South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force

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Working Group/Science Coordination Group
CISRERP VIII Update

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Committee on Independent Scientific Review of Everglades Restoration Progress (CISRERP)

Congressionally mandated study of the CERP under WRDA 2000, through the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM). Jointly funded by the USACE, SFWMD, DOI.

- "The panel shall produce a biennial report to Congress, the Secretary, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Governor that includes an assessment of measures of progress in restoring the ecology of the natural system."

- Biennial Reports provide: (1) Assessment of progress in restoring the natural system, (2) Evaluation of specific scientific and engineering issues that may impact progress in achieving natural system restoration goals, and (3) review of monitoring and assessment protocols to be used for evaluation of CERP progress.

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The eighth Biennial Review began in May 2019. Four open meetings were held in May, August, November 2019, and February 2020. Each of the four meetings included a field trip to view local resource conditions and ongoing restoration projects. The final CISRERP VIII report was delayed due to contractual issues, and is expected in October 2020. Sponsors received a draft of Chapter 3 (restoration implementation progress) for fact checking.

CISRERP VIII is focusing on Major Ongoing Restoration Projects underway in 2019-2020, and their associated monitoring and ecological indicators.

Key areas that were emphasized in CISRERP VIII:
1) Status of the IDS/Ongoing projects and CERP projects not yet initiated, 2) CERP funding status, 3) RECOVER and the role of science in decision making, 4) foundation projects in the southern Everglades, 5) conditions in the northern and southern estuaries, and associated restoration actions.

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May 13, Field Trip - Central & Southern Everglades Restoration (CEPP/MWD)

(1) WCA-3A Decomp Physical Model (Structure S-152) Importance of restoring sheetflow in the CEPP, (2) Tamiami Trail (Next Steps Project) Importance of marsh connectivity/removing flow obstructions into Northeast SRS, (3) Modified Water Deliveries and C-111SD Projects (Las Palmas/8.5 SMA, C-111 South Detention Areas).

Meeting 8.1 May 14

- Overview of Everglades hydrology and the status of the South Florida ecosystem,
- CERP 101 (goals/objectives, system-wide CERP components, benefits/constraints),
- Major Initiatives during 2019-2020 (HHD/LOSOM, CEPP South/EAA Res., RECOVER),
- Perspectives on key challenges (panel representing stakeholder groups),
- Sponsor feedback on latest CISRERP report, new issues for CISRERP VIII.

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August 14, Field Trip - Indian River Lagoon and Saint Lucie Estuary (IRLS)

Indian River Lagoon, C-44 Reservoir, Florida Oceanographic, health of the IRL/status of algal blooms, SAV, and oysters, progress in IRL South project construction.

Meeting 8.2 August 15

- Overview of the system-wide water management. ops., constraints, and CERP targets,
- Northern Estuaries: current conditions, CERP objectives, status of blue green algae blooms, impacts of changing conditions, new science, future needs,
- Southern Estuaries: current conditions, CERP objectives, impacts of changing conditions, new science, future needs,
- RECOVER 2019 SSR/Report Card, what do the indicators tell us about current conditions and ecosystem health?
- Use of modeling in CERP, brief overview, three case studies (WERP, COP, IGIT), key modeling needs to support future decision making and adaptive mgmt.

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October 29 Field Trip – Florida Bay and Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Project

(1)Little Madeira Bay and Taylor River (LTER sites) role of freshwater flow on nearshore and Florida Bay salinity and ecosystem health, (2) Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands (L-31E and Deering Estate) benefits of restoring freshwater flows.

Meeting 8.3 November 1

- Combined Operating Plan, historical context, incremental testing benefits, adaptive mgmt., impacts on regional hydrology and water quality.
- Blue Green Algae Task Force Update, objectives, key questions, findings,
- Vulnerability Analysis (RECOVER), methodology, intended benefits for decision making,
- Integrated Delivery Schedule, factors leading to update, how do changes affect delivery of benefits, key dependencies and timelines,
- Science informed decision making panel discussion (RECOVER), how does the CERP adapt to new information, learning from early adaptive mgmt.

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February 3, 2020, Field Trips to the C-43 Reservoir, Caloosahatchee Estuary, and Picayune Strand (1) Status and expected benefits from the C-43 Reservoir, and boat tour of the conditions in the Caloosahatchee estuary, and (2) a separate trip to the Picayune Strand to discuss status and benefits of the project.

Meeting 8.4 February 4

- USACE Update on the Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual (LOSOM) project.
- Interim Goals and Interim Targets (IGIT) modeling and impact/benefit assessments.

Follow-up Conference Calls on Specific Topics (6):

- Dec. 2019 (2) Amanda Khan/Peter Doering – SFWMD Northern Estuaries projects
- Jan. 2020 Wendy Graham - UFL Water Institute's report on Lake Okeechobee
- Apr. 2020 (2) RECOVER Exec. Comm., and Southern Estuaries scientist panel
- Aug. 2020 Interagency panel – State of Modeling, predictive capacity, future scenarios.


QUESTIONS?