

Biscayne Bay Regional Restoration Coordination Team (BBRRCT)
January 25, 2012
South Florida Water Management District
Miami Field Station
9001 NW 58th Street
Miami, FL 33188

No meeting presentations posted for this meeting. For those who wish more information on the individual briefings, please contact Theresa Woody at twoody@sfrestore.org

Attendees

Dick Frost
Don Pybas
Phil Everingham
Eric Swanson
Jerilyn Ashworth
Patrick Pitts
Jeffrey Mullins
Cara Capp
Kahlil Kettering
Dan Kipnis
Sarah Bellmund
Joan Browder
Theresa Woody

Guests

Brett Biblieu
Jack Stamates
Michelle Woods
Tom Carsey

Welcome/Introductions

Chairman Dick Frost called the meeting to order at 10:00. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked all to introduce themselves.

Team Comment on the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Phase 1 CERP PIR Project PIR

The USACE is soliciting comment on the BBCW Phase 1 CERP project. Comment is due by February 6. A draft comment letter reiterating comments made by the team in the past was circulated to team members on January 23.

The Chair solicited final comments on the letter and will send it to the Corps under his signature as Chair of the Team. The team requested that the final letter be posted on the team's web page under new tab: "Communication to the Working Group". This tab

will include both annual reports to the Working Group as well as any letters to the Working Group.

Briefing on the Miami River Commission and the Miami River Greenway

Brett Bibeau, Director Miami River Commission (MRC), provided a briefing on the Miami River Greenway. The MRC was founded in 1998. BBRCT member Phil Everingham has been on the board since the beginning of the organization. The MRC is an advisory body with a staff of one.

The MRC was created by the Florida Legislature to be the official coordinating clearinghouse for all public policy and projects related to the Miami River. Under the law, the Miami River Commission has 18 members including elected officials, business, and neighborhood, environmental and civic leaders involved and knowledgeable about the Miami River.

Adopted in 2001, the MRC has been working to implement the the Miami River Greenway Action Plan. The Miami River Greenway Action Plan was unanimously adopted in 2001 by the City of Miami, Miami-Dade County, and the MRC with several other partners. The Miami River Greenway Action Plan calls for a 10 miles publically accessible pedestrian and bicycle path, featuring landscaping, benches, decorating lighting, trash receptacles, historic markers, way-finding signage, informational kiosks, art in public places, temporary recreational boat dockage, and a free vegetable and fruit garden.

The Miami River Greenway is a riverwak along the shoreline whenever feasible, and at times becomes an on-road Greenway, within the public right of way to proceed around historic low-density neighborhoods, marine industrial businesses, etc. The Miami River Greenway will serve as an alternate form of transportation for thousands of new residential units in the urban core, therefore reducing vehicular traffic and gas consumptions, while improving air and water quality. In addition the Greenway stimulates economic development such as new riverfront restaurants.

Construction of the Miami River Greenway requires the expensive replacement of the area's entire underground antiquated storm water system, which is the leading source of pollution into the Miami River. Since adoption of the 10 mile Miami River Greenway Action Plan, 3.25 miles have been completed, and 2 more miles are currently under construction or are funded. It is expected that a total of 5.25 miles of the planned 10-mle Greenway will be finished in 2012.

Boat access to the Greenway is called the "Blueway" and is a very important commercial component of the Miami River Greenway Action Plan.

Another priority for the MRC is the continuation of the Wagner Creek and Seybold Canal Maintenance Dredging and Environmental Cleanup project. These tributaries to the Miami River have been deemed Florida's most polluted bodies of water. The buildup of sediment is making navigation more difficult and poses a threat to water-dependent businesses. The final permit for this project was received in 2011. While the Florida

Inland Navigation District (FIND) has awarded the City of Miami a \$1 million cost share for the project. Other efforts continue to identify funding for this project.

Discussion of the presentation and any action needed

There are several opportunities for BRRCT members to be involved in MRC issues. For example, the Stormwater Subcommittee: there are 130 outfalls into the river with a 2002 Action Plan for the River. A BMAP (Basin Management Action Plan) would be needed to address the components of the Action Plan but the County did not have the budget to hire the consultants to write the BMAP. Tomorrow's subcommittee will be focused on a new FDEP plan to address the pollution. All MRC documents are online.

It looks like the Dinner Key site (just south of the Greenway) will be the offsite visitor's center for the BNP.

The character of the River has dramatically changed in some areas of the river. Thankfully \$27 million was spent on the Miami Circle as an historic landmark and cultural asset on the River.

The Charter voted on by the people in the City calls for a 50 foot set-back but private owners can seek a waiver. An item reducing that set-back is on the City Commission agenda tomorrow.

Theresa asked Brett to help us follow these issues in the future and stated that even though the team as a body cannot comment, individual members can comment. Brett said he could flag these issues for us in the future.

Lunch

The team adjourned for lunch at noon.

Briefing on turbidity, chlorophyll, current measurements and NOAA analysis as part of the Port of Miami Project

Jack Stamates from NOAA's Ocean Chemistry Division (NOAA/AMOL) presented preliminary findings of the monitoring his division has been conducting. His presentation is not posted on the team's web page as the data and analysis used in the presentation is still under review and as such must be considered preliminary. The content of the presentation was prepared solely by NOAA/AMOL.

The Goal of the project was to collect one year of environmental data at three sites in Biscayne Bay. Some of the data was collected from bottom mounted, self recording instruments at high resolution (15 minutes). NOAA/AMOL analyzed the response of the Bay water to environmental forcings.

The data collection effort involved 53 small boat trips, 71 site visits, 102 instrument calibrations and deployments with 120,000 pictures taken.

The types of data collected by the bottom mounted instrument data:

- Turbidity (in NTU) via optical backscatter
- Chlorophyll a via optical florescence calibrated with discrete water samples
- Colored dissolved organic matter (CDOM) via optical florescence
- Water temperature
- Salinity via conductivity
- Current profiles via acoustic Doppler current profilers

Other Types of data collected

- Diffuse Attenuation of Photosynthetically Active Radiation (PAR) via LiCOR LI-193SA
- Meteorological data via local weather stations
- Total suspended solids in discrete water samples
- Microbiological assays of water sample using molecular probes
- Water Sample particulate analysis by scanning electron microscope (SEM)
- Photographic images
- Small boat transects

The data collection portion of the project is over and data analysis is going on now but the mountings are still in place. The work was performed to characterize the present situation of the Bay and can be used in the future to evaluate what is happening to the Bay as a result of any work in the Bay. It is important to remember that one year of data does not capture all possible conditions in the Bay.

Support for the study was provided by USACE, Port of Miami and NOAA/AMOL.

Sub-Committee Report: Raising our Profile

At the October 2010 meeting, the team discussed raising our profile in the community in the coming year including participating in the Coastal Society conference in June 2012. Staff was tasked with submitting an abstract to TCS. The abstract was accepted and next steps were discussed.

Chairman Frost asked for volunteers to work on the panel. Patrick Pitts, Joan Browder, Sarah Bellmund, Eric Swanson and Phil Everingham will work on the TCs panel. Grace Johns will also be part of the panel as she is already going to be there as a part of MARES.

The sub-committee will meet prior to the February BBRRCT meeting to report on progress.

Open discussion/Member forum

The revised general management plan (GMP) for Biscayne National Park is still undergoing review by the Park Service.

Joan Browder reminded everyone to watch CEPP and the performance measures and be sure that PMs are developed for the Southern Coastal systems. Kahlil asked for a presentation on CEPP.

Sarah Bellmund would like the SFWMD and FPL to present information about TP expansion as extensive information has come forward on this project that would affect the Bay. She would like the monitoring presentation and Sarah will work on this with SFWMD. Patrick can help us get a briefing on where the agencies are going regarding road expansion.

Sarah clarified that we need to know the output of the monitoring from the SFWMD to inform comments on the NPDES permit which has expired. This is different from the 4-agency position on the road widening.

Michelle Woods asked for more information on the proposed expansion of Matheson Hammock Marina.

Eric Swanson offered an update on the SFRPC update on the Sustainable Communities initiative. Friday is the Executive sub-committee meeting. The Executive Committee will be expanded; a new member may be added to the Environmental Natural Resource work group. This committee affects many of the issues of concern to the BBRRCT. Eric will let us know when this Sub-Committee is on-line.

Cara Capp reported that the application to move the Urban Development Boundary (UDB) is before the County Commission now. The state can weigh in on the decision only if there is a direct effect on "state resources" which could be defined as the Everglades. Clean Water Action (CWA) is following this proposed action and is monitoring which agency is going to comment on this proposal. Remember with changes made by the legislature last year, all state comments will go directly to the County Commission. DCA is not available to speak to this issue if the Everglades is not defined as a "state resource" so this is the guinea pig for how this new legislation will work or not work to benefit of the ecosystem as the term is not defined in the legislation.

Theresa Woody stated that her hope for the New Year is that the team continues to network and seek ways to support each other's agenda.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00.