

ONE WATER MASTER PLANNING: ACHIEVING THE FULL BENEFITS OF WATER

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One Water is defined by the U.S. Water Alliance as:

A transformative way of viewing, valuing, and managing water. The One Water approach manages all water...in a collaborative, integrated, inclusive, and holistic manner. One Water can change and regenerate the way we live, the opportunities we have, our environment, and our society.

The term One Water also encompasses terms such as Sustainable Water, Resiliency, and Integrated Water. The City of Winter Haven is an on-going case study in how to plan and implement One Water at the local watershed scale. This community is growing rapidly and is located at the headwaters of the Peace River that flows into Charlotte Harbor and the Floridan Aquifer. This area is also a part of the Southern Water Use Caution area due to depleted water supplies. Winter Haven has 50 lakes inside and adjacent to the city limits and is known as the “Chain of Lakes City”. Area residents depend on these natural systems for quality of life, economic, and environmental benefits.

One Water strategies considers many challenges and opportunities: rapid population growth, land use change, scarcity of traditional fresh groundwater supplies, escalating water supply costs, impaired lake water quality and levels, increased flooding, and altered water cycles. If Winter Haven were to address each of these challenges independently, it would be very costly and take a long time to resolve. The One Water approach minimizes the cost and maximizes the benefits of water within a reasonable timeframe. The outcome is efficient and effective planning that will give Winter Haven a well-communicated plan that is understood across all stakeholders. The audience will hear a multi-disciplinary approach about One Water, including planners, engineers and communications professionals.

PRESENTER BIO: Keeli Carlton is the City of Winter Haven’s One Water Program Administrator. Her focus is on water conservation, communications and outreach to bring the One Water message to light for a variety of stakeholders. Keeli is also the current chair of the Water Use Efficiency Division of the FSAWWA.