

Roles and Responsibilities of Board Members

Wendy Wilson, River Network, 2010

Role of the Board

- Guards the mission of the organization for its members (or ticket-holders)
- Determines policies around internal procedures (financial, PR, FR, personnel, planning)
- Hires, supports the direction of - **or fires** - the Executive Director
- Serves as a court of appeal for staff or ticket-holders in the organization.
- Ensures effective planning
- Ensures and manages finances
- Assesses it's own work and replaces itself
- Monitors and evaluates the programs of the organization

Six Board Meetings to Success

Intentionally making these six decisions as a board every year – and developing a culture of *peer accountability* to these group decisions – can prevent many miscommunications and power struggles and allows the organization to move from year to year without being stuck in the past.

- 1) Set Long Term Direction: Strategic and/or Watershed Plan
- 2) Set Annual Priorities (Internal & Programmatic)
- 3) Program Review/ Organizational Evaluation
- 4) Approve Annual Budget
- 5) Approve Fundraising Plan
- 6) Recruit, elect and orient new Board Members (and allow members to leave gracefully)