FLORIDA Water & Climate Alliance

floridawca.org

FloridaWCA is a learning network of stakeholders and scientists interested in the relevance and usability of climate and sea level data and models at local scales to help improve decision-making at an operational level.

Steering Committee

Tirusew Asefa (TBW)

Chris Martinez (UF)

Kevin Morris (PRMWSA)

Rob Teegarden (OUC)

Sherry Brandt-Williams (SJRWMD)

Vasu Misra (FSU)

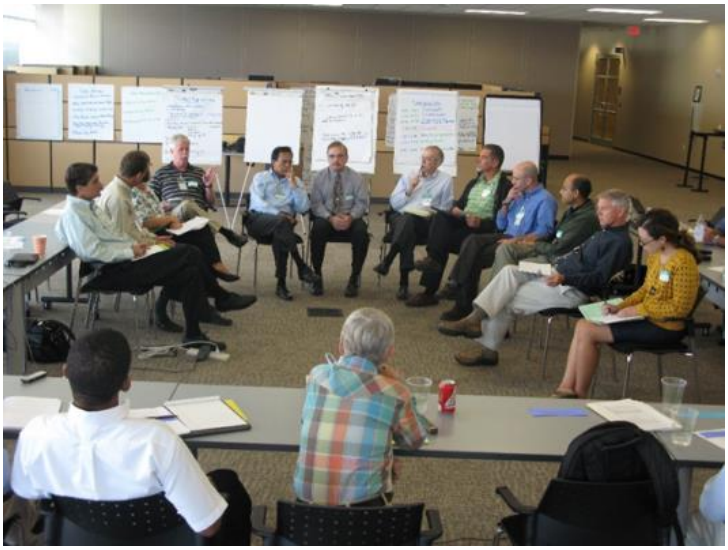
Tracy Irani (UF)

Lisette Staal, Facilitator (UF Water Institute)

Climate change, climate variability, sea level rise and associated uncertainties and risks pose complex challenges to managing freshwater resources and the planning and operations of Florida's public water supply utilities.

The reliability of water supplies is being reduced. According to findings reported in the 2014 National Climate Assessment, changes in precipitation and runoff, combined with changes in consumption and withdrawal, have reduced surface and groundwater supplies in many areas. In the Southeast specifically, decreased water availability, exacerbated by population growth and land-use change, is causing increased competition for water. In addition, there are increased risks associated with extreme events such as hurricanes. (National Climate Assessment, May 2014).

Utilities need information they can act on. Reliable information related to changes in precipitation, temperature, evapotranspiration patterns, extreme events and sea level rise are key. The FloridaWCA is bringing together public water suppliers and resource managers, climate, social and hydrologic scientists, and local planners in an effort to do that locally.



FloridaWCA seeks, at the local to regional scale, to:

- Make climate science and tools more relevant and useable
- Understand, monitor & model climate variability and sea level rise
- Assess & address challenges of uncertainty of information for use in decision-making.

Contributing Partners:

UF Water Institute University of Florida

Tampa Bay Water

OUC The Reliable One

Peace River Regional Water Supply Authority Manasota

St. Johns River Water Management District

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"I hope we can get some focus on the effects that climate change will have at a local scale."

The Federal Interagency Water Resources and Climate Change Workgroup's The draft National Action Plan Update articulates the need to "…continue to develop, distribute, and provide guidance on the use of projected future climate information for water resources management (May 18, 2016, Strategic Action 2.2.4).

FloridaWCA Projects

- Diagnose seasonal predictability and forecast skill in Florida

- Evaluate the ability of downscaled reanalysis data on climate and hydrologic patterns in Florida

- Improve access to information on Sea Level Rise

FloridaWCA was partially funded under a grant from the NOAA Climate Program Office.

FloridaWCA is striving for Actionable Science. Participants are interested in the development of actionable climate science and expect their collaborative efforts will help shape the development and implementation of science-based climate information for operational and longer-term planning and management decisions.

Utilities and water resource managers need reliable predictive tools with an emphasis on accuracy for several time periods: 3-12 months for operations; 20 years for permitting; 20-50 years for capital planning and investments. In addition, they hope for policies and regulations that are suited to each region. FloridaWCA has focused on both seasonal scale predictions and long term climate projections to address these timeframes.

FloridaWCA participants are collaborating on the following activities to meet the organization's goals. Join us at our next workshop. Visit our website to find relevant data, research and documents.

Projects - Local, regional and national collaborative research and application

Workshops - Exploring climate science, communication, operations, and policy together

Website -On-line access -Florida relevant documents and information. Check out our Website Floridawca.org for additional information!

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