

Fostering Collaborative Water Conservation Efforts

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Presentation Outline

- Need for Water Conservation
- Focus Area & Objective
- Stakeholder Involvement
- NRLI Techniques
- Meeting Outcome
- Key Takeaways
- Moving Forward

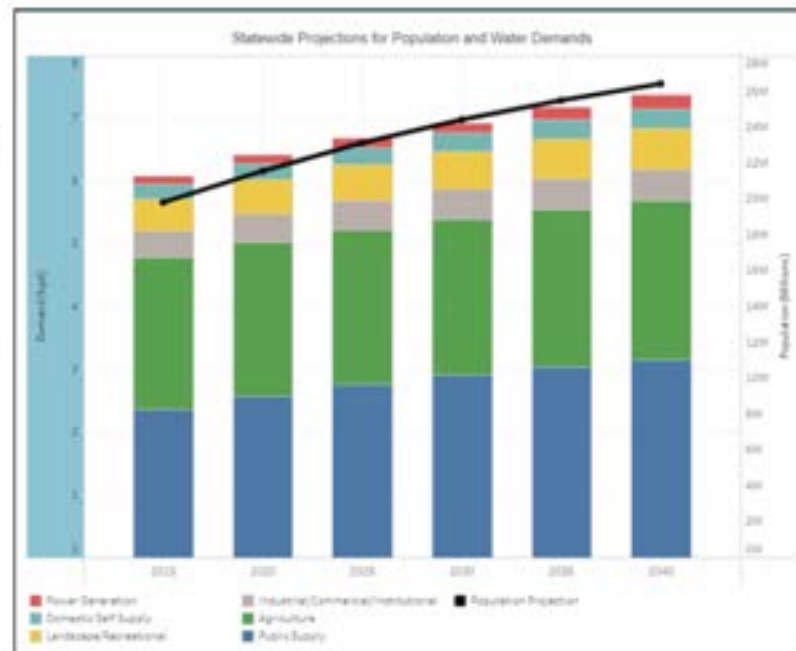


The Need for Enhanced Water Conservation

- Increasing population growth and development pressure in Florida and in this region.
- Growing demand for water resources within the southern SJRWMD and northern SFWMD.
- Water conservation is the low hanging fruit to sustain water supply.
- Importance of sustainable water management for environmental health.

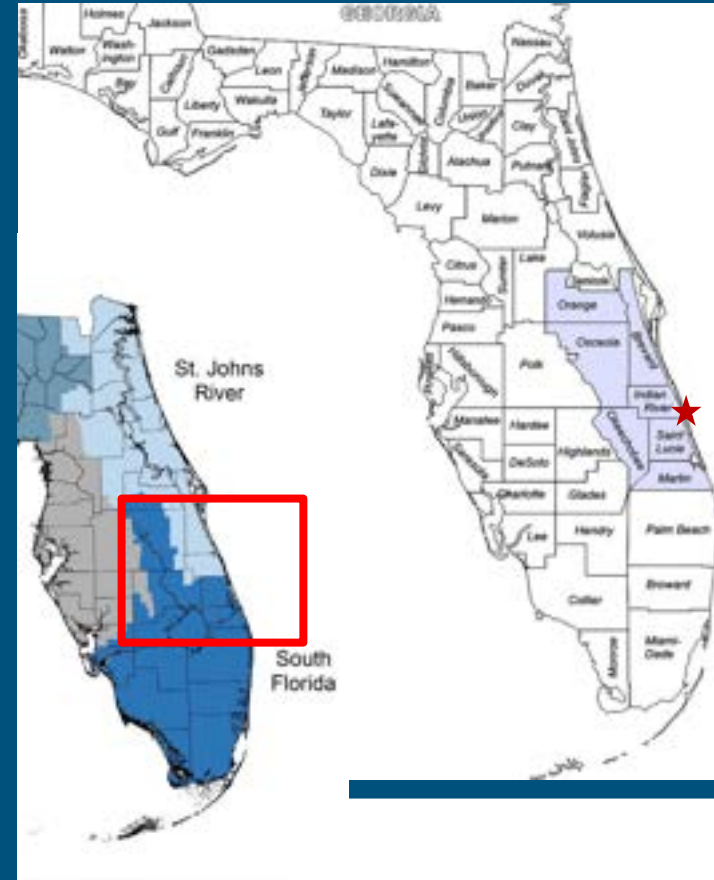
The Future
Florida Population will increase (23%):
2020 – 21.5 million
2040 – 26.4 million

Florida's Water Needs will increase (15%):
2020 – 6.4 billion gallons per day
2040 – 7.4 billion gallons per day



Focus Area

- The Southernmost portion of SJRWMD and the northeastern-most portion of SFWMD.
- Areas with higher density populations and higher overall water use are often the location for Water Conservation Coordinators meetings.
- This joint SJRWMD and SFWMD meeting targeted less populated counties that are experiencing significant growth.
- The location of the meeting strategically selected to enable sharing of water conservation efforts between stakeholders from both WMDs.



Meeting Objective

Bring together water conservation and planning staff to:

- Strengthen collaboration between agencies in the region
- Share information about current water conservation efforts
- Learn about
 - upcoming state guidelines and new approaches for water conservation
 - how to implement water conservation ordinances
- Discuss barriers to developing and implementing water conservation ordinances



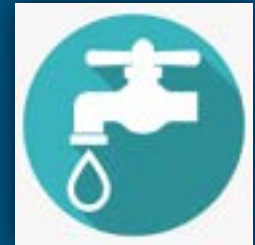
Planning and Water Conservation Coordinator Meeting Agenda

Bethel Creek House – 405 Florida A1A, Vero Beach, FL 32963
March 13th, 2024, 10am – 2pm

1. Introductions and brief updates of conservation programs - 10:00 – 10:20
2. Florida Friendly Landscape Irrigation Design Guidelines – Emily Lang, FDEP -10:20 – 11:00
3. **Net Blue**, a tool to support Water-Neutral Community Growth – Deidre Irwin, SJRWMD - 11 – 11:40
4. LUNCH provided by *Indian River Neighborhood Association* - 11:40-12:00
5. Breakout sessions - 12 – 12:40
6. Share Group Discussion - 12:40 – 1:00
7. Landscape Irrigation Code Project and **H2O SAV** - Dr Nick Taylor UF CLUE - 1 – 1:40
8. Wrap up and discussion- 1:40-2:00

Key Stakeholders

- Water Conservation and Natural Resources Staff (City/County)
- Planning Staff (City/County)
- Local Water Utility and Public Works Staff (City/County)
- University of Florida IFAS Extension
- Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program
- Engineering consultants
- Regional Planning Councils
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection
- Water Management Districts (SJRWMD and SFWMD)



NRLI Techniques



- Strategic collaboration
- Stakeholder identification
- Assessment of needs and interests
- Situation assessment matrix
- Meeting design and process agenda development
- Facilitation
- Communication
- Time management
- Break out sessions
 - Flipcharts
 - Ice breaker
 - Listening & observation
 - Inclusive discussion
- Debrief

Outcomes: Stakeholder Feedback

- Improved information exchange
- Potential collaborations (research and management)
- Acknowledge the challenges and look for opportunities
- What's absent/not working well:
 - Reporting, irrigation meters, no potable irrigation, ordinances
- Ways to improve water conservation:
 - Ordinances
 - Compliance – fines, accountability, enforcement
 - Incentives – water efficient, drought friendly landscapes, plumbing retrofits, rebates
 - Use of technology – smart controllers
 - Education and outreach



Key Takeaways (Fellow Learnings)

- NRLI Strategies worked well
- Lessons learned
 - Comprehensive preparation evaluating logistics, flow, meeting materials, and assignments is a must
 - Time management is critical and continuous
- Breakout Sessions
 - Group selection / preparation
 - Manage expectations / stay on topic
- Networking
 - Informal lunch discussions
 - Good connections all around
 - Longer meeting afforded more Q&A and discussion



Key Takeaways (content)

- Value of collaboration with complex issues
 - A continuous process
 - Diversity of perspectives results in comprehensive strategy
- Unifying needs
 - More and improved outreach and education
 - Aligning different organizational goals and priorities



Moving Forward

- Increased connections
- Strengthening relationships between WMDs and local communities
- Expand collaborations
 - Joint ventures
- Applying the lessons learned in future leadership roles in conservation
- Continued advocacy and education for sustainable water management practices



Questions?

