

SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION TASK FORCE

DRAFT Agenda

Miccosukee Casino Resort
500 SW 177th Avenue
Ballroom A
Miami, FL 33194
April 25, 2024

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 – 9:15 | 1. Welcome, Goals for the Meeting and Administrative Items
<i>Purpose: The agenda will be presented for approval. Administrative items will also be reviewed.</i> | Shannon Estenoz
Chair
Shawn Hamilton
Vice Chair |
| 9:15 – 9:45 | 2. Opening Remarks by Chairman Talbert Cypress and Miccosukee Business Council | Talbert Cypress
Chairman
Miccosukee Tribe |
| 9:45 – 10:00 | 3. Task Force Member Introductions
<i>Purpose: Each member has the option of providing brief introductory remarks.</i> | ALL |
| 10:00 – 10:05 | 4. Approval of November 2023 Meeting Summary
<i>Purpose: The summary from the November 2023 meeting is being provided for member approval.</i> | |
| 10:05 – 10:25 | 5. Director's Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Task Force Reporting Requirements
<i>Purpose: The 2024 Biennial Report, the 2024 Integrated Financial Plan, and the 2025 Cross Cut Budget update efforts will kick-off this year. The Biennial Report will cover the reporting period from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2024 and will be presented to the Task Force for approval at its Fall 2024 meeting.</i>
• Invasive Species Risk Assessment, Prioritization and Management
<i>Purpose: 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. Using guidance issued by the Task Force and the Working Group, the OERI is facilitating an Invasive Species Advisory Body experts to accomplish this task. A progress update will be provided.</i> | Adam Gelber
OERI |

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- **Report on Working Group (WG) and Science Coordination Group (SCG) Activities**

James Erskine
Lawrence Glenn

***Purpose:** A progress update will be provided by the Chairs of the WG and SCG on the priorities, activities, and accomplishments since the November 2023 Task Force meeting. An update will also be provided on the Florida's Coral Reef Coordination Team (FRCT) which was created under the WG to coordinate management and restoration-related activities to conserve and restore Florida's Coral Reef.*

10:25 – 10:45 6. **Florida's Coral Reef: 2023 Marine Heatwave Impacts and Response**

Chris Kelble
NOAA
Joanna Walczak
FDEP

***Purpose:** To provide information on the 2023 marine heatwave in south Florida and its impacts on the reef tract.*

10:45 – 11:05 7. **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Program and Project Update**

Eva Velez
USACE

***Purpose:** The USACE will provide an update on restoration planning, design, construction, and operational projects. Briefing will include the Second Periodic Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) Update which will be conducted to ensure the goals and purposes of the Plan are achieved with new or updated modeling that includes the latest available scientific, technical, and planning information.*

11:05 – 11:25 8. **South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Program and Project Update**

Mindy Parrott
SFWMD

***Purpose:** The SFWMD will provide an update on ongoing restoration planning, design, and construction.*

11:25 – 11:45 9. **REstoration COordination and VERification (RECOVER) Update**

Gina Ralph
USACE
Phyllis Klarmann
SFWMD

***Purpose:** To provide an update on monitoring efforts and how they are used to support science-based decision making. RECOVER is a multi-agency team of scientists, modelers, planners, and resource specialists who organize and apply scientific and technical information to ensure CERP implementation is guided by the best available science.*

11:45 – 12:40 **Public Comment**

12:40 – 1:40 **Lunch Break**

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1:40 – 1:55	10. Tamiami Trail Next Steps and Osceola Camp <i>Purpose: Raising and bridging the eastern Tamiami Trail roadway and the adjacent Miccosukee Osceola Camp are critical projects in our efforts to restore more natural water flows through the Central and Southern Everglades, reduce flooding in the Miccosukee Water Conservation Area 3A, ensure continued quality of life for Tribal communities, and promote long-term resilience to sea level rise.</i>	Bob Johnson OERI
1:55 – 2:25	11. Indigenous Knowledge <i>Purpose: The Miccosukee Tribe will present on how the Tribe is providing Indigenous Knowledge (IK) that can support Everglades management and restoration.</i>	Kevin Cunniff Edward Ornstein Miccosukee Tribe
2:25 – 2:55	12. Studies Under Development for WRDA 2024 Consideration <ul style="list-style-type: none">Western Everglades Restoration Project (WERP) <i>Purpose: The goals of WERP are to improve the quantity, quality, timing, and distribution of water in the Western Everglades in the effort to re-establish ecological connectivity, reduce the severity and frequency of wildfires, and restore low nutrient conditions.</i>Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project (LOWRP) <i>Purpose: The LOWRP will improve water levels in Lake Okeechobee; improve the quantity and timing of discharges to the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee estuaries; restore degraded habitat for fish and wildlife throughout the study area; and increase the spatial extent and functionality of wetlands.</i>North of Lake Okeechobee Storage Reservoir (LOCAR) Section 203 Final Feasibility Study and Report <i>Purpose: The LOCAR project proposes to construct a 200,000-acre-foot reservoir to store water north of Lake Okeechobee for later use during dry periods and offer operational flexibility to draw and store water from the lake and basin to improve its littoral ecosystems. The final Feasibility Study and Report is now complete.</i>	Angie Dunn USACE Jennifer Leeds SFWMD
2:55 – 3:25	Public Comment	
3:25 – 3:30	Next Steps and Closing Comments	Shannon Estenoz Chair
3:30	Adjourn	Shawn Hamilton Vice Chair

Updated 04/15/24