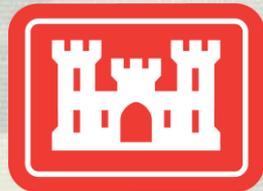


# A Suwannee River Watershed Study: The Journey – Chapter One

**NRLI Class XIII - Practicum**  
April 10, 2014

Presented by:  
Mr. David Tipple, NRLI XIII  
US Army Corps of Engineers  
Jacksonville District



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# Presentation Outline

- **Background**
- **Purpose**
- **People**
- **Process**
- **Progress and Results**
- **Lessons Learned**
- **Stakeholder Session #2**



# Background

## US Army Corps of Engineers Watershed Studies

- Addresses problems, needs and opportunities within a watershed or regional context
- Integrated Water Resources Management (IRWM)
- Seeks to have a joint vision of a desired end state
- Potential solutions regardless of agency responsibilities
- Seeks a wide range of stakeholders in addressing water resources problems and opportunities
- Seeks implementation strategies, both Federal and non-Federal, to allow programs to work together over time
- Engineering Code (EC) 1105-2-411 & Assessment Process
- Study Mechanism: USACE reconnaissance-level watershed study with potential initiation in 2016

# PURPOSE

- Practicum Objective: engage multiple stakeholders in identifying water resources concerns within the Suwannee River Watershed and avenues to address those concerns
- Accomplish and why?: Reinvigorate active and dormant stakeholders and forums to engage in collaborative communication, and leverage the collective body of knowledge and programs to sustain and improve the Suwannee Watershed for its multiple purposes
- What: Suwannee River Watershed Brainstorming Session regarding water resources concerns and opportunities, March 21, 2014 from 1:00-4:00pm at the SRWMD Office

# People

## (20 Participated)

- Suwannee River Water Management District (3)
- St. Johns River Water Management District (1 webinar)
- Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (8, 2 webinar)
- Georgia Department of Natural Resources (2 via phone: 1 program manager, 1 Flood Plain Mgmt. Coordinator)
- City of Valdosta, GA (2, Engineering Department)
- US Fish & Wildlife Service (1)
- US Fish & Wildlife Service – Lower Suwannee NWR (1)
- Invited but unable to participate: 14 from state, regional, and Federal agencies located in FL & GA
- Future: participation from others not represented this time
- **Brainstorming Session Team: 3 from Corps of Engineers**

# Interests

- Life, health, safety
- Protect citizens from natural disasters
- Provide jobs, income, and financial security for families for personal needs and community sustainability
- Protect natural resources for future generations, including water supply
- Recreational opportunities



# Process – Steps and Timeline

- Last 2 years +: Site-specific efforts within Florida and Georgia; product delivery and relationship building
- Last year +: Internal USACE traction for priority and funding support
- Oct 2013 NRLI Session in Tampa: Darrell Smith, FDACS, on stakeholder panel and involved with Suwannee River Partnership
- Nov-Dec 2013: Developed practicum proposal and dialogue with current Suwannee River Partnership Coordinator (NRLI XI Fellow)
- Jan-Feb 2014: Set a date for brainstorming session; contacting individuals to participate
- Feb-Mar 2014: Developed and restructured brainstorming session
- Mar 2014: reached out to others via related forums occurring within watershed (RESTORE Act forum at Otter Springs; North FL Regional Water Supply Partnership Stakeholder Advisory Committee Mtg.)
- Mar 2014: Encouraged physical presence, but added webinar approach to engage others remotely

# Agenda & Process

## (March 21, 2014)

- Introductions: Name, agency, and what is a key professional and/or personal interest in Suwannee River Watershed
- Agenda Setting: Reviewed agenda, any suggested revisions, comfort before proceeding
- Inform: Overview of basic Corps of Engineers watershed study approach
- Brainstorm problems and concerns: post-its, webinar chat box, and via telephone (multiple participants from same org was acceptable)
- Grouped in themes for focus
- Identified some avenues to address concerns (ongoing and potential)
- Grouped under same themes
- Summarized afternoon session (looking back)
- Next Steps (looking forward): schedule for finalizing minutes and follow-up input; future follow-up sessions looking toward study start and/or other opportunities

# Progress and Results

## Watershed Themes – Areas of Concern

- Water Quality
- Water Supply & Water Mgmt Systems
- Ecosystem: Restoration & Conservation
- River Corridor & Drainage Systems
- Climate Change & Sea-level Rise
- Floodplain & Flood Risk Mgmt
- Other Themes
- **Avenues to address concerns also placed under these themes**
  - **Note: all watershed studies are not equal**

# Progress and Results

## Adaptations & Next Steps

- Adaptations:
  - Room lay-out and use
  - In-room & webinar interface
  - Time management and session rhythm
  - Post-it summarization
  - Meeting minute review, further input, and participant names for future watershed forums
- Next Steps:
  - Complete 3/21/14 session minutes & input
  - Individual follow-up: current & future forums
  - Corps internal follow-up
  - Define purpose of next forum
  - Expectation mgmt
  - Sustain & grow momentum for participatory collaboration

# Lessons Learned

## NRLI Concepts, Skills, Tools, Strategies

- Went Well
  - Situation Assessment Matrix
  - Previous interactions, deliverables, relationships
  - Setting expectations for session in agenda review
  - Effective and empathetic listening during 3/21/14
  - Framing and themes
  - Meeting design and adaptability
  - Participation & physical movement in activities
  - Looking back & looking forward
- Seek to Improve & Use
  - Thinking through and living the Triangle of Satisfaction
  - Getting the word out sooner and to more stakeholders
  - Courtesy preparation calls
  - Prioritization in group setting ... trying to pack in too much
  - Discerning perceptions
  - The Circle of Conflict
  - Managing conflict & conflict as an opportunity for a positive outcome
  - Future negotiation and/or mediation (separate mtgs)

Title for Stakeholder Session #2?





# Thank You

- **NRLI Project Team**
- **NRLI Practicum Mentor**
  - Mr. Jonathan Dain
- **NRLI XIII Class**
- **Sessions: Time & Talent Sharers**
- **My Practicum Quality Control Feedback Group**
  - Mr. Eric Bush – NRLI X
  - Ms. Kelly Keefe – NRLI XI
  - Mr. Andrew LoSchiavo – NRLI XII

