

ACF STAKEHOLDERS

WORKING TOGETHER TO SHARE A COMMON RESOURCE

History of ACF Stakeholders

The Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) Stakeholders concept was initiated at a meeting in August 2008 where a small group of people who live, work and utilize the water resources met to explore the question - Can the diverse users of the ACF Basin act cooperatively with the goal of resolving the water resources issues that have been left unsettled in the political and legal system for the past 20 years?

The group agreed that such an effort might work, and decided to convene a meeting of a broader set of stakeholders that represent all of the interests in the basin.

The US Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution, an independent federal agency charged with resolving disputes, was asked to provide facilitation services at subsequent meetings of stakeholders in the ACF Basin.

Stakeholder forums were held throughout the basin to determine the breadth of interest.

On March 2, 2009, 35 volunteers from throughout the ACF Basin, representing municipal, industrial, environmental, recreational and agricultural interests met as a Steering Committee to develop a mission statement, goals, an executive committee and workgroups.

Workgroups have subsequently worked on financial, charter, stakeholder outreach and work plan issues.

Mission:

To change the operation and management of the ACF Basin to achieve:

- Equitable solutions among stakeholders that balance economic, ecological, and social values.
- Viable solutions that ensure that the entire ACF Basin is a sustainable resource for current and future generations.

Goals:

- To develop a consensus-based basin-wide vision and a unified voice for the ACF Basin.
- To enhance communication among stakeholders in the ACF Basin.
- To develop and disseminate a common scientifically valid understanding of the ACF Basin, including the inter-related nature of water management in the basin, the needs of all of its stakeholders, and the limitations of the system.
- To implement solutions that are based on the best available technology and science
- To pursue appropriate change to institutional structure, policies, and procedures in implementing the solutions set forth by this entity

Importance of the ACF Basin:

- The basin encompasses over 19,000 square miles of drainage area from North Georgia to Gulf of Mexico.
- Waters of the ACF are managed for a wide variety of purposes for the benefit of diverse stakeholder interest.
- The ACF is a source of fresh water for Georgia, Florida and Alabama.
- The ACF is an economic engine, and a natural, cultural, and historical resource from North Georgia to the Gulf of Mexico.
- The ACF tributaries, wetlands, swamps and aquifers contribute to recreational, agricultural, industrial and municipal activities.

Next Steps:

Applications have been received from power companies, environmental and advocacy groups, city and county water departments, chambers of commerce, agribusiness - and many more.

Sub-basin caucuses will be held to select Governing Board members with a goal of holding its first meeting on December 10th in Albany.

For additional information visit www.acfstakeholders.org or send an email to info@acfstakeholders.org Include name, organization, location and phone number.