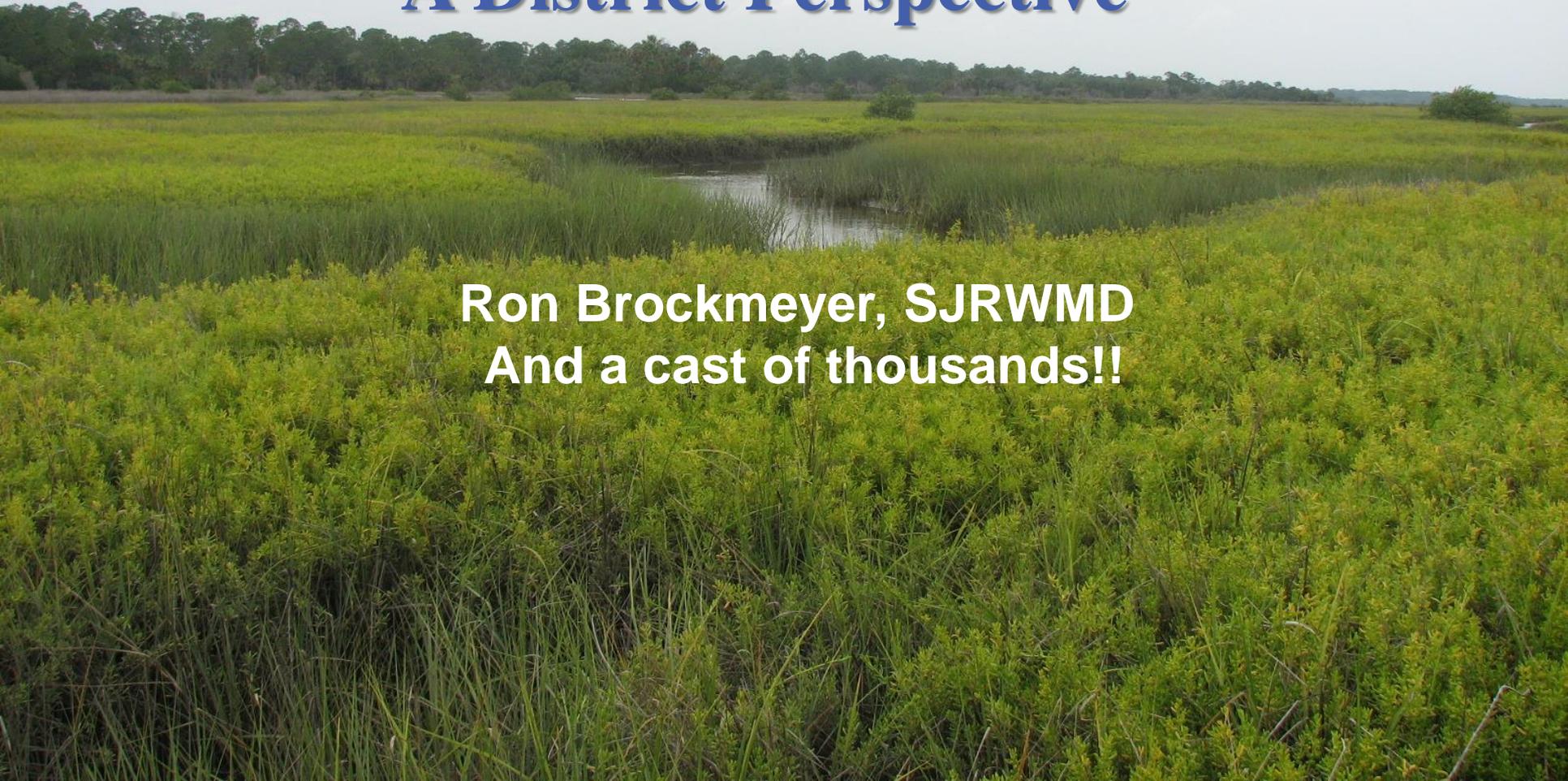


# **Northeast Florida Estuary Restoration Initiative: A District Perspective**

**Ron Brockmeyer, SJRWMD  
And a cast of thousands!!**



# Success and Local Partners

- Impoundment Reconnection / Restoration  
(Merritt Island NWR, Canaveral National SS)
- Dragline Ditch Restoration  
(Volusia County)
- Spoil Filled Saltmarsh Restoration  
(North Peninsula State Park)
- Halifax River Shoreline Habitat Initiative  
(City of Port Orange)

# SJRWMD Partnered Grants

- 2008 - NACo/NOAA National Association of Counties Grant - (Filled Marsh) - **\$50,000**
- 2009/2011 – FFWCC/USFWS National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant (Dragline Ditch) - **\$1,060,000**
- 2009 – NOAA Recovery Act Grant (Filled Marsh / Impounded Wetlands) - **\$ 2.7 Million**
- 2010 – USFWS Grant (Shoreline Habitat) - **\$32,000**
- 2011 – SARP/NOAA Community Partnership Grant (Shoreline Habitat) - **\$50,000**
- 2012 – FDOT Mitigation (Filled Marsh) - **\$405,000**

# Problems with Progress – Economic Downturn and Policy Changes-

- SJRWMD and other State coastal restoration funds reduced
- Federal restoration grant programs require matching funds
- Federal programs focusing on large landscape-level efforts

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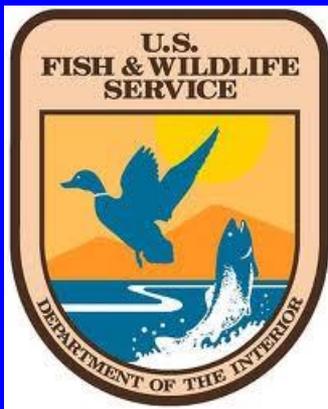
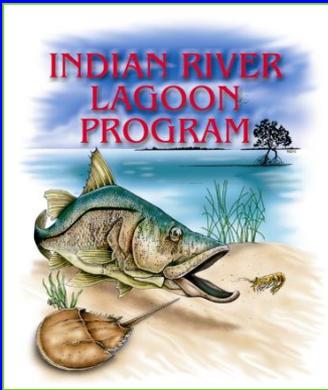
Discussions with Federal/State/District

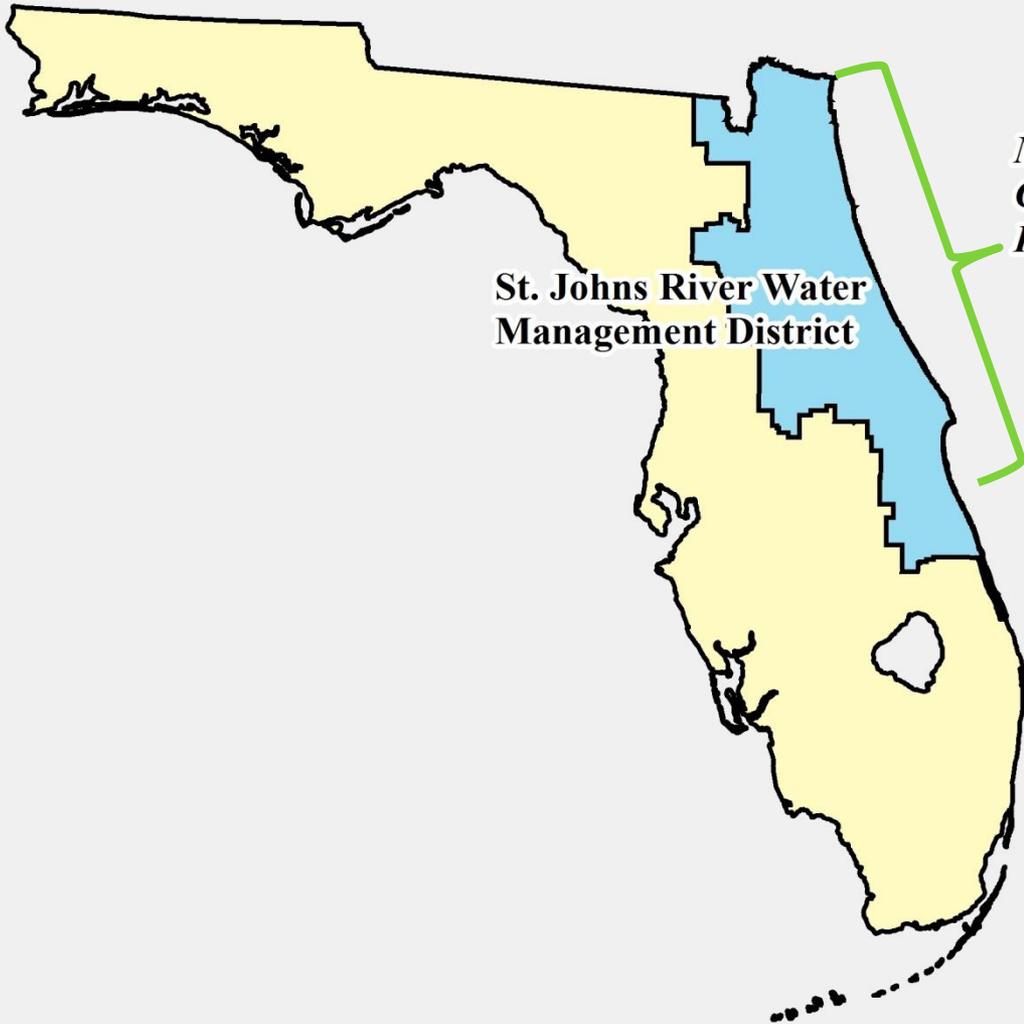
# Opportunities / Issues

- Majority of Coastal Wetland Habitat on Public Lands (Federal, State, Local)
- State Lands, Parks, Aquatic Preserves, Wildlife Management Areas / Refuges often have minimal mandate and less funding for restoration.
- Disturbed Habitats often not fully mapped or identified in Management Plans

# **Solution – Northeast Florida Estuary Restoration Initiative**

- Expanded Team
- Expanded Project Footprint
- Included a Larger Range of Habitats
- Secured Coastal Zone Management Grant
  - Florida Estuarine Habitat Restoration Planning Guide
  - Northeast Florida Estuarine Habitat Restoration Plan





**St. Johns River Water  
Management District**

*Northeast Florida  
Coastal Habitat  
Restoration Initiative*

# Many Habitat Restoration Needs

1. Filled Coastal Wetland Habitat
2. Ditched Coastal Wetland
3. Impounded Coastal Wetland
4. Degraded Oyster
5. Seagrass Habitats
6. Degraded Shorelines

# Northeast Florida Estuarine Habitat Restoration Initiative

**A Comprehensive vision to enhance and restore oyster, salt marsh, mangrove, and seagrass communities**



An interagency team is guiding efforts to assemble existing resource data and coastal restoration plans, and to hold workshops with land managers, researchers, and resource management professionals leading to development of a comprehensive restoration plan with regionally-based priorities. The team will strive to interact with and incorporate guiding management principles from as many programs with overlapping interests as possible, including Estuary Restoration Act, Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, State Wildlife Action Plan, South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Coastal Zone Management, and others. The three primary benefits expected from this collaborative process are as follows:

- 1) a document endorsed at the local, state, and federal level that would support requests for state and federal grant / program funding.
- 2) a guide to accomplish prioritized local and regional restoration goals
- 3) a regional monitoring and assessment strategy to develop, review, and refine restoration techniques

While this effort is focused on Northeast Florida, the process developed will have broader applications. The framework of the document includes: basic characteristics of Florida estuarine habitats, summaries of existing coastal habitat restoration efforts and techniques (see examples), a discussion of restoration and management issues, and a process for identification / prioritization of estuarine restoration projects that can be duplicated on a regional basis throughout the state. A formal set of guidelines or a "protocol" will be provided as an additional product of this work.

## Dredge-filled Salt Marsh Restoration



## Dragline Ditch Restoration



## Impoundment Restoration & Reconnection



## Restoration and Resource Monitoring



## Living Shorelines



## Oyster Restoration



## Education and Volunteer Monitoring/Planting Events



### Interagency Steering Committee

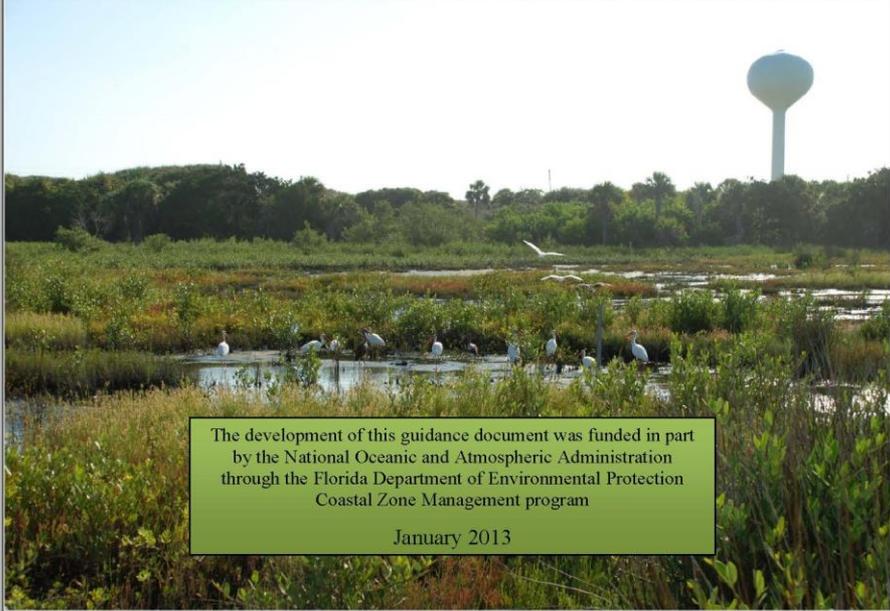
- Paul Haydt (phaydt@sjrwm.com), St. Johns River Water Mgmt. Dist., Palatka, FL
- Ron Brockmeyer, St. Johns River Water Mgmt. Dist., Palatka, FL
- Jeff Beal, Florida Fish and Wildlife Cons. Comm., Ft. Pierce, FL
- Kent Smith, Florida Fish and Wildlife Cons. Comm., Tallahassee, FL
- Larry Fooks, Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection, Apopka, FL
- Clifton Maxwell, Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection, Gainesville, FL
- Michael Shirley, GTM National Estuarine Research Reserve, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL
- Daphne Macfarlan, NOAA Restoration Center, St. Petersburg, FL
- Nicole Adimey, USFWS Coastal Program, Jacksonville, FL
- Anne Birch, The Nature Conservancy, Indianalantic, FL
- Paul Stodola, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville, FL
- Troy Rice, Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program, Palm Bay, FL
- Paul Zajicek, Florida Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Tallahassee, FL



# **NERT - Northeast Florida Estuary Restoration Team**

An interagency team to facilitate planning, partnering, funding and **implementing** of estuarine habitat restoration in Northeast Florida

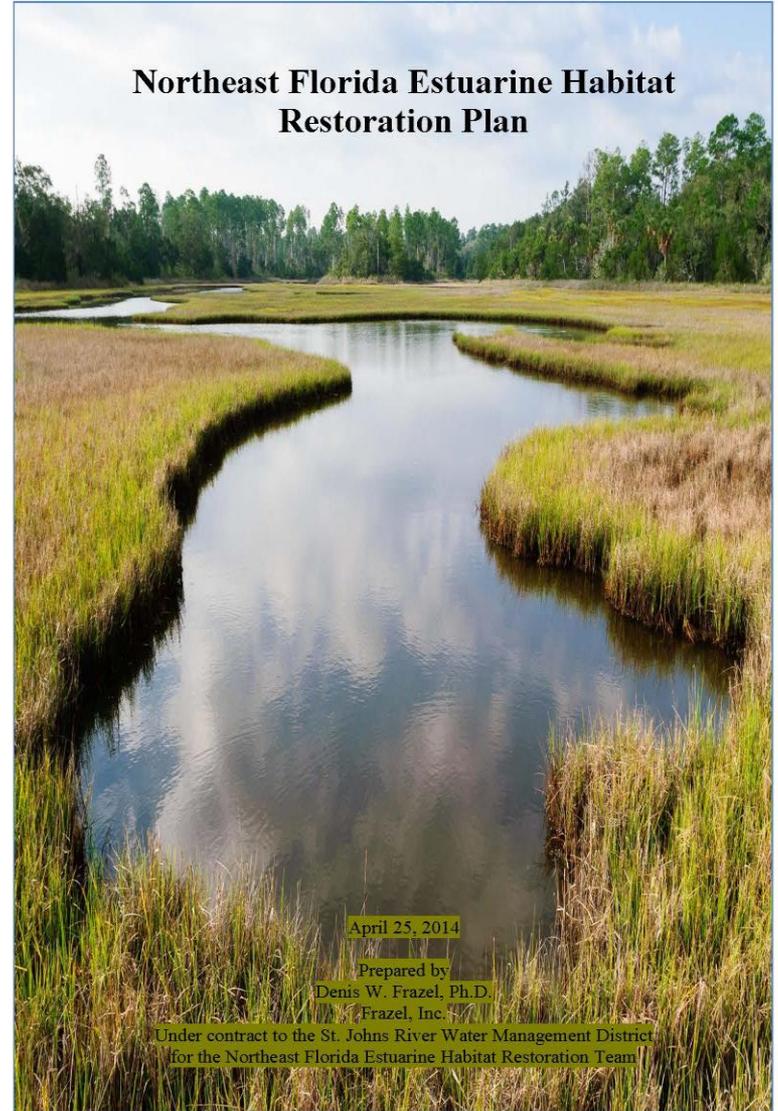
# Estuarine Habitat Restoration Planning Guide for Florida



The development of this guidance document was funded in part by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Coastal Zone Management program

January 2013

## Northeast Florida Estuarine Habitat Restoration Plan



April 25, 2014

Prepared by  
Denis W. Frazel, Ph.D.  
Frazel, Inc.

Under contract to the St. Johns River Water Management District  
for the Northeast Florida Estuarine Habitat Restoration Team

# **Northeast Florida Estuary Restoration Team: First Big Funding Success**

- **2013 – NOAA NE Florida Estuarine Habitat Restoration Initiative (8 project areas) - \$1,265,000 (Match/Leverage ~\$2,000,000)**
- **MORE TO COME!!!**

# NERT Steering Committee

- NOAA
- USFWS
- FDEP
- SJRWMD (2)
- FFWCC (2)
- The Nature Conservancy
- Regional Team Leads

# NERT Guidance

**Vision:** To create healthy, thriving estuarine habitats of sufficient quantity and quality throughout northeast Florida.

**Mission:** To facilitate and implement restoration and bring together partners to develop a regional landscape-level habitat initiative focused on the restoration and enhancement of estuarine and shoreline habitats including coastal marsh, mangroves, oyster communities and seagrass for estuaries extending from the St. Marys River to Sebastian Inlet on the east coast of Florida.

# Building a Partnered Program for Habitat Restoration

- Build Regional Data Sets, Identify Needs
- Build Partner Network with Local Projects
- Develop Restoration Best Management Practices & Streamline the Process
- Gain Regional, State, Federal Endorsement

# NERT – Current Efforts

- Regional Team Leads to develop / enhance local partnerships
- Develop habitat restoration projects with local partners to be included in NE FL Plan
- Utilize this same stakeholder input process to facilitate local support and awareness
- Encourage adoption of final restoration plan components into appropriate local resource management documents

**Thank You!**

**Questions???**