

**How an ambitious  
Water Framework Directive\*  
helped a River Basin Agency  
Solve a conflict ?**

***...Many adjustments had to be explained and discussed***



- **EWFD requirements by 2015:**
  1. Non degradation of waters;
  2. Achievement of good status, or ecological potential;
  3. Removal of hazardous substances
- **EWFD scheduled stages:**
  - **Diagnosis as soon as 2005;**
  - **Public consultation in 2006 & in 2008;**
  - **Proving measures are suitable to achieve good status by 2009;**
  - **Ensure reporting on efforts made in this respect...**

# A River Basin Agency is integrating various stakeholders



local  
councillors

anglers

fish  
farming  
managers

water  
sports  
associations

## THE WATER BASIN COMMITTEE

tourists  
associations

nature  
conservancy  
associations

sand and  
gravel  
companies

etc ...

drinkable  
water  
consumers

manufacturers

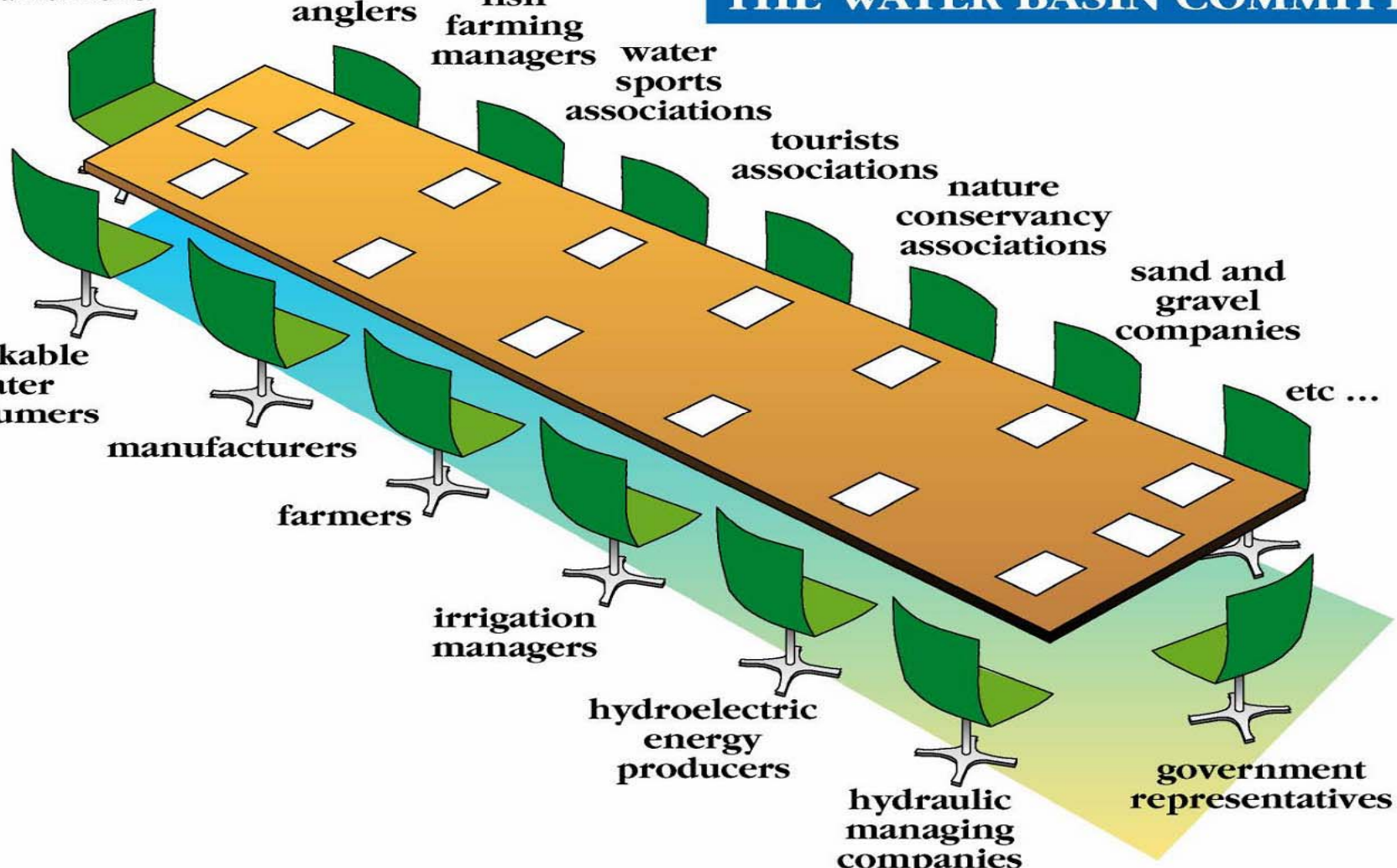
farmers

irrigation  
managers

hydroelectric  
energy  
producers

hydraulic  
managing  
companies

government  
representatives



The River Basin Agency prepared a new 6 year program, according to previous practice:

- **decision process involving 3 college** of stakeholders (*State + Municipalities + Economy*);
- **levies charged on water** abstraction and pollution providing financial autonomy;
- **subsidies** for wastewater treatment, water resource preservation, drinking water supply, restoration of damaged water bodies...

Defining a new 6 year program became a challenge because of **various opposite expectation** such as:

- Some **economic stakeholders** asked for alleviated pollution charges;
- Local **communities** aim at lower price for public water service (inc. 15% levy for RBA);
- Solidarity with **rural municipalities** recently added to RBA's burden;
- **State** representatives asked for a respect of delay of directives for fear of penalties;
- Equilibrium for charges Vs. subsidies, in between categories had to be improved...(ex. farmers...).

***These conflicts had to be solved.***

New EWFD requirements offered a way out, (*a diversion?*) as the following principles agreed everyone:

- **Priority results-based objectives for the program;**
- **New contributors to be charged, 6% increased budget;**
- **New balance in between categories of contributors according to fields of intervention (*farmers will contribute significantly*).**

**The RBA program is now being implemented according to EWFD main goals**