

# **SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION TASK FORCE**

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## **TASK FORCE PROTOCOL REGARDING VICE-CHAIR OF THE TASK FORCE**

(January 2001)

This protocol outlines procedures regarding selection and duties of a vice-chair of the Task Force.

### **I. General Policy**

The Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (Act) designates the Secretary of the Interior as the chair of the Task Force. The duties of the Task Force include, among others, coordinating the development of consistent policies, plans and programs for the restoration of the ecosystem; exchanging information among the member agencies on restoration activities; and facilitating the resolution of interagency conflicts.

The sense of the Task Force is that it would be convenient and advisable for the Task Force to have a vice-chair to assist the chair in organizing or presiding over its public meetings, and thereby facilitate the duties of the Task Force. The Assistant Secretary of the Interior as chair of the Task Force has at times been constrained by duties of presiding over meetings from participating fully in Task Force deliberations, and thus from presenting the Interior Department's views to the public. The Assistant Secretary of the Interior, appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate, is subject to taking and leaving office with changes in the federal Administration. A non-federal vice-chair, whose office is not subject to the federal election cycle, would provide beneficial continuity to the organization and conduct of Task Force meetings and other functions, to the benefit of implementing the work of the Task Force. A vice-chair elected from the non-federal members would also help assure that the non-federal concerns are addressed in the administration or conduct of the Task Force meetings, thus facilitating public discussion of the relevant issues.

### **II. Election of Vice-chair**

Any member of the Task Force may nominate another member who is not a representative of a federal agency (hereinafter a non-federal member) to be the vice-chair. Any member may second the nomination. Discussion and voting may occur at the same meeting as the nomination and seconding, or at a future meeting according to the majority will of the members present. All members, both federal and non-federal, may vote for the vice-chair. To be elected as vice-chair, a nominee must receive the votes of a majority of the members present at the meeting.

### III. Term of Vice-chair

The term of a vice-chair shall be for one calendar year. If a vice-chair is unable or unwilling to complete a full term, the members of the Task Force shall elect a replacement vice-chair to complete the term and the following calendar year term. A vice-chair may succeed himself and be elected to an unlimited number of terms.

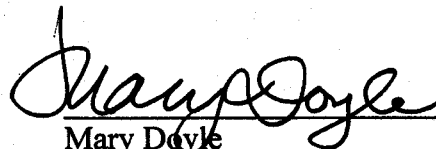
### IV. Duties of Vice-chair

The vice-chair shall preside over meetings of the Task Force in the absence of the chair, and upon the request of the chair. The vice-chair shall, consult in the preparation of the agenda and other duties of the chair in connection with Task Force business, including assurance of opportunities for public participation.

### V. Non-Delegation of Authority

Nothing in this protocol delegates any substantive decision-making or advising power from the Task Force to the vice-chair. The vice-chair may assist the chair in working with the Executive Director of the Task Force, but nothing herein renders the Executive Director an employee of the vice-chair or of the vice-chair's agency or government. Furthermore, nothing herein renders the vice-chair an employee, agent, or representative of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

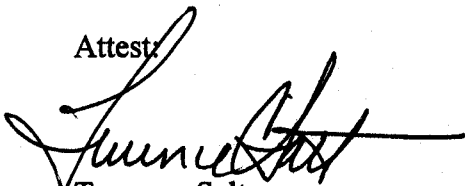
APPROVED and ADOPTED, to take effect immediately, by vote of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force on this 8th day of January 2001.



Mary Doyle

Chair, South Florida Ecosystem Restoration  
Task Force

Attest:



Terrence Salt  
Executive Director