

DRAFT AGENDA

SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION TASK FORCE MEETING

ZOOM Meeting

May 3, 2022

9:00 – 3:00PM

Task Force Role: *The intergovernmental South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force was created by the Congress in 1996 to provide the long-term strategic coordination of efforts to restore the 18,000 square mile South Florida Ecosystem. Its duties are to provide intergovernmental coordination, review project plans for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), exchange information, facilitate the resolution of conflict, coordinate programmatic science, assist members in their restoration activities, report on restoration progress, and promote public participation.*

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| 9:00 – 9:30 | 1. Welcome, Goals for the Meeting and Administrative Items
<i>Purpose: Administrative items, including instructions for member and public comments, will be reviewed.</i> | Tanya Trujillo
Chair |
| 9:30 – 9:40 | 2. Momentum in Everglades Restoration
<i>Purpose: The USACE and the SFWMD will highlight the current momentum and financial investments that are being made in Everglades restoration.</i> | COL James Booth
USACE
Drew Bartlett
SFWMD |
| 9:40 – 10:10 | 3. Task Force Member Introductions and Opening Remarks
<i>Purpose: Each member will have the opportunity to provide brief introductory remarks and announcements.</i> | ALL |
| 10:10 – 10:20 | 4. October 2020 Meeting Summary
<i>Purpose: The summary from the October 2020 Task Force meeting is being provided for information only.</i> | Tanya Trujillo
Chair |
| 10:20 – 10:50 | 5. Director's Task Force 101/Restoration Overview
<i>Purpose: The Director of the Office of Everglades Restoration Initiatives (OERI) will provide an overview of the Task Force's role in the restoration of America's Everglades. An introduction to the restoration program will also be provided.</i> | Adam Gelber
Bob Johnson
OERI |
| 10:50 – 11:00 | 6. Task Force Vice Chair Nomination and Election
<i>Purpose: The Task Force will nominate and elect a non-federal member to serve as Vice Chair in accordance with the Vice Chair Protocol. This provides for continuity and helps assure that non-federal concerns are addressed in the administration of Task Force meetings.</i> | Adam Gelber
OERI |

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| 11:00 – 11:10 | 7. Report on Working Group (WG) and Science Coordination Group (SCG) Activities | James Erskine
WG Chair
Lawrence Glenn
SCG Interim Chair |
| | <i>Purpose: The Task Force will be asked to approve the new SCG Chair and Vice Chair leadership. An update will be provided by the Chairs of the WG and SCG on recent activities to include a report on the sponsored stakeholder workshop on the Integrated Delivery Schedule.</i> | |
| 11:10 – 11:40 | 8. South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Program and Project Update | Melinda Parrott
SFWMD |
| | <i>Purpose: The SFWMD will provide an update on ongoing restoration planning, design, and construction. In addition to moving forward with features within the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration (SFER) Program, the SFWMD also manages the Restoration Strategies Program, a suite of projects created to improve water quality in America's Everglades.</i> | |
| 11:40 – 12:10 | 9. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Program and Project Update | Eva Velez
USACE |
| | <i>Purpose: The USACE will provide an update on ongoing restoration planning, design, and construction projects. An overview of the Integrated Delivery Schedule (IDS) will also be provided. The IDS provides the roadmap for sequencing, planning, design, and construction of federal and state projects related to Everglades restoration.</i> | |
| 12:10 – 12:40 | Public Comment | |
| 12:40 – 1:10 | Lunch Break | |
| 1:10 – 1:30 | 10. Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual (LOSOM) | Tim Gysan
USACE |
| | <i>Purpose: LOSOM is a component of the Central & Southern Florida (C&SF) System Operating Plan. This effort is re-evaluating Lake Okeechobee operations to coincide with the completion of the Herbert Hoover Dike rehabilitation in 2022. The LOSOM effort will re-examine the opportunities to balance the congressionally authorized project purposes for flood control, water supply, navigation, recreation, and preservation of fish and wildlife resources.</i> | |

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| 1:30 – 2:00 | 11. WRDA 2020 - Invasive Species Risk Assessment
Prioritization and Management | Adam Gelber
OERI |
| | <i>Purpose: An overview of the Task Force's 2020 Invasive Exotic Species Strategic Action Framework will be provided to highlight some of the work done in the past. Congress recently recognized the importance of invasive species management for Everglades restoration to succeed. WRDA 2020 directs the Task Force to develop a priority list of invasive species that significantly impact the structure and function of ecological communities, native species, or habitats within the South Florida Ecosystem. The Task Force member agencies are directed to manage those species through coordination and collaboration to develop innovative strategies and tools, guide applied research, facilitate improved management, and to prevent future introductions of nonnative species.</i> | |
| 2:00 – 2:30 | Public Comment | |
| 2:30 – 2:40 | Assignments, Next Steps and Closing Comments | Tanya Trujillo
Chair |
| 2:40 | Adjourn | |

Updated 04/26/22