

7.0 ACTION STEPS JANUARY 2011 – JANUARY 2013

7.1 Preamble

The purposes of the BRRCT are to provide a unified voice for the Bay, improve coordination among ongoing efforts and existing groups working on issues related to the Bay and to serve as a clearinghouse of information related to the Bay.

The guiding principles for the BRRCT's Action Plan, as well as its goals for the sustainability of Biscayne Bay, are enumerated in the team's Vision, Overarching Goals and Focus Areas. The Vision is a well managed and ecologically restored Biscayne Bay that is readily accessible to and appreciated by our diverse community and supports a variety of uses and economic activities.

The four Overarching Goals are:

1. Coordination
2. Funding
3. Tracking and Follow-up
4. Enforcement of Existing Regulations

The BRRCT Action Plan identified three focus areas:

1. Ecological and Physical Restoration
2. Readily Accessible and Appreciated
3. Supports Use and Economic Activity

To meet these Goals, the Action Plan is reviewed and updated biannually and action steps are developed. It is not the intent for this list to cover all possible or practical actions that the BRRCT should and most likely will undertake.

The following list of action steps is organized according to the four goals. The order of the following list Action Steps is not intended to suggest priorities but is intended to provide focus for the team's actions to address the Goals over the next two years.

Coordination

1. Fill the vacant seats on the Biscayne Bay Regional Restoration Coordination Team with an emphasis on the elected official's positions. (Overarching Goal: Coordination)
2. Review team membership annually. A standing Membership Sub-committee shall be established for this purpose.
3. Engage and educate elected officials – local, state and federal – to increase understanding of the issues related to Bay ecology, its economic contributions and its aesthetic values in an effort to improve coordinated governance and enforcement of environmental safeguards.(Overarching Goal: Coordination)
4. Review and revise the BRRCT Action Plan biannually, including the development of Action Steps for the Focus Areas identified in the Action Plan. A standing Action Plan Review Sub-committee shall be established for this purpose. (Overarching Goal: Coordination)

5. Increase awareness of the bay's recreational opportunities, boating safety, eco-tourism adventures, conservation of environmental resources, and its economic value to the greater community, as well as improve appreciation of these attributes through responsible and balanced use through the standing Education Sub-committee. The Sub-committee's mission is to promote and enhance community stewardship, knowledge, appreciation and accessibility of Biscayne Bay through increased coordination and partnership of agencies and organization. (Focus Area: Readily Accessible and Appreciated)
6. Prepare an annual report to the Working Group as required by the Team's Charter and other reports to the Working Group as the Team deems necessary. (Overarching Goal: Coordination)
7. Continue to participate in and look for additional opportunities to present information about Biscayne Bay at conferences, symposia, and other scientific meetings to promote knowledge and awareness of issues, and threats to Biscayne Bay and its' ecological health. An eventual goal is to support the coordination of a Biscayne Bay Symposium, patterned after the Florida Bay and Adjacent Marine Systems Conference, Loxahatchee River Symposium and/or the Lake Worth Lagoon Symposium and act as a centralized forum for information and activities related to Biscayne Bay. (Focus Area 1: Ecological and Physical Restoration)

Funding

8. Develop both a master list of funding sources for Biscayne Bay related projects, both public and private to be posted on the team's web page and a list of proposed projects for Biscayne Bay and its coastal wetlands with an emphasis on environmental restoration, education and enhancement projects. A standing Funding and Projects Sub-committee will be responsible for this task with assistance from resource management agencies. (Overarching Goal: Funding)
9. Explore funding for Phase 2 of The *Biscayne Bay Economic Study – Task 3, Economic and Baseline Trend Report* to quantify the value of the Ecosystem Services provided by Biscayne Bay. (Overarching Goal: Funding)

Tracking and Follow-up

10. Review and provide comments on restoration, resource management or other projects potentially impacting the health of Biscayne Bay such as, but not limited to, Biscayne Bay related CERP projects and land acquisition. (Focus Area 1: Ecological and Physical Restoration)
11. Develop an internal report of Biscayne Bay Action Plan items accomplished over the previous year to be presented at the December meeting. (Overarching Goal: Tracking and Follow-up)

12. Request periodic presentations from Miami-Dade County, the City of Miami, and other municipalities within the Biscayne Bay watershed on waterfront planning and access projects. (Focus Area 2: Readily Accessible and Appreciated)

Enforcement of Existing Regulations

13. Promote effective and appropriately placed directional, information and interpretive signage for Biscayne Bay. (Focus Area 2: Readily Accessible and Appreciated)
14. Bring a “Learning in Florida’s Environment (LIFE)” program to the Biscayne Bay watershed. (Focus Area 2 : Readily Accessible and Appreciated)
15. Explore the possibility of developing an Eco-Mariner program for Biscayne Bay. (Focus Area 3: Supports Uses and Economic Activity)
16. Bring the USFWS “Living Shorelines” program to Biscayne Bay and its’ tributaries. (Focus Area 3: Supports Uses and Economic Activity)
17. Request an update from Marine Advisory Support Team (MAST) members on Enforcement and discuss the impact of reduced resources on their ability to perform this task. (Overarching Goal: Enforcement of Existing Regulations)
18. Facilitate an interagency coordination meeting including Federal, State, County, and Municipal Park and Resource Management Agencies to expand participation in the Clean Marina, Clean Boatyard and Clean Boater programs along Biscayne Bay and the Miami River. (Focus Area 3: Supports Uses and Economic Activity)

Action Steps completed February 2009 – November 2010

Developed a formal and timely process for bringing issue to the Working Group and coordinating potential solutions. (Overarching Goal: Coordination)

Monitored potential grants, funding sources and legislative appropriates for water body management, restoration, access, education, and all other Biscayne Bay related focus areas

Developed a master list of funding sources for Biscayne Bay related projects, both public and private

Reviewed existing lands in the Biscayne Bay watershed listed for acquisition for conservation and restoration purposes and provide recommendations, as deemed appropriate (Focus Area 1: Ecological and Physical Restoration)

Developed an annual report of Biscayne Bay Action Plan items accomplished over the previous year relating to the Action Plan and/or Biscayne Bay in general as well as to specifically identified Action Steps. (Overarching Goal: Tracking and Follow-up)

Requested a presentation from the City of Miami to provide a briefing and receive feedback on their ongoing efforts to develop a Virginia Key master plan, the Dinner Key Waterfront Master Plan, the Bicentennial Park Master Plan, the Miami River Plan and other waterfront related planning efforts by other municipalities within the Biscayne Bay watershed (Focus Area 2: Readily Accessible and Appreciated)

Developed a standing Education Sub-committee in order to develop informational and educational materials, and outreach methods for a Biscayne Bay campaign. The goal of this campaign is to increase awareness of the Bay's recreational opportunities, boating safety, eco-tourism adventures, conservation of environmental resources, and its economic value to the greater community, as well as to improve appreciation of these attributes through responsible and balanced use.-(Focus Area 2: Readily Accessible and Appreciated)

Requested a presentation by representatives of the Marine Advisory Support Team (MAST) on bay-wide enforcement issues. This encompassed major enforcement issues like the Columbus Day Regatta, boat races, manatee zone enforcement, boating safety zones, etc. (Overarching Goal: Enforcement of Existing Regulations)

Hosted a day-long session on Biscayne Bay at the Greater Everglades Ecosystem Restoration (GEER) conference in order to coordinate with entities involved in conducting scientific/research efforts and act as a centralized forum for information and activities related to Biscayne Bay. (Focus Area 1: Ecological and Physical Restoration).