# Draft Meeting Minutes Joint Working Group and Science Coordination Group Meeting South Florida Water Management District West Palm Beach, Florida June 20, 2019

# 1. Welcome and Introductions

James Erskine called the meeting to order at 10:05AM. He welcomed Matt Morrison new WG member and Greg Langowski from Sen. Marco Rubio's office. The agenda and draft minutes from the November 2018 meeting were provided. He reviewed some administrative announcements. Barry Rosen announced he would be retiring on July 31st and going to Florida Gulf Coast University in Ft. Myers. James Erskine thanked Barry for his service Nick Aumen announced that Stephanie Romañach has been nominated to be the USGS rep on the SCG. Members were asked to provide brief introductory remarks. The video, handouts and presentations from this meeting are available via the link below:

# https://www.evergladesrestoration.gov/wgm/

In Attendance:	June 20	
Working Group (WG) Members		Alternates
James Erskine - Chair - FL Fish and Wildlife Conservation Comm.	$\sqrt{}$	
Nick Aumen - Vice Chair – U.S. Geological Survey	$\sqrt{}$	
Stephania Bolden - National Marine Fisheries Service - NOAA	-	Nancy Diersing
Amy Castaneda - Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida	$\sqrt{}$	
Deb Drum - Palm Beach County	$\sqrt{}$	
Rebecca Elliott - FL Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services	$\sqrt{}$	
Cecelia Harper - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	$\sqrt{}$	
Veronica Harrell-James - U.S. Attorney's Office	$\sqrt{}$	
Lee Hefty - Miami Dade County	$\sqrt{}$	
COL Andrew Kelly – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	-	LT COL Jennifer Reynolds
Marjorie Kirby - FL Dept. of Transportation	-	
John Maehl - Martin County Board of County Commissioners	$\sqrt{}$	
Russell Morgan - U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, NRCS	-	
Matt Morrison - South Florida Water Management District	$\sqrt{}$	
Roland Ottolini - Lee County Division of Natural Resources	$\sqrt{}$	
Pedro Ramos - NPS, ENP & Dry Tortugas National Parks	-	
Leonard Rawlings - Bureau of Indian Affairs	-	
Edward Smith - Florida Department of Environmental Protection	-	Chad Kennedy
Sunny Snider - Southeast Fisheries Science Center - NOAA	-	Nancy Diersing
Joseph Sullivan – U.S. Department of Transportation, FHWA	-	
Larry Williams - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	-	Bob Progulske
Vacant - Biscayne National Park	-	
Vacant - Seminole Tribe of Florida	-	
Phil Everingham - Chair, BBRRCT, Special Advisory Group	-	Carol McLoughlin, Vice Chair
Adam Gelber – U.S. Dept. Of the Interior, OERI	$\sqrt{}$	

#### **Science Coordination Group (SCG) Members**

Susan Gray - Chair - South Florida Water Management District	$\sqrt{}$	
Bob Johnson - National park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior	$\sqrt{}$	
John Baldwin - Florida Atlantic University	-	Brian Benscoter
Joan Browder - NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service	$\sqrt{}$	
Amy Castaneda - Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida	$\sqrt{}$	
Angela Dunn - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	$\sqrt{}$	
James Evans - City of Sanibel Natural Resources Department	-	
Jennifer Hecker - Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program	-	
Chris Kelble - NOAA, AOML	$\sqrt{}$	
Chad Kennedy - FL Dept. of Environmental Protection	$\sqrt{}$	
Gil McRae - FL Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	-	Brad Furman
Bob Progulske - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	$\sqrt{}$	
Barry Rosen - U.S. Geological Survey	$\sqrt{}$	
Dan Scheidt - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	-	
Dave Rudnick - Everglades National Park, U.S. Department of the Interior	$\sqrt{}$	
Vacant - FL Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	-	
Vacant - Seminole Tribe of Florida	-	
Vacant - U.S. Department of Agriculture – NRCS	-	
Vacant - U.S. Department of Agriculture – ARS	-	

# 2. Director's Report

Adam Gelber said that the folks sitting around this table and the audience have been extremely supportive of Everglades restoration, the framework for moving these items forward. It is important for the WG and SCG to help advise and recommend to the Task Force (TF) these items that are on the agenda. Although they are meeting as a group, the goal is to have the WG and SCG meet individually and work on items in preparation for the October TF meeting. He encouraged the members to continue their engagement in the revitalization of the WG and SCG noting there is a lot of work to be done. He announced that the President has named Robert Wallace as the new Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks for the Department of the Interior and he is currently going through the confirmation process. The next TF meeting is planned for October in Wash., DC. In addition, his office is working on a long-term meeting schedule that will be provided to the members.

#### 3. Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project (LRWRP)

Howie Gonzales noted that this is one of three planning studies currently underway. The goal is to update the WG and SCG on the progress made to complete this study for possible WRDA 2020 consideration. The LRWRP is located to the east of Lake Okeechobee with a significant study area of over 750 square miles. The project purpose is to restore and sustain the overall quantity, quality, timing and distribution of freshwaters to the federally designated "National Wild and Scenic" Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River, while maintaining levels of flood risk and water supply. The project also seeks to restore, sustain, and reconnect the area's wetlands and watersheds that form the historic headwaters for the river. The LRWRP is a part of CERP and includes 3 of the 68 components. The environmental benefits of the recommended plan (alternative 5R) were reviewed. The preliminary cost estimate is

\$470 million. The SMART planning process schedule was reviewed, and the goal is to have a Chief's Report in early 2020 for inclusion in WRDA 2020. The Programmatic Regulations (Pro Regs) require consultation with the TF which will occur at the next meeting.

Deb Drum, on behalf of Palm Beach County, thanked the staff at the Corps and the SFWMD for their hard work. The Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners has expressed continued support of this effort to restore the Loxahatchee River watershed, as well as a commitment to their constituents to communicate key concerns with risks to Palm Beach County. The County Commissioners are willing to collaborate with the Corps and the SFWMD to ensure that the Mecca portion of the project is compatible with adjacent lands. Palm Beach County is planning to start some technical analyses in July to address their interest, specifically with the deep storage reservoir component that is proposed for the Mecca site. They look forward to sharing this information and to continue their collaboration to move this project forward. Chad Kennedy stated that FDEP supports this effort adding that this project is near and dear to their heart. Adam Gelber noted this will be brought to TF for consultation at their October meeting planned in Wash., DC.

#### 4. Integrated Delivery Schedule (IDS)

Howie Gonzales reviewed the background and history of the IDS. The Pro Regs required a Master Implementation Sequencing Plan (MISP) and from that the IDS was first developed in 2008. The IDS includes foundation projects and other CERP dependent projects. It provides a schedule and sequencing plan for achieving restoration benefits as soon as possible consistent with state and federal authorizations and funding. It is not an agency action or decision document but a tool to provide guidance to decision-makers for scheduling, staffing and budgeting. Regular updates are required in consultation with the Task Force and stakeholder input. It is intended to be a living document and is updated as needed to reflect progress and/or program changes. The FY20 President's Budget includes \$200 million as tweeted by President Trump in May 2019. Howie reviewed what has been appropriated at the federal and state levels since the last IDS update, as well as what has been funded through other program authorities such as the Herbert Hoover Dike, which was fully funded through the Supplemental Appropriations Act 2019. The Corps will begin a deliberate process to update the IDS over the summer and consult with the TF at its October 2019 meeting.

Chris Kelble asked that the SCG and WG get the opportunity to see the IDS before it goes to the TF. On behalf of NOAA, he urged the Corps to consider Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands and other projects that bring benefits to the coastal ecosystem. LTC Reynolds suggested they ask the TF to sponsor an IDS workshop that would allow the agencies and the public to interact, as well as to provide transparency. James Erskine clarified that they are recommending that the TF sponsor one public workshop on the IDS. Lee Hefty made a motion to host a workshop which was seconded by Chad Kennedy.

Dave Rudnick suggested the SCG members and RECOVER members or a subset hold a workshop for scientific consensus and recommendations based on the needs of the system, considering the recent CISRERP recommendations. Bob Johnson supported Dave's recommendation, particularly with the vulnerability analysis that all the agencies are working on jointly through RECOVER. Susan Gray echoed Bob's comments and encouraged everyone to look at RECOVER's System Status Report and the Report Card which reports on the indicators. Dave Rudnick said they may have some preliminary information on the vulnerability analysis, but they are a year away on the final report.

LTC Reynolds clarified the Corps is prepared to do the heavy lifting and they have hired additional people and have a contract that will be in place that will provide some resource capability. The TF is uniquely suited to help with the public interaction because of its FACA exemption. They will put together a schedule to show how they will engage the SCG ahead of the workshop. Deb Drum said she participated in the previous workshops and encouraged they use a different approach to get public comment in a meaningful way. Chad Kennedy said this would be a single informational activity to describe where they are today and where they are going in the future. There are a lot of constraints besides the science, for example, projects currently underway must continue. This would be an informational exercise and an opportunity for people to understand the process and provide input. The WG/SCG members voted unanimously to hold a single workshop.

Bob Johnson reported they have secured the funds to complete the Tamiami Trail Next Steps project. They received \$43.5 from the state and a \$60 million commitment from the FHA. The project will be awarded by the end of 2020 and they are targeting a 2022 completion date which will be reflected in the updated IDS. They did a value-analysis workshop in 2018 and the project consists of raising the remaining 6.5-miles of the roadway and supplementing the conveyance through six of the existing culverts. There will be no more large bridging and they are focusing on more marsh connectivity versus more volumes.

# 5. USACE Program and Project Update

Howie Gonzales provided an overview on the projects throughout the system that are in varying stages of planning, design, construction and O&M. The South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Program is a large-scale, watershed project area with over 18,000 square miles that includes multiple national parks, national preserves, national refuges and other federal lands. It will improve the health of over 2.4 million acres (twice the size of New Jersey) of the South Florida Ecosystem, including Lake Okeechobee. The program will also provide flood risk management and water supply for over 8 million residents in the largest metropolitan area in the southeastern U.S. 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. MWD is funded by the Department of Interior, implemented by the Corps and will be operated by the SFWMD. Updates were also provided on the C&SF project, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation CERP projects and Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP), authorized in WRDA 2016.

Status updates were also provided on the three planning studies (LRWRP, Lake Okeechobee Watershed Project and Western Everglades Restoration Project (WERP)) currently underway. The Corps has a TSP for the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Project which they are polishing due to some concerns. An updated draft final report will be available for 45-day public review in early July. This item will be briefed at the October TF meeting. The WERP has proved challenging and they are looking to make sure that both the quantity and quality of water is available to ensure restoration benefits and that it syncs up with CEPP. That effort was expected to take longer because of the modeling and data necessary.

The South Florida Ecosystem Restoration (SFER) budget was reviewed. The Corps has done its best to reallocate funds within the SFER program to address immediate needs. O&M has been a challenge and the current work plan allowance does not cover all the O&M requirements. The \$200 million for one year is great, however, they have about \$8 billion worth of projects authorized. The federal share is \$4 billion, so the Corps needs \$200 million a year for the next 20 years. The next TF meeting will include:

consultation on the LRWRP PIR; discussion of the program and project concerns with the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Project; and an updated IDS presentation.

Joan Browder said the Caloosahatchee Reservoir doesn't have an STA associated with it and asked how this could be handled. Howie replied the Yellow Book identified the C-43 West Basin Storage Reservoir as just a water storage feature and it does not have an STA with it. The process to get that added would be through completion of a Post Authorization Change Report (PACR) to change the authorized plan. Matt Morrison added that there is a lot of momentum, including funding, to support the C-43 Reservoir and they don't want to engage in a PACR for that facility. Outside of the CERP program, the SFWMD has established a working group with local governments and FDEP on the west coast to begin looking at options through a feasibility study over the next 18-months to improve water quality before water enters or leaves the C-43 Reservoir. Recognizing this is a federally authorized project they want to make sure that what is identified at the end of the day is compatible with the authorized project. That study is just being initiated and additional information on the public meetings will be available on <a href="https://www.sfwmd.gov">www.sfwmd.gov</a>

### 6. SFWMD Program and Project Update

Megan Jacoby provided a presentation reviewing some of the federal projects the SFWMD has moved out on including the C-44 Reservoir & STA, C-43 Reservoir, EAA Reservoir and the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands. The SFWMD has also been able to move more water south to Florida Bay through a series of operational flexibilities and construction projects in the south Dade area. Some of the state programs reviewed included the STAs which were mandated by the Everglades Forever Act. The 57,000 acres of STAs provide, on average, an 80% reduction of total phosphorus. The Restoration Strategies plan includes additional storage via flow equalization basins, expanded STAs, and increases to operational flexibility. As of April 2019, six projects are completed, seven are ongoing and they have met 47 of the 74 milestones.

#### **Public Comment**

Nyla Pipes (One Florida Foundation) noted the importance of the C-23 and C-24 reservoirs and the IRL-South for the St. Lucie River. SFWMD science consistently shows that 70% of the flow to the St. Lucie River and 60-70% of the nutrient loading comes from the local basin. She encouraged the members to look at a new report from Harbor Branch that uses real time data that is showing that the North Fork of the St. Lucie River, during the harmful algal bloom of 2016, contributed more nutrients and dissolved organic material than Lake Okeechobee.

Tom MacVicar said he was pleased to hear the conversation on the IDS. He participated in the IDS process several years ago and although it may not have felt efficient, the final product was extremely useful. Everyone spent a lot of time making sure all the pieces fit, unfortunately, there hasn't been government discipline to stick to the schedule. For example, CEPP has four or five different projects that must work in sequence.

Cara Capp (NPCA) said they asked for an updated IDS at the last TF meeting because they saw that projects were falling further and further behind. The IDS shows the impact that funding shortfalls are having on these projects. They are excited to see the projected progress with the new infusion of funding. They want to make sure the priority for this IDS is getting projects done and showing progress.

This great funding from the state and federal level cannot be a one-time thing. NPCA's top priority is moving ahead with construction on the full suite of CEPP South projects, an essential precursor that will allow that new water in the reservoir to make it into ENP. NPCA also wants to show its strong support for BBCW Phase 2 planning. They are looking forward to participating the IDS workshop. NPCA has been working closely with the agencies on the Combined Operations Plan for the southern end of the system. However, they don't want to rush it if it is not the right alternative. As it stands, NPCA has significant concerns that the final alternative will not perform well for Florida Bay during a drought. She closed by saying that NPCA is excited about the progress overall and is there to help support this effort.

Albrey Arrington (Loxahatchee River District) pointed out that the Loxahatchee River District is one of two National Wild and Scenic Rivers in the state and the only one within the jurisdiction of the SFWMD. It continues to experience MFL violations which means the river is experiencing significant harm both in 2018 and 2019. They appreciate where they are in the planning process and look forward to implementing solutions so they can stop the MFL violations and ultimately move towards achieving restoration.

Drew Martin (Loxahatchee Group of the Sierra Club) agreed with much of what Cara and Albray said about moving forward with the Loxahatchee River project. There was some concern in Palm Beach County with the reservoir that has been proposed on the Mecca site. The Mecca site exists because his group sued the county and prevented it from becoming developments. That reservoir is extremely expensive and there is a group in Palm Beach County working with a developer to do more natural flow. The Loxahatchee Wild and Scenic River needs to get some emergency water deliveries and there needs to be a way to figure out how to stop the river's serious decline. They support the work going on in the southern Everglades. They think it's essential to get more water flowing under the bridges, unfortunately, some of the Savings Clause impacts that because they are limited in areas like flood protection. Florida Bay as well as the coral reefs, an essential part of the Everglades ecosystem, are really suffering.

# 7. Meeting Minutes

Nick Aumen made a motion to approve the minutes from the Nov. 2018 meeting which was seconded by Barry Rosen. Minutes approved without objection.

#### 8. 2019 WG and SCG Priorities

James Erskine explained that this discussion on the priorities will take the WG and SCG through the next 12-month schedule and beyond. Susan Gray said they are also looking for a commitment of resources. Adam Gelber stated the indicator species are critically important to the messaging and how they are achieving the goals. There may be a lot of benefits from the indicators that are not being picked up at this time. A lot of folks want to see the benefits they are receiving from Everglades restoration. Their commitment of time is important to the success of Everglades restoration. Allyn Childress remindedeveryone that a brainstorming session was held at the Nov. 2018 meeting. The OERI staff worked with the chairs to finesse that list which was then presented to the TF at its April 2019 meeting. Proposed work plans have been developed for each of the priority items. Progress reports on all items will be provided to the Task Force at their October 2019 meeting.

System-wide Ecological indicators – Susan Gray noted there is an interest in assessing the current suite of indicators to determine whether they are still appropriate, cover the right geographic area, detect trends, etc. The questions that keep coming up are whether this information is being used, is it useful and is it timely. The proposal is to have a series of SCG sponsored workshops to review/update the system-wide ecological indicators. This is not just CERP but for ecosystem restoration in south Florida. They also want to make sure they are sharing and leveraging data where ever possible. A kick-off workshop is planned for late Fall and will include this entire group and whomever else needs to be added. It will be an interactive conversation with the managers and the technical staff, managers will be asked to discuss how they use these types of reports.

Chris Kelble said NOAA is committed to helping and reported that the FKNMS has developed a process that uses a decision scoring matrix for selecting indicators and he offered to share it with the group. Chad Kennedy reminded the members that DEP does a lot of monitoring throughout the state and he offered to bring his laundry list along with brief descriptions of things FDEP is already working on to that workshop. Dave Rudnick offered support adding they selected the ecological indicators in the early days of CERP. They have experienced cuts in monitoring programs and it is a good idea to look at the fidelity of the indicators. Rebecca Elliott suggested the kick-off meeting would be the forum to define the indicator purpose. LT COL Reynolds said she has found it difficult to figure out what is available for decision making and whether it is current. It could be that some of the data they are currently collecting is good enough. Not sure about the priority framework. The TF should have some priorities and the WG needs to have a workplan to facilitate the TF's priorities and the SCG should have a different workplan to support the TF's priorities. Seems they are developing the priorities too late. She suggested they think about how they develop the framework for the TF principals to help them tell the WG what to focus on. Allyn clarified some of these efforts will be more WG and SCG member intensive and others will be more staff intensive.

Florida Bay —Fred Sklar provided an overview of the Groundwater Exchange Monitoring and Modeling (GEMM) project which came about when the Executive Office of the SFWMD asked the scientists what they could do to improve the salinity pattern in Florida Bay. There is an assumption with the CEPP PACR that the water that is delivered to Shark River Slough is going to improve the salinity of Florida Bay. It is a complicated question that will require an extensive group of technical people. He reviewed the salinity patterns in Florida Bay from Aug 2013 and July 2015 before the seagrass die-off as well as the location of the die-off which is right in central Florida Bay. The die-off is occurring because of hypersalinity, high temperatures and long residence times. A two-day technical workshop is planned for June 24 – 25, 2019 to ask the basic question: can better management of groundwater (and SW) help mitigate for hypersalinity. The first task includes getting a more thorough understanding of the literature and current databases. They will explore what the scientific and engineering communities know and don't know, where the uncertainties are most significant, who has relevant data and models, and what are the hypotheses that can be addressed by a new or modified groundwater monitoring network. Next steps will be determined after the two-day technical workshop.

Invasive Exotic Species Strategic Action Framework — Allyn Childress said it was timely to look at this given the many new efforts underway since the Framework was first developed. The proposal is to conduct a series of WG sponsored workshops to discuss updates to the document as well as to the webbased framework. The document is based on the invasive exotic species invasion curve. The original effort took a little over a year to complete. For this effort, the heavy lifting will be done by OERI.

Commitment is needed from member agencies to provide staff/resources to support the effort which may take 3-4 workshops. Kick-off workshop planned for Fall 2019.

James Erskine added that he was heavily involved in this effort and agreed that a lot of things have changed. For example, FWC now has a non-native coordinator and has a large focus on non-native and invasive species throughout the Everglades region and statewide. FWC commits to playing a role in the redevelopment of the framework document. Nick Aumen said he used the priority needs list that came out of this effort to drive some of his allocations in his USGS Everglades Program. Christina Romagosa led the effort to develop the EDRR screening tool and this effort is important to USGS. Allyn clarified that they do not foresee re-writing the entire framework document. They will be looking at strategic pieces to determine their next set of activities and priority tasks. Nick reminded everyone that the last time they had a difficult time developing a prioritized list of research needs and he hoped to see this revisited.

Deb Drum noted exotic vegetation control is one of the key restoration priorities to ensure system-wide success. There is currently a lot of uncertainty and controversy surrounding the use of glyphosate to treat exotic vegetation, even while its being used per the federal label and is quite effective and safe. Nonetheless, it is a controversial issue. In Palm Beach County ERM manages just under 32,000 acres of natural areas throughout the county and they all enjoy less than 1% exotic vegetation coverage due to their efforts. That level of ecosystem function within Palm Beach County was achieved with a lot of effort and expense with the use of glyphosate. They are doing their best to communicate to their residents that many of the cancer-causing concerns stem from saturating food sources with glyphosate and not from natural areas application. Many regions like Canada where glyphosate is banned have an exception for natural areas application. Many local governments and municipalities are making policy decisions to ban glyphosate given public pressure and concern. From a local government perspective this is a major issue for Everglades restoration. She asked for guidance and support from the state and federal agencies sitting around the table on this issue.

Communications Coordination/Web-based Briefing Tool – Allyn Childress reported there is an interest in better coordination of communications efforts on Everglades restoration. A live demo of the GIS briefing tool, intended to serve as a resource to help tell the Everglades restoration story, was provided. The proposal is for OERI to work with members to enhance the web based briefing tool which can be found at: <a href="www.Evergladesrestoration.gov">www.Evergladesrestoration.gov</a> Staff from OERI will be reaching out to the membership for new/updated information via e-mail. Bob Johnson encouraged the members to help expand this tool. They have three goals and while they have a lot of information on getting the water right there is less information on the other two goals. This effort is bigger than getting the water right and it would benefit them to show that this is a well-rounded restoration program. He asked the members to provide the information to OERI.

Reporting Efficiencies – Allyn Childress noted there is interest in assessing if there is a way to improve reporting efficiencies for the various reporting requirements of the Task Force (The Strategy, Biennial Report, Integrated Financial Plan and the Cross-Cut Budget) as well as some of the other agency reports such as the South Florida Environmental Report, the System Status Report and the CERP Report to Congress. It was also noted that they do get a lot of Congressional inquiries on the Task Force reports from the Florida delegation. OERI staff will be reaching out to member agencies to discuss options for streamlining the Task Force reports.

Task Force Strategy – Allyn Childress noted there is an interest in improving communications by trying to "humanize and localize" restoration efforts. They want to make sure they continue to have public support for restoration. We have been around for 20 years and this is what we have done. The proposal is for OERI staff to work with the members to highlight results by strategic goal area which may help a broader audience connect to the restoration effort. They would like to develop infographics and web-based highlights that recognize Everglades restoration is: more than CERP; a successful interagency partnership; and provides benefits to residents and visitors in addition to habitats and species.

Lee Hefty added that it is important for people to understand the benefits the natural system provides. There are significant ecosystem services provided to the public and Everglades restoration is critical to that. That is what will get everyone's buy-in.

#### **Public Comment**

Drew Martin (Loxahatchee Group of the Sierra Club) said they don't talk about consumptive use permits when they talk about ground-water but they are using more groundwater than they produce and they are concerned. They are also concerned about the loss of wetlands. The State of Florida has lost more wetlands than any other state in the union. The state is going to take over 404 permitting and they aren't sure that is going to be good. They are also concerned about the SR836 extension which is a wetlands destruction permit right along the Everglades. This constant development and destruction of wetlands is impacting the Everglades. The Sierra Club believes they need to get past the use of glyphosate and chemicals on invasive plant species, when they can. There is some evidence that it impacts amphibians and releases phosphates. There is concern with using it around Lake Okeechobee and some believe that the algal blooms may have been caused by that. The use of chemicals is one of many tools that could be used. He encouraged they do things in an environmental way. He is also concerned with invasive species which has been a large issue in Loxahatchee Wildlife Refuge. They are concerned with the Tegu and Python because they have the potential to consume all our wading birds. It is difficult to control the pet trade.

James Erskine announced the next FWC meeting will be held in Stuart on July 17-18th.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30PM.

#### Handouts:

- 1. Agenda
- 2. Meeting Minutes, November 2018 meeting
- 3. Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project (LRWRP) presentation
- 4. Integrated Delivery Schedule presentation and Placemat
- 5. Corps Program and Project Update presentation
- 6. WG and SCG Priorities presentation
- 7. Groundwater Exchange Monitoring and Modeling (GEMM) presentation
- 8. SFWMD Program and Project Update presentation