

#### http://FloridaWCA.org

Increasing the regional relevance and usability of climate science, data, models, and tools for water suppliers and resources managers in Florida.

Water Institute

UNIVERSITY of

# Working Group Community of Practice Learning Network

Start small and evolve

Use a "light hand"

Keep things simple and as informal as possible

Success hinges on trust between and among its members

Send a continuing message reinforcing the "business value"

Stay focused on learning from each

# Purposeful Process

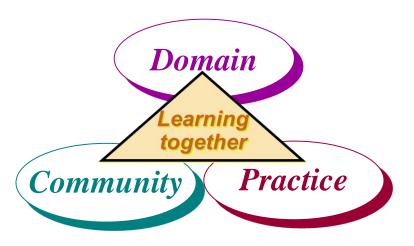
#### community of practice

#### Define a shared focus

issues/interests, problems, goals/outcomes

#### Participate in Mutual Engagement

Develop a shared repertoiremethods, tools, techniques, language

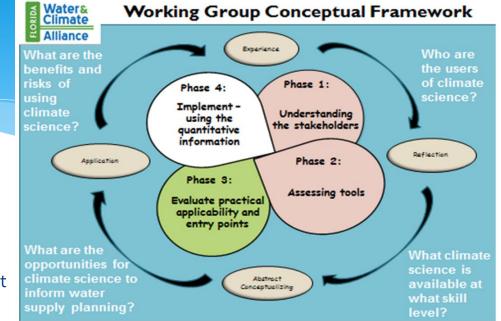


Etienne Wenger, Community of Practice

- Learn from and with each other
- Participate in a way that contributes to the group
- Improve abilities to do what they care about
- Recognize different "frames" and inputs
- Revise, enlarge, reframe their perspectives
- Create a vocabulary that can support mutual understanding and common action
- Learn how to innovate and adapt or respond to changing social and environmental conditions

### **Purposeful Process**

#### experiential learning



Includes learning activities to help participants

Experience together

Reflect on meaning

Conceptualize why it matters

Apply to real life

David Kolb, Experiential Learning

#### **UNDERSTANDING STAKEHOLDERS**

Who are we, what is our network? Who are the users of climate science and what do they want?

**ASSESSING TOOLS** What do we know about available climate information/tools ?

**EVALUATING PRACTICAL APPLICABILITY** What are institutional challenges and opportunities to using climate science?

**IMPLEMENTATION** How have you used the information that we have gained? Are there better ways to do things that are not currently available?

# Lifecycle of COP's



Negotiate Support
 Provide Support
 Manage Relationship
 Evaluate Relationship

Continue SupportWithdraw Support

Do we want FloridaWCA to continue? For what and how?

## TODAY's 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.

Explore "governance structures," why they matter, and what could work for FloridaWCA.

Determine specific next steps, activities, speakers, responsibilities for future efforts for FloridaWCA

## Participant Updates



### Recent information?

Activities of interest?

Potential Opportunities?

□ Fun things to share?

# KEY FOUNDATIONS/FUNCTIONS OF WORKING GROUPS

- Meet/convene
- Exchange information
- Share best practices
- Make decisions
- Coordinate resources, activities, programs, products
- Communicate internally and externally

# **SWOT Analysis**

### **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

### **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

### <u>Weaknesses</u>

- 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

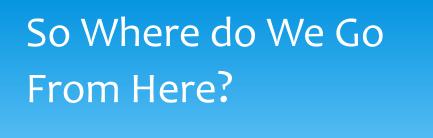
#### **Threats**

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



# **Strategic Planning**







- 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?

DOING - 1)<u>Meeting/Convening</u>

 <u>Website</u>
 <u>Potential Products</u>

 GOVERNING - way of working?
 FUNDING - mechanisms and managing
 Other



Group Activity- for each of the above functions, discuss specific ideas and list on separate flipcharts. Identify the top 2 items in each area.

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