

Working together in navigating uncertainties: A utility perspective

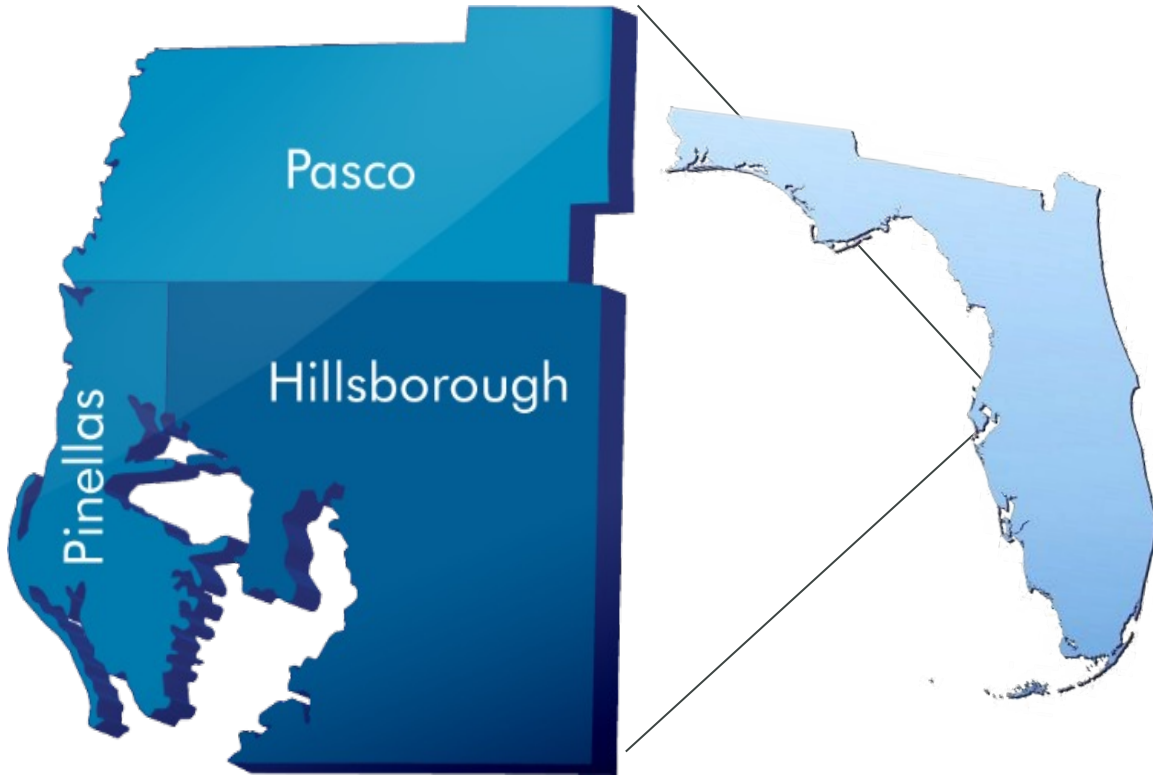
October 19, 2023

Tirusew Asefa, Ph.D., P.E, D.WRE, F.ASCE
Tampa Bay Water

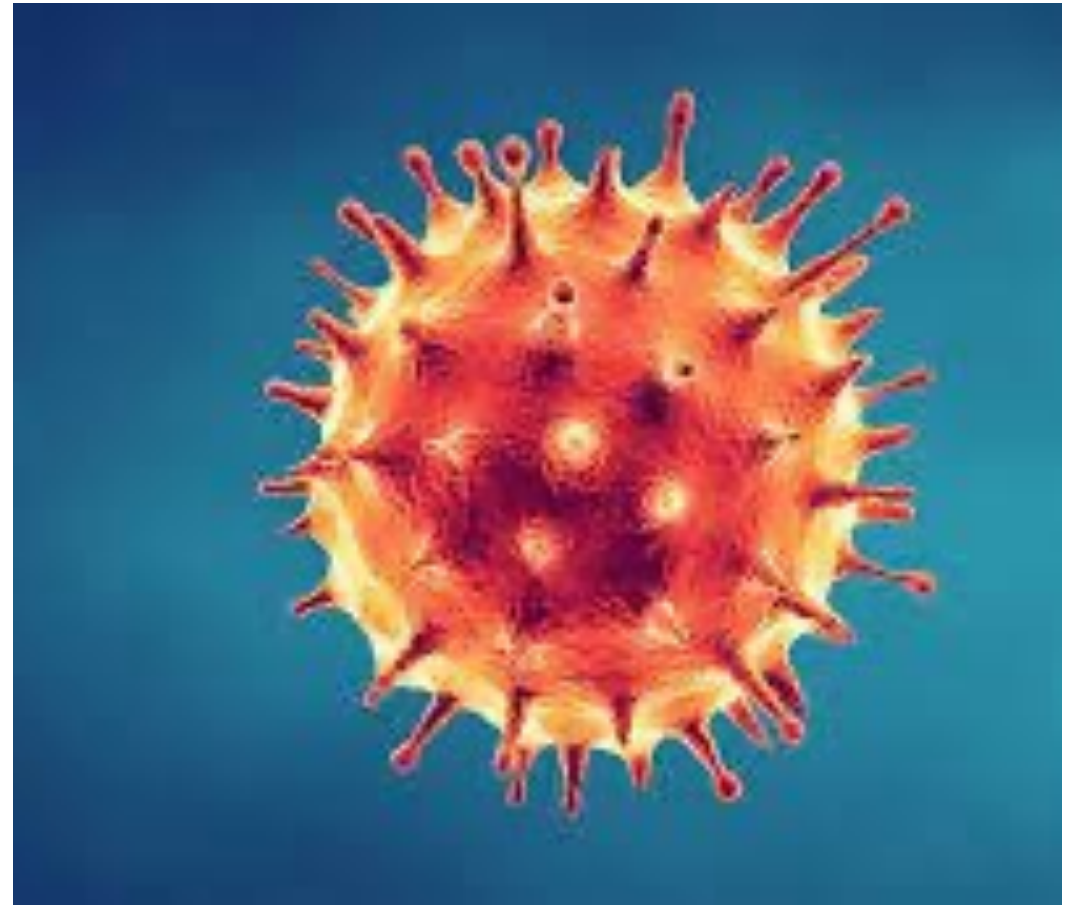
Chair, Florida Water and Climate Alliance



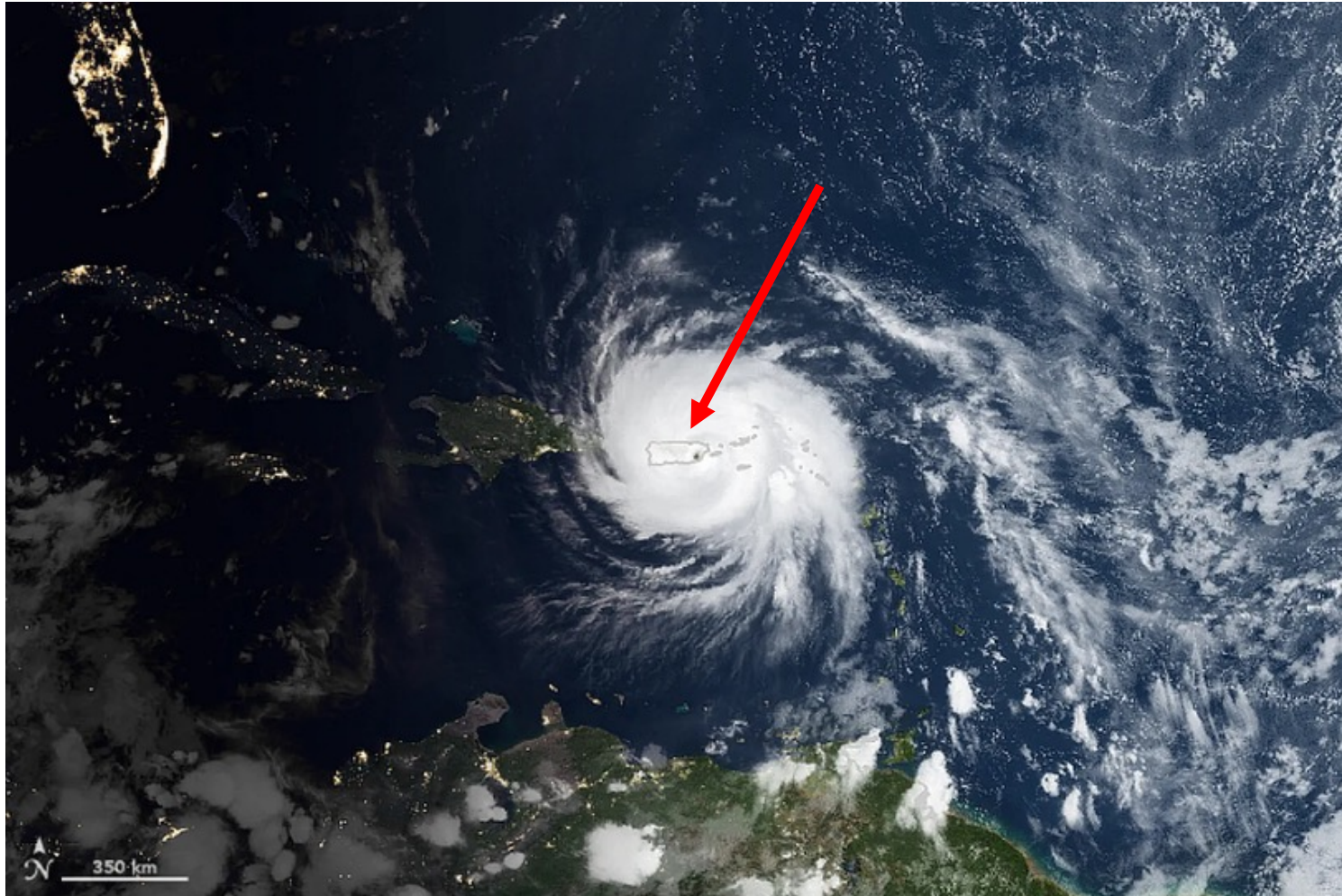
What are the challenges and drivers?



What are the challenges and drivers?



What are the challenges and drivers?



Recession in 2017?

Peter Hans Former Contributor ©
I examine market trends through the lens of bulls and bears.

Dec 27, 2016, 11:04am EST

This article is more than 6 years old.

f For much of this year, economists have speculated a recession is around the corner, but with almost full-employment, wages rising and talk of infrastructure spending by the incoming administration, it's looking harder to find conviction that one is imminent.



A homeless man sleeps on Wall Street near the New York Stock Exchange, Wednesday, Dec. 21, 2016. (AP, [+])

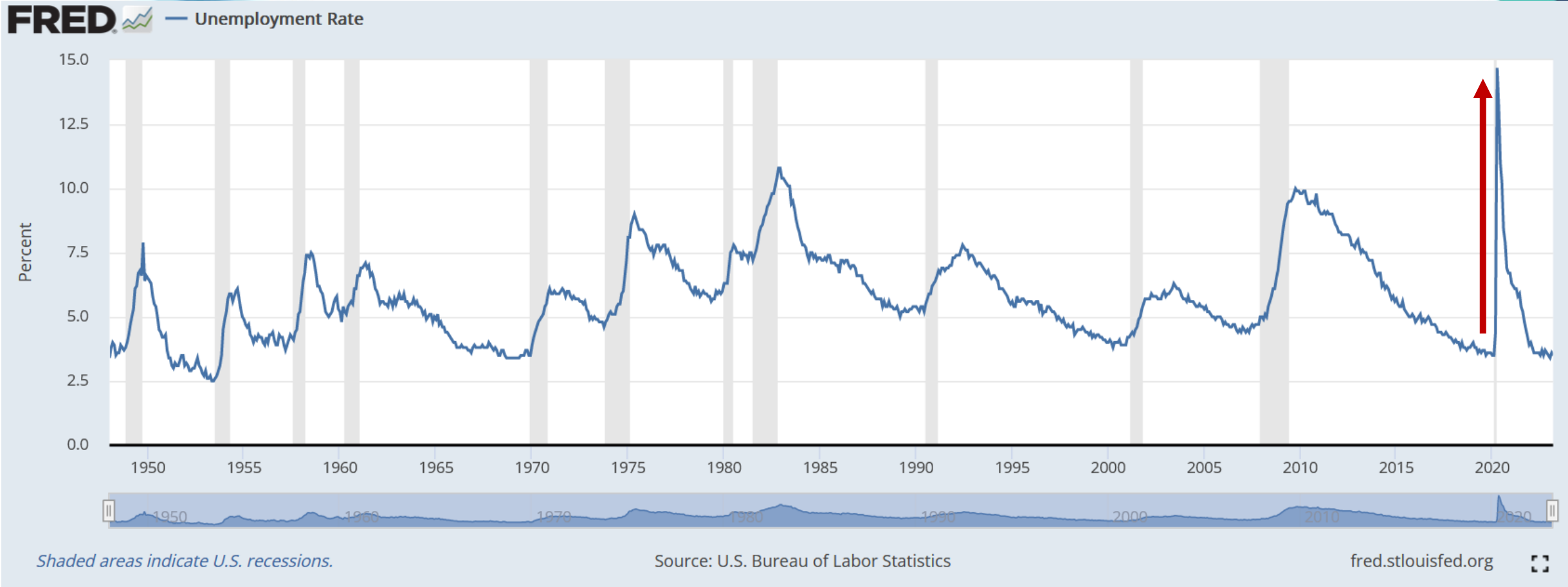
Bankrate

SMART MO
Is a r
econ

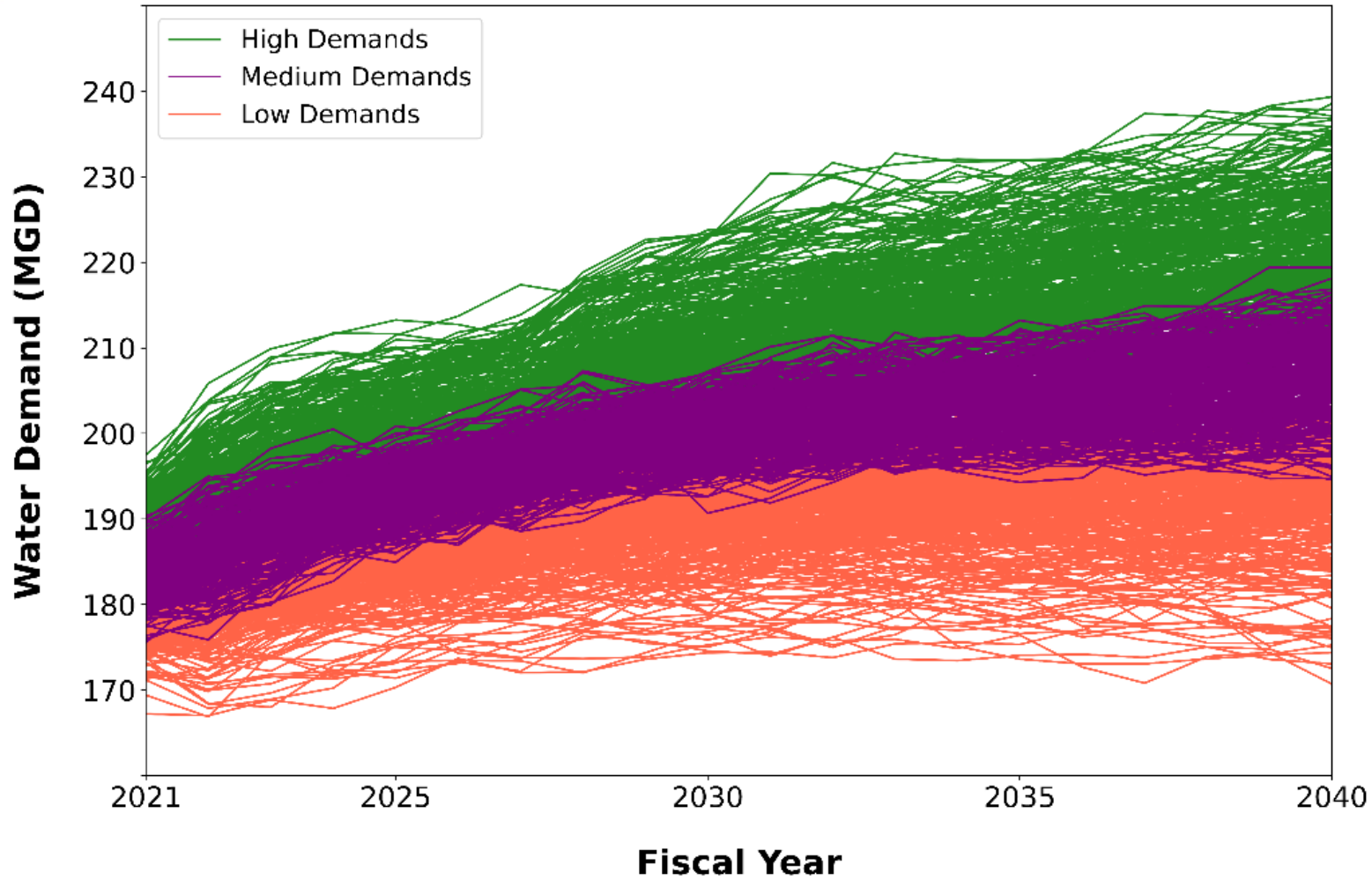
A Recession Is Coming (Eventually). Here's Where You'll See It First.

Economists don't know when the decade-long expansion, now the longest in American history, will end. But here are the indicators they will be watching to figure it out.

Recession as indicator for water use (e.g., 2008)

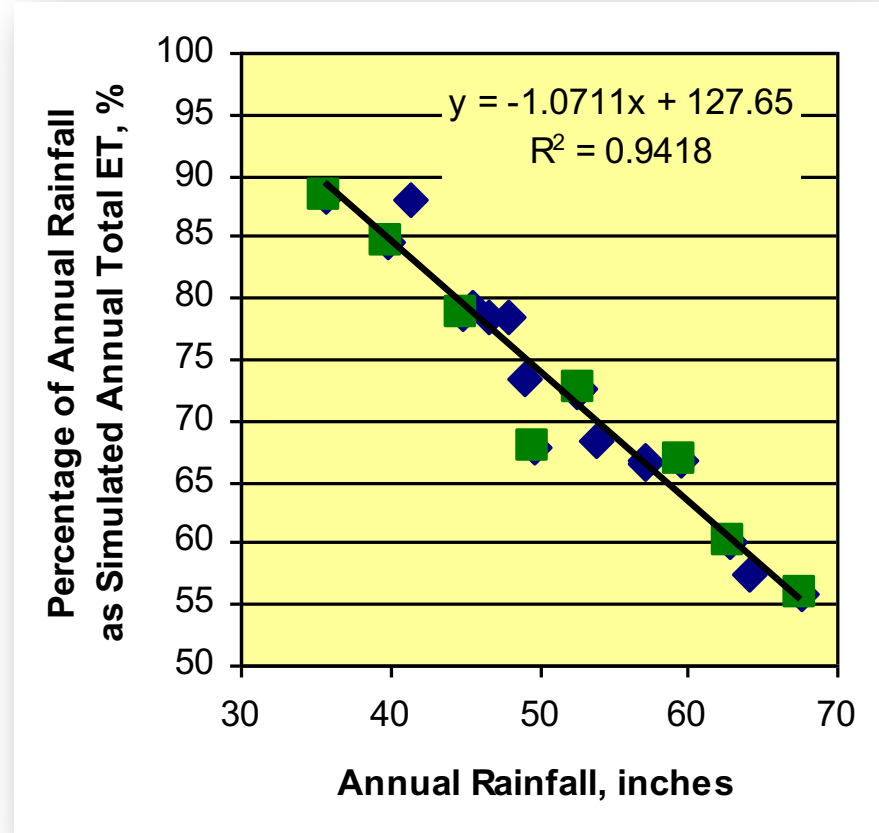
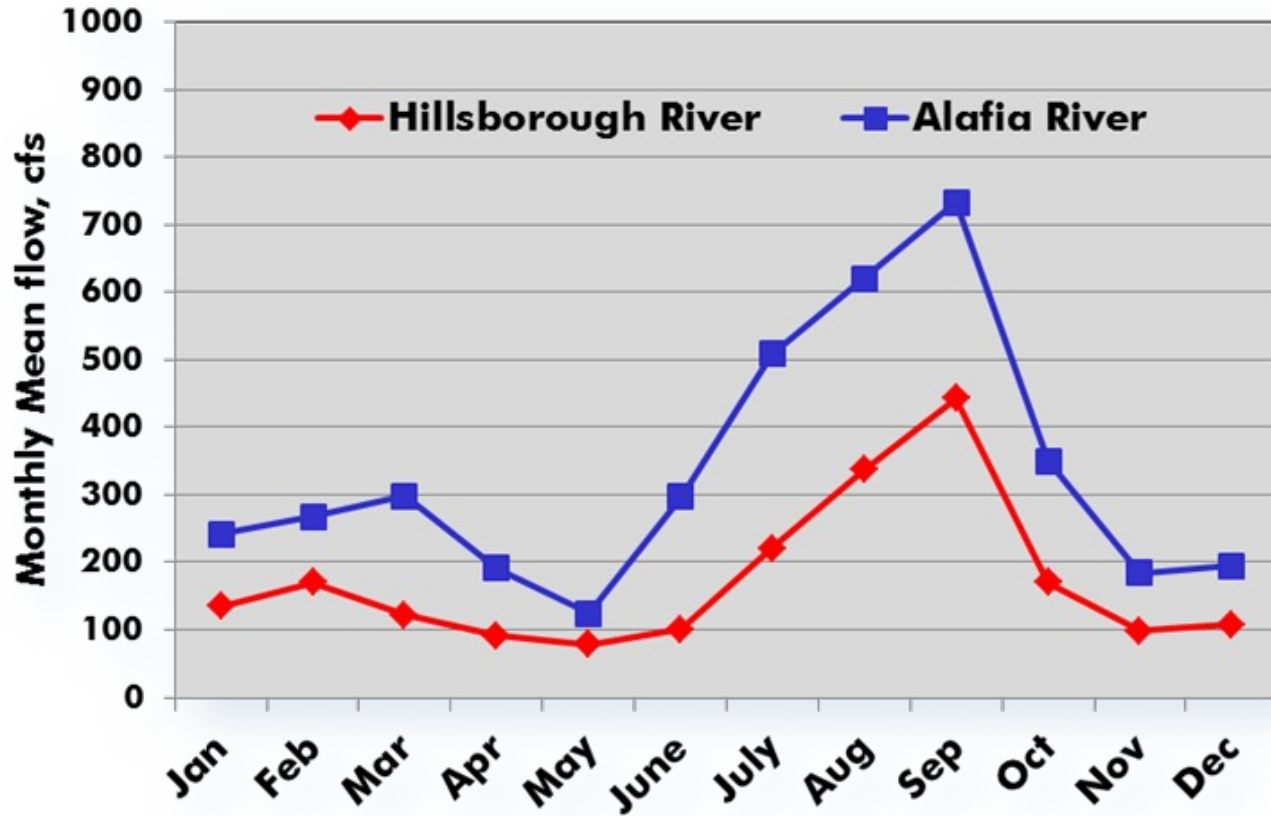


Regional demand including climate variability



Supply side uncertainty

What are the challenges and drivers?

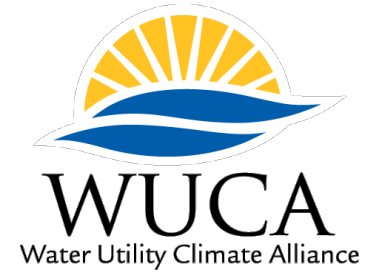


What did we do?

- Initiated a collaborative research with University of Florida's water institute... circa 2007/2008
- Initial effort to do the Climate modeling "in house" was not satisfactory
- Formed Florida Water and Climate Alliance (www.FloridaWCA.org) and brought expertise across the spectrum

and....Just before that

Joined the Water Utility Climate Alliance



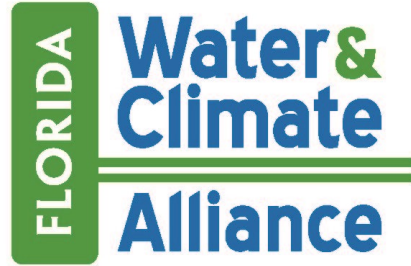
Vision:

Climate-resilient water utilities, thriving communities

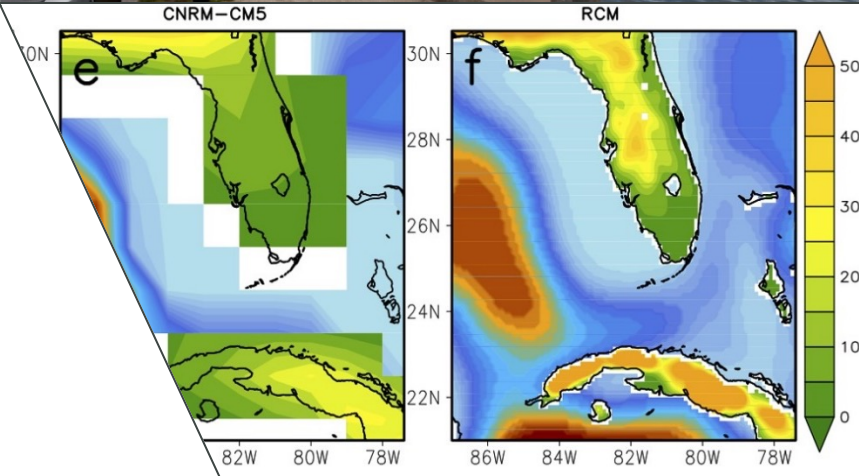
Mission:

Collaboratively advance water utility climate change adaptation





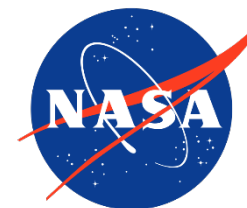
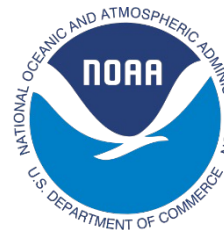
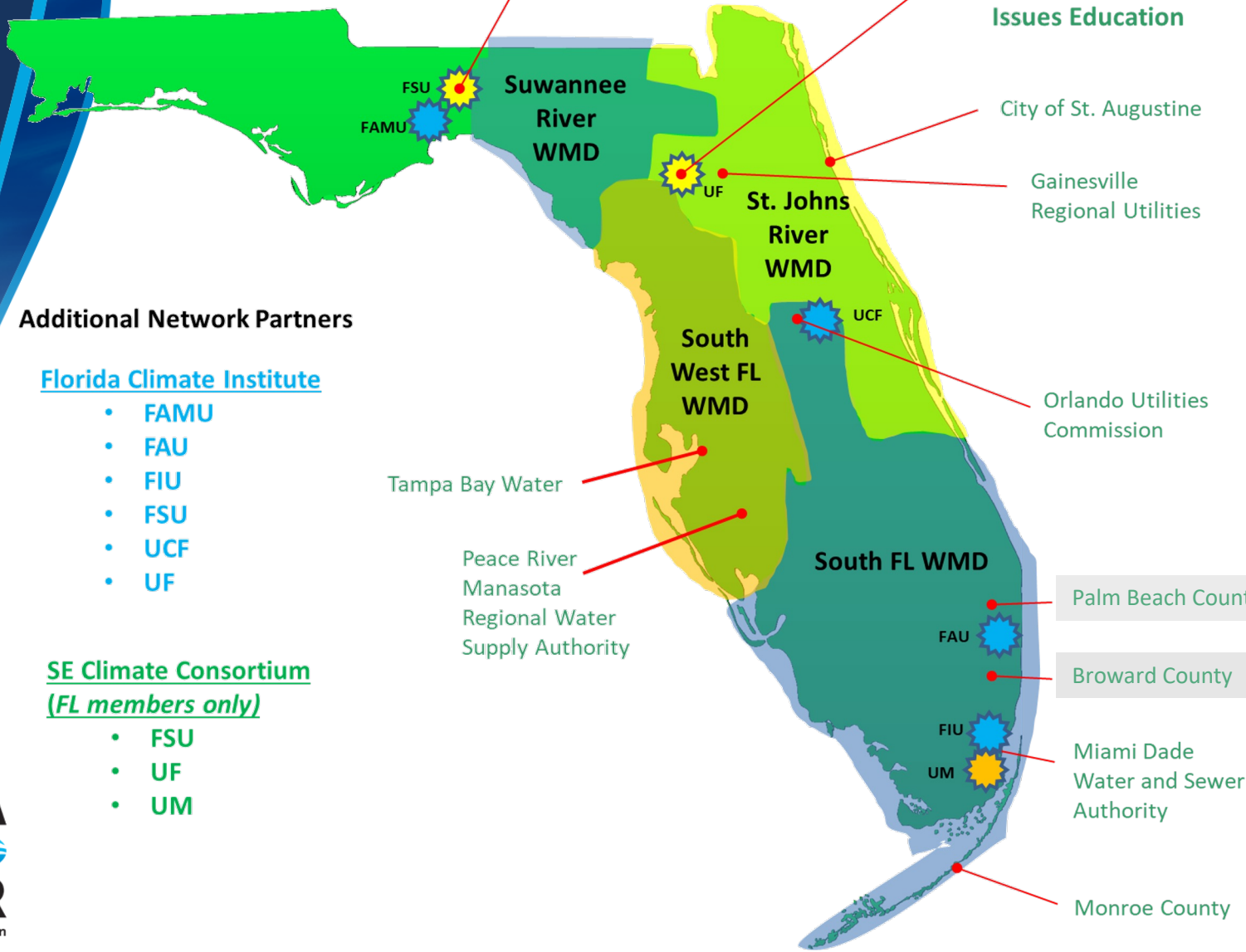
A stakeholder-scientist partnership committed to the co-development of locally relevant and actionable climate science to support informed decision-making in water resource management, planning and supply operations in Florida



Florida State University Center for Ocean-Atmospheric Prediction Studies

University of Florida
 • Water Institute
 • IFAS Center for Public Issues Education

Members and Supporters of the Florida Water & Climate Alliance





**Tirusew Asefa Ph.D., P.E., D.WRE
(Committee Chair)**
Tampa Bay Water
Manager, Planning & System
Decision Support
tasefa@tampabaywater.org



Tom Frick
St. Johns River Water
Management District
Chief Resilience Officer
tfrick@sjrwmd.com



Tracy Irani, Ph.D.
University of Florida
Department Chair, Family, Youth &
Community Sciences
irani@ufl.edu



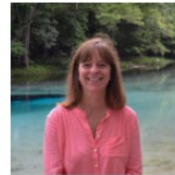
**Ana Carolina Coelho Maran,
Ph.D., P.E.**
South Florida Water Management
District
Chief of District Resiliency
cmaran@sfwmd.gov



Vasu Misra, Ph.D.
Florida State University
Professor, Meteorology (COAPS)
vmisra@fsu.edu

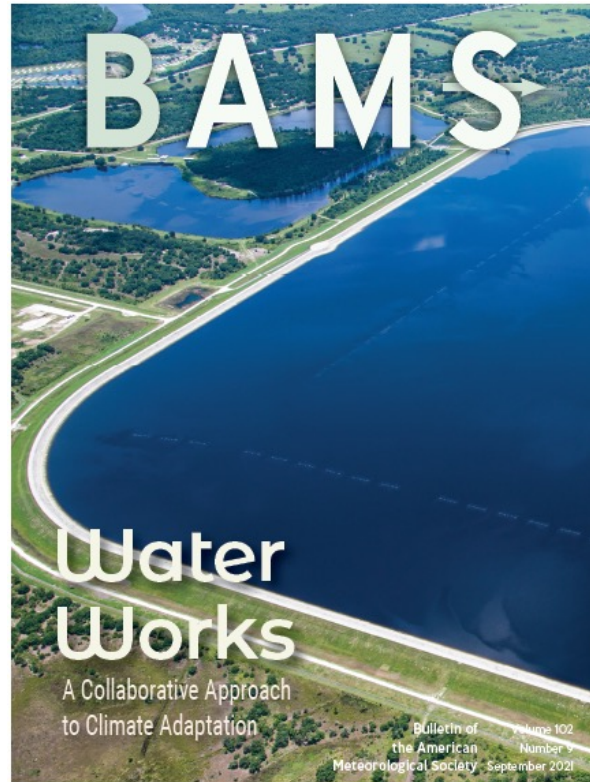


Daniel Roberts
Peace River Manasota Regional
Water Supply Authority
Environmental Specialist II
droberts@regionalwater.org

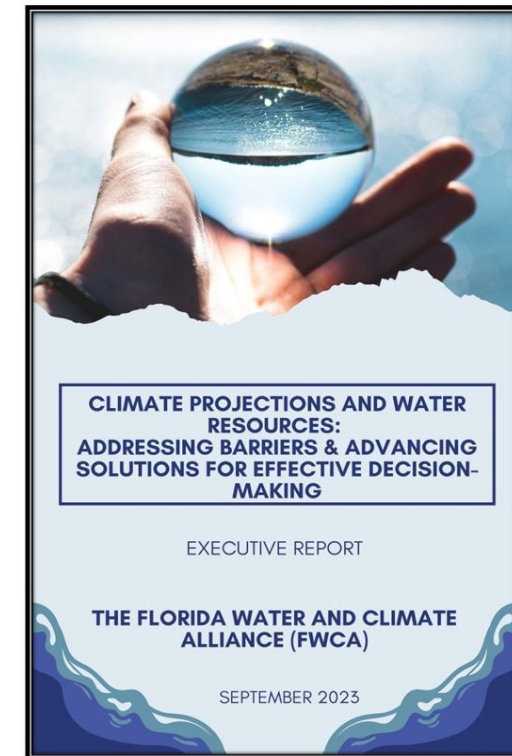


Wendy Graham, Ph. D
University of Florida Water
Institute
wgraham@ufl.edu

- Centralized admin support (used by WUCA)
- Loosely couple organization with institutional champions
- Scientists, partitioners and “regulatory” orgs are in tune
 - Iterative learning process
- Funding



Misra, V., Irani, T., Staal, L., Morris, K., Asefa, T., Martinez, C., and Graham, W. 2020. The Florida Water and Climate Alliance (FloridaWCA): Developing a Stakeholder–Scientist Partnership to Create Actionable Science in Climate Adaptation and Water Resource Management. *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society* 102(2):1-38



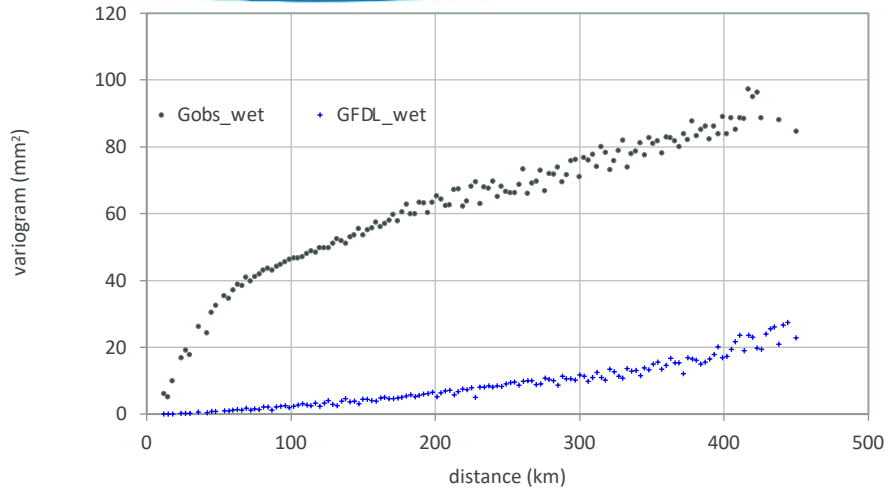
Irani, T., Anderson, R., Pierre, B., & Michael, A. (2023). *Climate projections & water resources: Addressing barriers & advancing solutions for effective decision-making*. Gainesville, FL: University of Florida.

Continued engagement among scientists and stakeholders answering questions

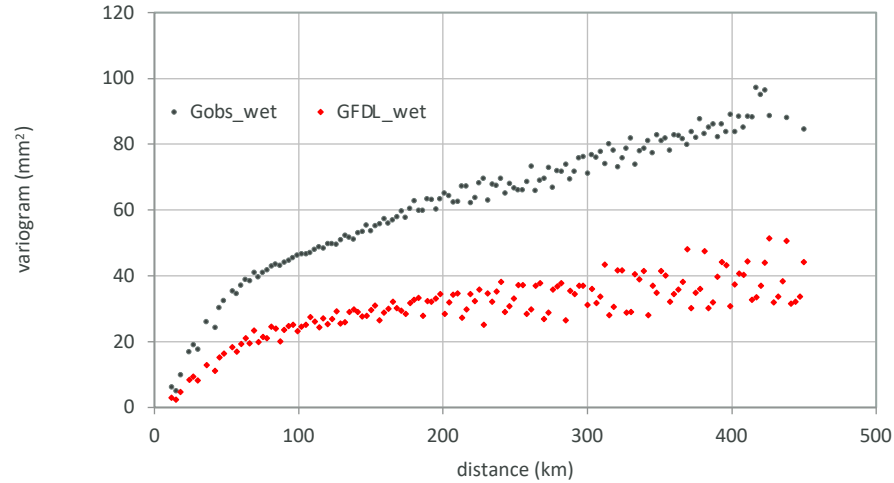
- Hypothesis: Landfalling tropical cyclones help to mitigate droughts in the southeastern United States, especially in Florida.
- Florida WCA investigation by [Misra and Bastola \(2015\)](#) found that the contribution of the rainfall from landfalling tropical cyclones on the mitigation of monthly drought in the 28 southeastern U.S. watersheds (including five watersheds in Florida) is relatively insignificant.

A downscaling approach that is in tune with Tampa Bay area

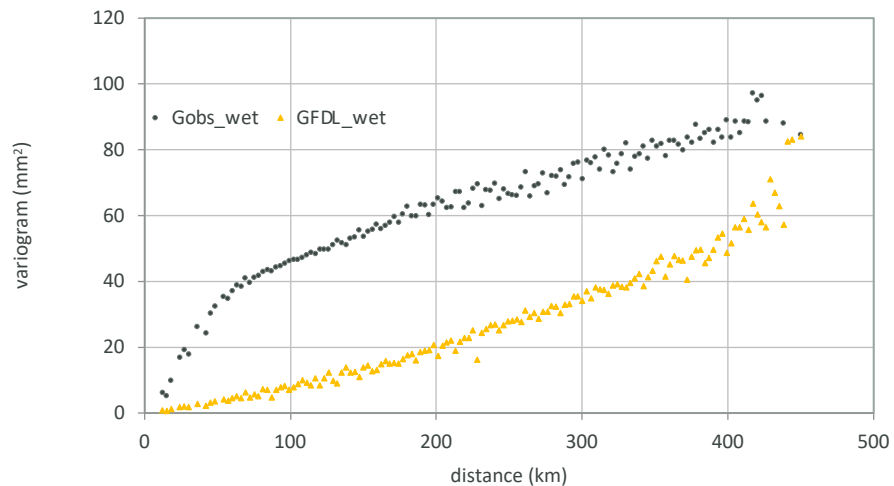
(a) BCS_D_daily_wet



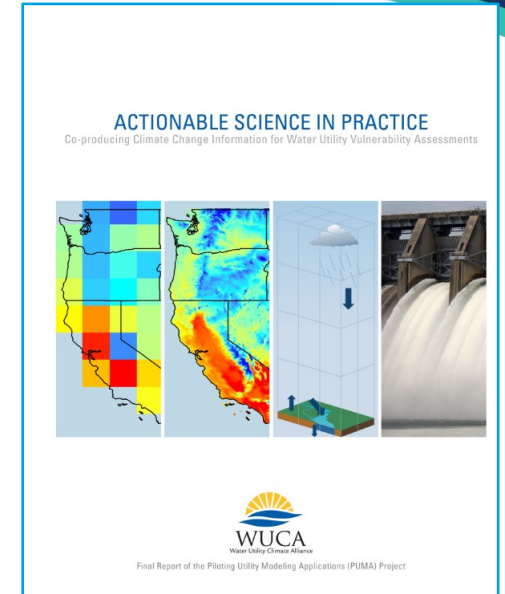
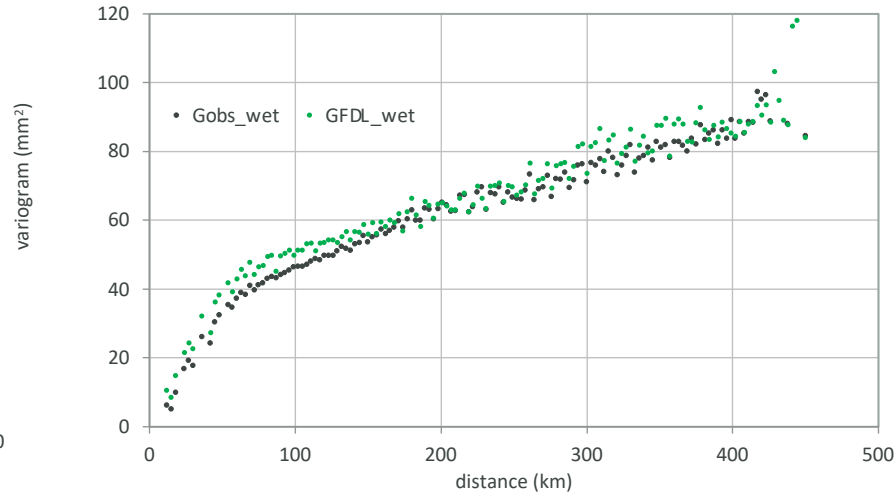
(b) BCCA_wet



(c) SDBC_wet



(d) BCS_A_wet



Hwang and Graham, 2013
Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci.

Collaborative research products
(in chronological order)

- Hwang, S., Graham, W.D., Jose, L.H., C. Martinez, J.W., Jones and Adams, A. (2011). Quantitative Spatiotemporal Evaluation of Dynamically Downscaled MM5 Precipitation Predictions over the Tampa Bay Region, Florida. *Journal of hydrometeorology*.
- Hwang, S., and Graham, W. (2013). “Development and comparative evaluation of a stochastic analog method to downscale daily GCM precipitation.” *Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss.*, 10, 2141–2181, doi:10.5194/hessd-10-2141-2013.
- Asefa, T. and Adams, A. (2013). “Reducing bias-corrected precipitation projection uncertainties: a Bayesian-based indicator weighting approach.” *Reg. Environ. Change*, 13, 111–120, doi:10.1007/s10113-013-0431-9, 2013.
- Hwang, S., Graham, W.D., Adams, A., and Geurink, J. (2013). “Assessment of the utility of dynamically-downscaled regional reanalysis data to predict streamflow in west central Florida using an integrated hydrologic model.” *Regional Environmental Change*, 13(Supplement 1), S69-S80.

- Hwang, S., Graham, W.D., Geurink, J.S., and Adams, A. (2014). “Hydrologic implications of errors in bias-corrected regional reanalysis data for west central Florida.” *J of Hydrology*, 510, 513-529.
- Hwang, S. and Graham, W. (2014). “Assessment of alternative methods for statistically downscaling daily GCM precipitation outputs to simulate regional streamflow.” *J of American Water Resources Association*, 50(4), 1010-1032.
- Chang, S., Graham, W. D., Hwang, S., & Muñoz-Carpena, R. (2016). “Sensitivity of future continental United States water deficit projections to general circulation models, the evapotranspiration estimation method, and the greenhouse gas emission scenario.” *Hydrology and Earth System Sciences*, 20(8), 3245–3261. <https://doi.org/10.5194/hess-20-3245-2016>.
- Obeysekera, J., Graham, W., Sukop, M. C., Asefa, T., Wang, D., Ghebremichael, K., (2017). “Implications of climate change on Florida's water resources.” In E. P. Chassignet, J. W. Jones, V. Misra, & J. Obeysekera (Eds.), “Florida's climate: Changes, variations, & impacts.” (pp. 83–124). Gainesville, FL: Florida Climate Institute. <https://doi.org/10.17125/fci2017.ch03>

- Wang, H. and T. Asefa, 2017, Impact of Different Types of ENSO Conditions on Seasonal Precipitation and Streamflow in the Southeastern United States, International Journal of Climatology, doi.org/10.1002/joc.5257.
- Chang, S., Graham, W., Geurink, J., Wanakule, N., and Asefa, T.: Evaluation of impact of climate change and anthropogenic change on regional hydrology, Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/hess-2018-91>, 2018
- Panaou, T., Asefa, T., and Nachabe, M. (2018). “Keeping us honest: Examining climate states and transition probabilities of precipitation projections in General Circulation Models.” Water Resource Planning and Management, 144(4), doi:10.1061/(ASCE)WR.1943- 5452.0000910
- Panaou, T., Asefa, T. and M. Nachabe (2019). Performance evaluation of a water supply system under a changing climate; In: Melesse, A. W. Abteu and S. Gabriel (Eds.), Extreme Hydrology & Climate Variability Book Chapter, Elsevier Institute Chapter 37.

- Misra, V., Irani, T., Staal, L., Morris, K., Asefa, T., Martinez, C., and Graham, W. 2020. The Florida Water and Climate Alliance (FloridaWCA): Developing a Stakeholder–Scientist Partnership to Create Actionable Science in Climate Adaptation and Water Resource Management. *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society* 102(2):1-38 DOI:[10.1175/BAMS-D-19-0302.1](https://doi.org/10.1175/BAMS-D-19-0302.1), 2020.
- Wang H., Asefa, T., Misra, V., and Bhardwaj, A. 2022, Assessing the Value of a Regional Climate Model’s Rainfall Forecasts in Improving Dry-Season Streamflow Predictions, *Journal of Water Resource Planning and Management*, DOI:10.1061/(ASCE)WR.1943-5452.0001571, 2022



Dr. Nisai Wanakule
Lead Engineer (Ret)



Dr. Jeff Geurink
Lead Engineer



Dr. Hui Wang
Lead Engineer



Dr. Solomon Erkyihun
Water Res. Engineer



Sandro Svrclin
Finance Manager



Dr. Patrick Reed
Cornell University



Dr. Greg Characklis
UNC



Dr. Wendy
Graham, UF



Dr. Mihelcic, USF



Dr. Ghebremichael, USF



Dr. AJ Reisinger, UF



Dr. Sankar Arumugam NCSU



Questions

