

CLOSING MEETING REPORT

In attendance:

Project team: Farah Aryan, Kelly Aue, Wendy-Lin Bartels, Paloma Carton de Grammont, Christa Court, Gail Cowie, Rob De Rooij, Michael Dukes, Puneet Dwivedi, Carrie Furman, Wendy Graham, Bob Hochmuth, Sadie Hundemer, Latif Kalin, David Kaplan, Dogil Lee, Joel Love, Mark Masters, Martha Monroe, Wes Porter, Nathan Reaver, Kristin Rowles, Amanda Smith.

PAC/PMP members: Amy Brown, Jason Chandler, Shawn DeRome, Stacie Greco, West Gregory, Sam Hankinson, Merrilee Jipson, Lucinda Merritt, David Royal, Charles Shinn, Kim Shugar, Jacqueline Sulek, Hugh Thomas

Meeting Goals

- Present the overall project key findings
- Discuss potential program and policy implications
- Identify opportunities and challenges to communicate project key findings
- Recognize next steps for new projects and collaborations

FACETS key findings lightning talks

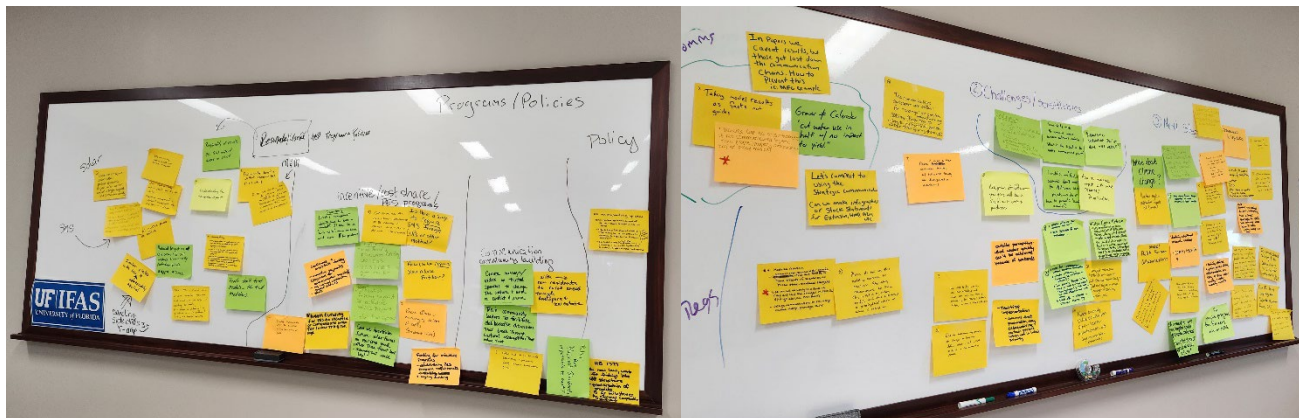
A panel of project team members presented the project key findings. The full presentation can be found [here](#). Stakeholders and project team were asked to think about the following prompts and write their thoughts on post its as they were listening to the presentations:

- *Which findings resonate most with the work you do? Which are useful for you?*
- *What potential new programs or policy implications do you see resulting from the project?*
- *Do you envision any challenges or sensitivities related to project findings?*
- *How can we maximize the relevance of the project (i.e. what could be next steps)*



Discussion: FACETS policy implications, challenges, and next steps

Stakeholders and project team members were provided 10 more minutes to finalize writing their thoughts and were asked to place their post its on the board in one of three categories: Findings that resonated and potential new programs/policy implications; Challenges/sensitivities of key findings; Potential next steps.



Facilitators classified the post-its in by themes within each category and facilitated a plenary discussion. Here we present the results of the plenary discussion¹.

What findings resonate/ potential new programs/ policy implications:

- ▶ Information that resonated with stakeholders and project team includes:
 - There is not ONE solution but rather a suite of management practices and land use changes that could move us towards a more sustainable future
 - SMS and App are key to achieve reduced irrigation and achieve profitable yields
 - Scenarios help understand potential environmental and economic impacts of certain land uses and management practices.
- ▶ There is the potential to use incentive, cost share or/and PES programs to incentivize those land uses and management practices that reduce irrigation, leaching and maintain profits.
 - Focus on suites of agricultural BMPS (irrigation and nutrient management, cover crops)
 - Restoration forestry and silvicultural management for water yield
 - Solar farm expansion
 - Securing on going funding for cost-share/PES programs was the most common mentioned new program/policy
- ▶ Pay attention to the differences between large and small landowners – Some stakeholders felt that targeting large landowners would have a larger and faster impact while others felt it was important to target the complete spectrum of landowners and not leave small landowners out.
- ▶ Focus on community building and communication: use FACETS key findings to establish a productive dialog between stakeholder groups (i.e. communications research results, models, PMP process)

Challenges/sensitivities related to project findings

- ▶ Communicating FACETS results:
 - Be careful with terminology (especially important when working cross state)
 - Be extremely careful when communicating Bookend Scenarios (be clear about caveats, be clear they are not realistic, definition of scenarios, economic implications, who absorbs the cost)

¹ Individual post its organized by theme can be viewed here:

- 1) [What findings resonate/ potential new programs/ policy implications](#)
- 2) [Challenges/sensitivities related to project findings](#)
- 3) [Next steps](#)

- Be careful when communicating about Realistic Scenarios. Need to avoid stakeholders saying “why bother” if they will not improve conditions as much as unrealistic Bookend Scenarios
- Any new programs will require funding
- Need to convey value of Biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Use strategic communications (create communication materials)
- Models:
 - Models developed for FACETS project should not be used to determine compliance with regulatory measures (Minimum Flow and Levels, Numeric Nutrient Criteria)
 - Assess how to maximize impact with limited resources (prioritization)
 - What biophysical and economic Metrics are chosen matter
- Fostering extension education (challenge):
 - There is not enough funding or enough people
 - Focus on Soil Moisture Sensors and Controlled Release Fertilizer
- Fostering GA/FL Collaboration
 - Requires rethinking the starting points and meet the potential collaborators where they are
 - Consider who are the missing partners
- Designing Cost share programs
 - Quantify bang for the buck: total budget and acreage needed for Mix & Match to achieve env. regulations.
 - Consider scale of program implementation (equity)

Next steps

- Models
 - Improve models – think about spatial and temporal scales
 - Incorporate: climate change, ecotourism, ecosystem services
 - Make models available
 - More forest BMPs
- New research
 - Identify areas where incentive programs should be implemented
 - How to develop incentive programs? (need infrastructure and more resources)
 - Quantify benefits of BMPs (env and econ)
 - Behavioral science to improve adoption/behavior change
 - Field research and modeling
 - Regional projects to support FDACS/FDEP/SRWMD efforts
- Programs
 - More Water Schools (FL/GA?)
 - Regional large-scale projects that involve multiple landowners (FDACS exploring)
 - Fine tune and target locations for new programs/projects
- Communicate results
 - SE regional meeting (partner with Andy Jackson- SWCD)
- Collaboration
 - Keep group going
 - Look who is at the table (tourism, developers, biologists, ecologists, solar power people are missing)
 - FACETS alumni reunion
 - Partnership with other groups (SE Partnership for Forests & Water, Suwannee River Partnership, Interstate Suwannee conference,

Closure with PAC / PMP

Wendy Graham and Mark Masters thanked the members of the PAC and PMP for their invaluable support in this project and communicated that the final report and executive summary will be available by the end of the project. All information will be made available through the webpage.



Debrief: policy implications, communicating results, and next steps

This session with the project team aimed to identify next steps in two main areas:

- 1) new projects that can support policy/programs.
- 2) communicating FACETS results

Discussions were held in breakout groups who reported back in plenary followed by a plenary discussion. Below is a summary of the plenary discussion.

New projects that can support policy/programs.

- ▶ Extend modeling:
 - Include new crops (Watermelon, potatoes, snap beans, and additional cover crops)
 - Expand to other regions/watersheds
 - Improve urban/solar scenarios
 - BMP bundling
 - Identify critical regions
 - Analyze different output variables from models
 - Improve economic modeling approach
 - Investigate specific forestry management practices for water quantity
 - Include value of recreation and agroecotourism
 - Add climate change scenarios in FL
- ▶ New research
 - FDAC/FDEP Regional Projects
 - Assess what are the more sensitive stream segments
 - Improved estimates of long-term changes to the economy of various interventions.
 - Multiple purposes for converted solar (enhanced recharge, decreased nitrate leaching and habitat)?
 - What is really happening on the solar farms?
 - Quantify “bang for the buck” for BMP implementation on small vs. large farms.
 - Assess how changes to existing conservation programs can improve participation and adoption
 - Include other stakeholders: small, minority landowners
 - Communications and culture
 - Persistence of BMP after cost-share
- ▶ New programs
 - Broader scale implementation of Controlled Release Fertilizer and cost share programs to incentivize it
 - Cost share and extension education for mix and match scenario



Communicating FACETS results

- Inform (be a resource for) lobbying efforts for:
 - Increased conservation and BMP funding;
 - More tailored delivery of BMP funding to target areas of greatest impact.
- Consider the following sensitivities:
 - *Don't talk about "irrigation suspension" in Georgia...make sure to say "voluntary irrigation suspension." Nothing contemplated is mandatory.*
 - *Be careful to explain what key findings are and are not (e.g. Soil moisture sensors cut water use in half and keep same yield...not really true based on what most farmers actually do since in GA most farmers are not using a calendar method).*
 - *Take care in saying, "The PMP agrees that..." Rather, "the PMP informed modeling results that showed..."*
 - *Slides should be able to stand-alone if possible...the internet is forever and they have a legacy*
 - *Words matter!!!!*
- Audiences:
 - Legislators/decision makers: high level project results/insights, description of problem and potential solutions
 - Agriculture community: deeper description of the issues, more detail on BMP and scenarios/management systems
 - General public: highest level results /insights
 - Environmentalist: agriculture/forestry part of the solution
- Use of a buddy system: have always combinations of Project team and stakeholders to collaboratively communicate the key findings of the project
 - Use forums that already exist (Santa Fe Springs Protection Forum, Suwannee River Partnership, Southeast Regional Conservation Districts)
 - Create generic presentations (templates),
- Communication Products: one pagers, infographics, website

Project Next steps

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REEport • Final Report for public distribution • Website update | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Database / models • Publications • Water schools? |
|---|---|

Closing activities

To close celebrate the project closure the team had a Quiz that included questions about the project team, the activities and process; viewed a slideshow with pictures of meetings throughout the project and recognized all project team members by placing them on a map. We finalized with sparkling cider and petit fours and some encouraging words of some members.



Appendix 1: FACETS Closing Meeting Agenda

North Florida Research & Education Center - Suwannee Valley

8202 County Road 417, Live Oak, FL 32060

June 29, 9:00am – 4:00pm

Morning: Project Team and PAC / PMP

9:00 – 9:30 Registration /coffee

9:30 – 9:40 Ice breaker activity

9:40 – 9:50 Welcome, Introduction, meeting goals, agenda, housekeeping

9:50 – 10:50 FACETS key findings lightning talks

10:50 – 12:00 Discussion: FACETS policy implications, Challenges and next steps

12:00 – 12:15 Closure

12:15 – 1:15 Lunch

Afternoon: Project Team

1:15 – 2:30 Debrief: policy implications, communicating results, and next steps

2:30 – 3:15 Project closure activity

3:15- ~4:00 Break out groups: Discuss publications (Optional)

Appendix 2: Sign in Sheet

SIGN IN SHEET	
Name	Signature
Farah Aryan, University of Florida	<i>Farah Aryan</i>
Kelly Aue, University of Florida	<i>Kelly Aue</i>
Wendy-Lin Bartels, University of Florida	<i>Wendy-Lin Bartels</i>
x Amy Brown, SRWMD	<i>Amy Brown</i>
Paloma Carton de Grammont, University of Florida	<i>Paloma Carton de Grammont</i>
y Jason Chandler, Grimmway Farms	<i>Jason Chandler</i>
Christa Court, University of Florida	<i>Christa Court</i>
Gail Cowie, Albany State University	<i>Gail Cowie</i>
Rob De Rooij, University of Florida	<i>Rob De Rooij</i>
x Shawn DeRome, Rayoner	<i>Shawn DeRome</i>
x Michael Dooner, Southern Forestry Consultants	<i>Michael Dooner</i>
x Michael Dukes, University of Florida	<i>Michael Dukes</i>
Puneet Dwivedi, University of Georgia	<i>Puneet Dwivedi</i>
Carrie Furman, University of Georgia	<i>Carrie Furman</i>
Sebastian Galindo, University of Florida	
Wendy Graham, University of Florida	<i>Wendy Graham</i>
x Stacie Greco, Santa Fe Springs Protection Forum	<i>Stacie Greco</i>
x West Gregory, EDEP EDACS	<i>West Gregory</i>
x Sam Hankinson, FDEP	<i>Sam Hankinson</i>
Bob Hochmuth, University of Florida	<i>Bob Hochmuth</i>
Sadie Hundemer, University of Florida	<i>Sadie Hundemer</i>
Latif Kalin, Auburn University	<i>Latif Kalin</i>
David Kaplan, University of Florida	<i>David Kaplan</i>
Dogil Lee, University of Florida	<i>Dogil Lee</i>
Joel Love, University of Florida	<i>Joel Love</i>
x Mark Masters, Albany State University	<i>Mark Masters</i>
x Lucinda Merritt, Ichetucknee Alliance	<i>Lucinda Merritt</i>
Martha Monroe, University of Florida	<i>Martha Monroe</i>
Wes Porter, University of Georgia	<i>Wes Porter</i>
Nathan Reaver, University of Florida	<i>Nathan Reaver</i>
Kristin Rowles, Albany State University	<i>Kristin Rowles</i>
x David Royal, TNC	<i>David B Royal</i>
x Charles Shinn, Florida Farm Bureau	<i>Charles Shinn</i>
x Kim Shugar, FDEP	<i>Kim Shugar</i>
x Amanda Smith, University of Georgia	<i>Amanda P Smith</i>
x Jacqueline Sulek, Audubon	<i>Jacqueline Sulek</i>
x Hugh Thomas, SRWMD	<i>Hugh Thomas</i>
x Merrilee Tipson, OSFR	<i>Merrilee Tipson</i>