

# South Lee County Watershed Initiative Meeting Notes

April 6, 2018

## What is Our Vision?

- Went around room to gather input on what stakeholders want from this Initiative.
- What stakeholders indicated they wanted was:
  - To get the water right – both water quality and hydrology...for water supply and natural system needs, while maintaining existing flood protection levels (and improving in Imperial River watershed/Bonita).
  - Wildlife habitat and corridors protected
  - More groundwater monitoring and data
  - Restoration – though considerable discussion on what is “restoration”...are we trying to get back to certain historical conditions or a new healthy norm?
  - Regional approach to watershed modeling and planning
  - Tool for policymakers (though mentioned not to be used by developers) that can show what impacts would be from proposed projects to inform decisions
  - A reasonable and balanced watershed plan that serves multiple purposes

## Review of Draft Project Purpose

- Generally stakeholders liked draft project purpose though they want wildlife included
- Discussion that we need to know what our restoration targets are to orient modeling towards assessing that.
- Support from modeling subteam for using MIKESHE (integrated surface/groundwater modeling) but others want water quality modeling as well.

## What Studies Do We Already Have to Work From?

- Southwest Florida Feasibility Study -> Southwest Florida Comprehensive Master Watershed Plan
- South Lee County Watershed Plan Update Study
- Collier County Watershed Plan
- Lower West Coast Water Supply Plan
- Lee County and Bonita Springs' DRGR Studies

## What Do We Need to Do?

- Put all projects identified in previous studies outlined above and put into master spreadsheet to inventory and update their status so we have a current list of still needed projects, tasks, and funding
- Need to identify and gather funding for continued facilitation (both of technical work and general meeting facilitation)
- Need to gather funding for updated modeling (MIKESHE and Water Quality modeling on a regional scale but at resolution for project-level analysis and review, as well as 3-D Ecosystem modeling ideally), as well as to address filling sampling and data gaps.
- Need to prepare a SFWMD Cooperative Funding application(s) (due in May)