

Facilitating Collaborative Alignment for the TCAA–WMP Partnership

Facilitators: Gus Francisco, Jonael Bosques, Taylor Maxwell

This practicum focused on planning and facilitating a structured collaborative meeting for the Tri-County Agricultural Area–Water Management Partnership (TCAA–WMP) to strengthen shared understanding, improve inter-agency communication, and generate actionable solutions to ongoing challenges. As a facilitation team, Gus Francisco, Taylor Maxwell, and Jonael Bosques guided a four-part session with five participants representing partner agencies.

The meeting opened with introductions and an interactive icebreaker to establish rapport and clarify the session’s purpose. This created a constructive environment for open dialogue. The second segment used a timeline activity to map the history of the TCAA–WMP from 2010 to 2026. Participants identified pivotal moments, periods of strong collaboration, and times when coordination weakened, forming a shared narrative of the partnership’s evolution and the factors influencing its effectiveness.

The third segment involved small-group discussions aimed at clarifying the partnership’s core purpose, assessing communication gaps, and exploring reasons for low producer engagement in FDACS-led Producer Meetings. Groups presented their findings, followed by a facilitated reflection that highlighted common themes and opportunities for improvement.

The final segment emphasized prioritizing challenges and generating immediate, practical action steps. Through sticky-note ranking and group discussion, participants identified the most pressing issues and proposed solutions, concluding with agreed-upon next steps and expectations for follow-up reporting. A brief survey gathered feedback to support future meeting improvements.

Overall, the practicum demonstrated how structured facilitation can build alignment, strengthen communication, and support collaborative problem-solving within multi-agency partnerships.