

“Interagency Cooperation”

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**Suwannee River Basin
Workshop
Cedar Key, Florida
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Interagency Cooperation

- Impressive workshop, most impressed with breadth of presentations as well as the large number, diversity, and attentiveness of attendees.
- Obvious shared interest and passion to understand and protect the resources of the Suwannee basin
- It will be an effort but I think all of us are very interested to see the analysis of results from all the breakout groups (I'll cycle back to this later)
- My assignment is to make a few comments on the subject of Suwannee Basin interagency cooperation.

Interagency Cooperation

- Obviously lots of interagency cooperation is already in place (Suwannee River Partnership, Suwannee Basin Interagency Alliance, partnering on many individual projects, sharing data and findings, etc.)
- I'm going to try to make a point and don't know how it will work out so bear with me. Just for fun, please raise your hand if during this workshop you learned of at least one activity for the first time.
- Now, raise them again if you learned of three or more new activities.
- This is not a scientifically defensible poll but it indicates that coordination and cooperation can be improved.

Interagency Cooperation

- My one suggestion is that we maintain the momentum established this week by reconvening to tackle, in depth, the top priority items from the breakout groups.
- And, if that works, reconvene again to tackle the next batch of items.
- There must be scores of ways each of us can support the others of us in science planning, funding strategies, developing more Georgia interactions, eliminating redundancies, developing joint databases, coordinating field work, involving various levels of management, you name it.
- I'd like to close by volunteering whatever resources the USGS can muster to help cosponsor the next workshop. This is an open challenge to any other similarly inclined agency.