

Facilitating from the Chair: Bringing Together Parties Interested in a Science Education Center in Cedar Key

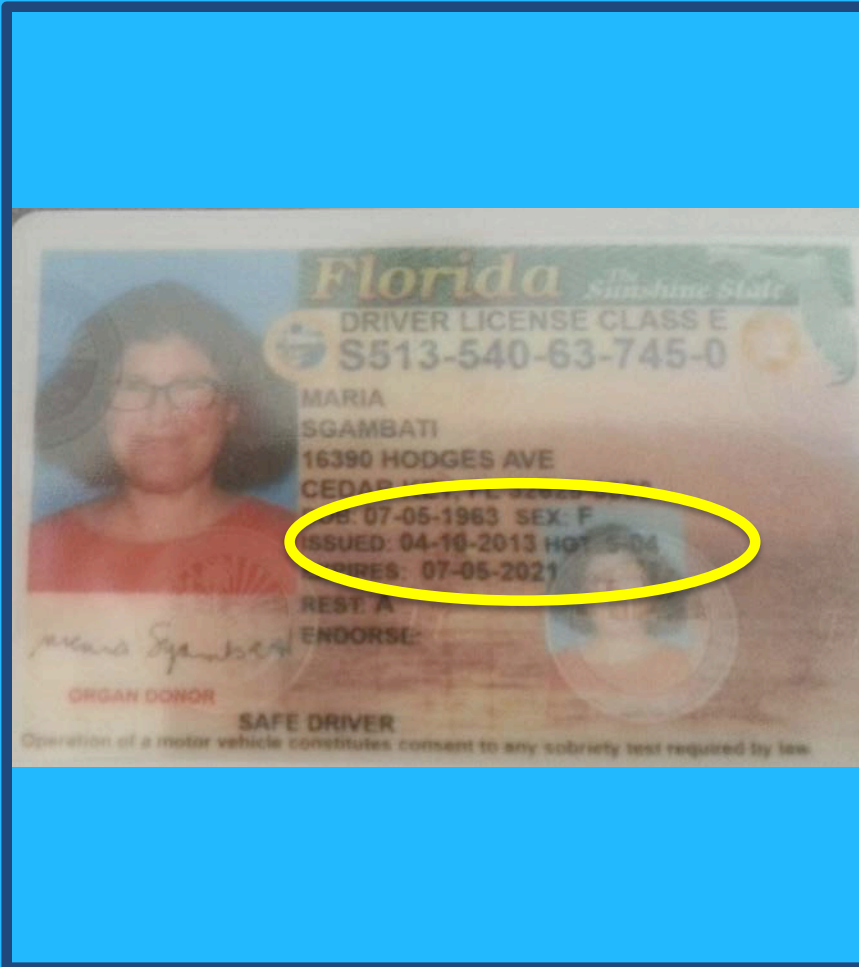
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What a Difference A Year Makes: April 15, 2013



- Had been living in CK for 6 weeks and decided to move there
- Got Florida DL at Bronson DMV
- Stopped by NRLI Graduation to meet Bruce and Jon
- Started drive back to DC to move down

Cedar Key and the Big Bend



- Natural resources based economies that have risen and fallen over time
- Nascent ecotourism and tourism (“Old Florida”)
- Pristine ecosystems
- ? What’s next?

Background

- Vortex of forces:
- Eco-tourism / need for economic drivers in line with area values beyond traditional coastal development approaches
- Big Bend area Conservation planning
- UF and FWC Marine Labs
- RESTORE act \$\$\$\$\$



Purpose

- Several groups talking about developing a center in Cedar Key that could serve multiple purposes: conservation and marine science education, ecotourism, ? more
- No set forum for talking with each other



Broad idea I will share today is NOT confidential; some conversations are



PEOPLE and ORGANIZATIONS

- University of Florida – Seahorse Key Marine Lab
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Santa Fe College
- Group of people in town interested in building an visitor aquarium / touch tank facility and education center
- Town of Cedar Key
- College of Central Florida
- ? Pasco County
- ? others

PROCESS: Drink Coffee and Listen July 2013

- Individual in town interested in building an visitor aquarium / touch tank facility and education center



PROCESS: Eat Risotto and Brainstorm

August / September 2013

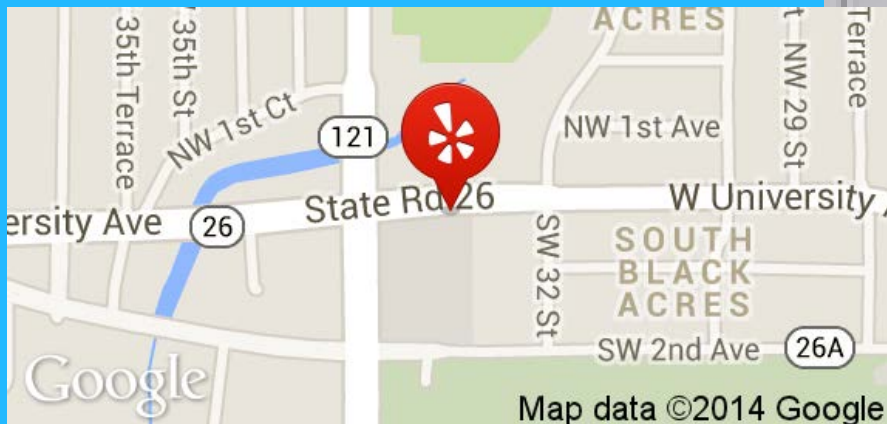
- University of Florida
– Seahorse Key
Marine Lab
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife
Service



PROCESS: One on One meeting with Santa Fe College President January 2013



PROCESS: Lunch again UF Whitney Lab Development Officer and Santa Fe professor – February 2013, larger meeting with SFC president and development team



People: who participated initially

- University of Florida – Seahorse Key Marine Lab and Whitney Lab for Marine Bioscience
- Santa Fe College
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Town of Cedar Key
- Group of people in town interested in building an visitor aquarium / touch tank facility and education center
- College of Central Florida
- ? Pasco County
- ? others

RESULT: February 2014 – Meeting between SFC and Cedar Key stakeholders to share ideas



NEXT STEPS: A bit unclear

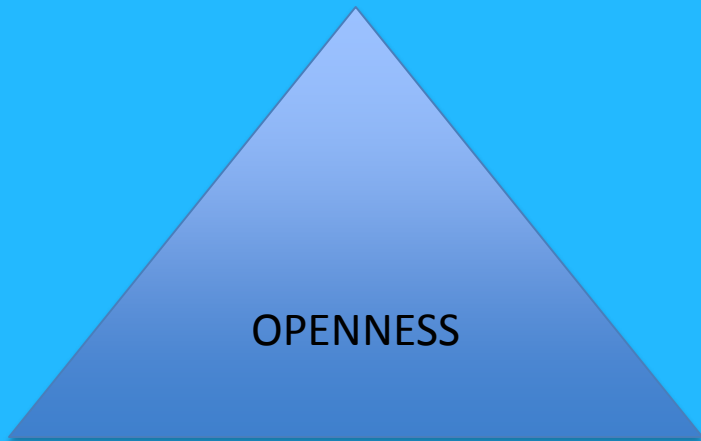


- ? develop a working group for a conservation center in Cedar Key
- ? Develop and implement ideas as a consortium (if possible)
- ? Perhaps larger need for Big Bend Conservation Consortium to plan strategically how to integrate into larger regional vision
- Maybe none of these?

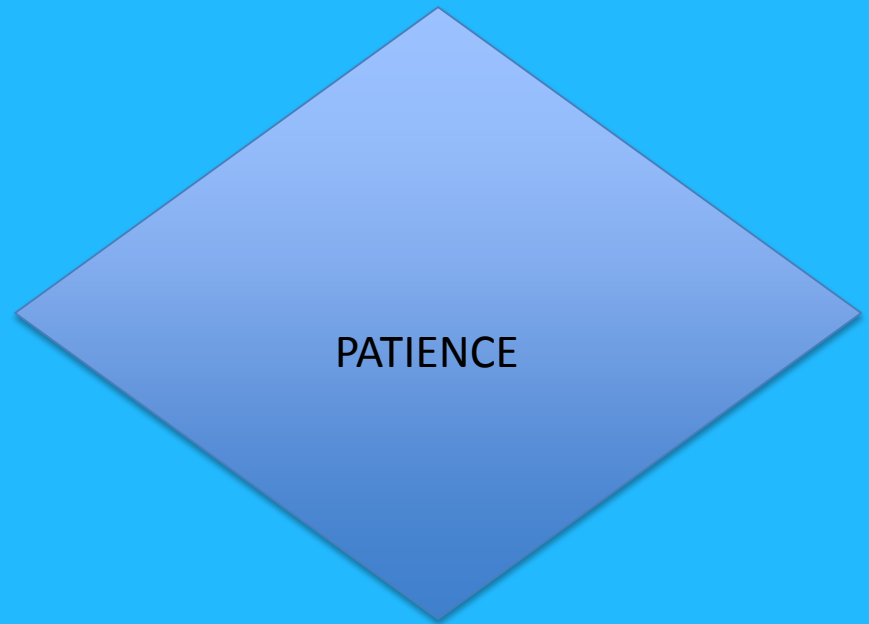


Lessons Learned

Look and Listen: ask questions to understand as many sides as possible



- Know my own interest and position
- Know that my own interests and positions might change



The Groan Zone is normal and can be a healthy and productive part of a MSP

Lessons Learned:

Facilitating from the chair looks a bit different



- Organic process
- May be a series of more informal meetings with individuals
- How to interact when role unclear
- May take a more backseat rather than front seat traditional leader role
- Get really comfortable with uncertainty
- ? Facilitating in an emerging network

Sometimes When You Facilitate From the Chair You End up at the Table



- Began working as Education and Outreach Program Coordinator for Seahorse Key Marine Lab March 1

