

MEETING SUMMARY

SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION WORKING GROUP SPONSORED PUBLIC WORKSHOP

CENTRAL EVERGLADES PLANNING PROJECT
South Florida Water Management District
3301 Gun Club Road
Building B-1, Governing Board Auditorium
West Palm Beach, FL 33406
March 1, 2012
6:00 – 9:00 PM

Central Everglades Planning Project Workshop

Recreation Issues, Part 1:

- Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) and
- Northern Water Conservation Area 3A

1. Welcome and Introductions

Greg Knecht, Working Group Vice
Chair
Allyn Childress, SFERTF

Greg Knecht began the meeting at 6:03pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Meeting Procedures and Ground Rules

Allyn Childress

Allyn went through the groundrules of the meeting; she also welcomed everyone to the meeting. She noted that the meeting is being webcast and that all the information about CEPP is available on at www.sfrestore.org.

Greg then asked everyone to introduce themselves and their affiliation.

3. Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) Recreation Guidance and Policies

Jerry Krenz

Jerry Krenz went through the CERP recreation guidance and the CEPP potential recreational opportunities and concerns. In order to maximize the time available for the group discussion (agenda item 6), agenda items 3, 4, and 5 were presented together.

4. CEPP Potential Recreational Opportunities

Jerry Krenz

5. CEPP Potential Recreational Concerns

Jerry Krenz

6. Recreational Planning Session

Matt Morrison and Kevin Wittmann

Kevin Wittman outlined the hydrological/ecological challenges of WCA 3A. He discussed the management measures and the project features including what is planned to be retained and

MEETING SUMMARY

eliminated in each segment. He then went through specifics on the Miami Canal.

The following lists the discussion participants and the order in which they spoke:

John Rosier
Matt Morrison
Joan Bausch
Kevin Wittmann
Matt Morrison
Matt Schwartz
Matt Morrison
Greg Knecht
Matt Morrison
Newton Cook
Greg Knecht
Martha Musgrove
Kim Taplin
Greg Knecht
Martha Musgrove
Kim Taplin
Byron Maharrey
John Rosier
Matt Morisson
Kim Taplin
Bishop Wright
Greg Knecht
Kim Taplin
Matt Schwartz
Kim Taplin
Tom Burton

Google Earth was then used to better reference comments from the public.

John Rosier
Kim Taplin
Kevin Wittmann
John Rosier
Manley Fuller
Jerry Krenz
John Rosier
Greg Knecht
Al Ovies – email comment
John Rosier
Bishop Wright
Matt Schwartz
Greg Knecht
Alex Larson
Jerry Krenz
Byron Maharrey

MEETING SUMMARY

Greg Knecht
Barbara Powell
Kim Taplin
Drew Martin

After the break Jerry Krenz began to discuss the Miami Canal as it goes south from S-8 to I-75 where there would be backfilling with plugs. Kevin Wittmann said the configuration has not yet been optimized. Either the entire reach will be backfilled to grade, or filled with channels through the plugs. He said that it would be helpful to hear input from fisherman on this. There were a lot of questions about where the fill would come from, how much fill was needed, the cost, and taking out the canals.

The following lists the discussion participants and the order in which they spoke:

Dawn Shirreffs
Manley Fuller
Kevin Wittmann
Drew Martin
Byron Maharrey
Drew Martin
Ray Wimbrough
Kevin Wittmann
Barbara Powell
Paul Gray
Kevin Wittmann
Newton Cook
John Rosier
Matt Schwartz
Alex Larson
Manley Fuller
Kevin Wittmann
Drew Martin

The section between 339 and 340 north of I-75 was then discussed.

The following lists the discussion participants and the order in which they spoke:

Dawn Shirreffs
Al Ovies – email comment
Matt Schwartz
Barbara Powell
Matt Morrison
Byron Maharrey
Kevin Wittmann
Jerry Krenz
Alex Larson
John Rosier
Kim Taplin
Matt Morrison

MEETING SUMMARY

John Rosier
Drew Martin
Alex Larson

7. Next Steps

Matt Morrison

8. Closing Comments and Adjourn

Greg Knecht
Allyn Childress

Greg took general public comments.

Drew Martin – good science in presentation. Area was much deeper and has more water than we have now. Being deep was a benefit to the tree islands and helps them build up more. If tree islands build up then wildlife will have somewhere to go and not drown. Benefit in velocity in water carving ridge and slough islands. Important that some areas be left for recreation. Alligators do much better without canals.

Pete Quasius – water that we are sending here is currently excess from the Caloosahatchee. Recreation suffering and quality of life. Degradation of Florida Bay and hypersalinization has destroyed fisheries.

Manley Fuller – eastern area parallel to canal along 27 – recreational opportunities can be enhanced. Habitat can also be improved. Tree islands and portions of levees not used for plug can be degraded and form tree islands.

Newton Cook – Reminder that on March 19th there is a WRAC recreation group meeting.

Greg Knecht – meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.