



Florida Climate Smart Agriculture

Healthy Farms- Healthy Bays

Finding common ground within uncommon partnerships

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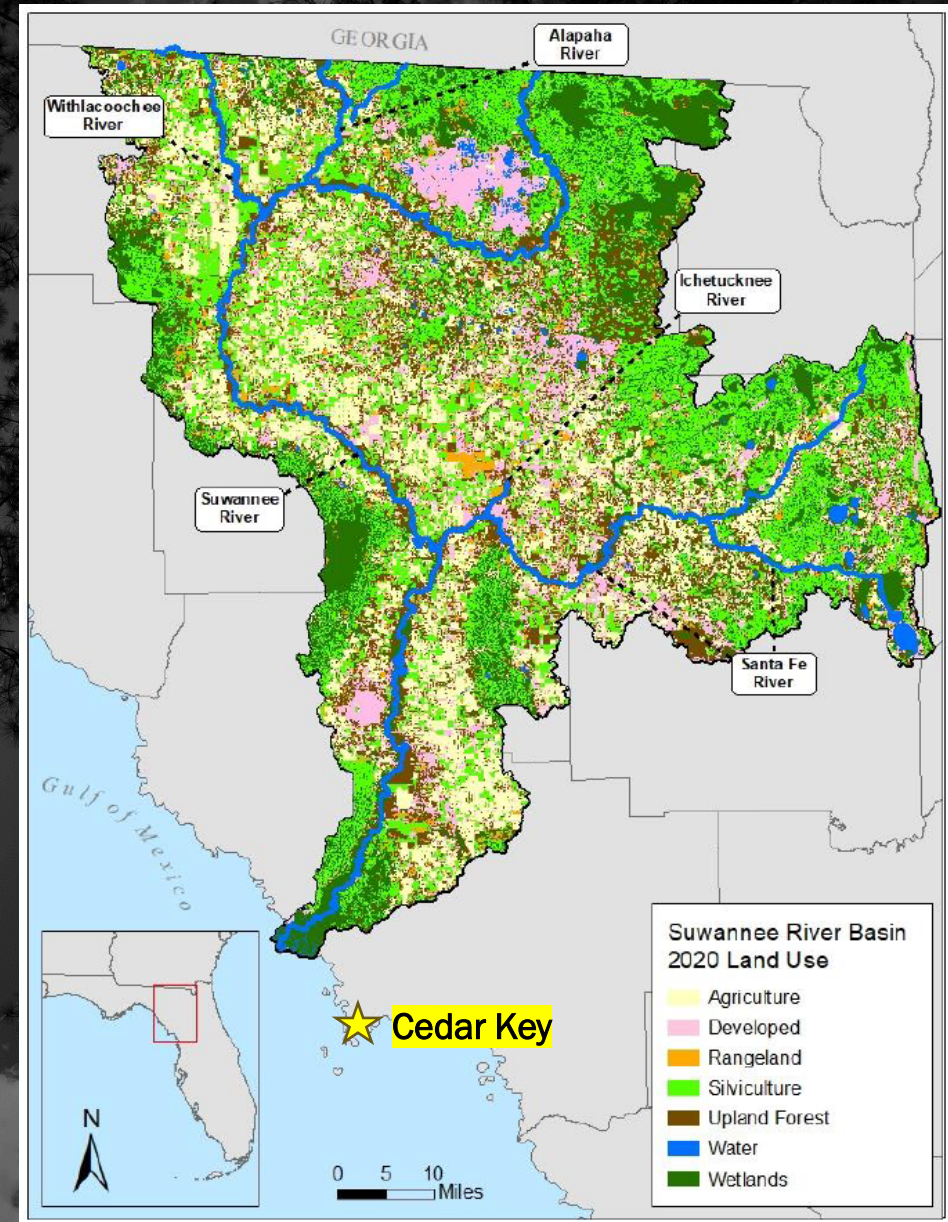
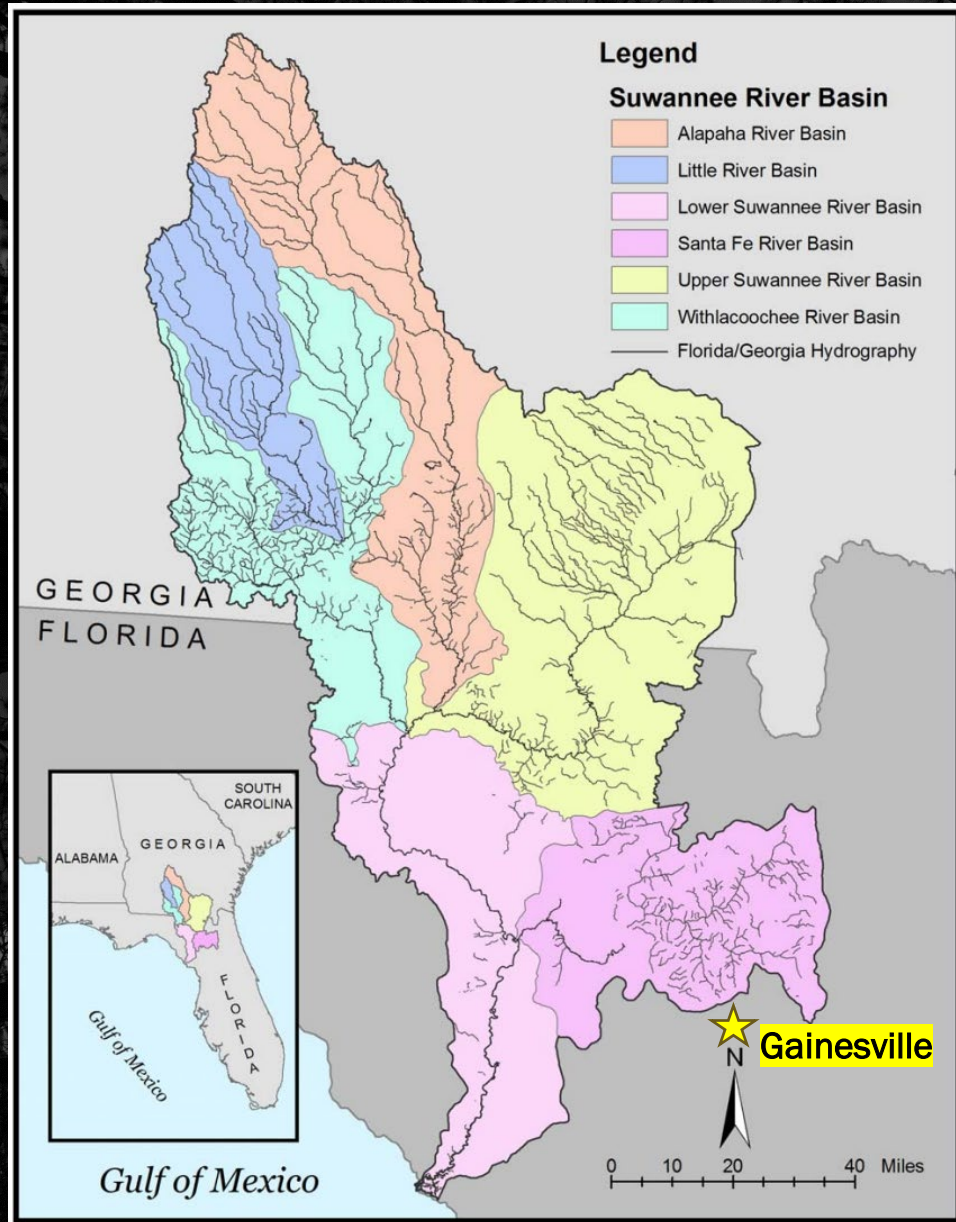
³Suwannee River Partnership, Live Oak, FL, USA

Healthy Farms-Healthy Bays (HF-HB)

- **Goal:** Connecting upland ranchers, farmers, and silviculture with downstream aquaculture and anglers.
- **Why:** Work together towards a future where healthy and productive ecosystems, bays, rivers, and streams are underpinned and supported by a vibrant and sustainable agricultural and fishing economy.

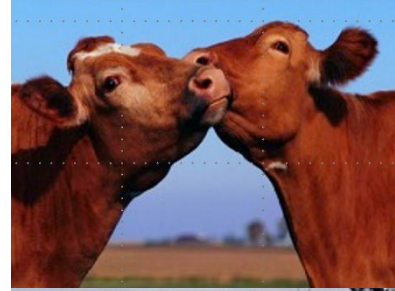
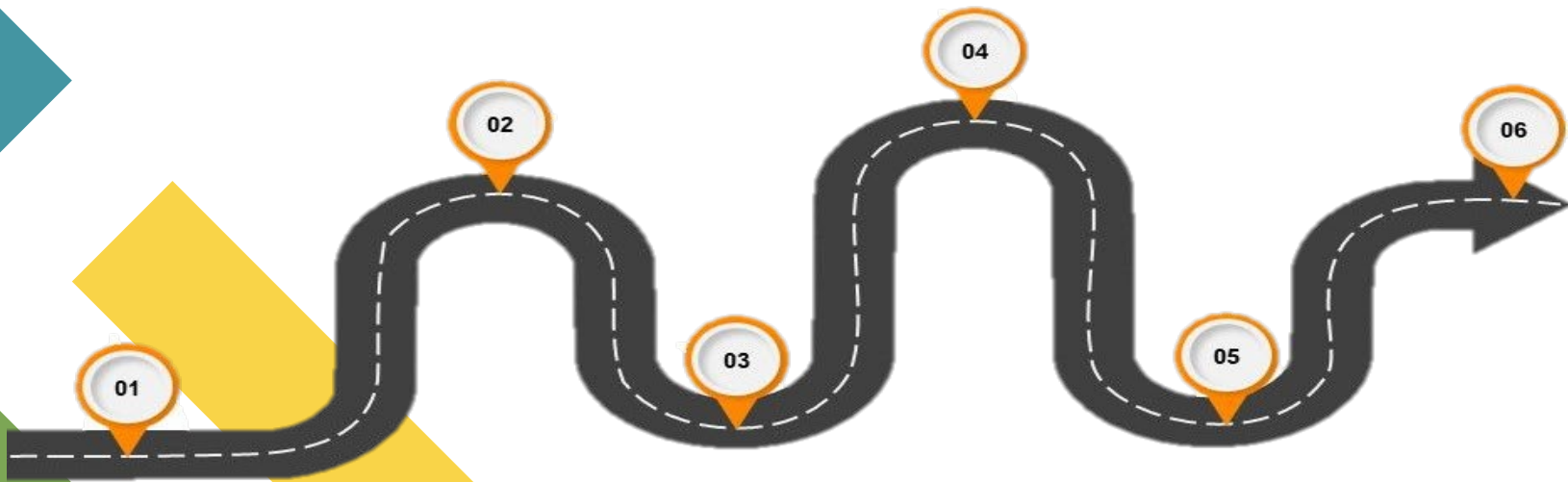


Suwannee River Basin



HF-HB Mission (Phase 1)

Develop a **ROADMAP** that identifies needed changes in...
land use practices, research, education, and policy
to keep Florida agriculture profitable while providing...
nutritious food, clean energy and ecosystem services such as...
wildlife habitat, water storage and filtration and carbon sequestration.





Stakeholder Engagement Process



Roadmap Development Process

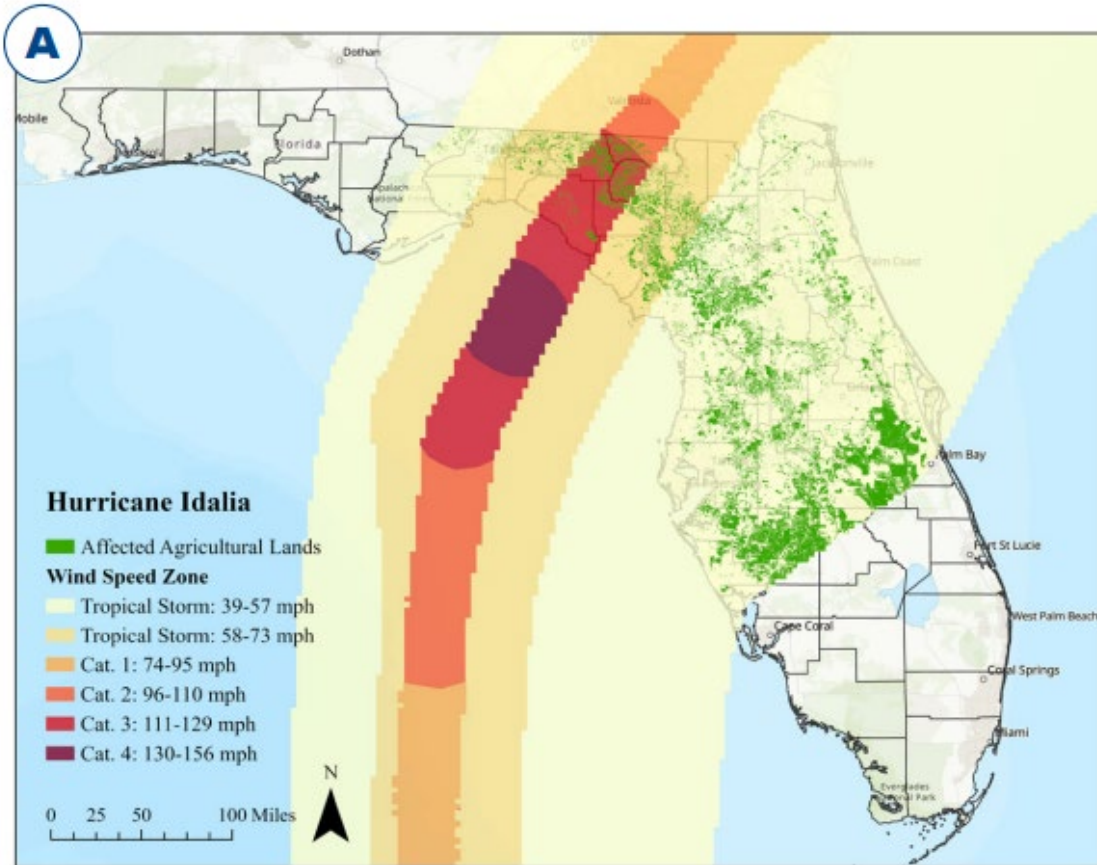


* Educational/
Networking
Opportunities
Throughout

HF-HB Project Timeline



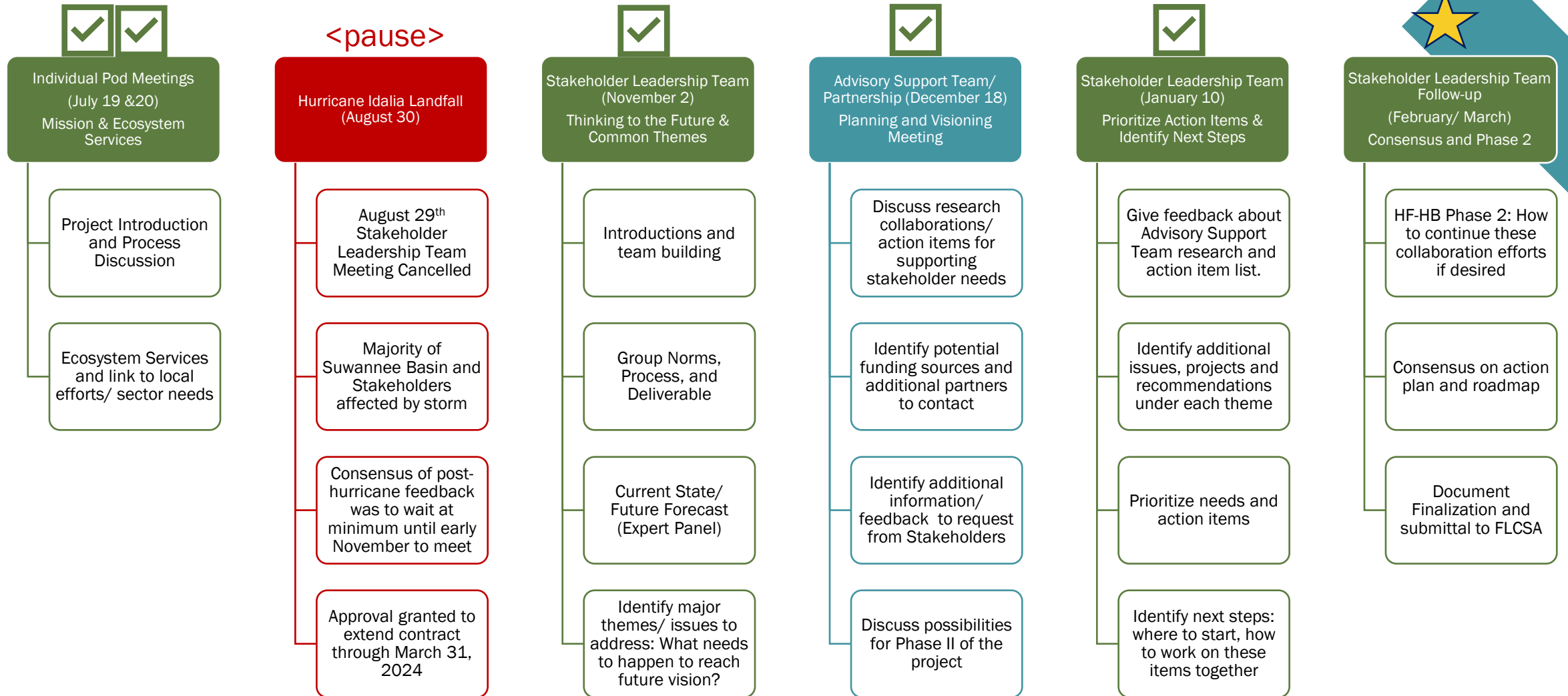
Agricultural Losses and Damages: Idalia



Photos courtesy of UF/IFAS and survey respondents
<https://fred.ifas.ufl.edu/media/fredifasufledu/economic-impact-analysis/reports/FRE-Preliminary-Hurricane-Idalia-Report.pdf>



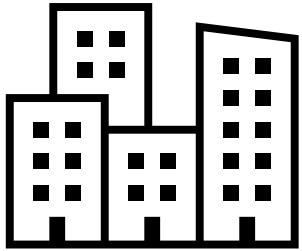
Stakeholder Leadership Team Meetings



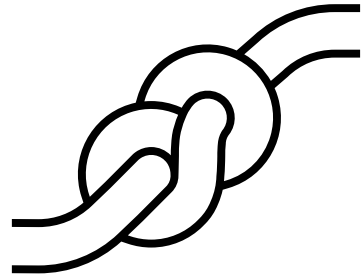
A close-up, black and white photograph of several clams in a steamer basket. The clams are arranged in a circular pattern, and their shells show distinct concentric ridges. The steamer basket has a perforated metal mesh. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the textures of the shells and the mesh.

From the Stakeholders

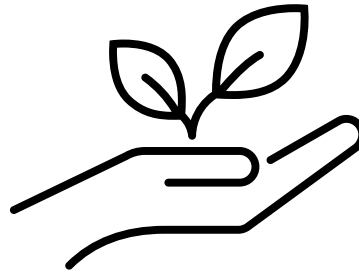
Common Values and Unifying Factors



Shared acknowledgement urbanization is a common threat in Suwannee Basin



Shared belief successful ag upstream creates better situation for downstream than if it fails



Shared commitment to stewardship of the earth and reliance on nature for a living



Shared family values, multi-generational heritage and legacy for future generation



Shared frustration over apparent lack of progress on emerging issues; wants real action

Stakeholder Goals

Science and Data Collection

Community Engagement and Education

Community Planning and Resiliency



Stakeholder Goals

Science and Data Collection	Community Engagement and Education	Community Planning and Resiliency
Build the ability to adapt to future weather pattern changes and climate changes.		
Develop and promote ecosystem service payment programs.		
Develop and enhance monitoring networks.		
Advancing and accelerating BMP research and adoption.		

Stakeholder Goals

Science and Data Collection	Community Engagement and Education	Community Planning and Resiliency
Build the ability to adapt to future weather pattern changes and climate changes.	Develop a regional education and communication strategy for the agriculture/aquaculture community.	
Develop and promote ecosystem service payment programs.	Develop strategy for motivating and engaging the youth caucus.	
Develop and enhance monitoring networks.	Design and implement a stewardship/public perception campaign.	
Advancing and accelerating BMP research and adoption.	Strengthen relationship between land and sea communities in Suwannee River Basin.	

Stakeholder Goals

Science and Data Collection	Community Engagement and Education	Community Planning and Resiliency
Build the ability to adapt to future weather pattern changes and climate changes.	Develop a regional education and communication strategy for the agriculture/aquaculture community.	Improve infrastructure and community planning.
Develop and promote ecosystem service payment programs.	Develop strategy for motivating and engaging the youth caucus.	Adopt a Prevention vs Recovery approach for proactive planning.
Develop and enhance monitoring networks.	Design and implement a stewardship/public perception campaign.	Engage and educate local government on importance of intentional urban development planning and conservation of working agriculture lands.
Advancing and accelerating BMP research and adoption.	Strengthen relationship between land and sea communities in Suwannee River Basin.	Leverage outputs and networks for recent/ on-going collaboration efforts.

Next Steps to Move Forward Together

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Build the ability to adapt to future weather pattern changes and climate changes.	Develop a regional education and communication strategy for the agriculture/aquaculture community.	Improve infrastructure and community planning.
Develop and promote ecosystem service payment programs.	Develop strategy for motivating and engaging the youth caucus.	Adopt a Prevention vs Recovery approach for proactive planning.
Develop and enhance monitoring networks.	Design and implement a stewardship/public perception campaign.	Engage and educate local government on importance of intentional urban development planning and conservation of working agriculture lands.
Advancing and accelerating BMP research and adoption.	Strengthen relationship between land and sea communities in Suwannee River Basin.	Leverage outputs and networks for recent/ on-going collaboration efforts.

Next Steps to Move Forward Together

- Accelerated Best Management Practice (BMP) research and adaptation program.
 - Procure large grant to accelerate BMP implementation, monitoring, cost-share and other incentives for farmer participation.
 - Experimental framework: verify BMP effectiveness at implementation scale, quantification of benefits, explore climate adaptation strategies.

Next Steps to Move Forward Together

- Developing and implementing a comprehensive, regional agriculture and aquaculture community engagement, education, and advocacy program.
 - Expansion of CARES program to include aquaculture
 - Improved coordination of regional agriculture and aquaculture communication and outreach professionals
 - Share and promote existing programs, collaborate to expand reach, share resources
 - Long term goal: centralized Agriculture and Aquaculture Education and Advocacy Center

A close-up, black and white photograph of several clams in a steamer basket. The clams are arranged in a circular pattern, and their shells show distinct concentric ridges. The steamer basket has a perforated metal mesh. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the textures of the shells and the mesh.

From the Facilitation POV

Successful? Mostly. Time will Tell.

Recruitment Numbers

- Target: 10 stakeholders (5 upstream, 5 downstream)
- 20 Recruited (10 upstream, 10 downstream)

Diversity

- Diverse in age, gender, generational legacy
- Not as diverse in sector representation

Participation

- 10/10 Aquatic Stakeholders participated in at least one in-person meeting.
- 5/10 Land Stakeholders participated in at least one in-person meeting, the other 5 participated through individual interview only.

Connections

- Most stakeholders felt that they made valuable connection within and across sectors (via survey)
- Contact information exchanges were made between individuals who found shared interests.

Enthusiasm for Moving Forward Together

- 2-3 Individuals rose as leaders and champions for Phase 2: implementation of stakeholder goals and action items.
- Many identified action item to work on either on their own as an individual or in focus groups.
- Identity as a collective group didn't happen in the timeframe we had.
- Most stakeholders felt good about the process and cautiously optimistic about future action

Final Thoughts to Ponder

- It takes time to build relationships and build trust... always push for longer timeframe when you can.
- With the right people at the table, you can still get a lot accomplished in a short amount of time.
- Provide multiple ways to engage for hard-to-reach stakeholders.
- Weather events and Stakeholder engagement... an emerging issue?
- Remember people are people... mental overload is real and should be considered throughout process.
- Don't let all the work become a report on the shelf... help build a pathway forward.

Thank you! FLCSA and HF-HB Team

HF-HB Co-Chairs – Ed Chiles and Randall Dasher

Advisory Support Team

- **Florida Climate Smart Agriculture**– Jim Strickland and Lynetta Usher Griner
- **Solutions from the Land** – Ernie Shea
- **Suwannee River Partnership** – Kelly Aue
- **University of Florida** – Mike Allen, Wendy-Lin Bartels, David Chagaris, Joel Harley, Bob Hochmuth, Leslie Sturmer, Mike Volk

Project Manager - Darlene Saindon Velez

Funding – **VoLo Foundation**

Stakeholder Leadership Team

Aquatic Stakeholders

- Joseph L. Cannon
- Rose Cantwell
- Emily Colson
- Sue Colson
- Tom Fattori
- Bill Martin
- Johnathan Miller
- Timothy Solano
- Abby Whitehead

Land Stakeholders

- Cetta Barnhart
- Buck Carpenter
- Ashley Cook-Gregory
- Laura Goss
- Braley Hines
- Ray Hodge
- Taylor O'Bannon
- Matt Thomas
- Lynetta Usher Griner

