

DRAFT Minutes  
 Working Group (WG) and Science Coordination Group (SCG) Meeting  
 SFWMD, West Palm Beach, FL  
 December 4, 2019

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

James Erskine called the meeting to order at 10:08AM. Members were provided with the agenda (Encl. 1) and the draft minutes (Encl. 2) from the September meeting. Adam Gelber noted the importance of the WG and SCG, the boots on the ground, in helping with the policy and science to move this program forward. James provided some administrative items and reminded everyone the meeting was being webcast. Adam Gelber recognized Susan Gray who will be retiring from the SFWMD. On behalf of Secretary Bernhardt, he presented her with the Chair's coin. Susan said she would miss the many folks she has worked with over the years adding that the science they do is next to none in terms of complexity and uniqueness. Nick Aumen added Susan would be retiring on January 8, 2020 after almost 28 years with the SFWMD. He said he treasured being a friend as well as a colleague. Remarks were also provided by Dave Rudnick, Deb Drum, James Evans, Pedro Ramos, Penny Hall, James Erskine, Laura Brandt and Kim Taplin.

**In Attendance:**

**Working Group (WG) Members**

James Erskine - Chair - FL Fish and Wildlife Conservation Comm.	√	
Nick Aumen – Vice Chair – U.S. Geological Survey	√	
Stephania Bolden- NOAA, Florida Keys Nat'l Marine Sanctuary	-	
Amy Castaneda – Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida	√	
Kevin M. Cunniff – Seminole Tribe of Florida	√	
Deb Drum – Palm Beach County	√	
Rebecca Elliott - FL Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services	√	
Cecelia Harper - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	√	
Veronica Harrell-James - U.S. Attorney's Office	√	
Lee Hefty - Miami Dade County	-	
COL Andrew Kelly – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	-	Howie Gonzales
Marjorie Kirby - FL Dept. of Transportation	√	
Jennifer Leeds – South Florida Water Management District	√	
John Maehl – Martin County Board of County Commissioners	-	
Russell Morgan – U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, NRCS	-	
Roland Ottolini – Lee County Division of Natural Resources	-	
Pedro Ramos – NPS, ENP & Dry Tortugas National Parks	√	
Leonard Rawlings – Bureau of Indian Affairs	-	
Edward Smith - Florida Department of Environmental Protection	√	
Sunny Snider- NOAA, Southeast Fisheries Science Center	-	
Joe Sullivan – U.S. Department of Transportation, FHWA	-	
Larry Williams – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	-	
Phil Everingham – Chair, BBRRCT, Special Advisory Group	-	
Adam Gelber – Office of Everglades Restoration Initiatives	√	

**Science Coordination Group (SCG) Members**

Susan Gray – Chair - South Florida Water Management District	√	
Bob Johnson – Vice Chair - Everglades National Park	√	
John Baldwin - Florida Atlantic University	-	Brian Benscoter
Joan Browder – NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service	-	
Amy Castaneda – Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida	√	
Angela Dunn – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	√	
James Evans – City of Sanibel Natural Resources Department	√	
Jennifer Hecker – Coastal & Heartland National Estuary Partnership	-	
Chris Kelble – NOAA, AOML	√	
Chad Kennedy – FL Dept. of Environmental Protection	√	
Gil McRae – FL Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	-	Penny Hall
Stacy Myers – Seminole Tribe of Florida	√	
Bob Progulske – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	√	
Stephanie Romañach – United States Geological Survey	-	
Dan Scheidt – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	-	
Jason Strenth – U.S. Department of Agriculture – NRCS	-	
David Rudnick, Special Advisor – National Park Service	√	
Vacant – FL Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	-	
Vacant - U.S. Department of Agriculture – ARS	-	

**2. Director’s Report**

Adam Gelber provided a report on the October 29<sup>th</sup> Task Force meeting held in Washington, DC. The Task Force Chair, Dr. Timothy Petty, Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, remains completely engaged and has asked for briefings on progress being made on the ground. With Assistant Secretary Petty and Secretary Valenstein’s leadership, they will continue to work on WERP, the Integrated Delivery Schedule (IDS) and any obstacles they face. A workshop has been scheduled for the afternoon portion of the agenda to work on the Task Force’s assignments on the IDS and request for five action items.

**3. WG and SCG Priorities Update**

Allyn Childress focused her presentation on the two most intensive efforts that are underway:

*System-wide ecological indicators* - the current indicators were chosen based on their collective ability to comprehensively reflect ecosystem response to restoration. Allyn along with Laura Brandt are conducting one-on-one policy level interviews to obtain feedback regarding the purpose and utility of the current indicators and to assess the perceived value of the current reporting. The information from the policy-level interviews will help frame the SCG sponsored technical workshop scheduled in the Spring. This will be a lengthy process and the results will be incorporated into the 2022 Biennial Report. Nick Aumen will provide funding and logistical support for the technical workshop. Bob Johnson will be putting together a steering committee in advance of the technical workshop.

*Invasive exotic species - Strategic Action Framework (SAF)* – the SAF was finalized in 2015 and will be updated to reflect current challenges, recent successes, new partnerships and efforts underway. The framework document established goals based on the four phases of the invasion curve and included

case studies, a preliminary action assessment and a single year cross cut budget. Allyn along with Carrie Beeler are conducting teleconferences and webinars with agency experts. There is agreement to maintain the existing framework structure and to update the prevention section given new information from the Western Governor's Association and other sources from across the country. The case studies will focus on program and landscape level activities instead of restricting them to specific invasive species. The updated information will be available by the summer of 2020.

Deb Drum said she appreciated the attempt to revisit this document to make sure it is still relevant. Palm Beach County has 32,000-acres of natural area that they manage and one of their tools is the use of herbicides. Municipalities in Palm Beach County are banning the use of herbicides. They are asking for support at the state and federal level to keep the appropriate information out there and support their desire to continue using herbicides. Allyn clarified they did look at that as a management perspective and making sure it is still a viable tool for natural areas. They don't want to forget these tools were helpful in getting them to where they are today.

#### **4. SFWMD Program and Project Update**

Megan Jacoby provided a presentation reviewing some of the federal projects the SFWMD is currently working on to include the C-44 Reservoir & STA, C-43 Reservoir, Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) STA and Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands. On the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP), they started the removal of approximately six miles of Old Tamiami Trail between Everglades National Park's Shark Valley Visitor Center and the L-67 Extension Canal. The construction is anticipated to begin in early 2020. The S-333N, gated spillway, is under construction and will be completed in June 2020. Operations will be defined during the Combined Operating Plan development. The state programs reviewed included the STAs which were mandated by the Everglades Forever Act and the Restoration Strategies plan which includes additional storage via flow equalization basins, expanded STAs, and increases to operational flexibility.

Deb Drum reminded folks that local governments are also doing a lot of large-scale restoration projects and offered to provide a presentation on what Palm Beach County is doing at a future WG/SCG meeting.

#### **5. USACE Program and Project Update**

Howie Gonzales noted they currently have projects throughout the system in varying stages of planning, design, construction and O&M. They have projects that were authorized in the 80's and 90's that are nearing completion. He reviewed the program structure and provided updates on various foundation projects including the Kissimmee River Restoration and the Modified Water Deliveries to Everglades National Park (MWD) project. Updates were also provided on the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) project, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation CERP projects and the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP). Status updates were also provided on the three planning studies: Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project (LRWRP), Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project (LOWRP) and Western Everglades Restoration Project (WERP) currently underway. The recommended plan for the LRWRP is alternative 5R and the Corps is working through the final PIR development. The Chief's Report is planned for March 2020 and the project will be eligible for WRDA 2020 consideration. The recommended plan for the LOWRP is alternative 1BWR and the Corps is also working through the final stages of PIR development. The Chief's Report is planned for May 2020 and this project will also be eligible for WRDA 2020 consideration. On WERP, the Corps presented a notification of its intent to terminate at the October

2019 Task Force meeting. At the Task Force's request, they conducted a meeting in November 2019 which was attended by key players. At this point they are assessing the discussions from that meeting and the path forward on WERP is still to be determined.

Howie reviewed the FY20 budget which included the \$200 million for construction and a little over \$5.4 million for O&M. This is the first year in several years they received money for O&M in the budget. Those funds are focused primarily on requirements of biological opinions.

Bob Progulske noted the state was recently appropriated \$50 million for ASR investigation for the LOWRP and asked how it would fit into the Corps PIR process. Jennifer Leeds replied that within the PIR itself there is a lot of language about taking a phased approach. There is a perception that the SFWMD and the Corps are going to dig 80 wells and that is not the case. They have two existing wells out there now which will be refurbished as part of the \$50 million. They will also investigate putting in two additional well clusters in a stepwise fashion.

James Evans said it was important for them to continue laying out the economic consequences of not adequately funding CERP at the federal level and meeting the project milestones. It is going to take significant funding to keep the projects on schedule. Whether it is the real estate values, water supply to the estuaries, ecological impacts, etc. it all needs to be quantified and laid out for the policy makers so they understand what it will cost the taxpayers if they don't achieve those milestones.

Pedro Ramos said they heard it clearly from the Task Force that they need to find a way to restore the western part of the system. WERP is important to Big Cypress National Preserve and they have trust responsibilities to the Miccosukee and Seminole Tribes. The Tribes also feel strongly about this project moving forward and their concerns need to be heard and incorporated into the work being done. Adam Gelber said the WERP meeting put together by OERI at the TF's direction turned out to be a "myth buster" with everyone who participated learning something. He personally walked away feeling positive about the path forward and looks forward to future progress on this project.

Bob Johnson said ENP, after experiencing a very dry September and October, went to zero inflows in November. They will probably have no inflows into Shark River Slough until May of 2020. That is not natural and is tied to the current rainfall formula. The new rainfall formula that will go into effect with the Combined Operating Plan (COP) will allow the 600,000 acres of marsh downstream to see flows into the dry season that it is not now seeing. James Erskine asked about the relationship of COP to CEPP. Howie explained that from an operations stand point COP gives an alternative that will be implemented to deal with the operations in the southern end of the system. The CEPP from a construction standpoint relies on the most current operational plan. If they don't have the COP in place, then the baseline that CEPP is using will be called into question. Landing COP is very important for the Central Everglades.

## **6. National Research Council Report Update**

Bob Johnson reminded everyone that the independent peer review study of CERP has been in place since it was Congressionally mandated in WRDA 2000. The Committee on Independent Scientific Review of Everglades Restoration Progress (CISRERP) was established in 2005. The Corps, SFWMD and DOI are the three sponsors. CISRERP is to produce a biennial report to Congress, the Secretary of the Army, the Secretary of the Interior and the Governor that includes an assessment of the measures of progress in restoring the ecology of the natural system. For each report, they do an assessment of progress in

restoring the natural system, an evaluation of specific scientific and engineering issues that may impact progress and review the monitoring and assessment protocols to be used for evaluation of CERP progress. The eighth biennial review began in May 2019 with three open meetings held to date along with field trips in conjunction with every meeting. The focus for this cycle is on major ongoing restoration projects underway in 2019-2020 and their associated monitoring and ecological indicators. The draft report is due to the sponsors around July 2020 and the final document will be provided several months later.

## **7. 2020 Task Force Reporting Requirements**

Kevin Burger reviewed the three reports required by WRDA 96 that OERI will be working on in 2020. The Cross-Cut Budget meets the requirement to prepare a coordinated budget request. OERI works to compile the information after the President and Governor release their proposed budgets. The Cross-Cut budget will be completed and posted on [www.Evergladesrestoration.gov](http://www.Evergladesrestoration.gov) by May 2020. The Biennial Report reports on restoration progress and the reporting period for the next report is July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2020. The effort will be kicked-off in March/April 2020. Once the final draft of the report is accepted by the WG/SCG, it will be sent to the Task Force for approval in October/November 2020. The Biennial Report then goes to OMB for clearance and then to the Secretary of the Interior for transmittal to the Congress. The Integrated Financial Plan (IFP) contains all the individual project sheets. OERI will send out a request for information in May 2020 and anticipate completing and posting the IFP on [www.Evergladesrestoration.gov](http://www.Evergladesrestoration.gov) by September 2020.

## **8. CERP 2020 Report to Congress (RTC)**

Eva Velez provided the draft outline of the report and the draft schedule. The reporting period for the 5-year Report to Congress is July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2020. Following this meeting, she will send an e-mail requesting points of contacts. The effort will be kicked-off at the end of January. They are hoping to leverage a lot of the information that is used in the South Florida Environmental Report (SFER). She noted the significant progress made on the “To Do List” that was contained in the 2015 report.

### **Public Comment**

Mr. Mike Collins (Florida Bay Initiatives) noted his concern with the permit for the S-333 North calling for the S-356 pump station to be built first. There is now a 5-year gap in the IDS that will result in a reservoir with no conveyance system. He urged the members to investigate this issue.

Ms. Nyla Pipes (One Florida Foundation) thanked those individuals working through the issues and concerns with WERP. She encouraged everyone to continue working with the property owners and stakeholders. She cautioned that if they lose the support of the stakeholders on this issue, they may lose their support for the entire effort.

## **Workshop Session**

### **9. Integrated Delivery Schedule**

Adam Gelber noted this is the session where the members are being asked to provide guidance to the Corps in terms of options on the IDS, as requested by the Task Force at its October meeting.

Eva Velez provided the members with the official baseline IDS which was rolled out at the Task Force meeting. The Task Force wants the group to deliberate on different funding scenarios and the Corps will run the scenarios. For 2020, the baseline includes \$200 million federal + \$256 million state. Those things already under construction would continue. The sequencing and the priorities set at the public workshops in 2015 remain the same. She noted that construction on the S-356 pump station is set to begin in 2022 and is expected to be lengthy because of where it is located. The SFWMD began construction for the S-333N in 2018. Eva Velez suggested they could look at the IDS by region, which is how it was presented to the Task Force. This IDS represents \$6.1 billion over the next 10 years with over \$4 billion being in the greater Everglades. It has the most impact to protecting that freshwater head which is their number one mitigating strategy for sea level rise.

Ed Smith said they do not want to touch the prioritization and suggested creating an alternate IDS based on the average funding from the last five years. By using that average they will be able to make a gross assumption of the impacts to the timeline. This will be useful to them when communicating the importance of keeping funding levels up to the state Legislature. James Evans said it is difficult to look at funding scenarios as a static placemat. For example, NOAA's online sea-level rise projections tool, provides a way for people to visualize the changes. It is nice to have it on paper but projects that slip may go unnoticed. He suggested having three different placemats, for example a 2030, 2045 and 2065 option.

Dave Rudnick stated that extending the schedules will not stop the effects of sea level rise. There are real world changes that may require them to re-evaluate some elements. The distribution of ecological and societal effects as well as other dynamics at play don't affect these projects or resources equally. This is not a simple accounting exercise. RECOVER is still developing a system-wide vulnerability analysis that could help guide these decisions in the future. They need to find a way to expedite that kind of decision support tool.

Chad Kennedy said he preferred the paper/static version because it shows the big picture. There are changes in the system and the ecological triggers that will require them to adjust will be another discussion. He did not see any compelling reason to change the sequencing given that a lot of people worked hard on that. He noticed the dollar amounts jumped exponentially and suggested they be more conservative and use the inflation rate of 3%.

Ed Smith agreed they need to make sure they are reflecting sea level rise. NOAA has done a great job at putting out a predictor of sea level rise and suggested they could include markers in the IDS with the expected level of sea level rise. There are other ecological losses they need to figure out how to include as well. The sense he got from the Task Force was that they were to keep this current IDS and provide one or two alternatives with one being the worst-case scenario. They could also include caveats that there is a 3% increase in cost for every year they delay construction.

Nick Aumen said the IDS is their best shot at their priorities right now. There is no doubt the IDS will change given the changing environment, threats to Everglades restoration and politics. The threats are not going away and many of them are accelerating in severity. The longer they wait, the more difficult an already difficult job becomes. In addition to sea-level rise there are changes to long-term precipitation patterns that will have big impacts to what they are trying to do.

Bob Johnson said they matched the proposed sequencing to the threats well. The report card tells them where they are scoring the lowest and the projects that fix that are on the IDS. The fact that this looks like a mortgage with a balloon payment due is because they did not make the payments like they were supposed to. They are now caught in this situation where they must pay for the foundation projects and the Generation 1 and 2 projects when they should have been done already. If they don't show what it will take to get the project back on track, then it will be their fault. They don't have 40-50 years to wait. James Erskine said that was a good point and suggested considering a low, medium and high scenario.

Chris Kelble said they haven't been talking about the criteria for how they sequence projects. Laying those out well will be the first step in determining what scenario they go with. With regards to sea level rise, the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands project will protect against that, however, if they wait too long to do it, they won't be able to do it.

Pedro Ramos agreed the threats change over time. There is a lot of momentum with the restoration needs and he is confident they will get it done. However, he is concerned about the exotic invasion of plants and animals and believes it has not been represented well in the work they do and that needs to be addressed. When they restore the system and bring the water to the park, they need to make sure they have an environment that can benefit and thrive from it. He is also concerned with seepage on the eastern part of the park's boundary and asked for that to be addressed. The Florida delegation sent a letter to Assistant Secretary James urging him to use hurricane funding to address flood control in south Dade. Eva Velez clarified that this is in addition to the CEPP new water included in the IDS. There is consensus that this additional consideration for seepage management is needed.

James Erskine said the IDS is very detailed and informative and shows they have a well thought out roadmap. The alternate scenario should be simplified. Rebecca Elliott agreed the alternative IDS be simplified and expressed concern with the six-year gap between the S-333 North and the S-356 projects. If they were to re-prioritize that is the type of thing they should look at.

John Maehl said that IRL-South is the most important project for Martin County. He noted the importance of their messaging when they advocate for federal funding. He suggested they advocate for a specific number rather than focus on individual projects. Eva Velez said they could use sound bites and state what \$6 billion over 10 years would get them as opposed to \$3 billion over 10 years.

Adam Gelber noted the time and resource investment on behalf of the Corps to work on this. Secretary Valenstein would like this updated every year and they are not sure if that would even be possible. He suggested they go with the 5-year average as opposed to just picking a number. Ed Smith said they must be careful because the Corps and the SFWMD already tried that exercise and it became cumbersome. The staff that work on this are the same staff working on the projects and they want to keep this at a high level. Rebecca Elliott suggested they pick a funding level based on the 5-year average so that they have a credible reference.

Eva Velez added that in addition to the \$6 billion over 10 years, the Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project and the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project will get rolled up into the IDS once they have been authorized in WRDA 2020. The \$6 billion also does not include the non-CERP and foundation projects on the IDS.

Ed Smith will work with Allyn Childress and Eva Velez on this assignment and report back to the WG/SCG at the February meeting.

#### **10. Task Force's Top 5 Action Items**

Adam Gelber noted the Task Force asked to be provided with the top five action items/obstacles where the Task Force could be useful in forging paths forward. James Erskine added that Secretary Valenstein also wanted those things the Task Force could be effective at, both in the near and long term.

Dave Rudnick said the seepage management issue is not completely captured within their existing projects. Not sure if the S-356 expanded capacity will be folded into CEPP South or done as a stand-alone project. The effectiveness of the combined operations plan (COP) will be impeded by existing seepage management deficiencies. They are talking about the entire eastern boundary and a single structure like the S-356 alone won't do it. Perhaps they need to consider accelerating the S-356 expansion. They won't be able to realize the full potential benefits of the Tamiami Trail Next Steps without better seepage management. Rebecca Elliott supported Dave's comments adding that seepage management needs to be accelerated. Bob Johnson added that the central everglades project was primarily focused on sending more water south. Seepage management went all the way north to the Miami Canal because the transmissivity of the aquifer increases exponentially when they go south of the Miami Canal. They are doing projects to put more water into WCA-3B so they need to deal with seepage management well north of Tamiami Trail to get the effects they want. CERP not CEPP had multiple components related to seepage management in WCA-3A and WCA-3B that are not on the IDS.

Chad Kennedy, with regards to threatened and endangered species, said he believed monitoring is being done in an ad hoc manner. At one time there was discussion about having a comprehensive threatened and endangered species monitoring plan. That would give some assurances that they are tracking these species throughout the restoration area. Bob Progulske said that some type of comprehensive monitoring program would be helpful. With over 70 listed species, it would be very complex. Part of their regulatory responsibility is to be able to definitively say project x will have this effect on species y. They are still exploring a conservation strategy for snail kites that could serve as a model for other species. He was not sure if this would be a priority for the Task Force.

Angie Dunn stated that monitoring within the Corps funding is tied to a specific project, maybe the Task Force could help in making monitoring a more programmatic type funding like CERP.

Nick Aumen said that while the Task Force does not have any authority as a group, the Task Force does have problem solving capabilities. He suggested they try to identify things where there may be conflicts or disagreements, for example WERP.

Deb Drum stated that a project that started in 1999 and was supposed to take 35 years to complete and is not, is a constraint. She suggested they look at the CISRERP recommendations and filter up those issues with the highest importance that have not been resolved. Bob Johnson added that CISRERP's last report identified a lot of constraints to moving forward, such as storage. They have a fraction of the storage than they had at the beginning of CERP.

Bob Progulske said the Task Force could help with interagency funding for the rapid response of new invasive exotic species, regulatory authorities and amendments to the Lacey Act which cuts across all the state and federal agencies. Dave Rudnick said that DOI is pressed for resources to manage exotic

species (plants and animals). DOI's Critical Ecosystem Studies Initiative (CESI) program which they have for restoration science support is currently spread too thin. Having a companion DOI program to do a better job on DOI lands seems worthwhile.

Ed Smith suggested the Task Force seek opportunities to engage other agencies or groups not already represented on the Task Force. For example, the raising of Tamiami Trail brought FDOT resources to the table that expedited the bridge and road raising. Engaging others would not only expedite projects but avoid delays.

Susan Gray said they could ask the Task Force about resources for the RECOVER program which took a 58% cut in funding in 2011. Dave Rudnick said that tying COP to CEPP, tying CISRERP recommendations to where they are now are important. CISRERP has hounded them about not being integrated. RECOVER's system-wide vulnerability analysis effort will address that in part. James Erskine noted they have heard several times about the linkages and tying things together with the S-356 and S-333N; COP and CEPP; EAA and the flow capacities. He suggested they think about making sure the Task Force understands the linkages and is aware of how one step is integral to the next. Dave Rudnick added the LOSOM will be critical for Lake Okeechobee's own ecological status, the local economy and the Okeechobee basin but its impact extends way beyond that. Chris Kelble said they need to re-think assessment of progress towards restoration beyond progress on construction.

James Erskine noted OERI will refine this list and bring it back to the group. They will have to consider how this will fit in with what the Task Force is already tracking and being updated on. If they come in with five independent presentations, that could easily fill up the entire agenda for the TF meeting.

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Nick Aumen made a motion to approve the minutes from the September meeting which was seconded by Susan Gray. There was no discussion and the minutes were approved without objection.

### **Public Comment**

Drew Martin (Loxahatchee Group of the Sierra Club) said the goal should be how much of restoration they are accomplishing not how many projects they have. It would be nice to have something parallel that says they have reduced outflows to the estuaries by x % and that by the end of 5 years, for example, they will see x accomplished. By putting their goals on the table, they may be more likely to get funding.

### **Next Steps and Closing Comments**

Adam Gelber encouraged members to continue thinking about those actionable items and bring those topics up when they get another opportunity to discuss this at the February WG/SCG meeting. The next TF will be in either late April or early May. OERI is working on the website ([www.evergladesrestoration.gov](http://www.evergladesrestoration.gov)) to make it more user friendly and it will be unveiled at a future meeting. James Erskine announced the FWC Commission meeting is on Dec. 11-12<sup>th</sup> in Pensacola, FL and the full agenda is available at: <https://myfwc.com/about/commission/commission-meetings/>

Susan Gray encouraged everyone to stay in touch after her retirement. Kim Taplin reminded everyone of LTC Jennifer Reynolds retirement happy hour celebration at Koluz Restaurant that evening.

Bob Johnson said that a lot of the discussion they had about how to assess restoration progress on the ground are the type of topics they need to integrate into the review of the ecological indicators to make them as robust as possible. The steering committee members will start working on this effort and reach out to everyone between now and February.

Meeting adjourned at 2:51PM.

Enclosures:

1. Agenda
2. Meeting minutes, September 2019
3. WG and SCG Priorities Update
4. SFWMD Program and Project Update
5. Corps Program and Project Update
6. National Research Council Report Update
7. No Handout for the 2020 Task Force Reporting Requirements Update
8. CERP Report to Congress
  - a. Draft schedule
  - b. Draft outline
9. Integrated Delivery Schedule Placemat (October 2019 update)
10. No Handout for the Task Force's Top 5 Action Items