
- Please see <http://merid.org/staff/bspangler> for a full list of Meridian projects.

Previous Experience

RESOLVE, Inc.

Washington, DC

2004–2008

Senior Associate

Supported senior staff in convening, facilitating, and mediating multi-party collaborative efforts aimed at resolving environmental and public health policy issues. Responsible for process design, agenda development, small-group facilitation, project management, stakeholder communications, issues research, meeting summaries, and logistics. Assisted with multiple situation assessments and served as lead author on two consultative research reports that provided advice to local government agencies by synthesizing input from technical experts and stakeholders.

University of Colorado Conflict Research Consortium

Boulder, Colorado

2000–2004

Research Associate

Conducted conflict resolution and peace studies research and logged more than 2,000 database entries into the Conflict Resolution Information Source (CRInfo). Researched and wrote numerous conflict resolution book summaries published by CRInfo and more than two dozen concept essays for the Beyond Intractability Knowledge Base.

National Parks Conservation Association

Knoxville, Tennessee

2002

Intern

Researched and wrote a report on the environmental policy context and key

stakeholders in the Obed Wild and Scenic River watershed of Middle Tennessee, as well as a report on community-based watershed management success stories. Engaged in peer roundtable discussions about approaches to environmental decision making.

Education**University of Colorado at Boulder**

M.A., Cultural Anthropology

Graduate Certificate: Environmental Policy

2002

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

B.A., Anthropology

1997

Professional Activities**National Co-Chair**

Association for Conflict Resolution's Environment and Public Policy Section

2010–2012