

Forging a Southeast Water Compromise in the ACF Basinlessons learned



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The Battleground



Q: Why not use sound science and collaboration to provide a better means of managing water in the basin?

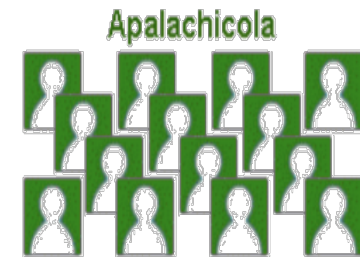
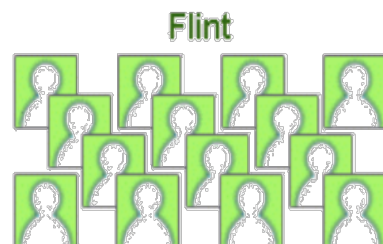
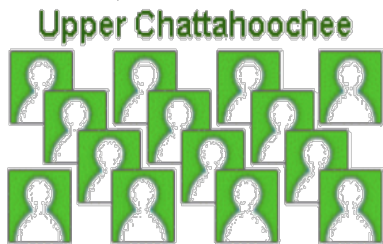


Grassroots Group

representing ALL water users in the system

- Recreation
- Water Supply
- Water Quality
- Seafood Industry
- Thermo Power
- Hydro Power
- Navigation
- Farm & Urban Agriculture
- Industry & Manufacturing
- Environmental & Conservation
- Business & Economic Development
- Local Government
- Historic & Cultural
- Other

56 Governing Board Members
14 Stakeholder Interest Groups
From each of the 4 Sub-basin Caucuses

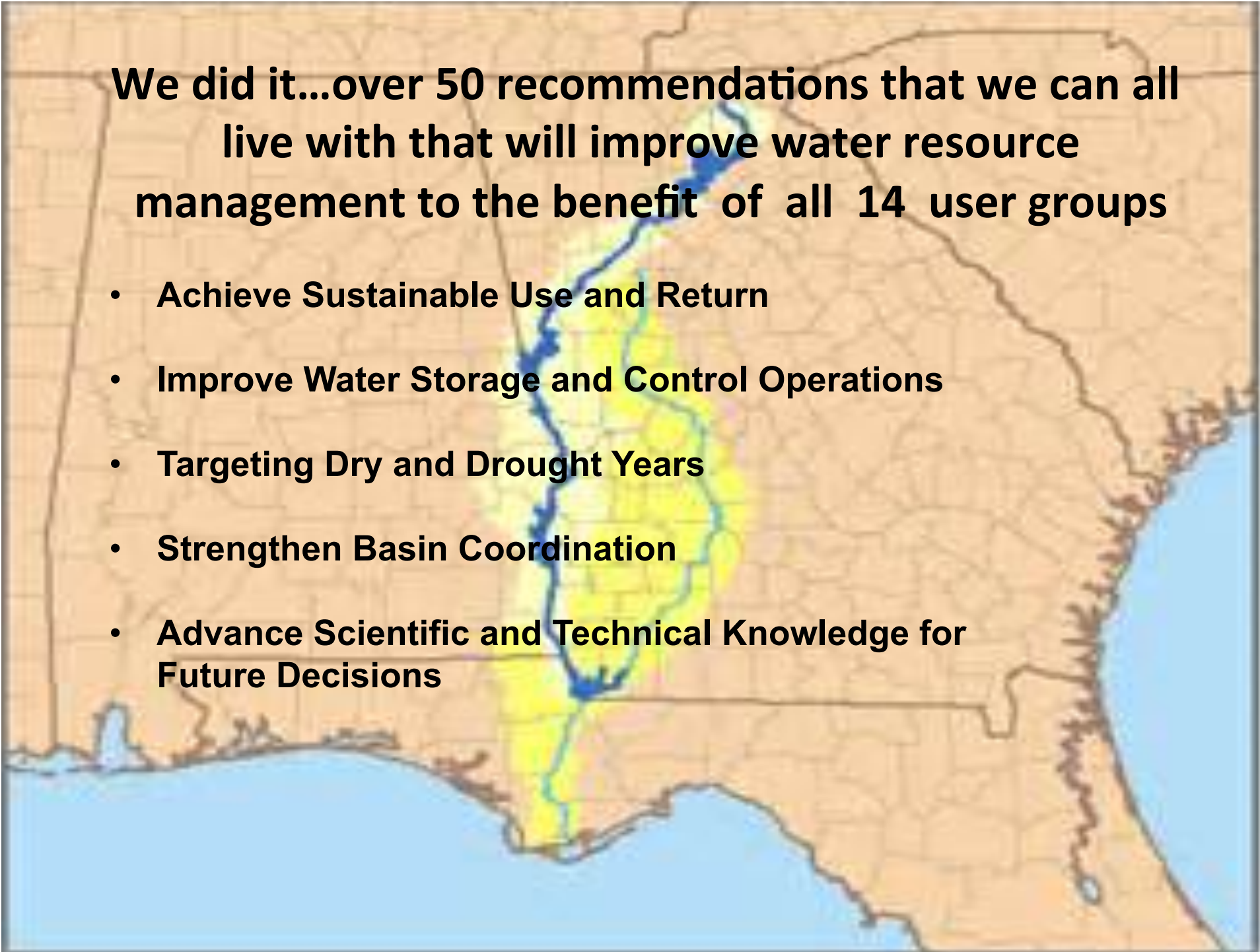


Consensus is critical. ACFS members have worked together for over five years to understand one another's interests and position drivers.

Consensus ensures no stakeholder interest is left out.

100 % consensus. Are you kidding?



A topographic map of the Colorado River Basin, showing the river's path from the Rocky Mountains in the north to the Gulf of California in the south. The basin is highlighted in yellow, and the river is shown in blue. The surrounding land is depicted in shades of brown and tan, representing elevation. The Gulf of California is visible in the bottom right corner.

We did it...over 50 recommendations that we can all live with that will improve water resource management to the benefit of all 14 user groups

- **Achieve Sustainable Use and Return**
- **Improve Water Storage and Control Operations**
- **Targeting Dry and Drought Years**
- **Strengthen Basin Coordination**
- **Advance Scientific and Technical Knowledge for Future Decisions**

Lessons Learned

- Personal dynamics
- Hydrodynamics
- Implementation dynamics

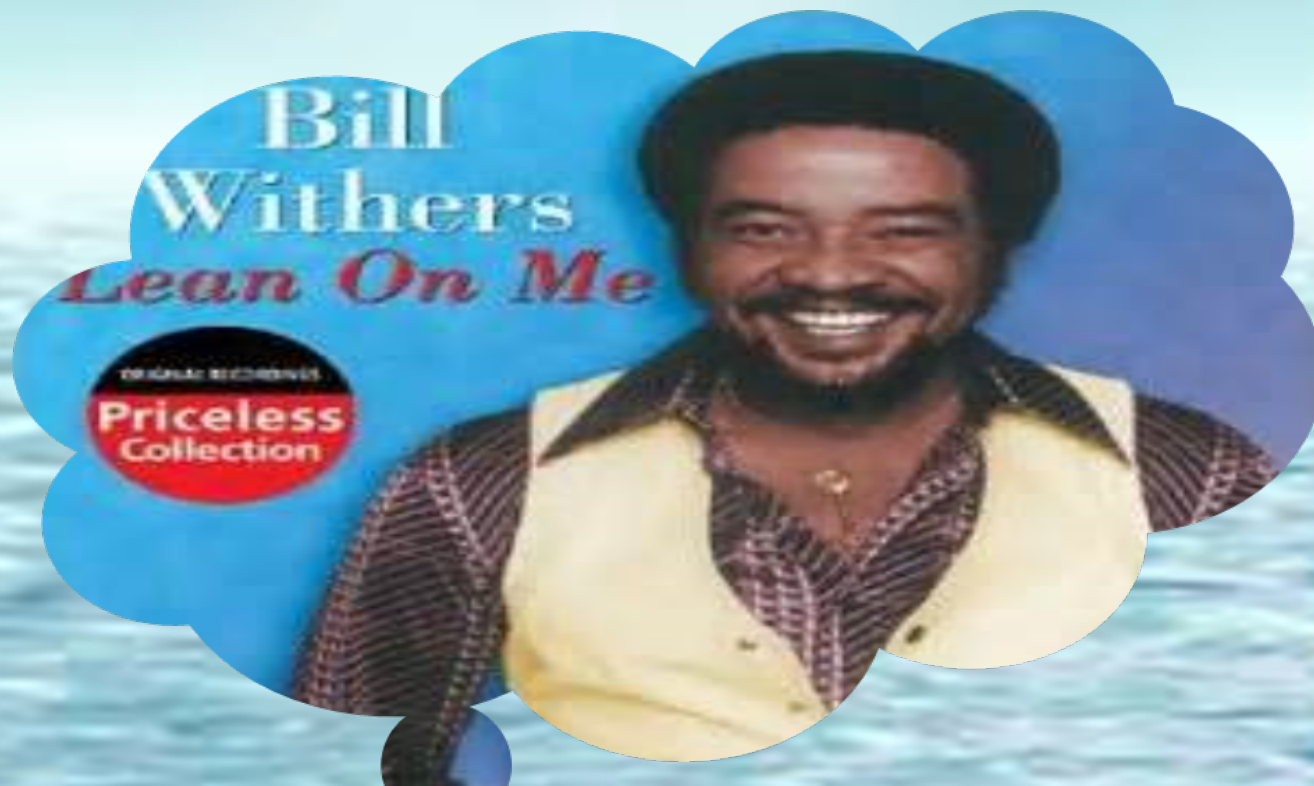


Personal Dynamics

- You can't always get what you want, but you get what you need. (Know your minimumcan't compromise away the farm and be able to explain "why").



- Building relationships through understanding develops empathy and desire to share in solutions.



- Collaboration helps refine priorities... Can you live with it? ... Only compromise to a point. (Keep the farm).



**“As we live a life of ease
Everyone of us has all we need.”**

- Earnestly try to understand needs of others and be free to ask “Why?”



- Diplomacy...asking questions in non-threatening way to understand in order to help find solutions is key to consensus.



- Need some clear rules of etiquette and sharing data/analysis on information that is under development that hasn't achieved consensus.
- Develop a collective understanding of needs and resource management.



- Must understand adversaries' wants and needs and when you can explain why your adversary needs something in a convincing and understandable way, then you are on the road to collaborative consensus.



- Openness and honesty are fundamental to compromise and collective betterment.



- Collaboration is enlightening and it is rewarding to help improve someone else's concern.



- Can't rush consensus...must learn and exercise diplomacy.



- Transition attitude from me to we.



- Less self centered on solutions yields more mutually beneficial outcomes.



- Consensus may not yield best solution, but possibly a “better” solution.



- Good venues, seafood and adult beverages help build consensus.

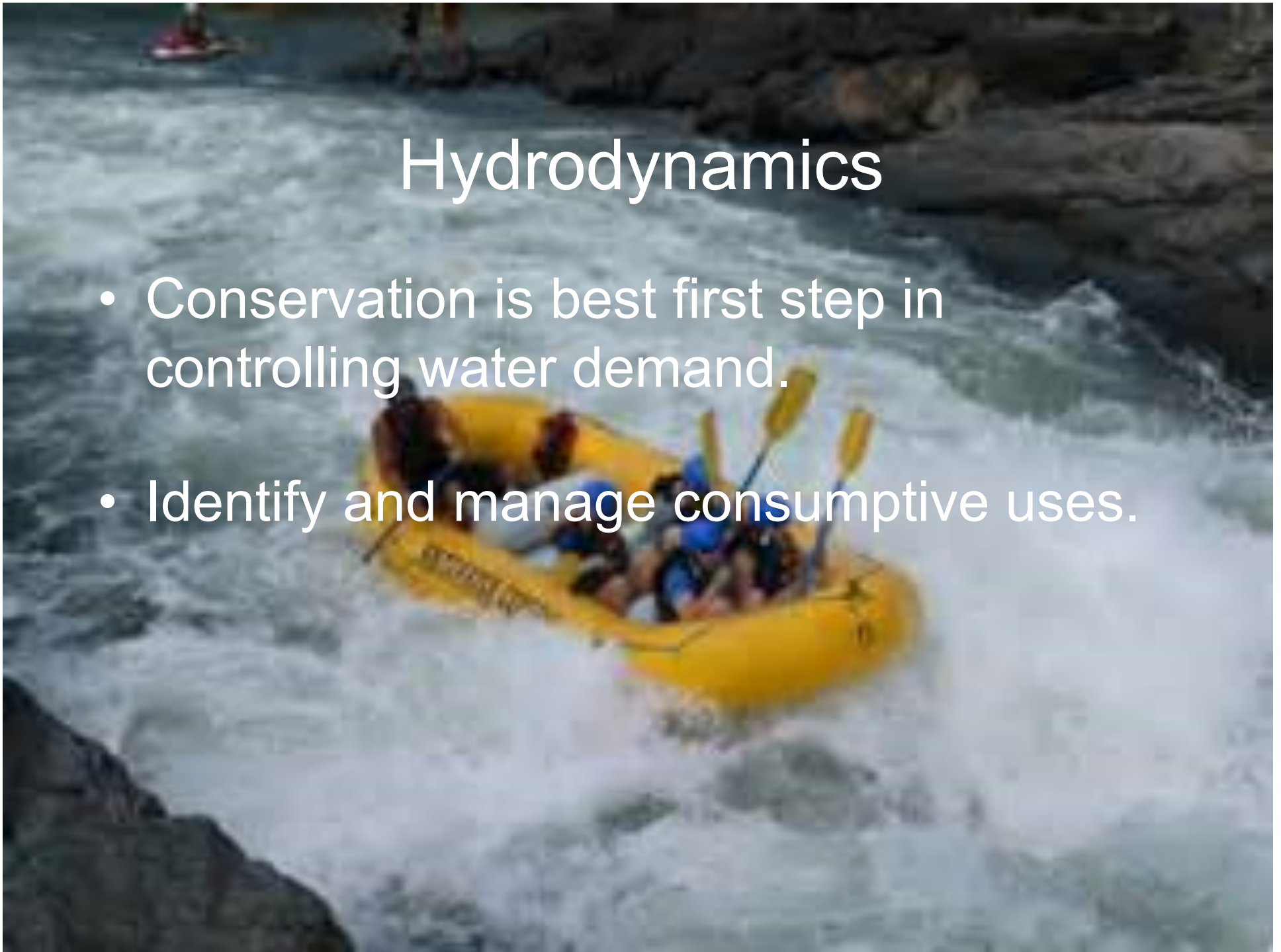


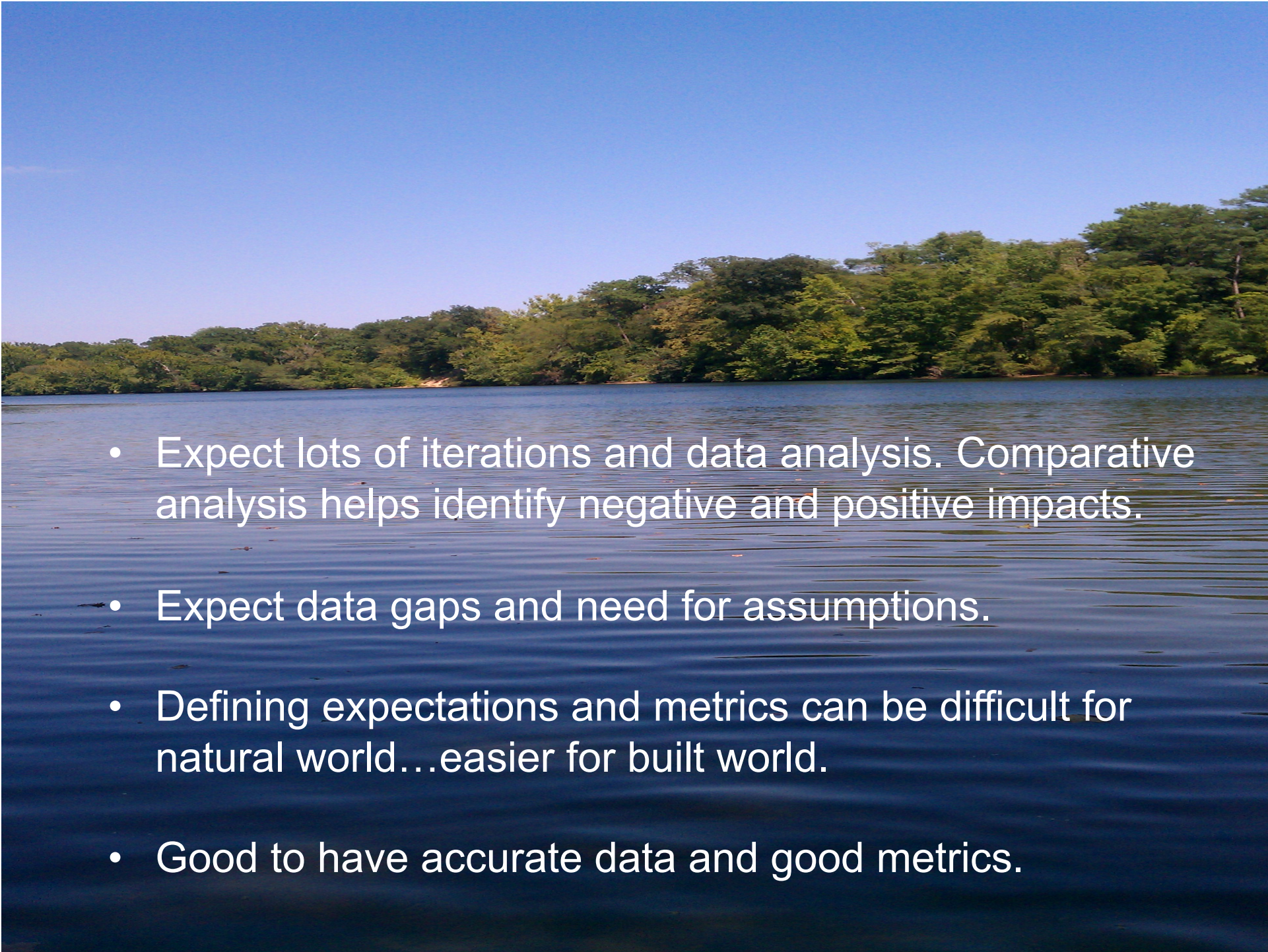
- Subpoenas strain trust....difficult to keep the lawyers out.

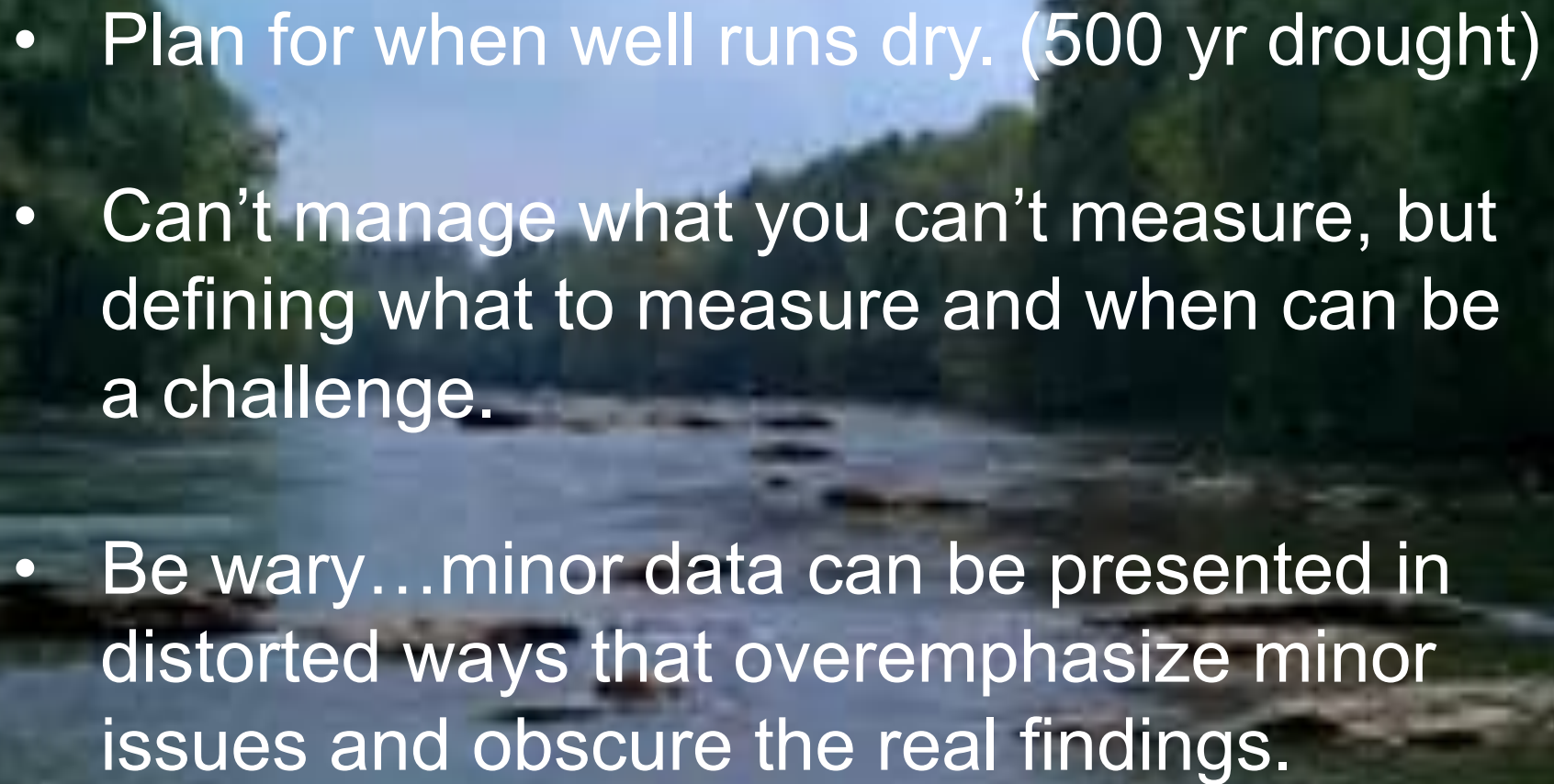


Hydrodynamics

- Conservation is best first step in controlling water demand.
- Identify and manage consumptive uses.



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- Expect lots of iterations and data analysis. Comparative analysis helps identify negative and positive impacts.
 - Expect data gaps and need for assumptions.
 - Defining expectations and metrics can be difficult for natural world...easier for built world.
 - Good to have accurate data and good metrics.

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- Plan for when well runs dry. (500 yr drought)
 - Can't manage what you can't measure, but defining what to measure and when can be a challenge.
 - Be wary...minor data can be presented in distorted ways that overemphasize minor issues and obscure the real findings.



Implementation Dynamics

- Getting establishment to change and share authority is a new frontier for lessons to be learned.
- Would State and Federal Agencies representation on Governing Board been beneficial?