

Florida's Sunshine Law

(Chapter 286, F.S.)

A Quick Overview

Background on Sunshine Law

- Sunshine Law is Intended to Expose the *Entire* Decision Making Process to Public Scrutiny
- Establishes a Basic Right of Access to
 - Most Meetings of Boards, Commissions and Other Governing Bodies of State and Local Governmental Agencies or Authorities
 - Applies to all Discussions and Deliberations

Background on Sunshine Law

- Applies to any gathering in which some matter on which foreseeable action will be taken by the board or commission is to be discussed
 - Meetings of Two or More Members
 - Both Formal and Casual Meetings
- Additional Information on the Attorney General's Website
 - <http://myfloridalegal.com/sunshine>

Requirements

- Meetings of Boards or Commissions Must Be Open to the Public
- Reasonable Notice of Such Meetings Must Be Given
- Minutes of the Meeting Must Be Taken

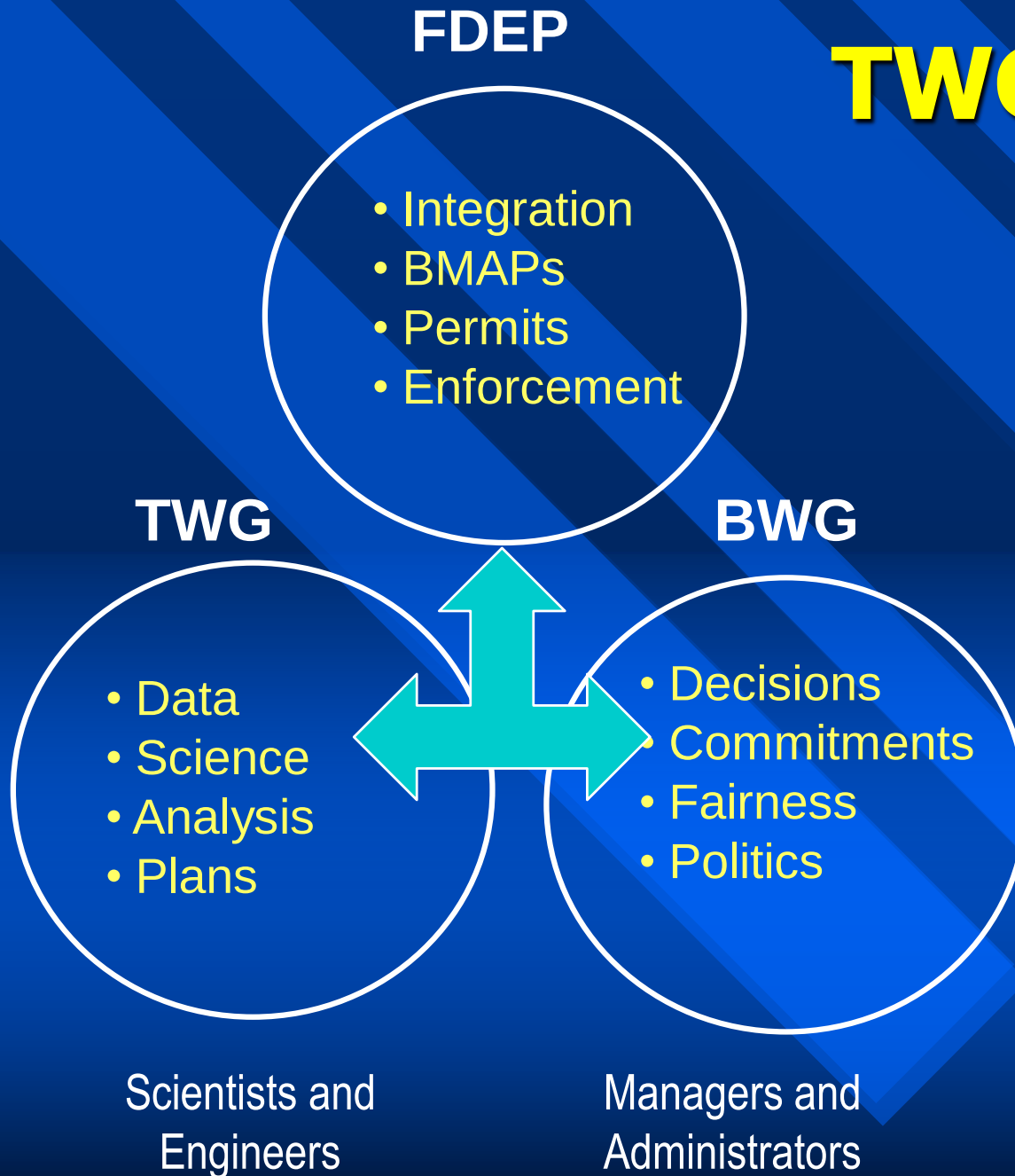
Requirements

- Fact-finding Committees are Exempt from Sunshine
- However, Committees Are Subject to Sunshine if They
 - Take Formal Action and/or
 - Provide Official Recommendations
- *The Sunshine Law is Consistent with the Transparent Nature of the BMAP Process*

What Does Sunshine Mean for This Group?

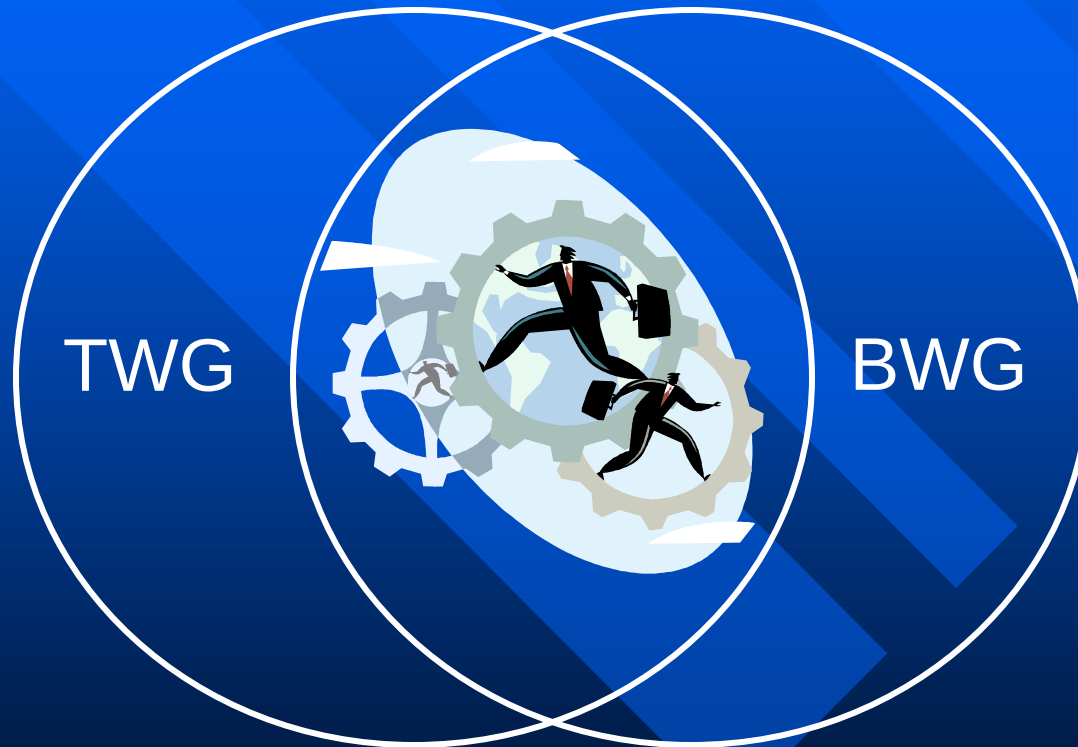
- The BWG is the Official Consensus Decision-Making Body for the BMAP
- The BWG Makes the “Official”
 - Recommendations to FDEP
 - » BMAP approaches
 - » Implementation Schedules
 - » BMAP Language
 - Commitments to FDEP on BMPs, Management Actions and Capital Projects

TWG vs. BWG



TWG vs. BWG

Alternate Model



What Does Sunshine Mean for This Group?

- The Basin Working Group Is Created with a Formal Membership
 - Definition of BWG Membership is Important
 - Selection of Appropriate Representative is a Critical Decision for Stakeholders

What Does Sunshine Mean for This Group?

- Basin Working Group Members
 - Are Subject to Sunshine for Issues that Pertain to the BMAP
 - Cannot Discuss BMAP Issues Outside of a Formal BWG Meeting with other BWG Members
 - Can discuss BMAP Issues with Their Own TWG Members, Administrators, Technical Staff, etc...
 - FDEP Staff are not BWG Members