

Saving the St. Johns River: What We'd Like to Know

A Symposium for Policy Makers

Sponsored by The St. Johns River Alliance

Date: May 28, 2009

Host: Stetson University

Symposium Planning Committee

- Ray Bowman, SJR Alliance
- Mark Middlebrook, SJR Alliance
- Maria Mark, SJR Alliance
- Tiffany Busby, Wildwood Consulting
- Dean Campbell, SJRWMD
- Quinton White, Jacksonville University
- Kirsten Work, Stetson University
- Jim Cato, University of Florida
- Wendy Graham, University of Florida
- Radha Pyati, University of North Florida
- Courtney Hackney, University of North Florida
- Maia McGuire, Florida Sea Grant
- Jon Shenker, Florida Institute of Technology
- Dana Morton, City of Jax, Water Quality Division

Audience

Policy makers and scientists including SJRWMD scientists and officials, SJR Alliance members, university river scientists, elected officials, political appointees, advocacy groups, NGO representatives and others

Purpose

To inform policy makers and those who can influence policy of the major principles, issues and scientific needs related to the St. Johns River with emphasis on the most pressing gaps in understanding

Tentative Invitees (so far)

Governor Crist/staff Henry Dean	Former House Speaker John Thrasher
Key leaders in the Florida Legislature (Dockery, Constantine, King etc.)	Staff from Reps. Mica, Brown, Crenshaw, Weldon, Feeney
DEP Secretary Michael Sole/staff Regional DEP heads	Staff from Sens. Martinez, Nelson
Century Commission	Water Management District Board
St. Johns Riverkeeper	SJR Alliance Board
Relevant NGOs: The Nature Conservancy, Trust for Public Land, North Florida Land Trust, Preservation North Florida, 1000 Friends of Florida, Conservation Trust, etc.	
Key elected officials in 13 counties - including municipalities	University staff from UNF, JU, Stetson, UF, FIT, FAU, UCF

Tasks for Preparation Workgroups, Fall 2008

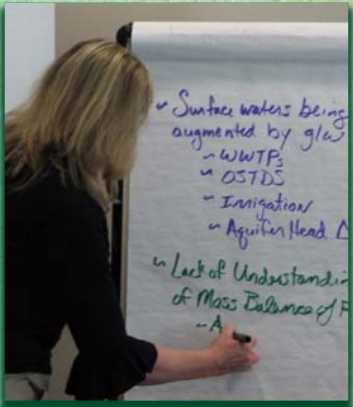
- ❖ Identify priority issues/scientific needs appropriate for the May audience
- ❖ Identify the most prominent **gaps** in understanding where additional research is needed (what we'd like to know) and how addressing those gaps will help **preserve or restore** the river
- ❖ Identify potential speaker(s) for
 - ❖ **50 minute** topic presentation
 - ❖ research gaps **panel discussion**



Water Quantity/Hydrology Workshop

Tuesday November 18, 2008

NAME	AFFILIATION
Tiffany Busby	Wildwood Consulting
Ray Bowman	SJR Alliance
Mark Middlebrook	SJR Alliance
Maria Mark	SJR Alliance
Pat Welsh	UNF
Erich Marzolf	SJRWMD
Tim Cera	SJRWMD
Richard Hamann	UF
Gerry Pinto	JU
Geoffrey Sample	SJRWMD





Water Quality Workshop Thursday November 20, 2008	
NAME	AFFILIATION
Tiffany Busby	Wildwood Consulting
Ray Bowman	SJR Alliance
Mark Middlebrook	SJR Alliance
Maria Mark	SJR Alliance
Rob Mattson	SJRWMD
Rolly Fulton	SJRWMD
Chuck Jacoby	UF
Dana Morton	COJ
John Hendrickson	SJRWMD
Geoffrey Sample	SJRWMD
Kraig McLane	SJRWMD
Margaret James	UF
Kirsten Work	Stetson University
Vince Seibold	COJ
Pat Welsh	UNF
Gary Maddox (call in)	FDEP-Spring Initiative





Ecology Workshop Friday November 21, 2008	
NAME	AFFILIATION
Tiffany Busby	Wildwood Consulting
Ray Bowman	SJR Alliance
Mark Middlebrook	SJR Alliance
Maria Mark	SJR Alliance
Chuck Jacoby	UF
Erich Marzolf	SJRWMD
John Fauth	UCF
Dean Campbell	SJRWMD
Russ Brodie	FWC
Dianne Hall	SJRWMD
Gerry Pinto	JU
Dale Casamatta	UNF
Kirsten Work	Steston
Kathleen McKee	UF

Tentative Program

9:00 am	Welcome – John Delaney, Chair, St. Johns River Alliance
9:10 am	Opening Remarks – Douglas Lee, President, Stetson University
9:20 am	Keynote Address
10:00 am	Economic and Behavioral Perspectives of the St. Johns River – Wendy Graham, UF Water Institute
10:50 am	Break
11:10 am	St. Johns River – Water Quantity Principles and Issues
12:00 pm	Lunch Buffet
12:30 pm	Lunch Speaker – Michelle Thatcher, “310 Miles on the St. Johns River”
1:00 pm	St. Johns River – Water Quality Characteristics and Issues
1:50 pm	Break
2:00 pm	St. Johns River – River Ecology Principles and Issues
2:50 pm	Panel Discussion – Future Research: What We’d Like to Know and How It Would Help the River
3:50 pm	Closing Remarks – John Delaney [summarizes how future research will have positive economic and cultural consequences]
4:15 pm	Adjourn

Symposium Goals

Each attendee:

- ❖ Is glad s/he came and holds a deeper respect for the SJR Alliance.
- ❖ More fully understands fundamental river principles & issues.
- ❖ Can identify the most prominent gaps in understanding where additional research is needed (what we'd like to know) and how addressing those gaps will help preserve or restore the river.
- ❖ Is acutely aware of the economic and cultural benefits of a healthy St. Johns River.