

## 7.0 INITIAL ACTION STEPS

### 7.1 Preamble

The purposes of the BBRCT 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. ~~In developing a~~ **The guiding principles for the BBRCT's Action Plan, as well as its goals for the sustainability of Biscayne Bay, are enumerated in the team's Vision, Focus Areas and Overarching themes Goals.** ~~as guiding principles for this effort, the Team as defined its goals for a sustainable future.~~ To meet these goals, ~~initial two-year~~ **the Action Plan is reviewed annually and** ~~action items~~ **steps have been** ~~are~~ developed. It is not the intent for this list to cover all possible or practical actions that the BBRCT should and most likely will undertake. The order of the following list is not intended to suggest priorities.

- 1) **A standing committee shall** review the BBRCT Action Plan ~~no later than two years from the date of final acceptance~~ **annually and revise as needed-**, including the development of Action Steps for the Focus Areas identified in the Action Plan. **(Overarching Goal: Coordination)**
- 2) **Develop a formal and timely process for bringing issues to the Working Group and coordinating potential solutions.** **(Overarching Goal: Coordination)**
- 3) Review and provide comments on **restoration, resource management or other projects potentially impacting the health of Biscayne Bay, as appropriate.** ~~Biscayne Bay related CERP projects (including, but not limited to, Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands, C-111 North Spreader Canal, Wastewater Reuse Pilot Project), South Miami-Dade Watershed Study, Biscayne Bay National Park's General and Fisheries Management Plans, the FDEP development of TMDL's and list of impaired water bodies, agriculture and urban BMPs, land acquisition plans, and other Biscayne Bay related programs, projects and studies.~~ **(Focus Area 1: Ecological and Physical Restoration)**
- 4) ~~Complete an inventory~~ **Monitor** potential grants, funding sources and legislative appropriations for water body management, restoration, access, education, and all other Biscayne Bay related focus areas. **(Overarching Goal: Tracking and Follow-up)**
- 5) **Develop a master list of funding sources for Biscayne Bay related projects, both public and private.** **(Overarching Goal: Funding)**
- 6) ~~Facilitate~~ **Make recommendations for** **Encourage effective** ~~a comprehensive~~ directional, information and interpretive signage ~~network~~ for Biscayne Bay ~~access~~. **(Focus Area 2: Readily Accessible and Appreciated)**
- 7) Facilitate an interagency coordination meeting including federal, state, county, and municipal park and resource agencies to expand participation in the Clean Marina, Clean Boatyard and Clean Boater programs along Biscayne Bay and the Miami River; and to identify most feasible locations for expansion of public boat ramps, marinas, and vessel storage, and other types of public access opportunities, considering compatibility with

environmental restoration goals and resource management plans, land ownership and safety of the public. (Focus Area 2: Readily Accessible and Appreciated)

8) With assistance from land and recreation management agencies **and municipalities**, develop a list of sites or facilities in need of improvements to facilitate shoreline and water access for fishing, viewing, paddling, or similar water dependent activities, including a general estimate of construction, operations and maintenance costs and a timeline. (Focus Area 2: Readily Accessible and Appreciated)

9) ~~Host workshops, tailored for municipal official, on existing shoreline development requirements and guidelines in order to achieve greater compliance and reduce variances.~~ **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, and to develop dedicated funding sources for the Bay’s restoration. (Overarching Goal: Funding)**

10) ~~With assistance from resource management agencies, Develop a list of Biscayne Bay and coastal environmental restoration and enhancement opportunities, including a rough estimate of construction, operations and maintenance costs and a timeline~~ **with assistance from resource management agencies. (Overarching Goal: Funding)**

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

12) Develop an annual **report “report card” or similar review** 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)** ~~targets or measures related to ecological health, access, and use that is suitable for non-technical audiences.~~

13) **Provide a clearinghouse to make available to a general audience a comprehensive and current status report on the three Focus Areas in the BBRRCT Action Plan (Overarching Goal: Tracking and Follow-up)**

13) ~~Request a presentation on the recently completed study on the role of marine industries, ecotourism and other Bay-related activities in the local economy and identify opportunities for their expansion consistent with existing roles and regulations and restoration and protection of the Bay. (Complete: Phase I of Grace Johns Study).~~

14) Request 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)

~~15) Work cooperatively with the National Park Service to determine the appropriate extent of “alert” signage on the water along primary access routes to Biscayne Bay National Park. (This item is complete).~~

15) Develop a standing Education Sub-committee in order to develop informational and educational materials, and outreach methods for a Biscayne Bay campaign. ~~to reach residents, visitors, teachers and educators, park and recreation professionals and active and passive users~~ 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)

16) Convene a science symposium on Biscayne Bay patterned after the Florida Bay and Adjacent Marine Systems conference, Loxahatchee River Symposium and/or the Lake Worth Lagoon Symposium in order for the Team 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).

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