DRAFT AGENDA

SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION JOINT WORKING GROUP (WG) AND SCIENCE COORDINATION GROUP (SCG) MEETING

South Florida Water Management District

3301 Gun Club Road Building B-1, Governing Board Auditorium West Palm Beach, FL 33406 March 14, 2023

10:00 - 10:15

1. Welcome and Introductions

Purpose: To present the goals for the meeting and review administrative instructions.

James Erskine
WG Chair
Lawrence Glenn
SCG Chair
Adam Gelber
OERI

10:15 - 10:45

2. Member Whip-Around

Purpose: Each member will have the opportunity to provide brief introductory remarks and announcements.

10:45 - 10:50

3. Approval of Meeting Summaries

Purpose: The summary from the September 2022 meeting and January 2023 planning session are being presented for member approval.

James Erskine WG Chair

10:50 - 11:20

4. Office of Everglades Restoration Initiatives (OERI) Update

Purpose: WRDA 2020 directs the Task Force to develop a priority list of invasive species that significantly impact the structure and function of ecological communities, native species, or habitats within the South Florida Ecosystem. Using guidance issued by the Task Force and the WG/SCG, the OERI is facilitating a team of experts in accomplishing this task. The OERI will present the inaugural piece of WRDA 2020 implementation, the priority list for prevention for WG/SCG approval to send to the Task Force. A group of subject matter experts that have informed the process will be available during the presentation for discussion.

Subject Matter Experts:

Via Zoom: Wes Daniel, USGS- Marine, Sarah Funck, FWC -Terrestrial Animals, Deah Lieurance, UF – Rapid Risk Tool Developer

In Person: John Galvez, USFWS-Freshwater Fisheries, LeRoy Rodgers, SFWMD -Terrestrial Plants

Adam Gelber OERI Carrie Beeler OERI

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11:20 - 11:35

5. Florida's Coral Reef Coordination Team (FCRCT) Update and Approval of Vice Chair

Purpose: The FCRCT was created under the WG to coordinate management and restoration-related activities to conserve and restore Florida's Coral Reef and ensure enhanced integration with the water management and restoration activities taking place upstream in the watershed throughout the South Florida Ecosystem. The team will provide an update and ask the WG to approve the Vice Chair nomination.

Wes Brooks FCRCT Chair Erik Stabenau FCRCT Interim Vice Chair

11:35 – 11:50 **Public Comment**

11:50 – 12:50 **Lunch Break**

12:50 – 1:10 **6. USACE Program and Project Update**

Purpose: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will provide an update on restoration planning, design, and construction projects.

Kim Vitek USACE

1:10 - 1:30

7. SFWMD Program and Project Update

Purpose: The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) will provide an update on ongoing restoration planning, design, and construction. In addition to moving forward with features within the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration (SFER) Program, the SFWMD also manages the Restoration Strategies Program, a suite of projects created to improve water quality in America's Everglades.

1:30 - 1:50

8. Engineering with Nature (EWN) Program

Purpose: The South Atlantic Division (SAD) recognizes that partnering with nature is vital to delivering bold solutions to combat uncertainty and achieve long-term, sustainable solutions. EWN is being included in planning and design efforts to compliment engineered solutions to increase resiliency in communities and allow for future adaptation. As a proving ground, EWN techniques will be shared across the USACE and identify new, innovative ways to apply EWN to Civil Works programs to build sustainable water resources infrastructure. They will leverage experience from partners and sister Districts, including application of Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge.

Mindy Parrott SFWMD

> Gina Ralph Tim Gysan USACE

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1:50 - 2:10

9. REstoration COordination and VERification (RECOVER)

Gina Ralph USACE

Purpose: RECOVER ensures Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) implementation is guided by the best available science. This presentation will focus on RECOVER'S October 2022 Task Force request for SCG members to complete a Monitoring Inventory survey.

2:10 - 2:25

10. South Florida Clean Coastal Waters Act 2021, Interagency Working Group for Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) and Hypoxia Research Control Act South Florida Assessment and Action Plan

David Kidwell NOAA

Purpose: To inform the group of the request from Congress to assess the state of HABs and Hypoxia in South Florida waters and ultimately deliver an action plan for South Florida to Congress following the final assessment. Members will be walked through the process and asked for collaborative support while NOAA curates this report so that they obtain plenty of local expertise, knowledge, and input to make this a fully thought out and well-developed assessment.

2:25 - 3:55

11. Continuation of Planning Session Follow-up

James Erskine WG Chair Lawrence Glenn SCG Chair

Purpose: In January 2023, participants were asked to come prepared to participate in an open discussion to help set the format, structure, and topics for meetings in 2023. The Chairs will provide a summary of the comments received. An in-depth discussion will follow to determine how the WG and SCG will better support the great progress and momentum of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Program.

3:55 – 4:10 **Public Comment**

4:10 – 4:15 **Next Steps and Closing Comments**

4:15 **Adjourn**

Working Group Duties: To assist the Task Force in providing intergovernmental coordination, exchanging information, facilitating the resolution of conflict, assisting members, and promoting public participation. **Science Coordination Group Duties:** To assist the Task Force in providing intergovernmental coordination of the programmatic scientific aspects of restoration of the South Florida Ecosystem.

Updated 3/13/23