DRAFT ZOOM Meeting Summary SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION WORKING GROUP (WG) AND SCIENCE COORDINATION GROUP (SCG)

Sep 6, 2023

Note: This is a summary of the major highlights for the September 6th Joint WG/SCG meeting. The most accurate source and official record for the meeting is the digital recording of the meeting which is readily available and posted for viewing on the OERI website at www.evergladesrestoration.gov and also available at: EvergladesRestoration.gov - YouTube

1. Welcome and Introductions

James Erskine called the meeting to order at 12:30PM and reviewed some administrative announcements.

Mike Elfenbein, Chairman of the Charlotte County Soil and Water Conservation District, and Sarah Heard, Martin County Commissioner, were recognized.

Member Whip-Around

Members were asked to provide brief introductory remarks. Several members commented that their agency resources have been focused on emergency services and disaster relief for those communities impacted by Hurricane Idalia which made landfall in August 2023.

Working Group (WG) Members (√ denotes in person attendance)		Alternate
James Erskine – Chair – FL Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	$\sqrt{}$	
Nick Aumen – Vice Chair – U.S. Geological Survey	\checkmark	
Becky Allenbach – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	ZOOM	
Karen Bohnsack – NOAA, Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary	-	
COL James Booth – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	$\sqrt{}$	
Adam Brame – NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service	ZOOM	
Wes Brooks – Florida Statewide Office of Resilience	$\sqrt{}$	
Amy Castaneda – Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida	-	
Deb Drum – Palm Beach County	-	
Rebecca Elliott – FL Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$\sqrt{}$	
Veronica Harrell-James – U.S. Attorney's Office	ZOOM	
John Maehl – Martin County Board of County Commissioners	$\sqrt{}$	
Roland Ottolini – Lee County Division of Natural Resources	ZOOM	
Pedro Ramos – South Florida National Parks and Preserve	-	Melodie Naja
Leonard Rawlings – Bureau of Indian Affairs	-	
Jennifer Reynolds – South Florida Water Management District	$\sqrt{}$	
Whitney Sapienza – Seminole Tribe of Florida	-	
Edward Smith – Florida Department of Environmental Protection	\checkmark	
Joe Sullivan – U.S. Department of Transportation, FHWA	-	
Larry Williams – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	ZOOM	
Vacant – FL Dept. of Transportation	-	

Vacant – Miami-Dade County	-	
Vacant – U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, NRCS	-	
Phil Everingham – Chair, BBRRCT, Special Advisory Group (non-voting)	-	
Adam Gelber – Office of Everglades Restoration Initiatives	$\sqrt{}$	
Science Coordination Group (SCG) Members		
Lawrence Glenn – SCG Chair – South Florida Water Management District	$\sqrt{}$	
Angie Dunn – SCG Vice Chair – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	-	Gina Ralph
John Baldwin – Florida Atlantic University	-	
Joan Browder – NOAA, Southeast Fisheries Science Center	ZOOM	
Amy Castaneda – Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida	-	
Jennifer Hecker – Coastal & Heartland National Estuary Partnership	$\sqrt{}$	
Bonnie Irving – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	ZOOM	
Chris Kelble – NOAA, Atlantic Oceanographic Meteorological Laboratory	-	
Chad Kennedy – FL Dept. of Environmental Protection	$\sqrt{}$	
Gil McRae – FL Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	ZOOM	
Holly Milbrandt – City of Sanibel Natural Resources Department	$\sqrt{}$	
Mark Rains – Florida Department of Environmental Protection	$\sqrt{}$	
Jed Redwine – Seminole Tribe of Florida	ZOOM	
Stephanie Romañach – United States Geological Survey	ZOOM	
Dan Scheidt – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	ZOOM	
Erik Stabenau – National Park Service, South Florida Natural Resources	$\sqrt{}$	
Jason Strenth – U.S. Department of Agriculture – NRCS	-	
Craig van der Heiden – Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida	$\sqrt{}$	
Vacant – FL Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	-	
Vacant – U.S. Department of Agriculture – ARS	-	

2. Approval of Meeting Summary

James Erskine noted the May 2023 meeting summary was provided via e-mail. Lawrence Glenn made a motion to approve which was seconded by Chad Kennedy. The May meeting summary was approved without objection.

3. Office of Everglades Restoration Initiatives (OERI) Update

Adam Gelber reminded everyone the Task Force meeting is scheduled for Nov. 15th in Washington, DC. He noted it has been 20 years since the WG and SCG Charters were developed and anyone wishing to help undertake that effort to update the charters should let him know. The Cross Cut Budget and Integrated Financial Plan will both be completed in October 2023 and posted on the web. OERI continues to work with the group of subject matter experts to implement Section 504 of WRDA 2020. Carrie Beeler reviewed the WRDA 2020 direction to the Task Force. The subject matter experts developed a list of 19 species across 5 taxa and provided recommended actions for interrupting pathways and recommendations for response planning.

Christina Romagosa noted the Invasive Species Advisory Body, the subject matter experts, will launch the next steps at its October 24th meeting. The goal is to create consistent prioritization support tools at each stage of the invasion curve. They have started with prevention and will then move on to

eradication, containment, and long-term management. Section 504 states the prioritization list should reflect an assessment of ecological risk and demonstrate a potential to reduce, obscure, or otherwise alter key indicators used to measure Everglades restoration. One of the first things they will do is to integrate indicators used to evaluate restoration success and frame these species within the indicators. A workshop is planned for the first quarter of 2024 to identify how performance measures are/could be affected by novel species and identify introduction/dispersal pathways. To have a consistent prioritization process over time for each invasion stage, a prioritization support tool will be developed so that it will be transparent as to how they have come to decisions.

James Erskine noted the team has done an excellent job. The WG and SCG need to determine what goes forward to the Task Force and when, to meet the requirements of Section 504 of WRDA 2020.

Nick Aumen commended the group for their work. He noted this list is a compendium of all the lists from the various entities that have been working on this for several decades. He suggested that since they have the list, they could summarize the information into a report and move on to what might be the next steps. This group of experts could bring value added to the invasive species problem in south Florida. He is excited about increasing the linkage between invasive species threats and CERP indicator species and performance measures. By using an enhanced tool this group could bring to the WG's and SCG's attention those threats that impact what they are trying to do with CERP. He encouraged them to meet the letter of the law in WRDA and keep moving forward on next steps.

Lawrence Glenn agreed it is important that they meet the letter of the law, however, the group is struggling with how to keep the momentum going and what their process is. Process will determine what agencies have budgeted, who can be a player at the table, and how they can collectively approach this. This is an incredible team that has done a lot of work and they need to continue moving forward. James Erskine agreed the component of continuing to move forward is important.

Wes Brooks also agreed the work done has been phenomenal. The real goals are to ensure that if there are impacts to Everglades restoration from invasive species or if progress towards Everglades restoration is being obscured by invasive species, Congress wants to know. Congress wants to be able to have the capability to make budgeting decisions based on what the threats are, and the State of Florida has a joint responsibility on that front as well. They need to think about what the process will be to continue to elevate this information to the Task Force and to the Congress. They need to decide whether this gets folded into RECOVER's reports, the Task Force's Biennial Report, or keep it as a separate report.

Gina Ralph, on behalf of RECOVER, noted that several members from the invasive species group attended the RECOVER workshop where they looked at all the monitoring going on in south Florida to identify where they have overlap and gaps so that they can leverage information. At their next meeting, the invasive species group will begin discussing the linkages with the performance measures and with the indicators. This problem with invasive species is much larger than CERP and RECOVER and they are happy to have a seat at the table.

Melodie Naja noted that the performance measures will be impacted, for example they have been monitoring the Asian Swamp Eel within Everglades National Park (ENP) and they have seen the collapse of the Everglades crayfish in some areas of ENP. To tackle this problem, they need to fund fundamental

research. This points to the importance of the Science Plan and having all the agencies participate and coordinate on specific topics such as invasive species and climate change.

Nick Aumen added they have a landscape level experiment underway in ENP where pythons have removed most of the small and medium mammals which play an important role in the trophic structure of the park and when those important grazers, predators, and browsers that help control ecosystem structure and function are lost, it has a big impact on CERP and all their restoration activities. They need to do the best they can to prevent these things from happening.

Gina Ralph said that in some regards CERP is facilitating the movement of invasive species and they must be proactive. It may be that it needs its own conceptual ecological model where they identify those pathways so that as they are planning CERP and increasing connectivity between water bodies they can be proactive in their monitoring and put in place detraction efforts in the forefront.

Jennifer Reynolds added that it is relevant for them to recognize that connectivity and at the same time remind people that the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) project created superhighways for those same invasive species and CERP is the retrofit to try and undo some of that.

Larry Williams agreed the team has done an incredible job of identifying species that have the potential to arrive here. The assignment to develop the priority list allows them to be more effective with control of both plants and animals. He recommended they submit the list to the Task Force; they have accomplished that assignment. The follow-on action should be to dig deeper into some of the innovation and tools they will need in the future. They have a lot of people working hard on invasive species, the Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas (CISMAs) do incredible work, but they don't have the resources and he suggests they look at some way to improve the organization for combatting invasive species above what we have now.

Nick Aumen added the group will be discussing next steps at their meeting on Oct 24th. He agreed with Larry that it is not just a reorganization; it is through their budgets that agencies make their policy decisions, and they need to think about how they can most effectively use those.

James Erskine added that the ecological indicators and RECOVER performance measures will be part of next steps conversation.

4. Florida's Coral Reef Coordination Team (FCRCT) Update

Wes Brooks reported the primary focus of the next meeting is water quality monitoring and developing a draft monitoring framework document that will help tie in all the hydrological changes that are anticipated from Everglades restoration into the coastal watershed and the reef, from the St. Lucie inlet all the way down to the Dry Tortugas. The team is focused on helping to integrate all the upstream work in the Everglades with what is going on downstream. It is often forgotten that the reef has a huge amount of influence on the long-term resilience of the Everglades ecosystem. For example, the reef protects the coastal wetlands around Biscayne Bay and protects the Loxahatchee River watershed from storm surge. Next team meeting is the following day, Sep 7th and anyone can attend.

Erik Stabenau added that the unified water quality framework document with the four priority areas and sub-objectives is looking across all the existing programs, not trying to take away from anything that's already underway but trying to add where it's significant. The team has had great cooperation from an

ad hoc group of scientists that are working well together. The team welcomes feedback on the unified water quality framework document which will be reviewed in detail at the next meeting.

Lawrence Glenn said he wanted everyone to understand that they do a lot of science in south Florida, they need that science to inform their decisions. They need to make sure they are not duplicating efforts.

5. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Program and Project Update

Eva Velez noted the Program Structure slide on her presentation is a great way to see all the projects that are under construction, a modification to the Central & Southern Florida (C&SF) Project. They have begun the C&SF Flood Resiliency Study (Section 216 – FRM) to target those most urgent needs in the lower east coast. The Corps has projects in planning, design and construction, and water management operations and maintenance, and have an enormous amount of work at the program level. Their annual appropriation for FY23 is \$452.332 million. The USACE has a 50/50 shared responsibility to fund the operations and maintenance of all CERP features. For FY24 they will receive just under \$13 million, and that dollar number will continue to grow in the coming years as they build more infrastructure. They received supplemental funds of \$1.097 billion in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and that money will be put to work on five projects. The President's Budget for FY24 includes \$415 million for construction and \$12.9 million for O&M. The draft Integrated Delivery Schedule (IDS) was released at the Task Force Sponsored Workshop that morning and is available to everyone for review. The final IDS will be released at the November 15th Task Force meeting.

An in-depth review was provided on those studies in planning. For the Biscayne Bay and Southeastern Everglades Ecosystem Restoration (BBSEER) they have released the round three alternatives. When this study started, they were worried whether they would be able to get additional freshwater to those ecosystems with sea level rise and they are seeing good news across the board. All the alternatives are showing improvement. On the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project (LOWRP), their waiver request for more time and money has been approved. It is all hands on deck for the Western Everglades Restoration Project (WERP), ASA Connor made a commitment to take this to Congress for consideration next year. They have reformulated the alternative which is now called Alternative Hybrid Natural Flow (HNFR) which contains the latest information. The last PDT meeting was scheduled for the week Hurricane Idalia hit and that will be rescheduled. They now have clarity on the scope and budget for the C&SF Flood Resiliency (Section 216) Study. It will be a four-year \$11.3 million study with completion for WRDA 2026. For the C&SF Resiliency Section 216 Study they received \$975K from the Congress. The Comprehensive Central and Southern Florida Resilience Study is a new authority in WRDA 2022, and they do not yet have funding for this effort. For program level activities, they will initiate the 2023 IDS update in June 2023. Workshops on the IDS are planned for August and September. An in-depth review was provided for those projects in design/construction, and operations.

Larry Williams said the FWS appreciates all the work by the USACE, SFWMD, and those stakeholders that worked to make WERP compatible with panthers. The FWS and the FWC are trying to find out what is causing feline leukomyelopathy (FLM), a disease that causes the panther to lose control of their rear legs. He appreciated the focus on panthers in the design of WERP as well as other projects. Secondly, with regards to CEPP South, CEPP EAA, and the CEPP Operational Plan, the summer surveys for the Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow (CSSS) came in and the preliminary results show that most of the subpopulations have declined again this year, sea level rise is a part of that for sure. As they implement CEPP, they are

going to be following the ecological principles to see what the new flexibility with water management and hydrology can be and see how the plant community adapts and then the animal community will adapt to that. They want to let the hydrology drive what the future conditions for the CSSS will be.

James Erskine said he interprets the term flood risk management as the built system, homes, and communities. He asked whether there is a measure to quantify or assess the flood risk from storms on natural systems. Eva Velez said yes, but it is not as well reported on as we are used to because we are typically looking for risk flooding in trying to protect people, hospitals, and roads. At the USACE they are shifting the way they think about that and evaluating the benefits of natural and nature-based features

Gina Ralph reminded everyone she provided a presentation back in March 2023 about the Jacksonville District as a proving ground for Engineering with Nature (EWN). CERP itself is a natural, nature-based feature that provides resiliency for the ecosystem. Similar to the immense benefits coral reefs provide, they are working with their Engineering Research and Development Center to further quantify benefits of natural and nature-based features so they will have quantitative tools they can use during the planning process to show the benefits of green infrastructure as opposed to traditional gray infrastructure. The USACE has lots on things in the works for EWN and resiliency.

Craig van der Heiden thanked everyone for their commitment to move WERP forward and the Miccosukee Tribe is very appreciative. He noted that Miami-Dade County is recommending an incinerator right on the edge of the Everglades at the intersection of Krome Avenue and US 27 and asked how that was going to fit into southern Everglades restoration. The water used for BBSEER could be polluted. Eva said she had some homework on this issue.

Jed Redwine said that they know from the past that incinerators in Miami-Dade County were associated with elevated levels of mercury across the Everglades ecosystem. Since the late 80s and early 90s, when those trash incinerators were decommissioned, the quantity of mercury across the ecosystem has measurably declined. He suggested they get laser focused on BBSEER and they hear from the county and partners that are outside of CERP what they are doing specifically to ensure that BBSEER is a net enhancement for regional ecological conditions and that we identify any locations where the BBSEER project or component of BBSEER may be covering for additional or accelerated damage to the regional system. There are additional wellfields proposed for Miam- Dade County with BBSEER and they should know what precisely it is going to do in real life and what sorts of additional development it is likely to enable.

6. South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Program and Project Update

Mindy Parrott reminded everyone the SFWMD is the non-federal sponsor for CERP and Foundation Projects as well as the C&SF Section 216 Infrastructure Resiliency Plan. The SFWMD is also working on projects in partnership with state agencies, counties, cities, and all levels of government. These projects focus on water quality and storage on smaller scales. In response to the Governor's Executive Order 23-06 which provided \$3.5 billion, they are expediting Everglades restoration projects that minimize the risk of harmful discharges and send water south. The SFWMD is working with the USACE to assume responsibility for construction of the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) A-2 Reservoir Pump Station and the Indian River Lagoon – South (IRL-S) C-23/C24 South Reservoir. The SFWMD is also expediting storage north of Lake Okeechobee and the SFWMD is preparing a Section 203 Feasibility Study for the Lake Okeechobee Component A Reservoir (LOCAR). The SFWMD is also advancing Aquifer Storage and

Recovery (ASR). The wells at the C-38 north and south are completed, and they will move on to aquifer performance testing which will allow them to better understand the characteristics of the aquifer. They continue to advance the ASR Science Plan where they look at other characteristics of the aquifer as well as water quality. On WERP, the SFWMD has moved forward with the design, which is complete, for the three L-28 South gated culverts in the southern region of WERP. Having these culverts in place will give them more operational flexibility for Water Conservation Area (WCA) 3. They will look at additional conveyance under Tamiami Trail, Loop Road, and the 11-mile road to allow that water to continue through Big Cypress and ENP to the estuary. An in-depth update was also provided on ongoing work in the Indian River Lagoon and St. Lucie River, C-43 Reservoir, Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands (BBCW), Central Everglades – EAA Reservoir and STA, CEPP North, CEPP Seepage Barrier Wall (New Water), and the Loxahatchee River Watershed. Restoration Strategies is a series of STA improvements will improve the functionality of the STAs to achieve the phosphorus water quality standard established for the Everglades. To date 9 of the 13 projects have been completed and all will be completed in 2024.

Lawrence Glenn noted the amount of work the USACE and SFWMD is doing and completing is phenomenal and stressed the importance of RECOVER and the strong science it provides for their decision making. Jen Reynolds added that they have a massive number of components completed and they have storage being built east, west, and south of Lake Okeechobee and a plan for storage north of the lake that is scheduled to be authorized next year.

7. 2023 Update to the Integrated Delivery Schedule (IDS)

Tabitha Elkington reviewed some of the key highlights of the double-sided IDS placemat. The first page has all the project schedules, and the second page has the schedule for operational planning, information on RECOVER, and information on the CERP 68 components. The draft IDS was released at the Task Force Sponsored Workshop that morning and is available for review. Two public informational sessions were held in August and were well attended. The new logo for the 2023 IDS highlights the western part of the Everglades. This IDS reflects the significant milestones reached during FY23 and updated operational planning schedules. They have also included some information on recent RECOVER efforts to update the conceptual ecological models and hypothesis clusters to incorporate new science related to climate change, sea level rise, and invasive species. This new information will also be used to inform the revision of RECOVER's Monitoring and Assessment Plan in FY26. The final IDS will be provided at the Nov 15th TF meeting.

Lawrence Glenn noted the importance of the IDS as a roadmap, and it is how they get information out to the stakeholders. They cannot build 68 components at one time; they don't have the resources in terms of people and money to get it done. They must make hard choices as to which components get done when. As they move forward with some projects, they may have negative impacts in that interim condition but once everything is built out, they will get the benefits in the end. The IDS is a great tool to show people that benefits are coming. Gina Ralph added that RECOVER developed interim targets and interim goals for restoration, and they put out a report in 2020 which based upon the projects that were planned, they established where they might see some of those benefits and in what timeframe. RECOVER is keeping track as they move along and not only using that information to help inform future projects but also the sequencing of those projects. Wes Brooks said that the amount of projects and features and the geographic scope of everything that is happening is amazing. This IDS has 16 projects that are looking at delays and only two projects that have been accelerated. When he meets with

members of Congress, they look at record resources and ask why things aren't happening faster. A lot of these delays may be explained by things out of anyone's control. He urged them to address those problems within their control before they turn into multi-year delays. COL Booth said the importance of the IDS as a governing document has been recognized for mega projects across the nation.

8. Restoration Coordination and Verification (RECOVER)

Jenna May thanked the SCG for hosting the workshop in July, everyone that completed the monitoring inventory survey, and those that participated at the workshop, all of which contributed to the success of the workshop. They collected a lot of information (700 lines of data) as part of that inventory survey and the workshop provided a forum for folks that wouldn't normally talk to interact. They discussed the current monitoring occurring in south Florida and identified future science and monitoring needs to address uncertainties related to CERP. The four work products developed from the workshop included the:

- Monitoring crosswalk by hypothesis cluster,
- Map of monitoring locations by region,
- List of overlapping monitoring efforts, and
- List of gaps on monitoring efforts.

The next step is to deliver the workshop products to the SCG and RECOVER Regional Teams in December 2023 and link the monitoring inventory to the IDS and Second Periodic CERP Update. This information will be used in the multi-year process to update the Monitoring and Assessment Plan (MAP).

Lawrence Glenn said that having a check-in on the science behind CERP is very important. Much has been learned since 2000 and the MAP update will ensure they have the freshest science to make sound decisions. The National Academies has requested the SCG develop a Science Plan, and this must occur before the SCG embarks on that effort. It is important to know what science is occurring across the landscape.

9. Second Periodic CERP Update (SPCU)

Eva Velez explained that the Second Periodic CERP Update (SPCU) is an evaluation of the Plan that is conducted to ensure the goals and purposes of the Plan are achieved with new or updated modelling that includes the latest available scientific, technical, and planning information. For example, the Yellow Book did not use the Regional Simulation Model with extended period of record and the sea level rise trends are very different today. The SPCU is an evaluation, not a modification to CERP. It is not a feasibility study and does not go to Congress for authorization. It is a joint effort with the SFWMD, and they are currently coordinating with the Interagency Modeling Center to update the Regional Simulation Model to represent all CERP components. Once the modeling information is available, RECOVER will conduct an evaluation using the RECOVER performance measures and other relevant information. RECOVER will address whether the CERP goals and objectives, as identified in the Yellow Book, achieved the future with project condition both regionally and system wide. The information will be brought to the WG and SCG.

Jennifer Reynolds added the Programmatic Regulations define the periodic update as an evaluation of the Plan that is conducted periodically using new or updated modeling that includes the latest scientific, technical, and planning information and tools that were not available in 1999. They are working together to refine how they will do the update. The first update was conducted in 2005 and it is supposed to be done every five years.

10. Independent Scientific Review Panel Memorandum of Agreement Extension Request

Gina Ralph reminded everyone WRDA 2000 requires the Secretary of the Army, Secretary of Interior, and Governor of Florida, in consultation with the Task Force, to establish an independent scientific review panel convened by the National Academy of Sciences (or similar body) to review the Plan's progress toward achieving the natural system restoration goals of the Plan. The panel produces biennial reports to Congress that include an assessment of the ecological indicators and other measures of progress in restoring the ecology of the natural system, based on the Plan. The panel has been producing these reports since 2004. The current Memorandum of Agreement expires on Nov. 17, 2025, and can be extended for up to five years but it must be signed by all the parties in Washington, DC, by Nov 17, 2024. She will bring this to the Task Force at its November meeting to execute a new agreement.

Public Comment

Kellie Ralston (Bonefish & Tarpon Trust) provided in person public comment. Everglades restoration is a top priority for her organization because of the impacts it has to their fisheries, both inshore nursery habitat and offshore extending to their coral reefs. It is encouraging to see the coordination between the federal and nonfederal sponsor as well as the environmental NGO community. They continue to support progress on WERP, LOSOM, BBSEER, and LOCAR since they need to have all those components in place. For LOWRP, they support moving forward with the wetlands component. The IDS is an important document for not only public and policymaker education but also for those on the outside to advocate for projects and funding. Recognizing the importance of RECOVER, it is important to include the financial needs to fully support RECOVER. They continue to support the FCRCT and look forward to participating in future meetings.

Mike Elfenbein (Cypress Chapter Izaak Walton League) provided public comment via ZOOM. He said the USACE and the SFWMD have managed to put together some incredible projects despite some incredible adversity. There are some great ideas for developing assessment tools to deal with invasive species, but they need to identify better ways to not just list threats but how they are going to address them. While it is easy for see invasives in places in the front country where an employee or contractor can easily access and manage those places, and they are not being addressed appropriately it is scary to recognize there are millions of acres that people are not able to access. Since the Task Force is bigger than just CERP, they are the body to address the threats that wilderness designations pose to Everglades restoration. FWC has made it clear that wilderness designations are a threat to the management of the resource. Congress is directly responsible for deciding whether wilderness designations apply. He asked the WG, SCG, and others to let them know that wilderness designations are a threat to Everglades restoration.

Next Steps and Closing Comments

James Erskine thanked everyone for participating. Reminded everyone of the FCRCT meeting the following day and the Invasives group meeting on October 24th. Adam Gelber reminded everyone the Task Force will be meeting on November 15th in Washington, DC.

Meeting adjourned at 4:25PM

Briefing Materials:

- 1. Agenda
- 2. Membership Rosters
- 3. Draft meeting summary, May 2023
- 4. OERI Update
 - Task Force Reports
 - o Implementing WRDA 2020
- 5. Florida's Coral Reef Coordination Team (FCRCT) Update
- 6. USACE Program and Project Update
- 7. SFWMD Program and Project Update
- 8. Integrated Delivery Schedule
 - Presentation
 - o Draft 2023 Placemat
- 9. RECOVER Update
- 10. Second Periodic CERP Update
- 11. Independent Scientific Review MOA Extension Request