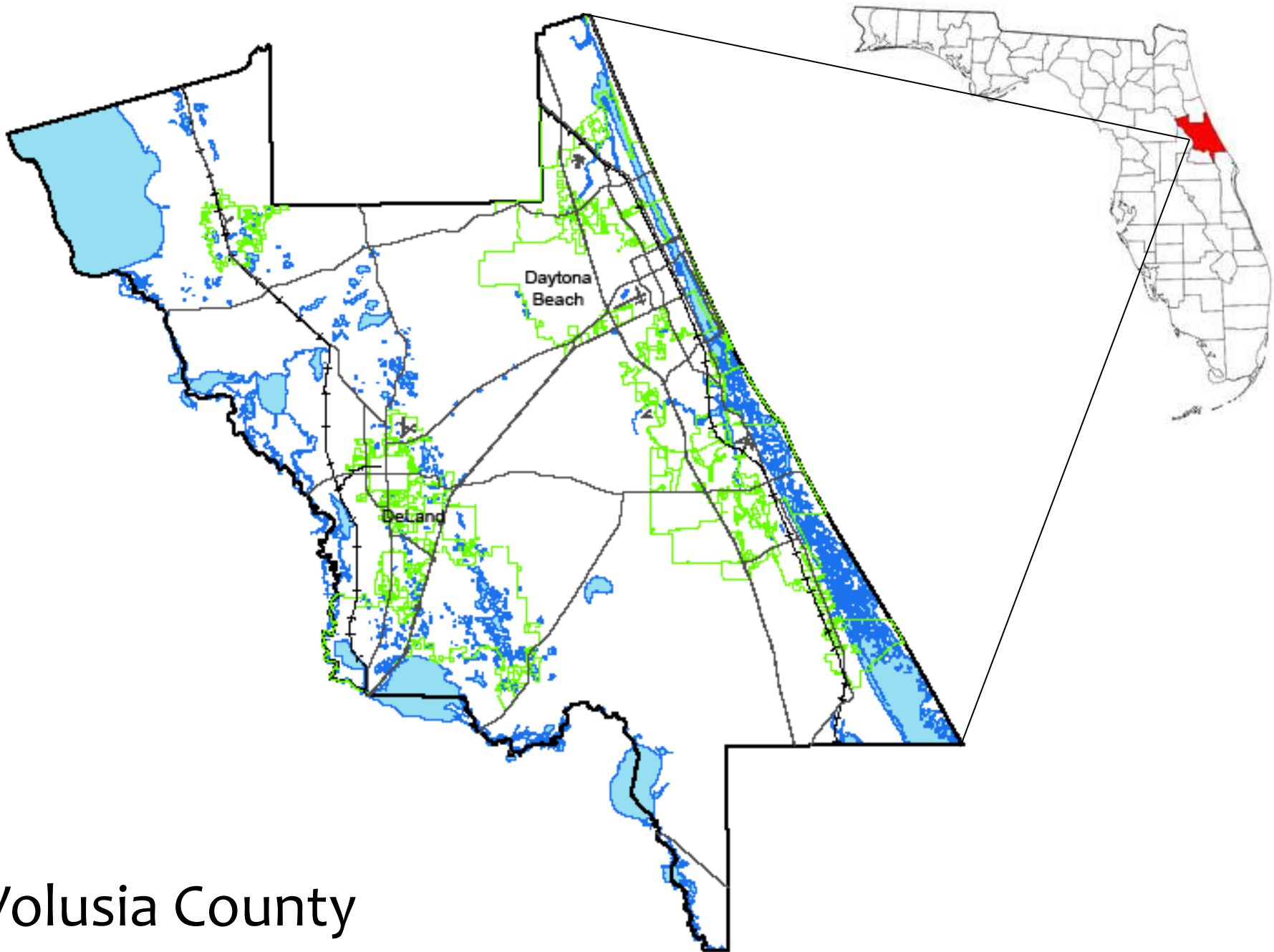


Sustainable Volusia Government Alliance

**Natural Resources Leadership Institute Practicum
Ginger Adair, March 2010**



Volusia County

Why?

Green is in?



The problem

Volusia County and the 16 municipalities are all doing different things and not taking advantage of each other's expertise.



So, why us,
and why now?



As a county government we have both the opportunity and responsibility to use resources wisely and to encourage others to do the same.

How?



We all have to row in the same direction.

Challenges

General discomfort at County-led initiatives.

Varying levels of cooperation between municipalities.

Little framework for collaborative decision making.

Purpose

Bring the cities together and talk.

Provide help where it was wanted, back off when it wasn't.

People

County Office of Sustainability staff

City staff

Eventually:

County elected/appointed officials

City elected/appointed officials

Process

Organize a meeting at a neutral place.

Invite all cities.

Talk.

Organize additional meetings.

Outcome

We talked.

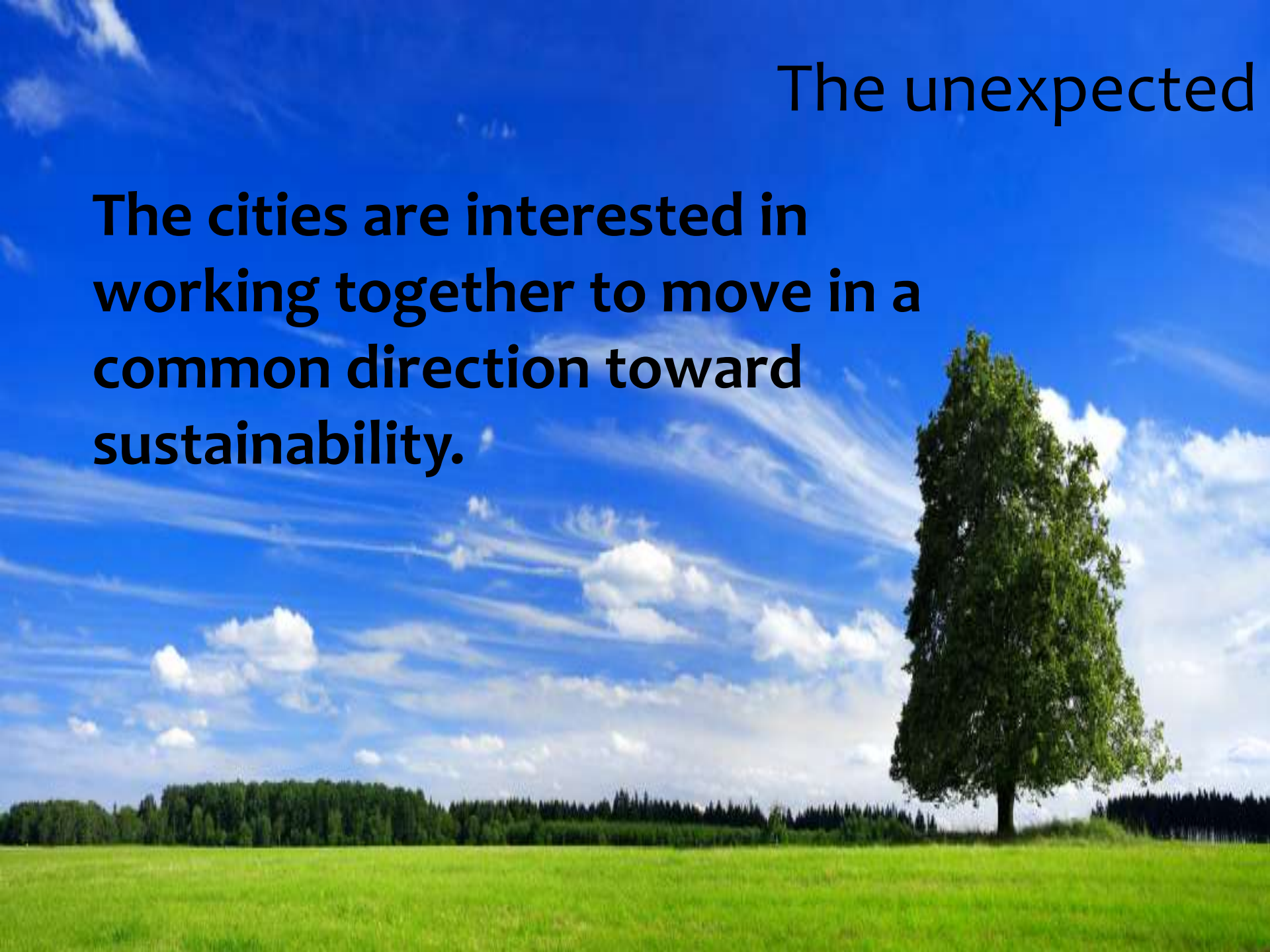
We agreed to talk again.

We built some trust.

We have a plan for the future.

The unexpected

The cities are interested in working together to move in a common direction toward sustainability.



Next Steps

County staff to research common elements of a sustainability plan.

Meet as a group to identify important sustainability elements in Volusia County.

Draft a model plan for use by all.

Work with the League of Cities to share our experiences.

Each city to prepare a sustainability plan based on the model developed by the group.

The future?

