

A COLLABERATIVE APPROACH TO RESILIENCE

Tom Frick

St. Johns River Water Management District, Palatka, FL, USA

Florida, known for its unique environmental and climate characteristics, faces ever-evolving challenges in water management. Sea-level rise, increased severity of tropical storm events, and shifting rainfall patterns are effects of a changing climate that are expected to impact Floridians, property, and the state's natural resources. These increased risks pose many challenges to state and local governments including saltwater intrusion in our water supplies, changes in wetland communities and function, and flooding. The St. Johns River Water Management District is committed to assisting communities to become more resilient in preparing for and adapting to the impacts of these changes. This presentation will review the District's resilience priorities and how they are incorporated into the core missions of the water management district by highlighting the necessity of integrated strategies to manage water resources, both in the present and future. We will discuss regional and local approaches that, along with efforts from our state and local government partners, create more resilient communities across the District. We focus on fostering long-term coordination among stakeholders, ensuring that progress in resilience and restoration efforts is sustained over time. A case study focused on flooding in Central Florida from Hurricane Ian will be discussed.

PRESENTER BIO: Mr. Frick is the St. Johns River Water Management District's Resilience Coordinator and has spent nearly 30 years in the public and private sectors focused on environmental data, ecological assessments, and waterbody restoration.