



# Meridian Institute

Connecting People to Solve Problems

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### Summary

Cofounder of and Senior Partner at Meridian Institute, with over 25 years of experience in the conflict resolution field, facilitating policy dialogues, negotiations, and strategy development processes. A recognized leader in the field of facilitation and consensus building, with strong substantive expertise and experience in agricultural development, alternative energy development, ecosystem restoration, global climate change, air quality management, land use change, natural resource management, and low-level radiation disposal. Most recently has specialized in creating effective collaborative processes for building institutions, developing long-term plans and strategies, and launching new initiatives. Holds a Master's in City Planning, Environmental Policy, and Mediation from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

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### Meridian Experience

#### Meridian Institute

1997–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 Partner

Cofounded Meridian in 1997 with four partners. Serves as program director of the organization, involved in program and project development and workload distribution. Also involved in all aspects of strategic planning, human resources, finance, IT, and marketing for the organization. Manages all support to Meridian's Board of Directors. Designs, manages, and leads policy dialogues, negotiations, and strategy development projects involving teams of facilitators. For these projects, conducts convening assessments, designs processes, secures financial support, plans and facilitates meetings, helps participants develop consensus documents, and conducts implementation activities, such as press releases and briefings. Selected highlights are summarized below:

www.merid.org

Colorado Office

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Washington, DC Office

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- In 2015, served as project director for a strategy planning workshop developed and convened jointly by Meridian and Advanced Energy Economy (AEE), a trade association for advanced energy technology companies. Participants included AEE member companies, state government representatives, academic experts, nationally recognized policy analysts, and foundation representatives. The participants worked together to discuss ways to leverage existing federal statutes and accelerate investment in and deployment of advanced energy technologies.
- Served as director for a project in which Meridian assisted the African Union Commission, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Planning Agency, regional economic communities, technical partners, and development partners in the development of a joint statement of work and rollout plan for implementing the significant goals and targets in the 2014 Malabo Declaration for Africa. In a week-long series of progressive meetings, Meridian supported the parties as they developed key objectives, program components and leads, target audiences, resources, a timeline and a budget for a broad array of actions items meant to result in achievement of the Malabo targets.
- Since 2011, has served as project director for the Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa, assisting with the development of a broad partnership in Sub-Saharan Africa to support the implementation of cost-effective aflatoxin management programs and technologies.
- Served as project director for the Hydraulic Fracturing Forum, a steering committee and forum on hydraulic fracturing in partnership with the University of Wyoming's School of Energy Resources, the Ruckelshaus Institute, and the Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources.
- Served as project director for Denver's Regional Air Quality Council meetings, which focused on developing regional air quality strategies for ozone nonattainment.
- Served as project director for the Council on Sustainable Biomass Production, which focused on creating an independent, third-party certification system for second-generation biofuels production in the United States.
- Served as project director for the interdisciplinary, interagency Everglades Restoration Coordination and Verification (RECOVER) project, which developed and is implementing an adaptive management strategy for the recovery of the Everglades over the next 30 years.
- Served as project director for strategic planning and facilitation services for CYMMIT (the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center). Provided process design and facilitation assistance for internal task force deliberations, a SWOT analysis, scenario building, and external stakeholder consultations.
- Please see <http://merid.org/staff/bstinson> for a full list of projects completed.

## Previous Experience

### The Keystone Center

Keystone, Colorado 1985 and 1991–1997

*Senior Associate (1991-1997), Intern (1985)*

As a Senior Associate, provided neutral, third-party mediation, facilitation, and conflict management services to resolve natural resource, environmental quality, and science and technology policy conflicts at the local, regional, and national levels. Conducted convening assessments, convened parties for discussion, and developed and finalized consensus documents that contributed to federal agency regulatory efforts and national legislative efforts.

### ICF Technology, Inc.

Bellevue, Washington 1989–1991

*Associate*

Served as a conflict management and public involvement specialist for this national environmental consulting firm, which provided environmental analysis and engineering services to public agencies in the Northwest and around the United States. Developed a public involvement manual and provided training for the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Environmental Restoration and Waste Management. Assisted the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX, in the

design and implementation of a multi-party, consensus-based remedial action plan for an arsenic-contaminated Superfund site in Tacoma, Washington.

### Tahoe Regional Planning Agency

Tahoe, California 1986

*Consultant*

Analyzed the effectiveness of a two-year consensus planning effort used to redraft the regional plan in the Lake Tahoe region. Interviewed participants, documented the planning process, and evaluated the achievements of this multi-party dialogue, which was designed to settle the complex environmental and development issues present in this prosperous, highly scenic region.

### Harvard Program on Negotiation

Cambridge, Massachusetts 1984–1985

*Research Assistant*

Examined electric utility disputes nationwide to determine their potential for mediation. Interviewed utility consumers, managers, and regulatory agencies to assess the need for innovative conflict management strategies. Ultimately, three projects were selected to undergo mediation of site-specific disputes. Assisted in the design of a pilot mediation project.

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## Education

### Massachusetts Institute of Technology

M.C.P., City Planning, Environmental Policy, and Mediation  
1986

### University of Colorado

B.A., Environmental Conservation  
1982