



Dispute Resolution Processes

Chapter 9J-5, F.A.C., requires that the County provide for, and recognize, available dispute resolution processes. The County is a member government of the Tampa Bay Regional Council and recognizes the availability of the Council's dispute resolution process, as outlined in Rule 29H-13, F.A.C., as one of the alternatives available for the resolution of differences. The Pinellas Planning Council also offers a dispute resolution process. However, such formal dispute resolution processes are perhaps the least used mechanisms for solving coordination issues or disputes.

It is the less formal coordination mechanisms that are utilized more frequently, and encouraged, in day-to-day County operations. These mechanisms include such things as coordination meetings (e.g., this was the mechanism used to discuss differences between County and SWFWMD data and findings in the Integrated Plan), a series of working meetings and workshops, such as those used to address the details of partnership and governance, and to arrive at consensus during the formation of Tampa Bay Water, and simple communication such as that which occurs during regular meetings of mayors and local government officials, agency officials, etc. Should differences become unresolvable, and should the nature of the dispute warrant such a serious response, the County may choose the appropriate legal remedy to address the situation.