

The use of scientific information is a crucial element in watershed planning, as it is essential for informed decision making and sustainable management of natural resources. In collaborative settings, diverse stakeholders work with scientific and other kinds of information to develop comprehensive watershed plans. Prior research has examined the role of scientific information in governmental and collaborative contexts. Results from these studies indicate that scientific information is scarcely discussed in executive committee meetings in comparison to technical committee meetings. In addition, collaborative ecological management plans have been found to rarely cite peer-reviewed scientific information. Influential factors in the use of science have been identified, including tangible factors such as funding and labor that directly affect the availability of scientific information, as well as intangible factors that affect the willingness of practitioners to use scientific information, such as quality of interpersonal relationships and dialogue. An open question remains regarding how scientific and other types of information are brought to and discussed in collaborative watershed partnerships. In this study, we analyzed how scientific and other information is brought to collaborative governance partnerships in the Canterbury Region of New Zealand. Drawing on coded analysis of Meeting Minutes across 36 zone committee meetings from three locations over a two year time span, we examined the content of presentations shared in these meetings.. Results indicate patterns in how information is brought to local watershed partnerships across space and over time.