### Lessons Learned from Lagunitas

#### Site Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lessons Learned from Lagunitas</th>
<th>Ways to Improve</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Students are often inexperienced surveyors | Have a plan of action  
Practice techniques prior to arrival  
Do all calculations after each day of surveying |
| Health and community information is difficult to collect | Use a site map to match interviews with homes  
Make sure you know where all homes in village are located  
Ask open-ended questions  
Make answers quantifiable within a limited set of categories |
| Promises made too early in project without sufficient information may cause problems later | While assuring community of our commitment, do not promise solutions until after complete site assessment and preliminary design |
| Community survey is a key part of community building and making sure everyone knows about project | Continue and improve in every site visit  
Do not assume that everyone in village knows about group and plan; often only leaders do |
| Using native inhabitant to conduct survey improves quality | Continue to use native speaker from area since it puts community members at ease  
Women interviewers help as well since most information from community women |
| Water Board is a key component to keeping system sustainable | Initiate as part of site assessment  
Water Board members can help mobilize community  
Need to keep educating Water Board members  
Encourage Water Board to participate in regional water association meetings that leverage funds for education, materials, etc. |

#### Design

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| Problems securing water rights can jeopardize entire project | Get information about Honduran Forestry Law that allows “takings” of private land to protect water source  
Do not continue project until acceptable resolution  
Review contract to ensure thorough and clear (but leave negotiations to community) |
| Communicating design is sometimes difficult | Tell the community early in process what contribution to expect from us and what from them (construction, maintenance)  
Use other ways (to supplement maps) to communicate design, e.g. use stakes to communicate position of valves/joints  
Allow for several sustainable designs for the community to choose |
Attachment 1. Lessons Learned from Lagunitas

- Budget complete design/construction carefully
  - Make sure budget includes all needed materials for sustainability
  - Make sure community is clear on what budget is to be used for
  - Account for volatile currency changes

- Community may alter construction (e.g. tank) from design
  - Consider local materials/practices early in design process
Attachment 1. Lessons Learned from Lagunitas

**Construction**

| Difficult to explain funds allocation via email etc. | Plan a meeting with community before funds are sent to clearly communicate design, materials, and construction. Do not give one lump payment to the community to purchase supplies. Only provide the necessary funds so extra is not wasted or used for other materials. Establish local contacts with groups that can monitor/inspect construction. |
| Local foreman is a great asset but may not be aware of sustainability issues | Knows local practices, but need to clearly communicate the importance of certain aspects of the design. |
| Construction serves to build community within village | Continue using this, however remember that if everyone contributes labor, everyone wants the "new" system. |
| Be prepared to adapt | Continue to be ready to change and adapt to design and construction techniques. |

| Education of community about system is as important as the system itself | Sustainability issues are important, however they are not necessarily understood by the community. |
| Community needs to be educated about long-term financing | Discuss importance of payment for project with community members. Calculate and determine reasonable payments. Ensure design consistent with economic realities of community. |

| Manuals are effective if less text and more pictures | Continue to distribute manuals and include pictures. |
| Workshops were effective and educational | Kids workshops were educational. Continue to leave lessons for teacher. Continue to use hands-on workshops rather than lectures for all age groups. Don't leave out any age groups (e.g. 15-18 years). |

| Men separated from women in some workshops | Not sure of reasons and need to explore more. |