

Suwannee River Partnership Stakeholder Engagement

Class XVII

Practicum by:

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The issue

- Water quality/quantity
- Competition for a scarce resource
 - Water need for agriculture and the environment
- Need better inter-agency communication
- Inclusion of agricultural producers & environmental groups
 - In decision making
 - To help promote mutual understanding

Participating Stakeholders

- Stakeholders were from the following backgrounds:
- State government: FL Department of Environmental Protection and the FL Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
- Local government: Suwannee River Water Management District
- Non-governmental organization: Florida Farm Bureau
- UF/IFAS Extension



NRLI Techniques

- Strategic Planning/Scenario Planning Critical Thinking Activity
- Flip charts
- Stacking-Helping people take turns when several people want to speak at once.
- Balancing-Helping a group broaden its discussion to include other perspectives that have not been expressed.
- Ice breaker – building trust
- Gathering- Helping participants build a list of ideas at a fast moving pace.
- Encouraging- Creating an opening for people to participate without putting anyone on the spot.
- Creative presentation of team's outcomes

Ice breaker – Childhood smell





Blue World

- a) over-populated - demand is higher than availability (for water)
 - State has allocated money & resources to Everglades & healthcare (including \$ for research)
 - BMP Projects were not completed
 - local governments financially strapped.
- b) - ineffective programs
 - funding only for healthcare
 - government holds no value in N.R. conservation
 - decline in fresh, local products & ↑ food safety concerns
 - complete disconnect from land & agriculture
 - loss of education & life skill development
 - loss of partnerships & solutions



Green World

- o Financial Resources were focused in the right way.
- o right folks in govt. 'political will'
- o Stakeholders were completely engaged
- o Ag. Followed BMPs
- o Public involvement, extension activities
- o SRP - agreed to work together collectively
- started in 1998-1999
- got stronger over time
- o (Came out of the AMND) Main contribution
- o Science got better
- o the process gets better

- o Flows returned to white springs
- o Conservation easements given, new power lobby became more holistic for the landowner to keep the land
- o Direct potable reuse becomes popular and it is like 'Shutout'
- o New Ag. has to show where are best farmers are
- o The industry industry of white springs buy to
- o GA ~~industrial~~ industrial plants are FL does
- o Water Conservation was not the place in all parts of the state & there was a lot of
- o Draper to top

- o The strange people in white FL
- trying to get the other industries to do what is best for them
- o State has a CARES act
- program related to homes
- that's better than
- CARES that was industrial
- that's better than

Outcomes

Green world

- 2018 - Draper to tap begins
- 2019 - Stakeholders are all bought in - ^{NGOs}
- 2022 - Right Folk in office
- 100% BMP implementation
- Farming is fun & profitable, the next generation is excited
- 2024 - Policy Makers incentivize industry
- Industry falls in line
- Charging FL entry Fee
- 2026 - Aquifer is full, We are also less dependent on groundwater
- 2030 - Farming is super efficient
- 2031-2038 - **BLISS**

Blue world

- Timeline
- 2018 - Hurricane Season - 4 Cat. 5's
- 2020 - Loss of Ag land, producers sell to developers
- ~~Shift~~ Shift in political power to urban areas
- 2022 - Funding priorities shift to healthcare
Away from Ag & N.R. research/cons.
- 2024 - FDACS shifts to FDCS
- 2026 - revitalizing SRP failed / no solutions
- 2028 - DEP is limited to WW treatment & Everglades
- 2030 - water supply litigations (rural vs. urban)
- 2031 - more people move to FL for healthcare
- 2033 - N. FL population ↑ due to sea level rise
- 2035 - loss of Ag leads to poor food choices & availability & ↑ healthcare needs
- 2037 - increased pressure on local governments
- 2038 - Capitol moves to the Swamp!

Outcomes: Stakeholder feedback

- 100 percent of the stakeholders surveyed stated that the scenario planning was fun and a productive use of time.
- Comments from stakeholders
 - “The exercise process could be very useful for our leadership team as we plan for the future and in meeting our mission.”
 - “I will try using this type of scenario technique with some other stakeholder situations.”
 - “The exercise allowed me to see both perspectives more clearly, ag and non-ag (environmental).”
 - “That we can be a bleak *woe is me* kind of mindset if we choose to be... or we can collaboratively work towards solutions.”
 - “Others need to participate in this.”

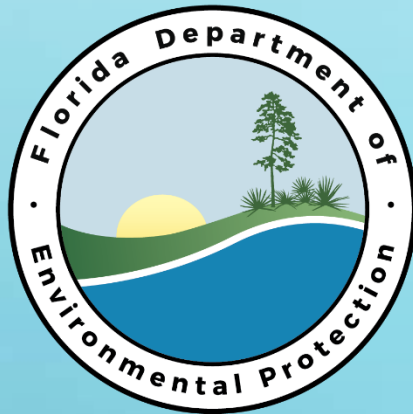
Practicum Takeaways

- Very positive feedback from stakeholders. The scenario planning gave each of them an opportunity to hone in on their critical thinking skills.
- Stakeholders in the blue world spent some time discussing how these “negative” events in north Florida would create repercussions throughout the state.
- Need more representation from environmental groups if possible.
- Our group is proposing holding the same exercise with the Santa Fe Springs Protection Forum.

Next Steps

- Market activity to get more involvement and participation
- Repeat BW-GW exercise with environmental groups
- Compare results with agriculture and environmental groups
 - Finding common ground
 - Use as starting point for decision making discussions

Questions?



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