



# **ADVANCING THE THINKING BETWEEN COOPERATIVE AGENCY PARTNERS**

Madeline Hart – May 2021

# 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

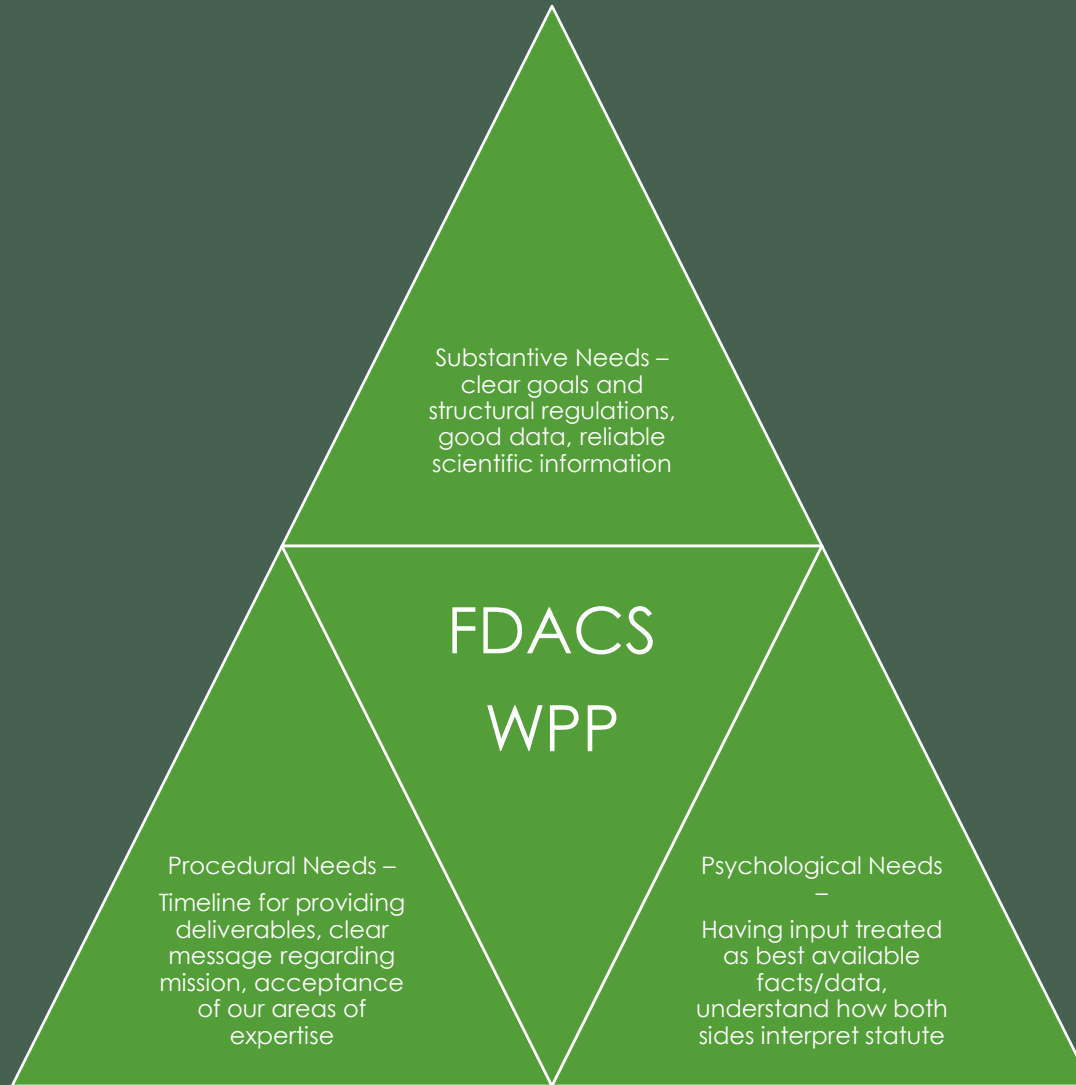
- Office of Agricultural Water Policy
  - Water Policy and Planning section
- Producers/growers
- The Florida Legislature

## 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?

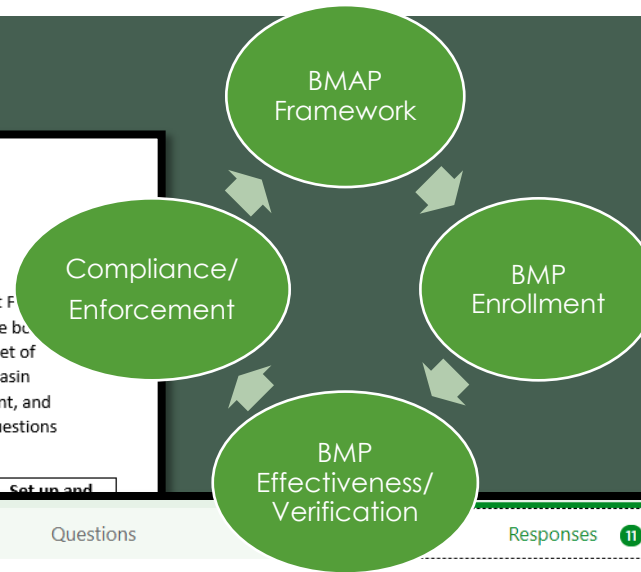
How can we use the understanding to improve messaging?

**Overall Meeting Goals:** A combination of advancing the thinking and building community.

**Meeting Topic:** My section, Water Policy and Planning, will be meeting with our counterparts at F review each agency's thoughts and interpretations of various statutory guidelines that reference b our programs and responsibilities under the law. We will be holding two meetings to discuss a set of topics that came up during public meetings earlier this year. The first meeting will go over the Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) framework and Best Management Practices (BMPs) enrollment, and enforcement. The second will cover BMP effectiveness and water quality monitoring and the questions received on those topics.



Time/Person Responsible	Agenda Topics, Outcomes, Activities
April 19 – 4 pm Maddy	<p><b>Topic 1: Welcome and Introductions</b></p> <p>Outcomes: create a comfortable environment for participants, in employees to certain concepts, set up meeting framework (exper norms)</p> <p>Activities/interactions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Setting the stage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Why are we <a href="#">here?</a>/Purpose of meeting</li> </ul> </li> <li>Review agenda topics for meeting (1 or 2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting 2: BMP Effectiveness, Water quality mo lot from Meeting 1</li> </ul> </li> <li>Introduce facilitator in that role (vs. participant) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review time constraints</li> <li>Norms and expectations – cameras on, raise han</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Total time: 5 minutes</p>
April 19 – 4:10 pm Maddy as facilitator, participation by entire group	<p><b>Topic 2: BMP Effectiveness, Water Quality, Parking Lot from Me</b></p> <p>Outcomes: gain consensus or at least expand understanding of e interpreted role in water quality restoration, based on Chapter 4 Statutes, use that understanding to outline ways to improve mes meetings</p> <p>Activities/interactions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BMP Effectiveness – review statutory language, and prov participants before the meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Springs vs. surface water</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



Questions

Responses 11

### BMAP Topics Meeting 1 - Poll #2

11  
Responses

00:18  
Average time to complete

Active  
Status

View results

Open in Excel

1. Which do you feel is most misinterpreted? Either by public, other agencies, etc.

[More Details](#)

- Framework – when to sign NO... 6
- Enforcement – process, who's i... 3
- BMP implementation – IV pro... 2

## 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