

Chat from South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force

BBSEER Public Engagement Workshop

09:24:46 From Caroline McLaughlin to All panelists : Good morning, Caroline now in my capacity with NPCA. I'd like to encourage you to take all public comment if there are more. Many stakeholders are interested in this project and want to engage. Perhaps shorten the time if there is a time crunch? Thanks for considering this request

09:26:33 From Allyn Childress to Kevin Burger, OERI(Privately) : Yes, we are working to incorporate all the public comment, there will be another session later in addition to the chat questions.

09:26:41 From Eva Velez : Thank you Caroline. We will have several more opportunities for comments and interactive Q&A.

09:43:00 From Cara Capp to All panelists : Thank you Brad. I have a question about slide 9. Brad said the team has not yet determined which of the project features will be included in BBSEER. Does that mean, looking at the feature map, some will be in the final plan and some will not? All of those features were outlined in the Yellow Book. I hope someone can clarify at some point, when it is appropriate on the agenda.

09:44:37 From Eva Velez : @Cara - Brad means that we are just beginning the formulation process and we will work together to identify alternatives.

09:44:50 From * Luis Alejandro, USACE : i am CALLIN AGAIN

09:51:19 From Kenneth Ammon to All panelists : Brad Foster's presentation on BBSEER objectives speaks to additional flows during the dry season. Why isn't the wet season also included as the bay needs additional wet season volumes?

09:52:44 From Eva Velez : @Ken - The BBSEER team will evaluate performance of alternatives with a model that will use a period of record from 1965-2016. That period of record has a broad range of conditions, including wet and dry seasons. We will assess performance based on metrics developed by the scientists for each natural area.

09:53:06 From Katherine Hagemann to All panelists : how have those ranges for the gates been updated in light of the sea level rise we have seen over the last several years?

09:54:04 From Eva Velez : @Katherine - We will pose that question to the panelists. Thank you.

09:55:07 From Daniel Padilla Ochoa to All panelists : Hello, will there be discussion on creating wildlife corridors connecting Biscayne Bay to Southeastern Everglades? I appreciate the restoration of flow but the inclusion of biodiversity performance is vital for true ecological restoration

09:55:19 From Troy Hill to All panelists : Question for Mahatel: do high tides ever constrain your ability to operate structures in their 'low' ranges?

09:55:35 From Carrie Beeler : Make sure you send questions to all panalists and attendees

09:55:55 From Troy Hill : Question for Mahatel: do high tides ever constrain your ability to operate structures in their 'low' ranges?

09:56:29 From Carrie Beeler : Troy we will ask during the Discussion Q &A period

09:56:48 From Katherine Hagemann to All panelists : Is this project considering modifying the seasonal ag drawdown?

09:56:58 From Diana Umpierre : 1965 to 2016 may have a broad range of conditions, but we have a changing climate, so if there's an opportunity for a more updated POR, it should be done. If not, explain the scientific reasons to not do so.

09:58:24 From Eva Velez : @Diana - Yes, thank you. Please stay tuned for the session on Sea Level Change coming up on the agenda. We will address that question.

09:58:29 From Joan Lawrence to All panelists : Will the PMP be considering use of seepage water as additional water for the Bay? If so, from what areas?

09:59:29 From Joan Lawrence to All panelists : Will the Southern Everglades Project be considering use of seepage water? If so, from what areas?

09:59:39 From Eva Velez : @Joan - Good question. Please stay tuned for Walter's presentation on the regional water budget for an upcoming answer on how surface and groundwater will be modeled.

10:00:09 From Eva Velez : @Joan - we will answer the southern everglades study question during the Q&A session. thank you.

10:02:26 From Joan Lawrence to All panelists : Thanks! Also interested in whether the excess surface water anticipated from CEPP and CERP in the regional system will be considered for storage and distribution to Biscayne Bay

10:05:33 From Irela Bagué to All panelists : How will the Southern Everglades Plan mentioned in the PMP be allocating seepage in the system? How will this information be incorporated into BBSEER if SEP has a planned start date for 2023?

10:06:45 From Diana Umpierre : will this recording be available afterwards? asking because slides don't capture all that is said. thank u

10:08:42 From james riley : Luis, what you are saying is that we can expect more water available to our BBSEER project area as more water is delivered to the ENP as future projects come on line correct?

10:08:52 From Eva Velez : @Joan - yes, water available in the regional system will be considered for storage and distribution to Biscayne Bay and also other natural areas. We will go through the formulation process together.

10:14:38 From Eva Velez : @Irela - The Southern Everglades Study will begin in 2023. The BBSEER study will evaluate surface and groundwater conditions of the regional system. Not sure what you mean by "allocated", so we will ask for you to clarify in the Q&A session.

10:22:47 From Carrie Beeler : The Discussion Q&A will be following the presentations in 5C and will be taken via the chat option. Public Comment will be later on the agenda

10:23:14 From Katherine Hagemann to All panelists : What year does CERPO represent? does it account for SLR expected at that time?

10:26:10 From Katherine Hagemann to All panelists : has there been water quality modeling showing the impact of reducing the freshwater flows to the northern portion of the bay?

10:27:39 From Kenneth Ammon to All panelists : The PMP commits to including the Bird Drive Basin and Central Lakebelt features as part of BBSEER, however, on page 27, the PMP states these projects will be deferred to the Southern Everglades Project and that water generated by these features would be prioritized to 1) Northeast Shark River Slough, 2) WCA3B and 3) Biscayne Bay, "in that order". Why aren't these projects, and all projects in BBSEER prioritized to go to the Bay, C-111 and Model Lands? Any water from the North that can not be captured for environmental restoration of BBSEER can then be planned to go to ENP.

10:31:52 From Diana Umpierre : stresses also need to include more intense rain and dry periods (not just SLR). Ex. how will the POR capture the amts of rain we got via Eta?

10:34:14 From Kevin Burger, OERI : Please note that the raise hand feature should only be used during the announced public comment period at the end of today's workshop. Thank you for your cooperation.

10:34:25 From Irela Bagué : We need a combination of options (reservoirs, reuse and existing system enhancements

10:41:11 From Karen Holland to All panelists : I'm concerned about pesticide use...a BIG problem, which potentially will damage more of the environment... could this issue (semi-related) be regulated in conjunction with this project?

10:42:02 From * Matahel Ansar, SFWMD : Troy, yes high tides does constraint our ability to operate the coastal gravity structures in low ranges. These structures typically have only few tenths of a foot of head across them to make coastal releases. In addition to high tides, winds from the east at time will constraint our ability to make coastal discharges. in these instances, releases will be made opportunistically when we have low tide.

10:42:26 From Joan Lawrence to All panelists : Excellent presentation by Walter, but I do not believe it answered my question re whether BBSEER will consider use of seepage for additional water for BB? If so, from what area? Please address in the Q&A. Thanks!

10:43:30 From Eva Velez : @Joan - yes ma'am

10:43:45 From Redwine Jed : We are concerned about the use of CERPO as a comparable target to AltQ. CERPO used the SFWMM 2x2, and our concern is that it systematically underestimated how much water could flow south. AltQ was not based on analogous assumptions, and as a result the concern is that comparing AltQ with CERPO is a comparison of underlying model assumptions rather than a meaningful comparison of system performance.

10:48:15 From Kenneth Ammon : From Walter Wilcox's presentation, their are reduced flows to the Central Bay and increased flow to the Southern Bay. The proper timing of delivery for those flows can only be affected by providing adequate storage and attenuation. Since the Central Lakebelt is not feasible because the excavation breached the aquiclude, will the project team consider alternative storage areas such as the five SM of available mining storage adjacent to C-111 and East of ENP near the west Wellfield which has not breached this aquiclude (Kendall Properties)?

10:56:02 From Carrie Beeler : The recording will immediately available online at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCg5JVTNoUEGSEsEZctgi_4Q/featured

11:01:56 From James Erskine to * Scott Burns, FPL and all panelists : available?

11:03:37 From Diana Umpierre : Just re-asking my Q since it can be answered via the chat. Will this recording be available afterwards since a lot of important information is being said that is not captured in slides?

11:03:58 From Eva Velez : @Diana - yes. The recording will immediately available online at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCg5JVTNoUEGSEsEZctgi_4Q/featured

11:04:25 From Diana Umpierre to All panelists : thank you Eva

11:07:20 From * Scott Burns, FPL to All panelists : May have audio resolved

11:11:43 From * Paula Cobb, FPL to All panelists : Scott thinks audio is resolved.

11:12:14 From THOMAS MACVICAR to All panelists : Can you post a list of attendees online with the presentations?

11:13:36 From Eva Velez : @Tom - Yes. Please click on this link - <https://evergladesrestoration.gov/content/bbseer/meetings/111720/index.php>

11:14:39 From THOMAS MACVICAR to All panelists : Thank you.

11:16:39 From James Erskine to * Scott Burns, FPL and all panelists : Scott - I'm going to try you next.

11:18:11 From Kenneth Ammon : Is there an intent on the part of the PMP guidance to attempt to achieve the non-congressionally authorized alternative D-13R4 (an additional 245,000 AF to ENP) vs. the congressionally authorized D-13R? It appears that the deferral of the Central Lakebelt and bird drive basin projects to the Southern Everglades Project has precluded using those captured volumes from restoring Biscayne Bay, Model Lands and the C-111 East projects.

11:20:26 From Daniel Padilla Ochoa : The consideration of nesting and planting seasons in the control and restoration of flow to southern extents of Biscayne Bay and Everglades is good, but a more creative solution to improve wildlife health would be better. In addition to assessing the water level needs of species, why not include a "necklace" of habitat areas along the project areas to provide better ecological connectivity from fresh to salt water?

11:23:39 From Eva Velez : Thank you all for your amazing participation in this chat! Please keep the questions and comments coming, we will read them all in the Q&A Session. Stay Tuned.

- 11:24:06 From Diana Umpierre : +++ what Daniel said ^^
- 11:25:38 From Carrie Beeler to * Scott Burns, FPL and all panelists : scott are you still good to go after Melody?
- 11:37:33 From Kenneth Ammon : On Melody's presentation, to change the timing of flows to meet the flow distribution targets, significant above and below ground storage of surface water and seepage is required upstream of the distribution points. The Biscayne Bay Ecosystem Restoration Reservoir (BBERR) analysis demonstrated that the enough water can be stored in the Kendall Property mining pits (five SM) to virtually meet 100% of the dry season flow targets. The stored water is provided by capturing excess seepage and surface water to the North of Tamiami Trail and adjacent to the Water Conservation Areas.
- 11:44:50 From james riley : Kendal property does not penetrate the aquaclude? It can work as a good storage area based on current information?
- 11:45:34 From Joan Lawrence to All panelists : Will any analysis be done as to how the addition of more freshwater to the Bay with proper timing and distribution will retard sea level rise/salt water intrusion?
- 11:46:26 From Diana Umpierre : Melody - thank you for FINALLY mentioning Eta effects.. In my SF city alone we got 18 inches (just from the sky) and that's before kind tide. BBSEER needs to model this
- 11:49:20 From Isabella Jaramillo to All panelists : On Criags Presentation---Question, Looking at the data from L-31E there is a tritium signature at depth in 2/3 of the L-31E stations, don't you think there is also an influence of the Plume from Turkey Point? Also could we not avoid salt intrusion to station 3 in L-31E by increasing the stage levels that operate the 40 culverts at the bottom end of the model lands. Seems like that should be raised right now, so we don't lose all of this rain and can hold it for the dry season.
- 11:53:27 From Daniel Padilla Ochoa : Water quality is one of the region's highest priorities, if not the highest. What components of BBSEER (or other CERP projects) will address or (hopefully) ascertain the improvement of water quality?
The increase of flow, by itself, might not be enough to maintain or improve water quality of flow delivered. Biscayne Bay is already dealing with stressors, as Melody shared. The Lake Belt(s) are an interesting retention solution but potential water quality issues need to be fully addressed.
- 11:56:20 From Katherine Hagemann to All panelists : could he explain how increasing water elevations east of the SWI line could exacerbate saltwater intrusion?
- 11:56:34 From Diana Umpierre to All panelists : any lunch break?
- 11:59:25 From Lynn Wingard to All panelists : Slides are not advancing - should they be?
- 11:59:45 From Eva Velez : @Lynn - Laura does not have slides, just verbal presentation. Thank you
- 11:59:47 From Armando Ramirez to All panelists : do the slides need to advance?

11:59:53 From Lynn Wingard to All panelists : Thank you!

12:00:11 From Eva Velez : @Armando - Laura does not have slides, verbal presentation only. Thank you

12:02:55 From Diana Umpierre : she may not have slides, but she keeps referring to some visual no else can see

12:03:34 From Eva Velez : @Diana - Laura has no visuals. We are all seeing the same slide with her name and agency. Thank you.

12:12:41 From Diana Umpierre : I can't see my Qs earlier 'cause I had to reconnect, so I'll try to rephrase: why is POR not updated to latest given that we have a changing climate? there's concern that using older POR won't capture some intense dry and wet periods we have seen in recent years. Eta being a good example. If POR will not be updated beyond 2016, what are the scientific reasons for not doing so? thanks.

12:14:01 From Eric Buck to All panelists : Hi, thanks for all the information. I support these projects bringing more estuarine conditions and habitats to all of Biscayne Bay. And sorry if I may have missed it in earlier presentations, but I would like to see a carbon budget for pollution generated in construction and maintenance of these water systems. How much energy will the pumps require into the future relative to the benefits gained?

12:14:34 From Cara Capp to All panelists : Can the Corps address its previous statement (from the last PDT workshop) that more water is now available for Biscayne versus when BBCW Phase 1 was planned? Interested to hear the options for additional water supply. If this will be addressed later in the agenda, that's fine as well.

12:15:10 From Paola Ferreira to All panelists : Thank you for setting the baseline for the analysis. I have two questions: 1) Will the models for BBSEER planning be able to detail the net effects on the different components described today or how this will be assessed? 2) How will be effects on wildlife be assessed through out the different alternatives through the BBSEER planning and how will these effects be taken into the selection of alternatives?

12:15:52 From Isabella Jaramillo to All panelists : Brad Foster ag drawdown follow up: Last time the Ag drawdown was looked at in a meaningful way (2010 timeframe maybe) there was a test period that was very successful for dry season salinities in the Bay. The ag drawdown was operated at the high end of the DRAFT opps schedule, why not do that again now during the planning process so you have additional data to look at. Also unsure why this operations schedule is still a DRAFT? Can you explain the ACOE thinking behind that...

12:23:01 From Eric Buck : Hi, thanks for all the information. I support these projects bringing more estuarine conditions and habitats to all of Biscayne Bay. And sorry if I may have missed it in earlier presentations, but I would like to see a carbon budget for pollution generated in construction and maintenance of these water systems. How much energy will the pumps require into the future relative to the benefits gained?

12:25:46 From Irela Bagué to All panelists : I can see how the word allocating may be too committal at this time, how about replacing with prioritizing or distributing seepage instead?

12:26:31 From Irela Bagué to All panelists : offline works. thank you

12:34:06 From Diana Umpierre : where can we find the PMP?

12:35:13 From Susan Caruso : As a lay person, I applaud restoring natural flow within the K-O-E watershed as much as possible. But, it seems to me that in all these projects, you are basically “robbing Peter to pay Paul.” The real issue is that the amount of water available to flow is getting less and less due to human activities (including climate change). Is there any consideration in these plans for the reduction in available water due to the increased population growth / development that seems to continue unabated?

12:41:36 From Isabella Jaramillo to All panelists : I did not get an answer of discussion on my question, maybe I missed it?: On Criags Presentation---Question, Looking at the data from L-31E there is a tritium signature at depth in 2/3 of the L-31E stations, don't you think there is also an influence of the Plume from Turkey Point? Also could we not avoid salt intrusion to station 3 in L-31E by increasing the stage levels that operate the 40 culverts at the bottom end of the model lands. Seems like that should be raised right now, so we don't lose all of this rain and can hold it for the dry season.

12:44:49 From Daniel Padilla Ochoa : Given the comments in an earlier presentation of diverting flow from northern areas in MDC/Broward (large filled-in arrows), I need to ask - would this increase saline levels in northern Biscayne Bay? If so, can this impact BNP?

12:45:56 From cheryl witmer to All panelists : Would a water filled barrier system that is re-useable and easy to move from area to area or site to site, make sense to direct or redirect water to its desired location, or to prevent fresh and salt water from mixing affecting the salinity. So rather than using these barriers for flood protection but using the for water re-direction.

12:54:55 From Paula Cobb to All panelists : Eva, I am muted in the even you need to ask FPL to respond.

13:05:32 From Kevin Burger, OERI : Please be reminded again that the raise hand feature should only be used during the announced public comment period at the end of today's workshop. You can use the chat feature for any questions. Thank you for your cooperation.

13:10:18 From Daniel Padilla Ochoa : I mean this in the most helpful way possible, public workshops need ways to capture the public's input, not just answer questions- as this feels more like a panel thesis defense than a public workshop. A public mapping process, e.g., to capture areas of concern and let organizations share stakeholders' ideas on how to address the project's scope and goals. Even providing a public charrette process to get drafts, drawings, diagrams, etc. would be great and can be open for a few weeks, before having a meeting that goes over all the inputs and proper discussion of those ideas. Public participation can be a wonderful thing.

13:10:28 From Daniel Padilla Ochoa : Thanks for the opportunity to engage!

13:26:37 From Adam Gelber : Hello Daniel. Thank you for your comments. I take them as being helpful. We are challenged with the virtual platform as compared to in person process of drawing on maps and diagrams as you have indicated. We desire the return to normal operations to advance

restoration as you have mentioned but we have to continue moving forward. I would advise to follow up with the USACE. The OERI will be populating our website meeting location with the information generated from this meeting and anticipate the USACE will provide written comments to those outstanding items that have not been responded to at this time. We appreciate your support.

13:36:34 From Thomas Van Lent to All panelists : Thanks you, Dr. Walsh, for that presentation. Very informative.

13:40:33 From Kimberly Brown to All panelists : What is the reason for excluding the Central Lake Belt from the included projects? I apologize if I missed this information in the presentations.

13:42:13 From Paola Ferreira : For Alberto, in addition to canals and the features presented, is MDC also considering increasing of permeable surfaces accross the County?

13:45:25 From Joan Lawrence : Will there be future Workshops similar to this one as the Project moves forward as I found this utilization of the BBRRCT very informative.

13:55:47 From Paola Ferreira : Will you consider other climate change impacts in addition to SLR?

13:57:12 From * Carolina Maran, SFWMD : I will be happy to answer any questions later, as I will need to leave this portion of our meeting. Feel free to email me, if needed. cmaran@sfwmd.gov

14:00:29 From * Jason Engle, USACE to All panelists : I am signing off now. I appreciate the opportunity to present.

14:07:22 From Leah Reidenbach to All panelists : Hi My name is Leah Reidenbach and I am representing the Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation. It's good to see that future sea level conditions are being discussed today and we want to encourage that SLR is incorporated into the planning of BBSEER projects, as this will be essential for ensuring this restoration projects works now and in the future. Thank you for hosting this public forum and increasing opportunity for public engagement during the planning process so we can determine how the different components of these projects can work together to improve water storage, distribution, quality, and connectivity for Biscayne bay, Biscayne NP, and throughout the entire system.

14:08:14 From Marie Huber : Thank you to OERI, all panelists, presenters, and attendees. Excellent engagement and information exchange!