SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION TASK FORCE

DRAFT Agenda

South Florida Water Management District 3301 Gun Club Road Building B-1, Governing Board Auditorium West Palm Beach, Florida 33406 April 26, 2019

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.

9:00 – 9:10	1. Welcome, Goals for the Meeting and Administrative Items <i>Purpose:</i> The agenda and minutes from the July 2018 meeting will be presented for approval. Administrative items will also be reviewed.	Andrea Travnicek, Ph.D.
9:10 – 9:30	2. Task Force Member Introductions and Opening Remarks <i>Purpose:</i> Each member has the option of providing brief introductory remarks.	ALL
9:30 – 9:50	3. Corps of Engineers (CORPS) Program and Project Update <i>Purpose:</i> The Corps will provide an update on ongoing restoration planning, design and construction. An update on the Integrated Delivery Schedule (IDS) will also be provided. The IDS provides the roadmap for sequencing, planning, design and construction of both federal and state projects related to Everglades restoration.	Howie Gonzales
9:50 – 10:20	4. South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Program and Project Update Purpose: The SFWMD will provide an update on ongoing restoration planning, design and construction. The update will include an overview of the 2019 South Florida Environmental Report (SFER) prepared by the SFWMD. The (SFER) documents a year of restoration, scientific and engineering accomplishments in the Kissimmee Basin, Lake Okeechobee, Everglades and South Florida coastal areas. The report also provides extensive peer reviewed research summaries, data analyses, financial updates and a searchable database of environmental projects.	Megan Jacoby
10:20 – 10:40	5. National Academies Report Update <i>Purpose:</i> Consistent with the requirements of WRDA 2000, the Secretary of the Army, the Secretary of Interior and the Governor of Florida established an independent review panel through the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. The Committee on Independent Scientific Review of Everglades Restoration Progress (CISRERP) was asked to present a report on CERP progress, every two years. An update will be provided by the National Academies on "Progress Toward Restoring the Everglades, The Seventh Biennial Review, 2018" released in the fall of 2018.	Stephanie Johnson

Continued – April 26, 2019

10:40 – 11:10	 Working Group (WG) and Science Coordination Group (SCG) Priorities Purpose: A proposed list of 2019 priorities will be presented by the Chairs to foster a discussion among the Task Force members with regards to those items the Task Force would like the WG and SCG to work on going forward. 	Adam Gelber James Erskine Bob Johnson
11:10 – 11:30	Public Comment <i>Purpose:</i> Opportunity for input and feedback on the preceding agenda items.	
11:30 – 12:30	Lunch Break	
12:30 – 1:00	7. Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual (LOSOM) Study Purpose: WRDA 2018 directs the Secretary of the Army to expedite the completion of the Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule to coincide with completion of the Herbert Hoover Dike rehabilitation in 2022. The LOSOM study will consider future CERP infrastructure that will provide additional flexibility for lake operation. The result of this effort will be a new system operating manual for Lake Okeechobee. An update will be provided on the series of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) scoping meetings that have been held throughout south Florida as well as the public comments that have been received.	COL Andrew Kelly
1:00 – 1:30	8. Combined Operations Plan (COP) Purpose: The COP will serve as the integrated water operations plan for the southern Everglades ecosystem. It will define operations for the constructed features of the Modified Water Deliveries to Everglades National Park and C-111 South Dade projects, while maintaining the congressionally authorized purposes of the Central and Southern Florida Project. These authorized purposes include flood control, water supply for agricultural irrigation, municipalities and industry, regional groundwater control and prevention of saltwater intrusion, enhancement of fish and wildlife and recreation.	Jed Redwine
1:30 – 2:00	9. Harmful Algal Blooms – A Primer on Cyanobacteria Blooms and Red Tide Purpose: An informational briefing will be provided by the US Geological Survey to explain the similarities and differences between cyanobacteria blooms and red tide outbreaks, including: a description of the organisms; explanation of the blooms; environmental and health concerns of blooms; potential causative factors of blooms; and scientific studies underway and planned.	Barry Rosen Keith Loftin COL Andrew Kelly
2:00 – 2:30	 Update on Florida Reef Tract Coral Disease Outbreak Response Efforts Purpose: An overview of the ecologic and economic values of the Florida Reef Tract, the multi-faceted partnership response to the ongoing coral disease outbreak, and the resilience connection to Everglades restoration actions will be provided. 	Joanna Walczak Sarah Fangman

Continued – April 26, 2019

2:30 – 2:40	11. 2018 Biennial Report Update <i>Purpose:</i> The Task Force will receive a status update on the 2018 Biennial Report (July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2018) prepared by the Department of Interior's Office of Everglades Restoration Initiatives. The Biennial Report is required by WRDA 1996 to report biennially on Task Force activities and progress made towards restoration.	Kevin Burger
2:40 - 3:00	Public Comment <i>Purpose:</i> Opportunity for input and feedback on the preceding agenda items.	
3:00 – 3:30	Assignments, Next Steps and Closing Comments	Andrea Travnicek, Ph.D.
3:30	Adjourn	

Updated 4/16/19