ADVANCING THE THINKING BETWEEN COOPERATIVE AGENCY PARTNERS

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Background

- Chapter 403.067, F.S. stipulates that the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) are to work together on water quality restoration plans
- FDEP and FDACS both have certain obligations under statute
- Overall, the framework is a cooperative one
- Sometimes, however, the framework is confusing to stakeholders

We decided to host a series of meetings between the 2 agencies to streamline our communication, so stakeholders may better understand our roles

Meeting Description & Goals

Advance the Thinking

- How can we streamline communication at public meetings?
- How can we help stakeholders better understand confusing statutory responsibilities?
- How do we feel about these topics?

Goals

- Better understand stakeholder confusion and frustration with certain aspects of each program
- Provide information/outreach to stakeholders so participatory process is improved

Who Are the Stakeholders?

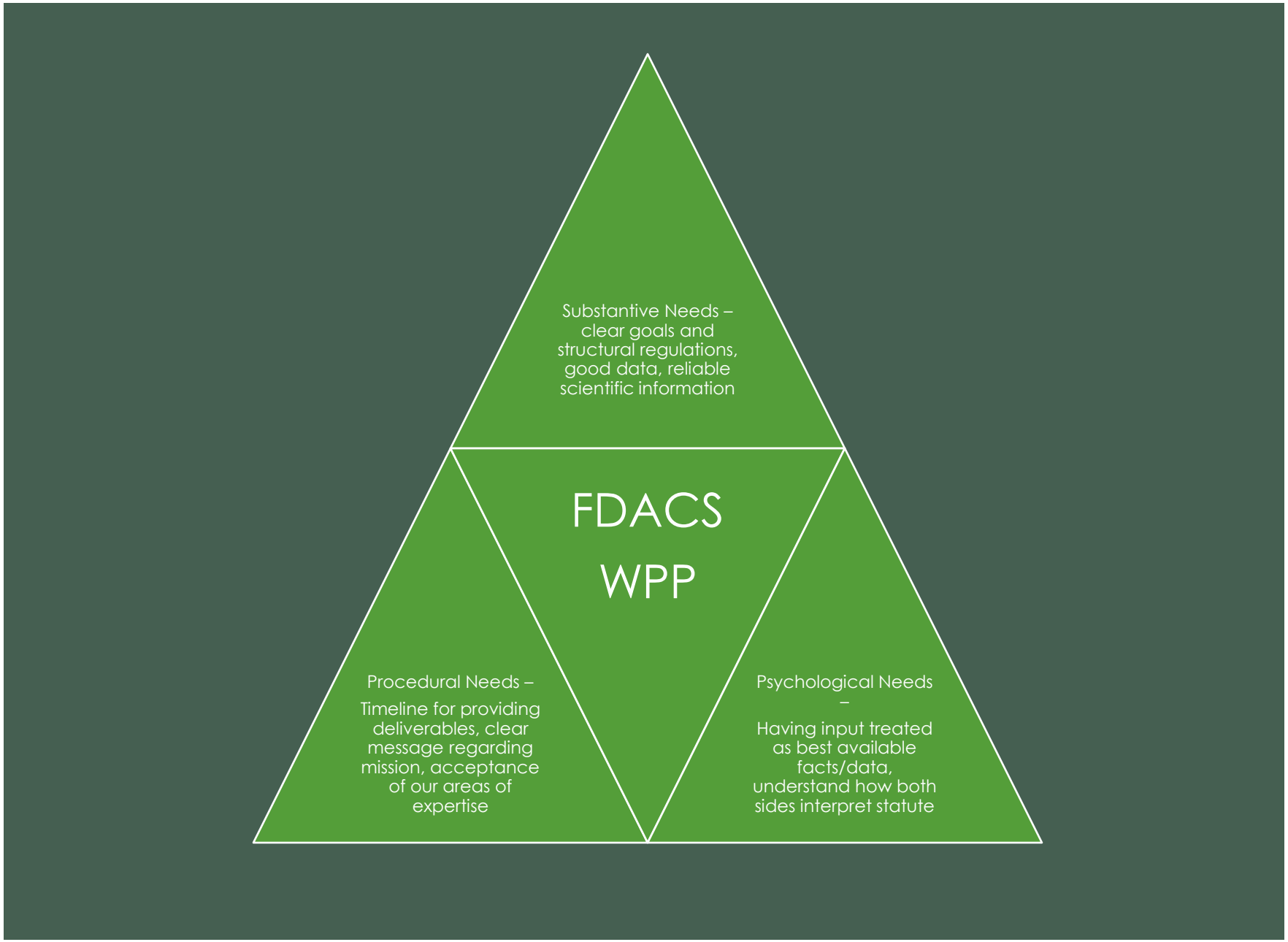
FDACS

- Office of Agricultural Water Policy
  - Water Policy and Planning section
- Producers/growers
- The Florida Legislature

FDEP

- Division of Environmental Assessment and Restoration
  - Groundwater and Surface Water sections
- Cities, counties, municipal governments
- The Florida Legislature

NRLI TECHNIQUES



Triangle of Needs and Interests

Where are we (FDACS) coming from?

How can we get to a place of better understanding with FDEP?

How can we use the understanding to improve messaging?

Other techniques

- Process agenda
  - One for each meeting
- Polls
  - Microsoft Forms
- Flowcharts
  - To illustrate the BMAP framework and integral pieces

OUTCOMES & LESSONS LEARNED

Outcomes

- Opened a line of communication between the groups without common limitations
- Good discussion and insight into future meeting topics
- Annual BMAP meeting since included more background on statutory framework from FDEP
- Follow up meetings have been discussed
  - Idea of holding these "advancing the thinking" meetings quarterly

Lessons Learned

- Open discussion occurs more freely when meeting contains "on the ground" staff
- Gained insight into how the other Cooperating Agency views their role within the BMAP Framework
  - There are, however, still differing views on implementation of the BMAP framework
- Online format brings challenges for engagement
  - Cannot read body language as easily
  - Chat feature is very useful – some people are better at visualizing thoughts vs. speaking