



Water Conservation Meetings Promote Regional Dialogue and Collaboration

Water conservation coordinators from across the Central Florida Water Initiative region and beyond gathered for an impactful quarterly meeting at the Toho Water Authority.

Representatives from the St. Johns River, Southwest Florida and South Florida water management districts, along with delegates from numerous cities, counties and agencies throughout the state, came together to discuss regional water conservation efforts, share best practices and address challenges.

Highlights included presentations from the U.S. Water Alliance, East Coast Florida Regional Planning Council, University of Florida, and city of Winter Haven. These discussions centered on the One Water approach, a comprehensive vision for long-term land use and water planning.

“One Water emphasizes that there is value in water in every stage and form,” says Deirdre Irwin, a water conservation coordinator for the St. John’s River Water Management District. “In our field, one key goal is to help the public understand this principle and recognize that reducing water use is the most cost-effective way to help address future water needs.”

Participants shared their successes in reducing residential water use and discussed strategies to further advance water conservation education. They also addressed challenges, including homeowner association regulations and gaps in homeowners' understanding of irrigation practices, brainstorming solutions to overcome these barriers.

The next meeting will be held in January 2025. For more information about the quarterly water conservation meetings, please contact Dierdre Irwin at dirwin@sjrwmd.com.