SIX STEP PROBLEM SOLVING

In most cases this procedure has proven very helpful in accelerating group decision-making and meaningful action. It focuses on group attention while enabling movement toward consensus.

**1. Brainstorm a list of the problems** facing the group.

**2. Choose one of those problems.** (Straw votes from time to time, initially with each person voting more than once, will help. Narrow the list. Eventually one problem tends to become clearly the major concern of the group.)

**3. Describe or clarify that problem** so everyone understands it well.

**4. Brainstorm a list of possible solutions.**

**5. Chose the best solution** as in Step #2.

**6. Decide how to implement that solution.** This should include: listing the needed steps, fixing the responsibility and establishing the schedule for performing each step.

Other problems and considerations need not be dropped permanently but can be returned to later if and when appropriate.