

DRAFT AGENDA

**SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION
JOINT WORKING GROUP (WG) AND SCIENCE COORDINATION GROUP (SCG) MEETING
Long Key Natural Area & Nature Center
3501 SW 130th Avenue
Davie, FL 33330
March 20, 2024**

- 9:30 – 9:45 **1. Welcome and Introductions** James Erskine
Purpose: To present the goals for the meeting and review administrative instructions. WG Chair
Lawrence Glenn
SCG Chair
Adam Gelber
OERI
- Welcoming Remarks by Vice Mayor Beam Furr**
- 9:45 - 10:15 **2. Member Whip-Around**
Purpose: Each member will have the opportunity to provide brief introductory remarks and announcements.
- 10:15 – 10:20 **3. Approval of Meeting Summary** James Erskine
Purpose: The summary from the January 2024 meeting is being presented for member approval. WG Chair
- 10:20 – 10:40 **4. Executive Director’s Report** Adam Gelber
OERI
- **Task Force Reporting Requirements**
Purpose: The 2024 Biennial Report, the 2024 Integrated Financial Plan, and the 2025 Cross Cut Budget update efforts will kick-off this year. The Biennial Report will cover the reporting period from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2024 and will be presented to the Task Force for approval at its Fall 2024 meeting.
 - **Implementing Sec. 504, Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) 2020 – Invasive Species Risk Assessment, Prioritization and Management**
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. WG members are being asked to review and discuss a memo from the Invasive Species Advisory Body that requests direction from the WG to complete an inventory of current early detection programs and tools as a next step in protecting the South Florida Ecosystem from invasive species impacts.

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| 10:40 – 11:05 | 5. REStoration COordination and VERification (RECOVER)
<i>Purpose: RECOVER is a multi-agency team of scientists, modelers, planners, and resource specialists who organize and apply scientific and technical information to ensure CERP implementation is guided by the best available science. The presentation will focus on possible ways that Indigenous Knowledge could be incorporated into existing or new performance measures to assess responses to CERP implementation.</i> | Laura Brandt
RECOVER
Executive
Committee |
| 11:05 – 11:25 | 6. Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge
<i>Purpose: The Miccosukee Tribe will present on how the Tribe is providing Indigenous Knowledge (IK) that can support Everglades management and restoration.</i> | Kevin Cunniff
Edward Ornstein
Miccosukee Tribe |
| 11:25 – 11:55 | 7. Environmental DNA (eDNA) Analyses to Inform the Geographic Range of Burmese Pythons in Florida
<i>Purpose: eDNA is increasingly being used for detection of rare and non-native species to inform management actions. Monitoring of invasive snake species using eDNA could provide a decision-support tool for long term management strategies.</i> | Maggie Hunter
USGS |
| 11:55 – 12:15 | Public Comment | |
| 12:15 – 1:15 | Lunch Break | |
| 1:15 – 1:35 | 8. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Program and Project Update
<i>Purpose: The USACE will provide an update on restoration planning, design, construction, and operations projects.</i> | April Patterson
USACE |
| 1:35 – 1:55 | 9. South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Program and Project Update
<i>Purpose: The SFWMD will provide an update on ongoing restoration planning, design, and construction.</i> | Mindy Parrott
SFWMD |

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| 1:55 – 2:10 | 10. Florida’s Coral Reef Coordination Team (FCRCT)
<i>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. An update on the team’s activities will be provided.</i> | Wes Brooks
FCRCT Chair
Erik Stabenau
FCRCT Vice Chair |
| 2:10 – 2:40 | 11. Florida’s Coral Reef: 2023 Marine Heatwave Impacts and Response
<i>Purpose: To provide information on the 2023 marine heatwave in south Florida and its impacts on the reef tract.</i> | Ian Enochs
NOAA
Joanna Walczak
FDEP |
| 2:40 – 3:10 | 12. Will Watershed Restoration Impair or Improve Juvenile Fish Communities in the Ten Thousand Islands?
<i>Purpose: Due to differences in development, drainage canals, and water control structures, the Ten Thousand Islands watershed provides an opportunity to investigate the influence of both more, and less, freshwater flow to coastal bays compared to locations with more natural hydrology. Fish tracking, bottom trawl, and water quality data were used to investigate how salinity and temperature differences among bays affect estuarine fish communities. The range in flow characteristics and general similarity in fish communities among bays suggest that conditions will remain within the tolerance of most fishes in all bays following the Picayune Strand Restoration Project.</i> | Matt Kendall
NOAA |
| 3:10 – 3:30 | Public Comment | |
| 3:30 – 3:45 | Next Steps and Closing Comments | |
| 3:45 | 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 03/06/24