



[floridawca.org](http://floridawca.org)



# WORKSHOP REPORT

## Workshop Twelve

Wednesday, November 5, 2014

8:30 – 4:30pm

Prepared by

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Hosted by

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## Executive Summary

*The **Florida Water and Climate Alliance (FloridaWCA)** brings together interested stakeholders (public water supply utilities, local governments, water management districts and academic institutions) to increase the relevance and usability of climate change and variability data and tools to the specific needs of public water supply utilities and resource managers and planners. Initiated in 2010 by the UF Water Institute, in partnership with the Southeast Climate Consortium (SECC), Florida Climate Institute and the UF IFAS Center for Public Issues Education, six major public water supply utilities and three water management districts, the group continues to expand. Detailed information on the FloridaWCA is available the [FloridaWCA website](#).*

This is a report of the twelfth workshop of the Florida and Water Climate Alliance ([all workshop reports are available on line](#)) (See Appendix 1 for participant list).

Workshop Outcomes included:

1. The key things that have been working over the time of the FloridaWCA has been networking, presentations from groups with different perspectives, bringing together state of science and state of practice, leveraging what is going on in other places, and the website providing access to information.
2. Suggested that FloridaWCA needs some “slightly more formal type of governance” that would include a steering committee, technical science committees and central management support services including workshop planning, facilitation, website and deliverable production.
3. Suggested that there is a need for base support for admin/management of 3 workshops and a website, with buy in for specific products. The UF Water Institute (WI) was asked to provide estimate of what would it take to continue facilitate and support workshops, website, and provide specific deliverables in the absence of NOAA grant funding.
4. Several partner organizations agreed on pursuing mechanisms for the continuation FloridaWCA noting that in addition to the outputs and networking, one of the strengths of the network is that as a scientist-stakeholder group it is positioned strongly to attract funding.
5. Chis Pettit or Maurice Tobon, PBWU will share additional information with interested FloridaWCA participants on an opportunity for some type of mentoring program between FWCA and some Philippine water providers on climate change supported by USAID/ [Waterlinks](#).

## **Detailed Summary of Workshop 12:**

### **Florida Water and Climate Alliance (FloridaWCA), Workshop Eleven Wednesday, November 5, 2014, 8:30 – 4:00pm**

#### **Background, Goals and Objectives:**

**Overall Working Group Goal:** Unfold the need for, and enhance the usability of, climate change and variability data and tools in the planning and operations of Florida's public water supply utilities

**Overall Goal of Workshops:** The goal of each of the workshops is to create spaces for discussion, sharing and capturing knowledge from the multiple perspectives and contexts of tool providers, users, and ultimately policy makers that will contribute to increased relevance and usability of climate and sea level rise data and tools for water managers in Florida.

#### **Specific Workshop Objectives:**

1. Share and discuss relevant research and programs focused on FloridaWCA participant interests.
2. Determine FloridaWCA future ways of working together and strategic efforts.
  - a. Explore "governance structures," why they matter, and what could work for FloridaWCA.
  - b. Determine specific next steps, activities, speakers, responsibilities for future efforts for FloridaWCA.

**Welcome** - Matt Jordan, General Manager of Tampa Bay Water welcomed the FloridaWCA to Tampa Bay Water and shared his enthusiasm for the network. Wendy Graham, Director of UF Water Institute also welcomed the participants, provided a brief update on the network. She also announced that the Water Institute has completed two of the NOAA funded projects that were providing partial support for the FloridaWCA and will be submitting final reports before the end of the year, and she noted that today's agenda provides an opportunity to look toward the future for FloridaWCA.

## Session 1: FloridaWCA – Learning Together

- *Introduction and FloridaWCA meeting objectives* – Lisette Staal, facilitator, set the stage for the meeting by reiterating the network’s mission of increasing the regional relevance and usability of climate science, data, models, and tools for water suppliers and resources managers in Florida, and reviewing the basic foundations, conceptual framework and process of developing the learning network. [presentation](#)
- *Update on strategic planning discussions* – Kevin Morris, Peace River Manasota Water Authority, updated the group on strategic planning discussions held by a smaller group between Workshop 11 and Workshop 12. He indicated that they had discussed the importance of outlining some of the FloridaWCA key principles and to ask ourselves and [“So Where do We Go From Here?”](#) The original concept in 2010 was a Florida-centric working group focused on issues related to climate variability and sea level rise with broad representation (Academia, Local Government, Utilities and State Resource Managers). Kevin noted the uniqueness of the group and the synergies that have created collaborative opportunities for applied research and grant funding. Some of FloridaWCA’s core competencies he highlighted included: longevity and lack of turnover, unique blend of academia, regulatory agencies and utilities, website and virtual identity, vast network available, capable leadership group. He presented his version of a basic SWOT Analysis as a starting point for afternoon discussions.

### Strengths

- Diverse Group Composition
- Working Group Longevity
- Eminent Experts in Variety of Fields
- Several Largest Water Utilities in FL
- Extensive Network of Interpersonal and Organizational Relationships
- Website Identity and Resource as Clearinghouse for Information
- Great SE Florida Utility Presence

### Weaknesses

- Travel Distance for Group Members
- No Regular SWFWMD Representation
- No Utility Presence from NE & NW Florida
- No Funding Mechanism for Ongoing Activities (meetings and website maintenance)
- Lack of Governance Leads to Consensus Based Decisions
- Working Group Lacks the Apparent Permanence of a More Formalized Structure
- Competing Workload of Core Leadership

### Opportunities

- Gradual Acceptance of Climate-Related Issues  
Increasing Audience Reception
- Emerging Concern Fuels Funding Opportunities
- Political Season May Bring Change and More Receptive Audiences
- Statistically, Katrina and Sandy-Type Events Will Occur and Present Opportunities for Messaging

### Threats

- Climate Messaging Can Backfire
- Elected Officials Establish Agenda for Regulators and Utilities
- Climate-Related Crises in Other Regions Compete for Funding

## Session 2: FloridaWCA Governance and Sustainability

• *Ways of Working: organizational and governance structures* – Tracy Irani, UF, started this session with a presentation focused on governance and different types of groups and specifically on different types of groups and governance structures (*command, representative, membership, board/committee membership*). She emphasized that in general, there are key foundations or functions of working groups (*meet/convene, exchange information, share best practices, make decisions, coordinate resources, activities, programs, products, and communicate internally and externally*). In a group activity, participants were asked to reflect on “How is this progression of team behavior and leadership style occurring within FloridWCA?” Each group discussed groups from their own experiences and the following questions to reflect on why and how these different approaches matter to the FloridaWCA and how they can inform our future.

- What are some example of groups like ours?
- What are the tasks that need to get done to make these groups function well?
- How are decisions made?

The participants discussed advantages and disadvantages of different types of governance employed by groups that they work with (*Professional, Industry, Non-profit, Stakeholder, Parent/teacher Associations, Homeowner Associations, Rulemaking and Codemaking Committees*), and considered what might best work for FloridaWCA future. The commented that FloridaWCA shares advantages of several types of groups including consistency in participation, broad range of ideas, and enthusiasm by participants. However, it lacks a formal structure and may benefit from a more formal process for decision making, outreach for funding and help avoiding typical constraint of “doing much by few”.

### Some Example Groups mentioned by participants

- Gulf Estuarine Research Society
- Regional Climate Adaptation Workshop
- Pinellas County Climate Team
- TBRPC - Tampa Bay Regional Planning Committee - Stormwater Outreach
- Association of American Geographers (AAG)
- Faculty governance committee
- ASCE committees
- Student Government
- CUAHSI
- Water Planning Alliance
- WUCA
- North Florida Utility Coordination Committee
- Tampa Bay Association of Environmental
- Professional (harbor/bay safety and security)
- Apalachicola Chattahoochee Flint Stakeholders (ACFS)

### **Session 3: Research and Programs**

- *Presentation and discussion:* [“Regional Climate Adaptation Technical Working Group Activity Report”](#) Libby Carnahan, Florida Sea Grant, UF/IFAS Extension.
- *Presentation and discussion:* [“Estimating future evapotranspiration in Tampa Bay area: How certain can we be?”](#) Dr. Wendy Graham, Carl S. Swisher in Water Resources and Director of UF Water Institute.

### **Session 4: Research and programs**

- *Presentation and discussion:* [“Integrating Climate Change & Water Supply Planning in Southeast Florida”](#) (Implementation Guidance Series, updated September 2014) Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact” Barbara Powell, Water Resources Manager, Environmental Planning and Community Resilience Division, Broward County Environmental Protection and Growth Management Department.
- *Presentation and discussion:* [“Seeing Beyond Sea Level Rise: Visualizing Local Climate Change Impacts on Everyday Life in the Tampa Bay Region”](#) Dr. Rebecca Zarger, Assoc. Professor, Anthropology, University of South Florida.

### **Session 5: FloridaWCA – Strategic Planning**

Lisette Staal started this working session by asking participants for updates on relevant activities.

Chris Petti from Palm Beach County Utilities shared potential opportunity to partner on Philippines project funded by USAID. In 2010-2012 Maurice Tobon was involved with a USAID funded program called Waterlinks, where Palm Beach County Water Utilities served as a mentor to Manila and Manila water concessionaires on climate change adaptation. He was back for another workshop in August, one of which is on our wastewater reuse program (main reason for his trip) the other is our involvement with FloridaWCA. He gave a presentation on FWCA, how it started, how it operates, goals, etc. Chris noted that there may be an opportunity to do another USAID Mentor/Mentee [Waterlinks](#) program between FWCA and some Philippine water providers on climate change and asked the group if this is something FWCA would be interested in? The next step is that PAWD may want to do a MOU with FloridaWCA with some type of mentoring program helping the Philippines partners set up a WCA. Several FWCA participants expressed interest and Chris said he and/or Maurice Tobon would follow-up with more information when it became available for consideration by FloridaWCA.

The discussion followed by returning to the morning's discussion of key foundation/function of working groups presented by Tracy Irani, and the "SWOT Analysis" drafted by Kevin Morris.

[Presentation](#)

This set up for the discussion activity focused on the future of the FloridaWCA.

*Group activity:* So where do we go from here? Small groups focused on the following questions

1. What makes the work our organization does worth it for our "members"?
2. What would you DO if you HAD TO get 10x better in the next 12 months?

*Group discussion outcomes: 1. WHAT WORKS IN FLORIDAWCA?*

- Networking
- Presentations from groups with different perspective,
- Science/Practice - bringing together state of science and state of practice, leveraging what is going on in other places
- Website - access to information

*Group discussion outcomes: 2. WHAT WOULD YOU DO IN THE NEXT 12 MONTHS?*

- Mission:** Revisit the mission and ensure a clear focus of activities on the mission of the FloridaWCA.
- Workshops:** Plan and conduct 3 interdisciplinary, inter institutional workshops with relevant technical/policy/social science agenda ---- Provide PE licensing (Tirusew)
- Science and Technology:** Form technical committees –focused on content specific Science/Technology, Data, Models, and Tools - Long term projections, seasonal, sea level, coastal resilience?
- Website:** Maintain/update/revitalize website- Make it more informative-need a champion -- short term to share products internally, longer term outreach of translational science.)
- Participation:** Broaden participation—other universities, utilities, local govts, WMD----Networking and outreach – meetings, communication, new information on Planning and Science/technology ----- Link to Extension – useable information (Chris Martinez)
- Products:** - Written products ---emphasized the importance of defining WHO is client and what are the subjects? Synthesis papers, white papers (compendium/an annotated bibliography publication which papers, science translational pieces

(briefs)-- for example similar to “Mote marine policy lab documents” written by students, UF EDIS Documents, other news outreach.

- **Governance:** Central Administration/management; Steering committee - decision making; Technical Science Committees to provide program direction and implementation
- **Funding:** Supported by “stakeholders” – buy in for specific outcomes. For example, base support for admin/management of 3 workshops and a website; Donation; Organizational contributions (cash, in kind); Member fees; Grants for specific products/ outcomes; Memberships

## **Session 6: Next steps, Closing and Reflection**

Next Steps and Actions included:

1. Set up a followup meeting with the strategic planning group to decide how to proceed in particular focusing on outcomes from this meeting on what we should be doing over the next 12 months. Including:

- 1) Plan and implement 3 workshops
- 2) Maintain/update/revitalize website
- 3) Produce written products
- 4) Suggest some slightly more formal way to manage/govern FloridaWCA

2. Several partners requested information from Water Institute on funding required for base support of admin/management of 3 workshops, a website and buy in for specific products.

APPENDIX 1: List of Participants – **Workshop 12, Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2014**

Last name	First name	Stakeholder group	Organization
Adams	Alison	PWS Utility	Tampa Bay Water
Asefa	Tirusew	PWS Utility	Tampa Bay Water
Burke	Maya	gov-city	Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council
Carnahan	Libby	University	UF/IFAS Extension Pinellas County
Clayton	Tonya	Media	Aqueous Media
Cullum	Mike	WMD	Saint Johns River Water Management District
Graham	Wendy	University	University of Florida Water Institute
Irani	Tracy	University	University of Florida Center for Public Issues Education
Martinez	Christopher	University	University of Florida/Florida Climate Institute/ Southeast Climate Consortium
Morris	Kevin	PWS Utility	Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority
Pettit	Christopher	Utility	Palm Beach County Water Utilities Department
Powell	Barbara	govt-local	Broward County Environmental Protection and Growth Management Department, Natural Resources Planning and Management Division
Staal	Lisette	University/facilitation	University of Florida Water Institute
Zarger	Rebecca	University	University of South Florida
Chatman	Rodney	gov-local	Pinellas County Planning & Development Services Department
Miller	Lara	University-Extension	UF/IFAS Extension Pinellas County
Geurink	Jeffrey	PWS Utility	Tampa Bay Water
Blankenship	Ivana	PWS Utility	Tampa Bay Water
Panaou	Toni	University -student	University of South Florida
Nachabi	Mohamod	University	University of South Florida
Hafen	Mark	University	University of South Florida
May	Joe	PWS Utility	Miami Dade Water and Sewar
Lindsey	Angie	University	University of florida
Lewis	David	University	University of South Florida
Bodman	Susan	local government	Broward County WWS, Water Management Division
Ferguson	John	WMD	SWFWMD
Meyers	Steven	University	University of South Florida
Francis	Larijai	Utility	Tampa Bay Water

## APPENDIX 2: Agenda – Florida Water and Climate Alliance Workshop 12

Wednesday, November 5, 2014 8:30 am– 4:30 pm

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**Overall Working Group Goal:** Networking to enhance the usability of climate change and variability data and tools in the planning and operations of Florida’s public water supply utilities.

### Objectives:

1. Share and discuss relevant research and programs focused on FloridaWCA participant interests.
2. Determine FloridaWCA future ways of working together and strategic efforts.
  - a. Explore “governance structures,” why they matter, and what could work for FloridaWCA.
  - b. Determine specific next steps, activities, speakers, responsibilities for future efforts for FloridaWCA.

8:30 **Coffee and Welcome**

- W. Graham, Director UF Water Institute
- Matt Jordan, General Manager, Tampa Bay Water

8:45 – 9:15 **Session 1: FloridaWCA learning together**

- Introduction and FloridaWCA meeting objectives
- Update on strategic planning discussions

9:15 – 10:30 **Session 2: FloridaWCA governance and sustainability**

- Ways of Working: organizational and governance structures
- Group activity –Why and how these different approaches matter to the FloridaWCA and how they can inform our future.

10:30 **BREAK**

10:45 – 12:00 **Session 2: Research and Programs**

- **Presentation and discussion:** “Regional Climate Adaptation Technical Working Group Activity Report” Libby Carnahan, Florida Sea Grant, UF/IFAS Extension.
- **Presentation and discussion:** “Estimating future evapotranspiration in Tampa Bay area: How certain can we be?” Dr. Wendy Graham, Carl S. Swisher in Water Resources and Director of UF Water Institute.

**LUNCH**

12:00 – 1:00

**Session 3: Research and Programs**

1:00 – 2:30

- **Presentation and discussion:** "Seeing Beyond Sea Level Rise: Visualizing Local Climate Change Impacts on Everyday Life in the Tampa Bay Region" Dr. Rebecca Zarger, Assoc. Professor, Anthropology, University of South Florida.
- **Presentation and discussion:** “Integrating Climate Change & Water Supply Planning in Southeast Florida” (Implementation Guidance Series, updated September 2014) Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact” Barbara Powell, Water Resources Manager, Environmental Planning and Community Resilience Division, Broward County Environmental Protection and Growth Management Department.

2:30 **BREAK**

**Session 4: FloridaWCA – Strategic Planning**

- Participant Updates on relevant Activities
- Group activity: Ways of working from here to beyond?

4:00 – 4:30

**Session 5: Closing, Reflection and Evaluation**