#### Draft Meeting Summary SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION JOINT WORKING GROUP (WG) AND SCIENCE COORDINATION GROUP (SCG) MEETING

## Virtual ZOOM, May 19, 2021, 9:30 - 2:30 PM

## 1. Welcome and Introductions

James Erskine called the meeting to order at 9:32 AM and provided some administrative announcements. He thanked everyone for attending and reminded everyone the meeting is being recorded and webcast live. The recorded webcast and handouts from the meeting are available at: <u>https://www.evergladesrestoration.gov/working-group/may-19-2021-working-group-science-coordination-group-meeting</u>

Adam Gelber recognized Gene Duncan, the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida representative on the Task Force (TF). James Erskine recognized Sandy Soto, Office of Everglades Restoration Initiatives (OERI) for the administrative announcements related to the Zoom platform. Lawrence Glenn, SCG Vice Chair, provided some brief remarks. Nick Aumen, WG Vice Chair, provided a report out on the attendance and highlights from the recent Greater Everglades Ecosystem Restoration (GEER) conference. GEER content will be posted and available to registrants only for one year and then it will become available to everyone at https://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/geer/index.html. The National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration will be held virtually this year and conference information is available at: <a href="https://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/ncer2021/">https://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/ncer2021/</a>

## 2. Member Whip-Around

James Erskine announced that Cecelia Harper from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is retiring. James thanked and acknowledged her years of service on the WG. He also read a note from her colleague Dan Scheidt who could not attend in person, "Congratulations to Cecelia on her well-earned retirement after 30 years of service to the public and EPA. Cecelia has been EPA's go to person for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) and is a Clean Water Act expert having worked in many programs through the decades. They greatly value and rely on her insights, tenacity, and passion, along with her candid recommendations. Cecelia makes things happen and sees the big picture. We'll miss you, but are happy for you, and hope you enjoy many sunsets with sand between your toes, time with your family, and many more foster kittens." Several members acknowledged and thanked Cecelia for all her partnership over the years. Lawrence Glenn announced that Dr. Mark Rains would be the new representative for the Florida Department of Environmental Protections (FDEP).

Wes Brooks said that FDEP is proposing the creation of a Florida's Coral Reef Restoration Coordination Team to build on the direction the Task Force and its members have been trending on in terms of recognizing the importance and value of Florida's coral reefs within the South Florida Ecosystem. It will enable integration of monitoring, coordination of disease response, and restoration activities across the system. It will enhance the tracking of system responses to Everglades restoration throughout the watershed. It would better inform the Task Force's planning and implementation of restoration projects from the perspective of this part of the ecosystem. Florida's coral reef parallels the coast for 350 miles from the St. Lucie inlet to the Dry Tortugas crossing numerous governmental and administrative boundaries. As a result, the reef has been managed by a variety of agencies under a complicated patchwork of rules and activities. Several members were supportive of this team being established. Adam Gelber will work with James Erskine and Wes Brooks to develop the charter language and a proposed membership list for this team and bring it back to the next meeting for further consideration.

Members who joined via the ZOOM platform were asked to introduce themselves and provide brief introductory remarks.

Working Group (WG) Members		Alternate
James Erskine – Chair – FL Fish and Wildlife Conservation Comm.	$\checkmark$	
Nick Aumen – Vice Chair – U.S. Geological Survey	$\checkmark$	
Karen Bohnsack – NOAA, Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary	$\checkmark$	
Stephania Bolden – NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service	$\checkmark$	
Wes Brooks - Florida Department of Environmental Protection	$\checkmark$	
Amy Castaneda – Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida	$\checkmark$	
Kevin M. Cunniff – Seminole Tribe of Florida	-	Karli Eckels
Deb Drum – Palm Beach County	$\checkmark$	
Rebecca Elliott – FL Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$\checkmark$	
Cecelia Harper – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	$\checkmark$	
Veronica Harrell-James – U.S. Attorney's Office	$\checkmark$	
Lee Hefty – Miami Dade County	$\checkmark$	
COL Andrew Kelly – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	-	LT COL Todd Polk
John Maehl – Martin County Board of County Commissioners	$\checkmark$	
Roland Ottolini – Lee County Division of Natural Resources	$\checkmark$	
Pedro Ramos – NPS, ENP & Dry Tortugas National Parks	-	Melodie Nadja
Leonard Rawlings – Bureau of Indian Affairs	-	
Jennifer Reynolds – South Florida Water Management District	$\checkmark$	
Edward Smith – Florida Department of Environmental Protection	$\checkmark$	
Joe Sullivan – U.S. Department of Transportation, FHWA	-	
Jason Watts – FL Dept. of Transportation	$\checkmark$	
Larry Williams – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	$\checkmark$	
Vacant – U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, NRCS	-	
Phil Everingham – Chair, BBRRCT, Special Advisory Group (non-voting)	-	
Adam Gelber – Office of Everglades Restoration Initiatives	$\checkmark$	
Science Coordination Group (SCG) Members		
SCG Chair – Vacant	-	
Lawrence Glenn – Vice Chair – South Florida Water Management District	$\checkmark$	
John Baldwin – Florida Atlantic University	-	
Joan Browder – NOAA, Southeast Fisheries Science Center	$\checkmark$	

Amy Castaneda – Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida		
Angela Dunn – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers		
Jennifer Hecker – Coastal & Heartland National Estuary Partnership		
Chris Kelble – NOAA, AOML	$\checkmark$	
Chad Kennedy – FL Dept. of Environmental Protection	$\checkmark$	
Gil McRae – FL Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	-	Brad Furman
Holly Milbrandt – City of Sanibel Natural Resources Department	$\checkmark$	
Stacy Myers – Seminole Tribe of Florida	-	
Bob Progulske – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	$\checkmark$	
Mark Rains - Florida Department of Environmental Protection	$\checkmark$	
Stephanie Romañach – United States Geological Survey	$\checkmark$	
Dan Scheidt – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	-	
Erik Stabenau – National Park Service	$\checkmark$	
Jason Strenth – U.S. Department of Agriculture – NRCS	$\checkmark$	
Vacant, Special Advisor	-	
Vacant – FL Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	-	
Vacant – U.S. Department of Agriculture – ARS	-	

# 3. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Larry Williams made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 2021 joint WG/SCG meeting which was seconded by Melodie Naja. There was no discussion. The minutes were approved without objection.

## 4. Office of Everglades Restoration Initiatives (OERI) Update

Adam Gelber noted that the new federal members have not been appointed at this time and a TF meeting will be scheduled following those appointments. A section within the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) 2020 commonly referred to as the 'Suppressing Looming Invasive Threats Harming Everglades Restoration (SLITHER) Act' amends WRDA 1996 and expands the Task Force's role regarding invasive exotic species.

Allyn Childress provided a live demo of the new EvergladesRestoration.gov website which was recently launched. She highlighted items such as the landing page, noting that the Everglades Restoration 101 story map will be updated this summer. Some new items include a link to Everglades essentials, the links to the Integrated Delivery Schedule (IDS), and an Everglades restoration dictionary of acronyms. The restoration science page is still under development and she will follow-up with the members for their help in better reflecting the role science plays in restoration.

# 5. SCG Chair and Vice Chair Nomination and Election

Adam Gelber reminded everyone that Bob Johnson has retired from the National Park Service (NPS) and the Chair leadership position is vacant. Lawrence Glenn can move up and serve as Chair. Lawrence Glenn said he was willing to serve as SCG Chair. Bob Progulske nominated Lawrence Glenn to serve as SCG Chair which was seconded by Jennifer Hecker. The motion

passed with no objections. Any non-state SCG member can serve as SCG Vice Chair. Bob Progulske made a motion for Angie Dunn to serve as SCG Vice Chair which was seconded by Chad Kennedy. Angie Dunn was willing to serve. The motion passed with no objections. The Chair and Vice Chair nominations will be elevated to the Task Force for approval at its next meeting.

# 6. SFWMD Program and Project Update

Megan Jacoby noted the map she is using is available at the South Florida Water Management District's (SFWMD) website

(https://sfwmd.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MinimalGallery/index.html?appid=1facf32f199240b49a32 6432258c102f). In addition to maps showing restoration projects there are maps of the SFWMD's facilities and infrastructure. The SFWMD along with the FDEP have taken direction from the Governor and Legislature and are focused on improving water quality, reducing discharges, and sending water south. She provided an update on state projects, including the Restoration Strategies program, Everglades Construction project (stormwater treatment areas or STAs), and Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program (dispersed water management), as well as federal projects, including both CERP and non-CERP projects. The focus of restoration is to:

- Improve water quality, reduce discharges, and send water south;
- Increase monitoring and pollution control;
- Improve coastal resiliency; and
- Control exotic species.

The 8.5 Square Mile Area (SMA) Limited Curtain Wall project will increase the flexibility of water managers by allowing them to control high water levels in WCA-3A and deliver surface water to Everglades National Park (ENP) while reducing groundwater seepage into the 8.5 SMA. They awarded the \$14 million contract in March 2021 to build the 2.3 miles of curtain wall. Construction completion is expected in June 2022.

Larry Williams asked if there are any other actions that can be taken if there is still flooding after the limited curtain wall is done in 2022 which limits how much water can be sent south. Jennifer Reynolds explained the modeling results indicate they will see better conditions. The curtain wall along with the operational use of the S-357 pump station will keep that area dry. However, there are areas that will have some flooding impacts because they have no surface drainage. Heavy rainfall events will cause surface flooding but that has been historic, and the residents are aware of that. Larry Williams asked the agencies take a hard look at that because if they continue to have problems with flooding which limits the flow south, that will have a domino effect throughout the system. Given the recent experience with the Combined Operational Plan (COP), they should have a well thought out Plan B. Jennifer Reynolds said the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has assured them that rainfall events should not be limiting flow but agreed they need to stay connected to ensure they are moving as much water south as possible.

Melodie Naja asked whether the SFWMD is working on plans for seepage management along the entire boundary of ENP. Jennifer Reynolds said the SFWMD agrees a broader project is necessary and has done some preliminary work. It is an effort that needs to be coordinated with the USACE, other agencies, and stakeholders to look at what benefits are expected. There are significant stakeholder concerns about impacting flows and availability to the wellfields and Biscayne Bay. They would only look at those plans that take those concerns into account. The timeframe would be when they look at the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) New Water Validation Report.

# 7. USACE Program and Project Update

Howie Gonzales reviewed the program structure for the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration (SFER) Program that includes Foundation Projects, CERP projects, and projects not funded under the SFER program, such as the Herbert Hoover Dike rehabilitation effort, but that are vital to everything they do. The FY 2021 budget includes \$83 million carryover from FY 2020 and \$250 million from the FY 2021 President's Budget. The FY 2022 President's Budget numbers are expected at the end of the month. The IDS will be updated over the summer with the USACE and State of Florida's numbers. The USACE asked for a TF/WG Sponsored Public workshop to engage the public in September 2021.

Howie Gonzales reviewed those projects in the planning stage, to include the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project, Western Everglades Restoration Project (WERP), and the Biscayne Bay and Southeastern Everglades Ecosystem Restoration (BBSEER) project. He reviewed those projects in the design and construction stage that included Kissimmee River Restoration, C-111 South Dade, Picayune Strand, Indian River Lagoon, Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands, and CEPP. He encouraged the members to go out and see these projects in person since pictures do not do justice to these projects. For operations, the COP is underway and the Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual (LOSOM) schedule has been developed. He reviewed those projects in the design/construction stage and operations stage.

LTC COL Polk made a motion for the TF/WG to sponsor a public workshop on the IDS in September 2021. Adam Gelber noted it would be good going forward to have language for a perpetual type of approval for IDS workshops. Howie agreed the IDS is going to continue to be a key document that is developed annually and agreed they should have a continuous type of approval so that they don't have to ask every year. James Erskine clarified the motion would be "looking for approval from the Task Force to host the IDS workshop as necessary moving forward." Jennifer Hecker seconded the motion. There were no dissenting votes and the motion passed to elevate the request to the Task Force.

# 8. Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual (LOSOM)

Tim Gysan, project manager for the Corps, noted the goal of this study is to provide flexibility in Lake Okeechobee operations while balancing Congressionally authorized project purposes. The four study objectives include:

- Manage risk to public health and safety, life, and property;
- Continue to meet authorized purposes for navigation, recreation, and flood control;
- Improve water supply performance; and
- Enhance ecology in Lake Okeechobee, northern estuaries, and across the South Florida Ecosystem.

The balanced array of concepts (AA, BB, CC, DD, and EE) were developed based on what they heard from stakeholders throughout this process. The modeling team has been provided with a framework to build on and the technical teams have provided guidance on the goals for performance for each of the alternatives. The modeling team will collaborate with the Interagency Modeling Center on coding each of the alternatives and running through an optimization exercise. The preferred alternative will be identified in July 2021. However, engagement and optimization will continue. The draft report will be out for public review in January 2022. The record of decision is planned for October 2022. This will be ready for implementation once the rehabilitation of the Herbert Hoover Dike is completed.

Roland Ottolini said the plans presented are devastating for the Caloosahatchee and they are hopeful the Corps will take a different direction as they move forward. Ed Smith noted he asked OERI to circulate the May 17, 2021 letter from Governor DeSantis with FDEP's goal to end the harmful discharges to the estuaries and instead send that water south.

#### Public Comment

Mike Effenbein (Gladesman/Sportsman) thanked the group for listening to the different perspectives. He hoped they would use WERP as a learning experience as they work on implementing future projects. None of these projects, technology, and money will be worth anything unless they get the nutrients out of the system. They need to allow science to support the path forward not politics.

Nyla Pipes (One Florida Foundation) noted political pressure is an ongoing theme with LOSOM. With the EE concept and the idea that they can be uber flexible at any given moment based on what is going on in the ecosystem makes her fearful that it will leave everyone open to not knowing what to expect and open to political pressure. It will ultimately take away the voice of certain stakeholder groups. She believes they need more time to look at the modeling results because three weeks is not enough time. She urged the members to consider that political pressure will not end if they don't know what they are planning each year.

Laura Reynolds (Town of Cutler Bay) noted her concern with groundwater flow and aquifer recharge in Miami-Dade County and impacts with the proposed curtain wall. She asked whether that would be addressed in BBSEER. She also asked if there is a plan to add the Bird Drive Basin or some additional water supply to make up for that cutoff that will likely impact Biscayne Bay. They are concerned with dirty water coming into the southern part of Biscayne Bay. She echoed the comments that if they don't remove the nutrients then they are not doing restoration. FDEP's Triennial Review is proposing to waive Outstanding Florida Water standards for restoration and enhancement. If they are really doing restoration, then they can't forget about water quality. They may want to update RECOVER to consider nutrients or look at another STA.

Daniel Watson (Gladesman/Sportsman) thanked everyone for their presentations and said that the Evergladesrestoration.gov website looks great. He is still confused how that small curtain wall will help seepage. They all know that for six months out of the year they still can't send water south due to the Cape Sable seaside sparrow. He echoed Nyla Pipes' sentiments on the EE alternative. The flexibility in the plan seems like the right way to go. There is always a stakeholder group that benefits a little more than another group. They need a plan that allows

them to have mitigation strategies. He closed by saying that the sportsmen and Gladesmen are listening and engaged.

## 9. Restoration Coordination and Verification (RECOVER) Update

Andrea Atkins provided an overview on the RECOVER update to the Conceptual Ecological Models (CEMs) and hypothesis clusters. RECOVER's CEMs were first published in 2005 and much has been learned since then. In addition, new problems and issues have emerged. Their restoration actions are now much better defined. They are at a point where they need to update the Monitoring and Assessment Plan which will help them determine priorities for funding. This effort will allow them to put all their understanding of the system into one document. CEMs, as used in CERP, are non-quantitative planning tools used to identify major ecological and anthropogenic drivers and stressors on natural systems, the ecological effects of these stressors, and biological attributes or indicators of these ecological responses. CEMs are made up of a narrative and a diagram. The CEM framework includes drivers, stressors, effects, and attributes. An in-depth review of the Ridge and Slough CEM was provided. Their ecological modeling is divided into four regions (Lake Okeechobee, Northern Estuaries, Greater Everglades, and Southern Coastal Systems).

Hypothesis clusters are a subset of CEMs that help to identify critical uncertainties. There are 25 hypothesis clusters under development. An important part of the CEMs and hypothesis clusters is to identify critical uncertainties that are constraining their decision-making or putting restoration success at risk. For CERP the CEMs link up with the smaller hypothesis clusters to feed into the ecological models, performance measures, and critical uncertainties which in turn help with project planning and developing the Monitoring and Assessment Plan and Adaptive Management Plans. They will take everything that has been learned since 2005 and feed it back into the hypothesis clusters and CEMs. Some of the biggest changes include: having a greater emphasis on sea level rise and climate change; the addition of Big Cypress hypothesis clusters; better links to management actions; and including uncertainties that have been resolved as well as those that have been identified. The draft report is planned for late June or July and help will be needed in reviewing the draft.

Lawrence Glenn added that this is an important process and will serve as the roadmap to understanding how the processes fit together and identifying uncertainties. They have learned a lot and this needs to be updated with new information. He requested that managers make their scientists available to help with this process.

Jennifer Hecker said they are seeing a troubling trend of an over-abundance of macro algae in their estuaries along with almost routine harmful algal blooms. Aquatic habitats and species are being harmed. They need to look at this new and emerging trend that is causing declines of seagrass and other resources. On climate, they just finished some sophisticated modeling which maps out vegetative community shifts and response to climate change scenarios and that information will be provided to Andrea.

## 10. Biscayne Bay and Southeastern Everglades Ecosystem Restoration (BBSEER)

April Patterson reviewed the four objectives, one of which includes improving quantity, timing, and distribution of freshwater to estuarine and nearshore subtidal areas, including mangrove

and seagrass areas of Biscayne Bay, Biscayne National Park, Card Sound, Manatee Bay, and Barnes Sound. The study area is intentionally large to fit six Yellow Book components (North Lake Belt, South Miami-Dade reuse, West Miami-Dade reuse, Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands, Biscayne Bay coastal canals, and the C-111 North project). The planning strategy and plan formulation measures were reviewed. The team has come up with several measures to achieve Yellow Book objectives such as including new sources of water, ASR, and operational changes. The initial array of alternatives is scheduled to be completed by November 2021. A Sea Level Change and Modeling Workshop is scheduled for May 26, 2021 and an Ecological Performance Metrics Workshop is planned for July 8, 2021. Additional information is available at: <a href="https://www.saj.usace.army.mil/BBSEER/">https://www.saj.usace.army.mil/BBSEER/</a>

Erik Stabenau noted the standing concern that the plans, performance measures, and the ability to model next steps are being developed on parallel paths. April added that with a study of this scale and dealing with sea level change, it is difficult to get the scientific and technical integrity within the required three years.

# 11. Florida Fish and Wildlife (FWC) Invasive Reptile Rule

Kristen Sommers reported that FWC has made recent changes regarding possession of certain reptiles in the state of Florida which ties into the Task Force's Strategic Action Framework. Invasive species in Florida are defined as nonnative plants, animals, or disease occurring outside their natural range that cause or are likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. Not all nonnative species become invasive. Florida has one of the most challenging invasive species problems in the nation because of its subtropical climate, multiple ports of entry, and robust live animal trade industry. Minimizing adverse impacts from invasive species is a high priority for FWC. Invasive species pose one of the most significant threats to global biodiversity second only to habitat loss. Ensuring that these high-risk invasive species do not become established and cause negative impacts is a big challenge. Of the 500 species that have been reported in the state, the challenge is to determine the potential risk of that species and provide management and regulatory actions. Risk screening tools are used to evaluate the potential risk a species may pose which helps to inform science-based decision-making. FWC recently passed a rule which prohibits 16 reptiles, provides for personal use permits, changes commercial sales, and establishes a new permit type for eradication and control. The goal is to eliminate commercial breeding and pet ownership of high-risk reptiles to protect Florida's environment and economy. The final rule changes were approved on February 25, 2021 and additional information is available at: https://MyFWC.com/wildlifehabitats/nonnatives/ruledevelopment/

Melodie Naja added that the SFNRC has been working with FWC and is currently spending about \$500,000 a year just on reptiles. In 2020, 960 tegus were removed in areas adjacent to or inside ENP. They are now seeing hatchlings and the problem is growing. Adam Gelber agreed that invasive species is an important issue for Interior. He appreciates the opportunity to continue working with this group on invasive species issues and advancing the WRDA 2020 directives.

# 12. National Research Council (NRC) Report

Bob Johnson noted that this is the Eighth Biennial Review by the Committee on Independent Scientific Review of Everglades Restoration Progress (CISRERP). Biennial Reports provide: an

assessment of progress in restoring the natural system; an evaluation of specific scientific and engineering issues that may impact progress in achieving natural system restoration goals; and a review of monitoring and assessment protocols to be used for evaluation of CERP progress. In addition to the usual topics, this report included three chapters focused on the Combined Operational Plan, Estuaries and Coastal Systems, and Science to Support Decision Making. CISRERP has provided summaries on the science programs (monitoring, modeling, data/information synthesis) in their prior biennial reports in 2014, 2016, and 2018 but this is the most comprehensive review. The restoration program is now several decades old, and the Committee recommends the science support programs evolve as restoration implementation progresses. The report expresses support for larger regional-scale project implementation, operational refinements, and adaptive management. Science should focus more on understanding ecosystem function and landscape dynamics and should be tied to water management responses. Larger projects such as the COP and LOSOM are coming online and require whole-system focus. Bob Johnson suggested they:

- Build on the WG/SCG and RECOVER partnership and set up an interagency team to examine CISRERP's science support recommendations;
- Establish a continuing dialogue with CISRERP during their next biennial review to look for specific opportunities for refining the science support for monitoring, modeling and synthesis; and
- Report back to the WG/SCG on the interagency team's progress.

Lawrence Glenn agreed this is timely. RECOVER has been discussing these same things. They need to design their studies for the program as well as the project level synthesis. Nick Aumen added that there are a lot of large-scale efforts from around the country they could look at. Bob Johnson agreed and pointed out that many of the CISRERP members work on other restoration projects around the country and they cite a lot of findings and new developments from these other types of restoration projects. It makes sense to learn from these other efforts. Melodie Naja said they have the same question as to whether what they are monitoring is getting them the answers to the questions that managers are asking and at the correct frequency, distribution, location, etc. She offered to collaborate with this sub team. James Erskine noted the sense of the group to have a subgroup work with Bob Johnson and OERI to examine CISRERP's science support recommendations.

# **Public Comment**

Mike Effenbein (Gladesman/Sportsman) recognized the great job done by the scientists. Invasive species are classified as nonnatives, but they do have problems with natives such as cabbage palms and myrtles because of disruptions in hydrology and fire regimes. They are never going to have sufficient resources to study, find solutions, and deal with the problem of invasive species because they continue to increase in population and range. The use of contractors to deal with the problem is not enough. Sportsmen have the equipment and the ability to access where these species exist and could be used to attack this problem. He pleaded with the group to think outside the box and use the sportsmen. Big Cypress has areas that have been transformed because the resource is not being managed properly. Cypress trees are overtaking prairies and native wildlife is losing habitat to development and invasive species.

## **Next Steps and Closing Comments**

Adam Gelber said he will be working with the partners and engaging the Task Force on the issue of invasive species. They are waiting for the Administration to fill the federal seats on the Task Force and he will let the members know when that happens. Follow up items are as follows:

- 1. OERI will work with FDEP and chairs to develop the charter for the Coral Reef team.
- OERI will work with the chairs on the USACE request for the IDS workshop in September.
- 3. Next WG/SCG meeting will be convened in either August or September.
- 4. New SCG leadership will be elevated to the Task Force.
- 5. Small subgroup will be formed to provide direction on moving forward with CISRERP recommendations.

Handouts from the meeting are available at: <u>https://www.evergladesrestoration.gov/working-</u>group/may-19-2021-working-group-science-coordination-group-meeting

- Agenda
- Meeting WG and SCG Meeting Minutes, January 2021
- Office of Everglades Restoration Initiatives (OERI) (no handout)
- SCG Chair and Vice Chair Nomination and Election (no handout)
- SFWMD Program and Project Update presentation
- USACE Program and Project Update presentation
- Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual (LOSOM) presentation
- Restoration Coordination and Verification (RECOVER) presentation
- Biscayne Bay and Southeastern Everglades Ecosystem Restoration (BBSEER) Project presentation
- FWC Invasive Reptile Rule presentation
- National Research Council (NRC) Report
  - o Presentation
  - o Report in Brief
  - o Full Report