

Stormwater Management Workshop: Navigating Local Challenges

Mariana and Olivia's practicum involved bringing together stormwater professionals from Polk County and the Miami-Dade area to discuss their challenges and successes on the Municipal Storm Sewer System. The meeting took place via Zoom due to geographic constraints with 11 participants in total. The meeting started with a discussion on objectives and a chance for participants to introduce themselves. Participants were reminded that the intention of the meeting was to create a space to learn and collaborate as well as provide networking opportunities. After introductions, the participants used Mentimeter to create a word cloud as an icebreaker; then answered a rapid round discussion to discuss what is often misunderstood about their work. Participants then split into two breakout groups to discuss what is misunderstood about their work and what could help fix it. After returning to the main Zoom room to summarize what was discussed in the breakout, participants were mixed up into two more groups to increase collaboration. In the second break out group session participants discussed a stormwater project that worked well and why. The participants were brought back after the breakout groups to share their discussion with the main group. Overall, the meeting participants reflected struggles with prioritizing projects and limited funding, the need for creative projects in limited spaces, construction times impacting project implementations. Participants reported a need for better public outreach/education and more successful projects once public buy-in was leveraged.