

Steering Committee (SC) Briefing Book

Lake Alice Watershed Management Plan



Steering Committee Agenda, 7/31/23 2:00-4:00 pm EST

Agenda Item	Action
Welcome and introductions	
Project overview and Q&A	For information, discussion, clarification
Project leadership and responsibilities	Concurrence
Facilitated engagement	
Engagement framework	For information
IAP2 Core Values and Code of Ethics	Concurrence
Level of engagement	For information
Draft engagement objectives	Review and refinement
Project tasks and facilitated engagements	For information
Engagement Planning Task Force	Project managers Appointed PT members Appoint 2-3 SC members
Engagement Planning Next Steps	
Post Meeting: Engagement Task Force Briefing (15 min)	

Aims: Build shared understanding of the project tasks and objectives, roles and responsibilities. Reach agreements on key engagement commitments and jointly building the engagement work plan. Generate commitment and excitement for moving forward.

Project Overview and Timeline

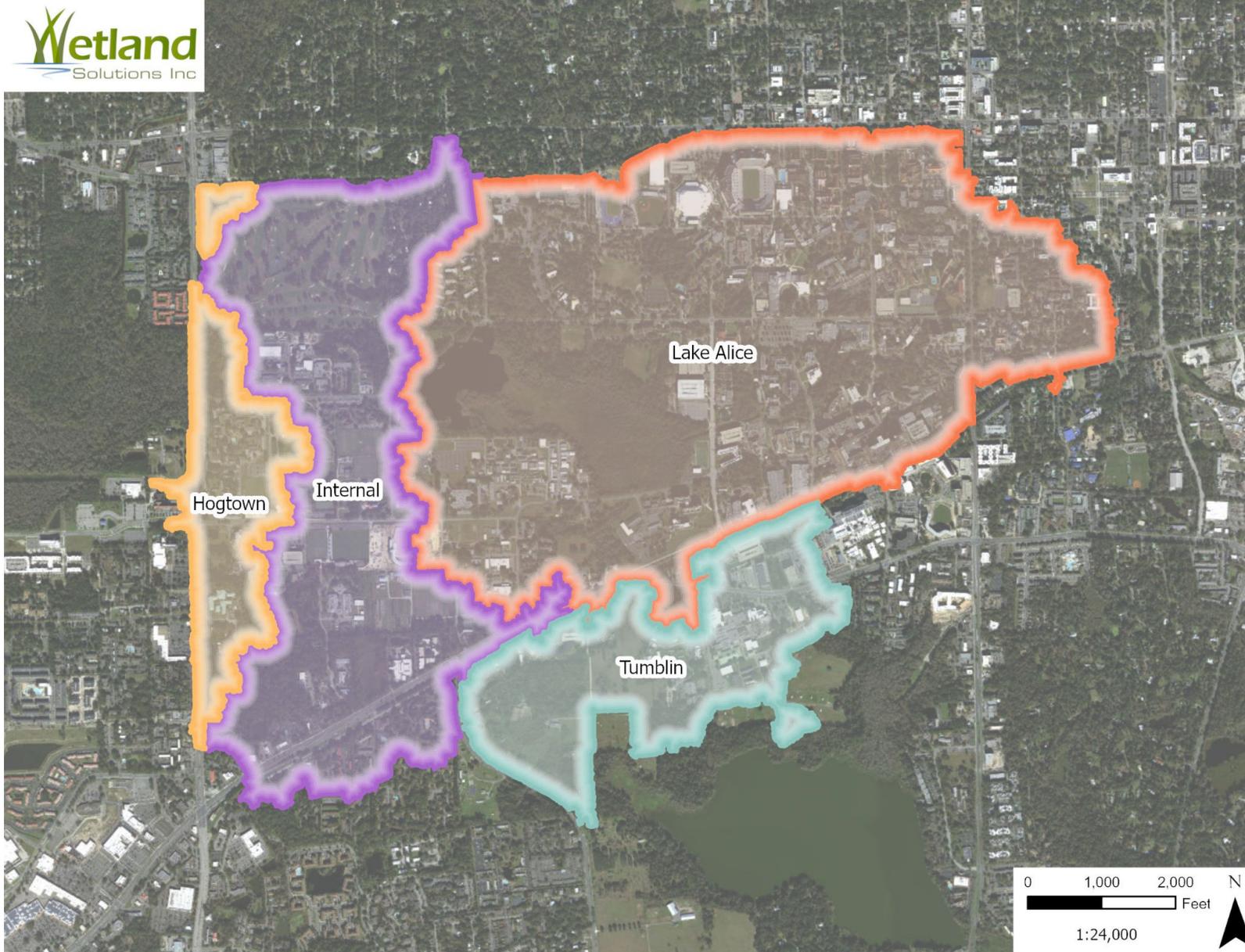
Project Overview

The Lake Alice Watershed is approximately 1,000 acres, primarily on the main UF campus. The watershed has significant topography and a great deal of impervious development -- that has occurred over more than 100 years. Absent a stormwater management framework, efforts have largely addressed immediate needs and problems.

This project will develop a comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (WMP) for Lake Alice including the lake, creeks, wetlands, and stormwater infrastructure. The WMP will provide a holistic, cohesive framework for campus stormwater management that addresses current construction, operation, and maintenance needs and provides recommendations for future stormwater management as development on campus continues.



University of Florida Watersheds



- The main UF Campus has four watersheds: Lake Alice, Tumblin, Hogtown, and multiple internally-draining basins
- Drainage wells are used to drain Lake Alice into the Upper Floridan Aquifer
- Treated wastewater is used for campus irrigation, with excess treated water discharged to one of the drainage wells

Major Project Elements

Facilitated Engagement (now-summer 2024)

- Technical exchange workshops, late Aug-mid-Sept
- Round 1 input on vision, Sept-Oct
- Round 2 feedback on prioritization criteria for corrective interventions, Oct-Nov
- Round 3 feedback on draft WMP, Apr-May 2024

Long-Term Watershed Vision (early fall)

- Prepare background information
- Round 1: Gather input on the watershed vision, compile and analyze results, and report out

Data Inventory (now-fall)

- Gathers available data (including from experts via Technical Exchange Workshops)
- Data analysis and write-up for WMP

Stormwater Modeling (now-fall)

- Inventory stormwater and update model
- Evaluation chokepoints, erosion, sedimentation
- Model future conditions
- Write up modeling for WMP

Corrective Intervention Recommendations (late summer-early winter)

- Prepare ranking of identified flooding and erosion areas
- Conduct targeted site visits; develop concept costing
- Draft prioritization criteria and gather feedback from and SC and community stakeholders; use results to prepare technical memorandum

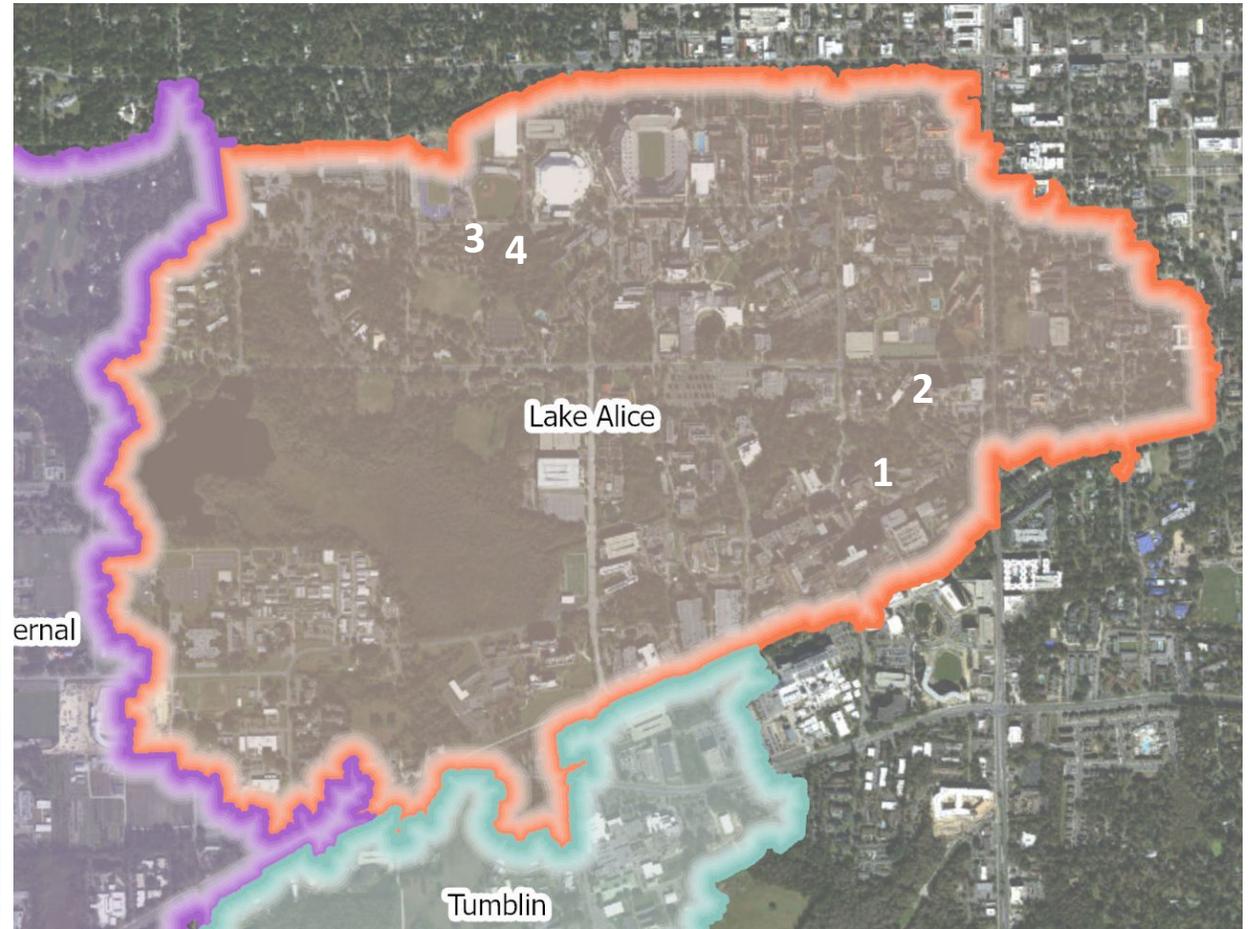
Watershed Management Plan (now-summer 2024)

- Write data and literature review
- Write stormwater modeling report
- Draft WMP
- Round 3: Gather broad feedback and use results to shape final WMP

Special Note: Critical Technical Projects

PT directed consultant team to proceed with critical, urgent technical projects

1. Diamond Creek Erosion
2. Jennings Creek Headwall Separation
3. Keys Complex Erosion
4. Graham Woods Erosion



Project Timeline



Develop engagement work plan; reach out, facilitate engagements

Draft long-term watershed vision

Data Inventory

Stormwater Modeling

Corrective Interventions Recommendations

Develop Watershed Management Plan

Implement, evaluate, refine WMP

Current UF Lake Alice Policies

Allowable Uses (some may require approval)

- Passive recreational use *on the land*
- Pets permitted on land if leashed/under control
- Research and data collection
- Vegetation management
- Stormwater maintenance



Restrictions

- No swimming or wading
- No camping
- No hunting or fishing
- No boating
- No feeding alligators
- No harassing wildlife
- No damage or collection of vegetation
- No littering

Project Leadership and Responsibilities

Project Team (PT) and Consultant Team (CT) Responsibilities

PT (UF Administration)

Linda Dixon, PM, Planning, Design, and Construction

Rachel Mandell, Planning, Design, and Construction

Mark Helms, Facilities Services

Chuck Kammin, Facilities Services

Matt Williams, Office of Sustainability

Kaylee August, Office of Sustainability

Angelique Hennon, Business Affairs Technical Services

PT Responsibilities

1. On behalf of the University, serve as the project decision makers
2. Manage the Lake Alice Watershed Project
3. Provide guidance and support to gather input and feedback from the Steering Committee (SC) and community stakeholders

Consultant Team (CT)

Project manager: Scott Knight, Wetland Solutions

Technical team: Wetland Solutions (prime); Jones Edmunds (stormwater); GSE (geotechnical); and DRMP (survey)

Facilitation and public engagement: Rooted in Process (facilitation lead); Blackhawk Facilitation; Carroll, Franck & Assoc.

CT responsibilities, at the direction of the PT

1. Apply professional expertise to complete the technical elements and develop recommendations in collaboration with the PT and SC
2. Jointly develop an equity-centered stakeholder engagement design and work plan; gather perspectives from all stakeholders and provide results to help shape decisions
3. Support the PT and SC to be fully informed and work collaboratively

Steering Committee (SC) Responsibilities

Members (all UF unless otherwise noted)

Eban Bean: Ag. and Biological Engineering

Mark Brenner: Geological Sciences

Chuck Cichra: Forest, Fisheries, & Geomatic Sci.

*Mark Clark: Soil, Water, & Ecosystem Sciences

Matt Cohen: Forest, Fisheries & Geomatic Sci.

Dave Conser: City of Gainesville - Urban Forestry

Lillian Crawford: Landscape Architecture

Marty Dempsey: Rec. Sports, Student Life

Stefan Gerber: Soil, Water, & Ecosystem Sci.

Stacie Greco: Alachua Co. Env. Protection Dept.

John Guerra: Env. Health and Safety

*Mark Hostetler: Wildlife Ecology & Conserv.

Jared Howard: Facility Services - Utility Water

Mark Hoyer: Florida LakeWatch

Alan Ivory: Wildlife Ecology & Conserv.

Yi Luo: Landscape Architecture

Jeanna Mastrodicasa: Institute of Food & Agricultural Sciences

Nia Morales: Wildlife Ecology & Conservation

*Mark Newman: Eng. School of Sustainable Infrastructure

*Steve Noll: History

AJ Reisinger: Soil, Water, & Ecosystem Sci.

John Sansalone: Eng. School of Sustainable Infrastructure

Tom Schlick: Facility Services - Grounds

Bill Smith: University Athletic Association

*Taylor Stein: Forest, Fisheries & Geomatic Sci.

Amanda Subalusky: Biology

Kim Tanzer: Faculty Emeritus, Architecture

*Matt Whiles: Soil, Water, & Ecosystem Sci.

*Missy Williams: Facility Services

Responsibilities

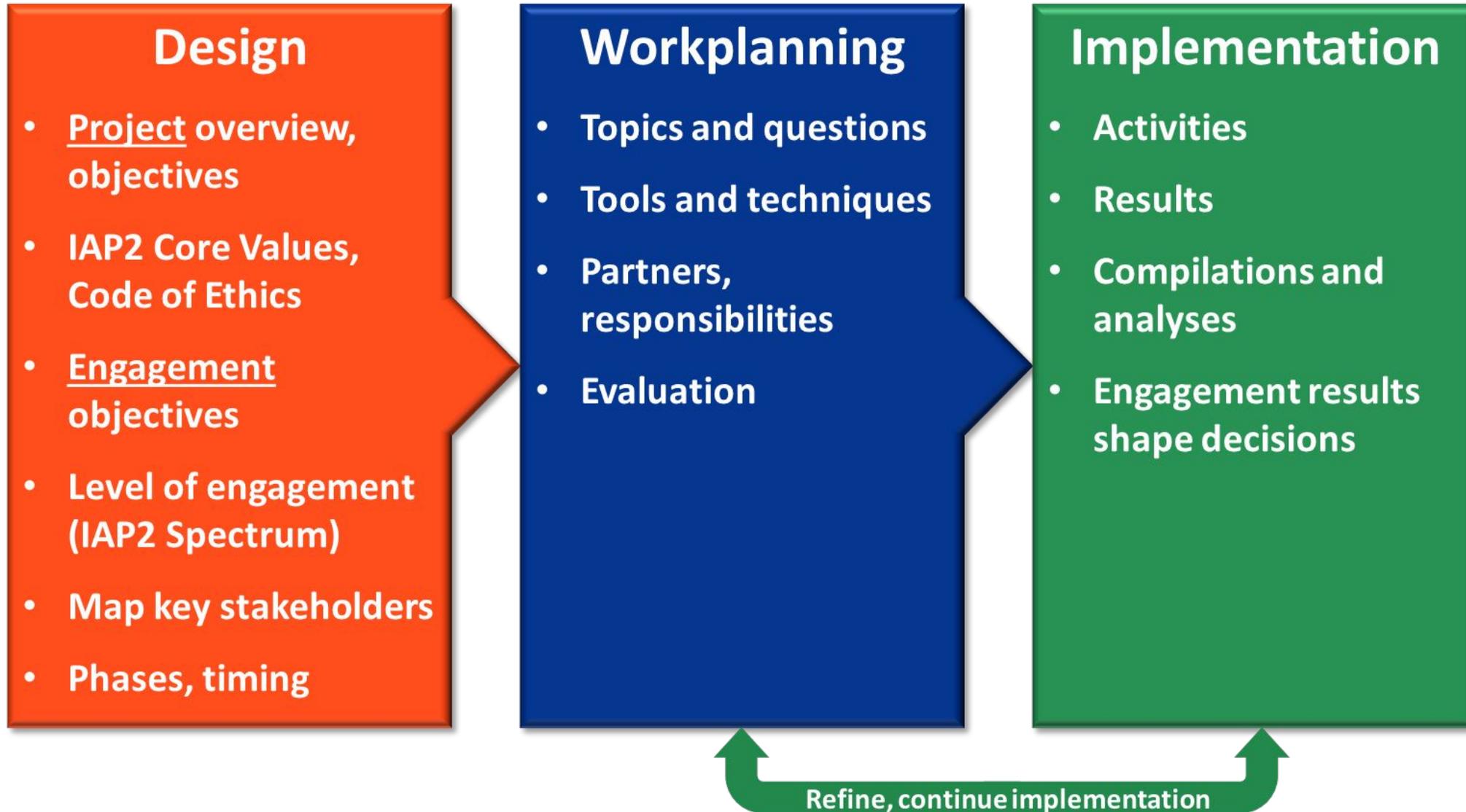
1. Use your technical, scientific, institutional, historical, and community knowledge and expertise to provide input and feedback to the PT throughout the project
2. Help design and implement process to gather input and feedback from community stakeholders

Those names with asterisk were not in attendance at the first Steering Committee meeting.



Facilitated Engagement

Engagement Framework (for information)



3 Pillars for Effective Public Participation

As an international leader in public participation (P2), IAP2 developed three pillars for effective P2 processes. Developed with broad international input, these pillars cross national, cultural and religious boundaries, and they form the foundation of P2 processes that reflect the interests and concerns of all stakeholders.



IAP2 Core Values



IAP2 Code of Ethics



IAP2 Spectrum of
Public Participation

IAP2 Core Values (adopted by PT; for SC concurrence)

The Project Team, Steering Committee, and consulting team are committed to reflecting the following Core Values in our engagement for this project:

Community engagement...

1. Is based on the belief that those who are affected by a decision have a right to be involved in the decision-making process.
2. Includes the promise that the stakeholder contributions will guide the decision.
3. Promotes sustainable decisions by recognizing and communicating the needs and interests of all participants, including decision makers.
4. Seeks out and facilitates the involvement of those potentially affected by or interested in a decision.
5. Seeks input from participants in designing how they participate.
6. Provides participants with the information they need to participate in this project in a meaningful way.
7. Communicates to participants how their input affected the decision.

Source: Adapted from the International Association for Public Participation, www.iap2.org

IAP2 Code of Ethics (adopted by PT; for SC concurrence)

The IAP2 Code of Ethics is a set of principles that guide us in work of equity-centered engagement. For this project, the Project Team, Steering Committee, and consulting team hold ourselves accountable for these principles and strive to hold all participants to the same standards.

1. **Purpose.** We support public participation as a process to make better decisions that incorporate the interests and concerns of all affected stakeholders and meet the needs of the decision-making body.
2. **Role of Practitioner.** We will enhance the public's participation in the decision-making process and assist decision-makers in being responsive to the public's concerns and suggestions.
3. **Trust.** We will undertake and encourage actions that build trust and credibility for the process among all the participants.
4. **Defining the Public's Role.** We will carefully consider and accurately portray the public's role in the decision-making process.
5. **Openness.** We will encourage the disclosure of all information relevant to the public's understanding and evaluation of a decision.
6. **Access to the Process.** We will ensure that stakeholders have fair and equal [equitable] access to the public participation process and the opportunity to influence decisions.
7. **Respect for Communities.** We will avoid strategies that risk polarizing community interests or that appear to "divide and conquer."
8. **Advocacy.** We will advocate for the public participation process and will not advocate for interest, party, or project outcome.
9. **Commitments.** We ensure that all commitments made to the public, including those by the decision-maker, are made in good faith.
10. **Support of the Practice.** We will mentor new practitioners in the field and educate decision-makers and the public about the value and use of public participation.

Level of engagement adopted by PT: Involvement



Involve because we *will* be gathering input early in the process, then feedback later.

Engagement goal: To work directly with stakeholders throughout the process to ensure that their concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.

Engagement promise: We will work with stakeholders to ensure their concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed, and provide feedback on how stakeholder input influenced decisions.

Source: Adapted from the International Association for Public Participation, www.iap2.org

Draft engagement objectives (accepted by PT; for SC review, refinement)

Share information

1. Provide participants with understandable and relevant technical information, definitions, and timelines.
2. Provide participants with background information related to the lake and this project, including University policy and related regulatory information.
3. Clearly convey the University's commitment to jointly developing a feasible plan and implementation timeline, and advancing improvements.

Collect input and feedback

4. Gather meaningful stakeholder input and insights on critical priorities that are central to the project.
5. Gather substantive stakeholder feedback on key alternatives and options.

Educate and coordinate

6. Build community understanding of the issues and needs, and support for short- and long-term watershed opportunities and solutions.
7. Coordinate project engagement and learning efforts with related UF and community projects.

SC action: Directed new Engagement Task Force to finalize these, including making language about participants and stakeholders more clear/consistent

Project Tasks and Facilitated Engagements

1. Draft long-term watershed vision

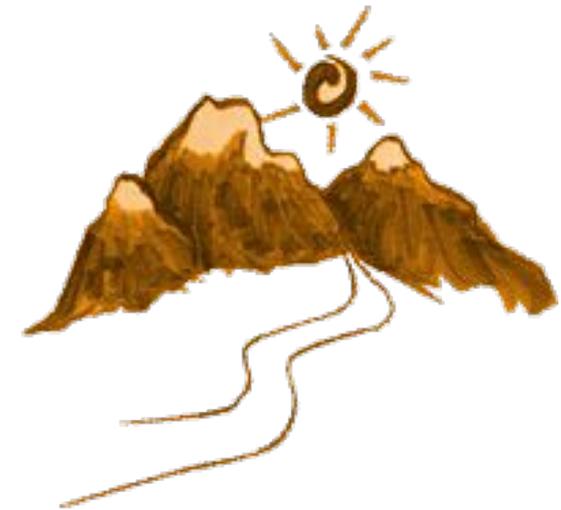
Task: Draft a long-term vision for the watershed -- what it looks like, what it's used for, and how it is managed. This is based on technical, regulatory, and policy information; informed by stakeholder perspectives; and provides clear guidance for developing the watershed management plan.

Process and timing

1. **Aug-Sept 2023:** Consulting team prepares background information and engagement details per the agreed-upon engagement work plan
2. **Sept-Oct 2023:** Round 1 input -- Consulting team gathers input on the watershed vision from PT, SC, and community stakeholders; compiles and analyzes results; and reports out

Deliverables

1. Engagement materials
2. Outreach and engagement activities
3. Engagement results: Data, compilation, analysis / report
4. Watershed vision statement



2. Data inventory

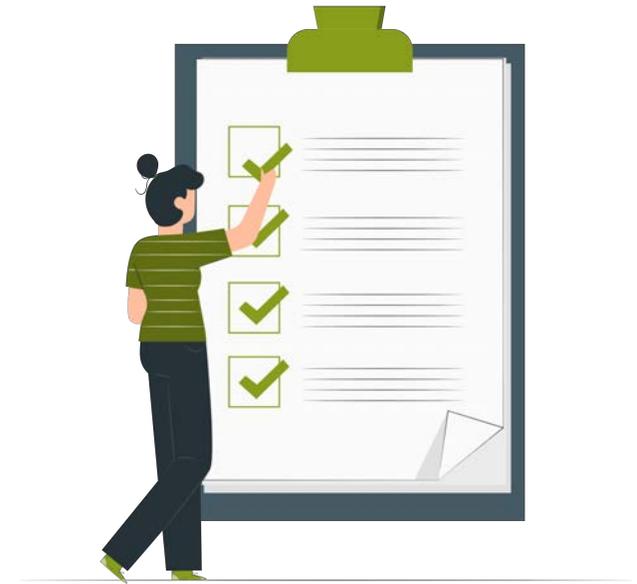
Task: Collect available data for the watershed including geographic data (topography, soils, land use) and physical data (water quality, water quantity, soils, vegetation, wildlife). Review of Lake Alice and the watershed, as well as UF planning documents, environmental permits, and news articles. Compile and evaluate data, reports, and articles to document management decisions, current condition, impairments, and changes in the watershed that should be considered in developing the WMP.

Process and timing

1. **May-Oct 2023:** Consulting team gathers available data, including requesting data from PT and SC
2. **Aug 2023 - April 2024:** Data analysis

Deliverables

1. Presentation of data inventory and findings to PT and SC
2. Data write-up included in Watershed Management Plan



3. Stormwater modeling

Task: Stormwater modeling includes updating and refining the existing model for the Lake Alice Watershed based on new development and further basin subdivision. Stormwater simulation will identify areas with insufficient capacity, flooding, erosive velocities, and sedimentation. The results will be used to identify and **prioritize areas for corrective interventions.**

Process and timing

1. **May-Aug 2023:** Stormwater inventory
2. **July-Aug 2023:** Model updates
3. **Aug-Sept 2023:** Chokepoint, erosion, and sedimentation evaluation
4. **Sept-Nov 2023:** Future conditions modeling

Deliverables

1. Presentation of stormwater updates and results to PT and SC
2. Modeling write-up included in Watershed Management Plan

4. Corrective intervention recommendations

Task: Identify the three highest-priority flooding areas and three highest-priority erosion areas in the Lake Alice Watershed. Develop and gather feedback on criteria to prioritize recommendations. Develop project concepts for prioritized flooding and erosion projects. Prepare cost estimates for developed project concepts. Summarize all findings in a technical memorandum.

Process and timing

1. **Sept 2023:** Consulting team prepares ranking of identified flooding and erosion areas
2. **Sept-Nov 2023:** PT and SC jointly discuss and provide feedback to consulting team
3. **Sept-Dec 2023:** Consulting team conducts targeted site visits
4. **Oct-Nov 2023:** Consulting team develops concept costing
5. **Oct-Nov 2023:** Round 2 -- Consulting team drafts prioritization criteria and gathers feedback from and SC and community stakeholders; use results to prepare technical memorandum

Deliverables

1. Project concepts and cost estimates for correction of identified flooding and erosion issues
2. Round 2 feedback results on prioritization criteria
3. Technical memorandum with three highest-priority flooding and three highest-priority erosion issues

5. Prepare Final Watershed Management Plan

Task: Synthesize all project findings into a comprehensive WMP for Lake Alice. Develop recommendations and strategies for addressing identified issues on campus that align with identified priorities and the vision for the Lake Alice Watershed.

Process and timing

1. **Aug-Dec 2023:** Consulting team writes data and literature review
2. **Aug-Dec 2023:** Consulting team writes stormwater modeling report
3. **Oct 2023-Apr 2024:** Consulting team drafts WMP
4. **Apr-May 2024:** Round 3 -- Consulting team prepares engagement materials and gathers broad feedback from SC and community stakeholders, and uses results to shape final WMP

Deliverables

1. Draft WMP
2. Round 3 feedback results on draft WMP
3. Based on feedback, final WMP

Engagement Rounds



Summarized Feedback from SC 7/31/23 Meeting

- How can this become a tool to generate funding opportunities?
- How do we use this plan to engage the funding decision makers?
- How does this plan follow the UF planning process?
- How will information and process be shared with community and committee moving forward?
- How will regulatory aspects play a role in this project?
- How will we management expectations and competing interests?
- How will downstream features such as springs be considered in this plan?
- Who manages Lake Alice?
- Who will be the point person to get information from?
- Will monitoring and data gathering be part of the plan?
- Will campus be subject to waterway acts?
- What about extending the model into looking at fate and transport within Lake Alice?
- What about water chemical erosion and water quality affect?
- Make the long-term vision centralized to the lake vs. the watershed
- Clarify how stakeholders involved and how much weight each stakeholder's responses would be given
- Consider mental health as an important element of Lake Alice
- Determine how this plan overlaps with the goals of the Conservation Area Land Management Plan
- Explore fate and transport of chemicals and nutrients in the system
- Explore the option for load credits for management and maintenance practices as a way to manage
- Focus on water quality to allow more funding opportunities
- Include public health as a potential safety concern associated Lake Alice
- Make plan resilient to legislation and not thrown off by new legislation
- Nutrients and water quality should be a central focus for this project
- Reinforce importance that Lake Alice is the focus of the project vs. the watershed

Engagement Work Planning

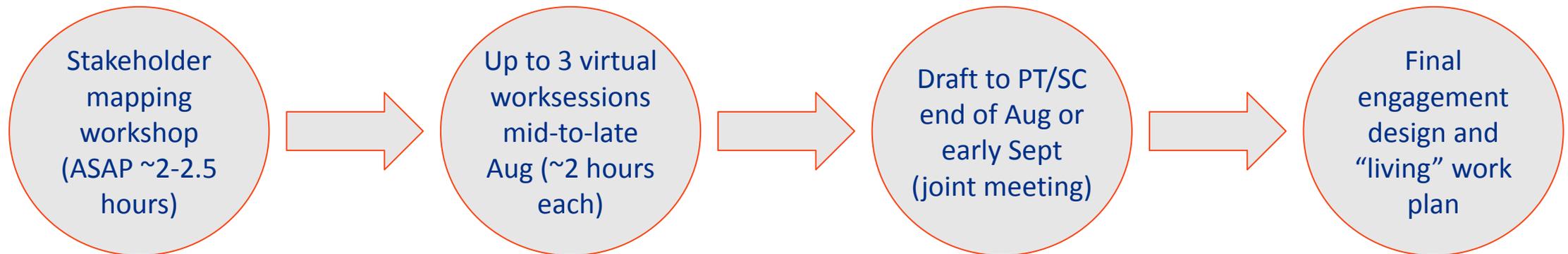
Engagement Planning Task Force for SC action

Composition

- PT appointed the project managers (Linda Dixon, Scott Knight) and consulting team engagement leads (Jess Stempien, Anne Carroll)
- PT appointed 2 PT members (Chuck Kammin, Kaylee August)

Responsibilities

- Work with engagement leads to finish engagement design and prepare work plan
- Bring draft work plan to joint PT/SC for review, revision, and approval
- Time commitment: Maximum of 3 virtual worksessions plus stakeholder mapping workshop; Task Force will disband after the work plan is completed



SC action: Appointed SC members John Guerra, Lilian Crawford, Jeanna Mastrodicasa

Engagement planning next steps

1. **Today:** Engagement Task Force *briefly* convenes to decide who to invite to stakeholder mapping workshop, and when to hold that meeting
2. **This week:** Consulting team prepares and sends information and invitation to stakeholder mapping workshop (**date/time TBD, week of August 14th**)
3. **This week:** Consulting team coordinates with members to schedule Task Force worksessions (**Weeks of August 14th and 21st**)
4. **This week:** Consulting team sends out invite for joint SC/PT worksession for **September 7th from 2 - 4 PM via Zoom** to finalize and approve engagement design and “living” work plan
5. **Week of September 11:** Round 1 launches, gathering input on the watershed vision