

Suwannee Basin Workshop 2004

Final Session Summary
Friday, September 24, 2004
Cedar Key, Florida

E. Raabe

Information Management

- **Presentations on information management, new techniques and models**
 - watershed assessment
 - watershed atlas,
 - remote sensing,
 - GIS toolbox,
 - and USGS Earth Explorer
- **Next, final priority topic discussion and What's Next?**

Top Three Workshop Priorities

- 1st Clearing house for data resources, data management and integration
- 2nd Full Watershed Study and Data Collection across FL & GA
- 3rd Integrated models: model water quality, water supply (MFL's), and basin ecology

1st Priority: Clearing house

Clearing house for data resources, data management, data integration, links, and GIS

- Availability and access
- Real-time tracking
- List of scientists and research
- Know the user-community
- Annual updates
- Value, not hindrance, to scientists
- Portal architecture (links)
- Develop database architecture first
- Need IT gurus
- GIS database

2nd Priority: Full Watershed Study

Full Watershed Study and Data Collection across FL & GA

- Need consistent data collection effort
- Full integration across Florida & Georgia
- Suwannee is largest unregulated basin
- Chance to do things right
- Go to Georgia. Bring them in. How?
- Boundary effort

3rd Priority: Integrated models

Integrated models: model water quality, water supply (MFL's), and basin ecology

- **Model changes to water supply, water quality, and ecological responses**
- **Define MFL's on scientific basis!**
 - Do good science first (currently political)
- **Include variability in system**
 - Event effects
 - Seasonal range
 - Late autumn flow is important to sturgeon
- **Need middle & upper basin data**

Additional priorities

- Water Quantity and Quality Issues
 - Hydrologic Observatory
 - Water use and availability; land use, change and diversions
 - Surface/GW interactions; recharge, flow, residence time
 - Spring-shed delineation and protection
 - GW age-dating
 - Microbial and geochemical source tracking
 - Geologic control of permeability
 - Riverine impacts to estuary; quality, quantity, salinity dynamics
 - Full basin model - include GA in water flow and water quality
 - Standardized and basin-wide water quality monitoring

Additional Priorities continued

- Ecosystem and Habitat Issues
 - Link: biota, hydrogeology, and water quality
 - Link: Extreme events and ecology
 - Habitat mapping
 - Riverine impacts to estuary
 - Biotic/Abiotic baseline data
 - Adequate biotic monitoring basin-wide
 - Benthic habitats in estuary
 - Process-oriented research
 - Define species interaction with habitat
 - Habitat monitoring
 - Habitat and river stage

Additional Priorities continued

- Management and Modeling
 - Land use and environmental affects
 - Develop BMP's and verify effectiveness
 - Research and management master plan
 - Human Health: contaminants and protection
 - Ecosystem Restoration Plan
 - Discuss/define “significant harm”
 - Review existing models
 - Integrated model for water quality, water supply and biota
 - Develop management practices
 - Timeline: natural and human history in basin
 - GW protection: educate and enforce

Discussion: What's next?

- **Basin-wide effort needs further development via science plan**
 - focus groups for subtopics
 - Immediate need
 - Volunteers requested
- **Need to Address Big Questions:**
 - How to implement Basin-wide effort with Georgia
 - Interdisciplinary, Inter-agency Collaboration and Funding
 - A Watershed Model with Broad application
 - Vision: Suwannee as a model for other river basins

What IS Next?

- **CD-ROM of workshop proceedings**
 - Workshop discussion summary in slideshows
 - Presentations and posters
 - List of participants
- **Science Plan**
 - Volunteer Steering Committee
 - Request volunteers for subtopics
 - **SBIA and Beyond!**
 - To plan, activate, and implement
- **Next meeting proposed: June 2005 in Georgia**

Science Plan

Volunteer Steering Committee

Subcommittees will be formed to address main science topics

Tentative Members:

- Rodney DeHan, Florida Geological Survey
- Paul Lee, Florida Dept. Environmental Protection
- Lia Chasar, FAMU
- Randy Edwards, USF
- Bill Hu, FSU
- Willie Harris, UF,
- Robin Hallbough, Alachua County DEP
- Richard Lowrance, USDA-ARS
- Sam Upchurch, SDII-Global
- Kirk Webster, Suwannee River Water Management District
- Need reps from Georgia EPD, USGS in Georgia, and EPA
- Florida USGS: Brian Katz, Ellen Raabe

Note of Appreciation to Participants

- **Thank you for attending and participating in open discussions. Current and future accomplishments reflect our combined efforts!**