

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
December 16, 2011
1:00 – 4:00 PM

Central Everglades Planning Project Workshop Meeting Summary

1. Welcome and Introductions

**Dan Kimball, Working Group Chair
Allyn Childress, SFERTF**

Dan Kimball called the workshop to order at 1:04PM. Focus on planning process for CEPP. We are trying to foster a two way dialogue. Representatives from the Corps and District will be present to answer any questions. Charge to listen then report back to the Task Force at its next meeting on March 7th.

2. Meeting Procedures and Ground Rules

**Dan Kimball, Working Group Chair
Allyn Childress, SFERTF**

Allyn Childress talked about basic housekeeping. The discussion included that we are webcasting and recording this workshop. Please sit at the table to facilitate discussion. People at home can ask questions through evergladesrestoration@yahoo.com . Please sign up for our mailing list for more information on workshops.

Dan Kimball continued welcome noting that it is an exciting time for the Working Group and Vice Chair Greg Knecht is on the phone.

**3. Status Update on Enhanced Public Participation Protocol;
Summary of opportunities and limitations of CEPP Workshops; Relationship of
CEPP Workshops to Corps Planning Process**

Shannon Estenoz

Shannon Estenoz presented the Enhanced Public Participation Protocol. She noted that the Task Force directed that we have an opportunity for enhanced public participation on this project. She noted that the Task Force is interested in the public staying engaged. This is a new forum where we are now. We have a lot of places where the public can be engaged, however in these Working Group sponsored workshops, the public can engage in a two way conversation with agency folks, technical experts and each other.

The CEPP Workshop and the PDT are two entirely different forums. PDT is a part of the Programmatic Regulations, the Corps must establish a PDT and there are specific members, it's an agency government body. The public is invited to attend but are not part of the PDT. The meetings are open to the public but can only give 3-5 minute public comment, the public is not at the table of the PDT. These workshops are for everyone, everyone can participate. The Task Force and Working Group can seek advice and input from any interested, knowledgeable or affected party as the Task Force determines necessary to

perform its duties. This is not a consensus building forum, it is a place for individuals to engage. Formal feedback loops will be provided to the official advisory bodies of the Task Force; the Working Group, Science Coordination Group and WRAC. The reports and outcomes of these workshops will be provided then to the Task Force. The Task Force uses its mandates to provide feedback to the Corps and the District. There is no feedback loop to the PDT.

We have overhauled the TF website, there is a portal for the CEPP. This will make it easier for the public to find any information on the CEPP. This is an opportunity to engage with each other as stakeholders. These workshops have been noticed under Sunshine Law so you can all talk to each other.

The following lists the discussion participants and the order in which they spoke: No questions or discussion.

4. Review Parking Lot Issues from November 30, 2011 Workshop

Allyn Childress

Allyn Childress went through the parking lots issues from the last workshop. The first issue was the need to clarify PDT vs workshops and Shannon just covered that. The other item was the Local governments link. The District and the Corps has a CEPP Communications Team working on this, and are rapidly doing outreach, so this is on the way. Next item was WRAC recreational Team, at their meeting on the 19th, it will be part of the agenda, so that linkage is occurring. Next item was Ecosystem services –the District and Corps are looking for opportunities to include this in the CEPP. In the execution phase, they are hoping that it will be a topic for discussion in workshop; it will come back up in the future. CEMs – might be expansion in the Southern estuaries. The next item was Tree Islands as performance measures, and they are within the Sough Vegetation Suitability measure, so that has been identified. The Pond Apple contribution for phosphorus intake has been noted but mostly this project will be looking at proven water quality technologies.

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

Susan Markley.
Martha Musgrove
Susan Gray
Corps representative
John Marshall
Susan Markley
Bob Johnson

John Marshall
Susan Gray
John Marshall
Elise
Dan Kimball
Greg Knecht

5. Planning Process

Brad Foster USACE

Brad Foster described the framework for Corps planning process for the CEPP. The discussion included the framework for the Corps planning process for the accelerated CEPP process and the NEPA process and the Corps specific steps on how to get there.

There was no discussion on this agenda item.

6. Problems, Opportunities, Goals and Objectives

Matt Morison SFWMD

Matt Morrison (SFWMD) presented about the problems and opportunities for the effort. The discussion included the problems and opportunities associated with this planning effort; the different areas of the system especially Lake Okeechobee, Water Conservation Area 3, Everglades National Park and the Southern Estuaries where there are ecological issues and problems have already been identified; and looked at opportunities to remediate or improve those issues or problems. Matt also discussed the overarching goals and objectives for plan formulation.

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

Al Ovies SAFER	Brad Hawkins
Matt Morrison	Matt Morrison
Al Ovies	Dawn Shirreffs
Matt Morrison	John Marshall
Dan Kimball	Pete Quasius
Al Ovies	Joel VanArman
Dan Kimball	Tom Teets
Susan Markley	Dan Kimball
Al Ovies	
Kim Taplin	

Planning Goals and Objectives:

Matt Morrison then presented on the Planning Goals and objectives. He stated that the goal of CEPP is to improve the quantity, quality, timing and distribution of water in the Northern Estuaries, Water Conservation Area 3 and Everglades National Park in order to restore the hydrology, habitat and functions of the natural system. He then discussed the planning objectives of CEPP.

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

Martha Musgrove	John Marshall
Al Ovies	Craig Tepper
Inger Hansen (FDEP)	Kim Taplin
John Wizeer	Dennis Duke
Drew Martin	Kim Taplin

7. Planning Constraints and Considerations

Matt Morison SFWMD

Matt Morrison presented the planning constraints and considerations. He said that there are three planning constraints for the CEPP: (1) federal and state laws that pertain to WRDA 2000 and Chapter 373.1501. Need to make sure that legal users are not adversely affected. As we move water through the system we cannot affect the level of flood protection, (2) Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule 2008 will be utilized, and (3) Need to meet water quality standards before water is delivered into system.

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

Drew Martin	Ernie Barnett
Matt Morrison	Martha Musgrove
Drew Martin	Tom Teets
Matt Morrison	Martha Musgrove
Drew Martin	Tom Teets
Matt Morrison	Dennis Duke
Dennis Duke	Kim Taplin
Drew Martin	Dennis Duke

Matt Morrison continued the presentation going through the list of considerations for the CEPP.

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

Brad Hawkins	Joan Bausch
Matt Morrison	Matt Morrison

8. Planning Assumptions, Performance Measures and Ecological Evaluation Tools SFWMD

Matt Morrison went through the different cases for planning assumptions: (1) The existing conditions base, (2) the future without project conditions by 2050, (3) the future with project conditions in 2050, and (4) Plan formulation and benefit calculations.

He also discussed the performance measures which are indicators of conditions in the natural system, that have been determined to be characteristics of a healthy ecosystem. These performance measures have been reviewed by the experts in RECOVER. He also went through the list of performance measures that people think should be added. December 22nd, performance measure sub team meeting.

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

Susan Markley	Kim Taplin
Megan Tinsley	John
Tom Teets	Tom Teets
Megan Tinsley	Joel VanArman

Melissa Nasuti (SFWMMD) and Agnes McLean (NPS) presented on the Ecological Evaluation Tools. Melissa began the presentation with the way that habitat units are derived and how they are used to compare and select plans. Need to be able to quantify ecological benefits. She then discussed the SFWMD planning process and Everglades Viewing windows to be able to calculate habitat units which are used to justify the projects. She then went through the methodology for quantifying ecological benefits for Decomp PIR1.

Agnes McLean began her part of the presentation of other potential ecological planning tools to help facilitate the evaluation and assessment of the various plans to restore the Greater Everglades

ecosystem. Additional information from the hydrologic models help tell the story better. Then she discussed the potential ecological tools for CEPP.

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

Patricia Strayer
Agnes McLean
Steve Davis
Matt Morrison
Kim Taplin

John Marshall
Kim Taplin
John Marshall
Kim Taplin

9. Next Steps in the Planning Process

SFWMD

Matt Morrison then began the next steps in the planning process. The steps included: develop methodology for quantifying ecosystem benefits; develop management measures to address problems and objectives. In February, the process will move into formulate and evaluate alternative plans during the CEPP execution stage.

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

John Marshall

10. Closing Comments and Adjourn

Working Group Chair

Dan Kimball finished the meeting with closing comments. He noted that the next CEPP Workshop will be held on January 25th 2012. Please visit the Task Force website www.sfrestore.org for all information relating to the CEPP.

Meeting adjourned at 4:25pm.

Parking lot Issues:

1. Cross check problems and opportunities then identify steps to solve problems.
2. Exotic Species – FWC input
3. Other Goals
 - Restoring Sheetflow – tradeoffs (bass fishing?) (tree islands?)
 - Where will Sheetflow start
4. Concern over species tradeoffs
5. Physical Model
6. System should resemble Natural System

7. Depth of Sheetflow will fluctuate
8. Get more water to ENP
9. Low flow to Caloosahatchee
10. Legal basis of water protected for natural systems vs cup
11. Conveyance off agriculture – south
12. Use of US Sugar lands, look at existing infrastructure and lands outside of River of Grass already in public ownership.
13. Not producing “new” water but capture water not going to estuaries
14. Rotenburger/ Holeyland role (use) in conveyance vs land bought for CERP.
15. Value flood control and water supply, consider in the front end of plan formulation (PMs). Tell us how going to be done vs why not PM
16. Find better language for public meetings instead of “process” jargon. Clarify goals and objectives vs PMs
17. More lead time for meeting notices
18. Will the assimilative capacity of STAs to be an issue
19. CASEM used in other areas of the county (flood based web model). Ecosystem and eco cast. S.b. considered too.
20. How will the approach be streamlined to meet timeline
21. ADM integration guide process activity #5: increase spatial extent of wetlands – capture benefits in terms of dollars through ecosystem valuation (JAM PDT)
22. Outreach to city of West Palm Beach and Palm Beach
23. Process vs substance
24. Big Cypress Basin
25. Land – dispersed storage
 - USDA wetland reserve
 - Conservation Reserves