

The Room Where It Happened: Bringing Together FDACS/OAWP and UF/IFAS to Discuss Florida's Water Policies



UF/IFAS Natural Resources Leadership Institute
Jessica Stempien, Katie Hallas, Phillip Stokes

Situation

- Lack of interaction between two agencies
- Lack of knowledge of individual and joint missions
- Growing workload associated with Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) programs and requirements under recent water legislation
- Increased need by FDACS/Office of Agricultural Water Policy (OAWP) for support from University of Florida/Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS)

Situation

Meeting: Solution to Situation

- Conducted meeting on March 8, 2017 in Gainesville with FDACS/OAWP and UF/IFAS senior management
- Provided meeting attendees with materials prior to meeting
 - Meeting agenda
 - Survey results to illustrate need for communication
 - Timeline of interaction between agencies
- Facilitated discussion guided by three questions

Stakeholders

FDACS/OAWP and UF/IFAS Senior Management

FDACS/OAWP

Steve Dwinell

Stan Posey

Ray Scott

Bonnie Wolff-Pelaez

Clegg Hooks

UF/IFAS

Nick Place

Jackie Burns

Tom Obreza

Kelly Morgan

Saqib Mukhtar

Michael Dukes

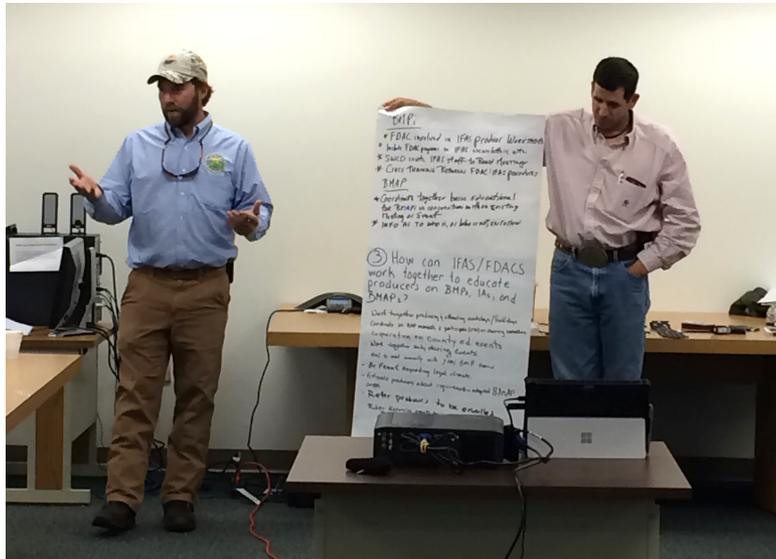
Sherry Larkin

John Davis

Techniques

Preparation for Meeting

- NRLI Practicum Group conference calls
- Conference calls with Dr. Morgan
- Input from NRLI project team advisor, Wendy-Lin Bartels
- Survey
- Timeline tool
- Input sessions with FDACS/OAWP staff



Techniques

Survey

- Assessed current involvement and communication from UF/IFAS and FDACS/OAWP around Florida's water policies
- Survey questions covered:
 - Knowledge level
 - Current involvement
 - Current interaction levels between all survey groups
 - Input on partnerships between UF/IFAS and FDACS/OAWP

Techniques

Survey, continued

- 5 survey groups:
 1. UF/IFAS Extension Agents
 2. UF/IFAS Researchers
 3. UF/IFAS Research Deans and Assistant Deans
 4. FDACS/OAWP Senior Staff
 5. FDACS/OAWP Staff and Technicians



Techniques

Survey Results- Common Themes of All Groups Surveyed

- Desire for increased communication between UF/IFAS and FDACS/OAWP
- Desire for more partnerships between UF/IFAS and FDACS/OAWP, as well as working together more frequently

Techniques

Timeline

- Created timeline with information on:
 - Coordination between FDACS/OAWP and UF/IFAS
 - Environmental legislation
 - FDACS/OAWP efforts
 - Suwannee River Partnership efforts
 - Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) efforts

Description	Year(s)
Nitrate Rule- allows FDACS to contract w/IFAS on BMP development.	1994
Florida Watershed Restoration Act (FWRA)-TMDLs set/ag BMPs/presumption of compliance.	1999
Suwannee River Partnership (SRP)-multi-agency group that provides cost-share money & FDACS facilitates meetings.	1999-2003
FDACS/IFAS contract-draft vegetable & agronomic crop manual.	2002
First BMP rules-adopted.	2002
FDACS/IFAS contract-updated tomato fertilization rates.	2003
SRP Education Team-created & IFAS coordinator hired to facilitate meetings (2005).	2004
FDACS cost-share contracts-w/multiple partners.	2004-2017
FDACS/IFAS contract-BMP workshops/demos/monitoring.	2004
FWRA revisions-FDACS involved in BMAP process.	2005
FDACS/IFAS contract-obtain nursery industry input for BMP manual.	2005-2009
FDACS/IFAS multi-year contract-BMP team for NOIs-Dr. Boman (10-12 members).	2006-2010
SRP Coordinator-new IFAS coordinator for meetings (horticultural agent).	2006
First BMAP-Upper Ocklawaha BMAP (first phase) adopted.	
FDACS contracts-multiple partners for technicians for NOIs.	2007-2017
FDACS/IFAS contract-update agricultural water regulation handbook.	2007
IFAS Suwannee Valley Watermelon Institute-created from SRP.	2009-2017
FDACS/IFAS multi-year contract-for BMP Team for NOIs-Dr. Boman (team members declined down to 2).	2010-2012
Enrollment Assistance Effort-Lower St. Johns River/Orange Creek/Lake O	2013-2017
FL Statewide Ag Irrigation Use Database-pursuant to 570.93.	2013-2017
FDACS/IFAS multi-year contract-for BMP Team for NOIs-Dr. Morgan (2 members).	2013-2017
FDACS/IFAS contract-Dr. Morgan BMP education & outreach (basin areas teams/BATs created, 4Rs incorporated, extension agent mini-grants).	2013-2017
SRP Education Team-becomes BAT facilitated by IFAS extension agent.	2013
Water Bill passed-includes 5/10/15 year goals for springs & NE BMAPs, springs & aquifer protection act, & IA program.	2016
SRP BAT report-Wendy-Lin Bartels/Ondine Wells/Mace Bauer minigrant.	2016
Interagency Partnerships Report-Mace Bauer, Wendy-Lin Bartels, Dr. Morgan.	2016
FDACS Draft Rule 5M-1.001-procedures for verifying implementation of agricultural BMPs.	2017
DEP Draft Rule-procedures for water quality monitoring in lieu of BMPs.	2017
Description	Color
Coordination w/FDACS & IFAS.	Orange
Environmental legislation.	Green
FDACS work.	Yellow
SRP efforts.	Light blue
DEP work.	Light green

Facilitated Discussion

- Asked meeting attendees:
 - Why?
 - What/how?
 - Resources/available?
- Parking Lot



Next Steps

After the Meeting

- Annual meetings between staff:
 - Senior management
 - Field staff/staff-level
- Quarterly steering committee meetings
- Possible inclusion of other participants, e.g., FDEP

Lessons Learned in and out of the Room

- Coordinate with meeting hosts routinely during planning process
- Agenda and activity planning are an iterative process
- Plan agenda items based on amount of time allotted for meeting
- Seek different opinions on survey design
- Necessary to be flexible during meeting and ready to change plan or tempo as well as being prepared for additional attendees

Lessons Learned in and out of the Room

Continued

- Planning and preparation are key to a successful facilitation- allows facilitator to go on “autopilot”
- Having knowledge about the topic during a facilitated discussion is helpful
- Can be difficult to balance allowing to conversation to unfold naturally and when to call on individuals and draw people out

The Room Where It Happened!



Questions?
