

Biscayne Bay Regional Restoration Coordination Team

Palmetto Bay Village Center
18001 Old Cutler Road
Palmetto Bay, FL

February 27, 2013

Attendees

Dick Frost
Pamela Sweeney
Phil Everingham
Cara Capp
Jennifer Tisthammer
Kahlil Kettering
Capt. Dan Kipnis
Sarah Bellmund
Megan Tinsley
Nancy Diersing
Laura Reynolds
Erik Stabenau
Susan Leser
Mark Bailey
Patrick Pitts
Jerrilyn Ashworth
Susan Markley
Don Pybas

This was an abbreviated meeting of the BBRRCT (1pm to 3pm) due to a conflict with the Biscayne National Park Science Symposium. Some of the BBRRCT members were involved in the Symposium and others stated an interest in attending the Symposium. BBRRCT members were encouraged to attend the Symposium.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Dick Frost called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone as Chair of the Biscayne Bay Regional Restoration Coordination Team (BBRRCT or Team), and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

2. BBCW Water Reservation

Beth Lewis, senior supervising attorney at the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), gave a PowerPoint (attached) update on the water reservation for Phase 1 of the

Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands (BBCW) Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Project. The SFWMD intends to reserve water identified in the Project Implementation Report for the protection of fish and wildlife from consumptive use. The BBCW reservations are a prerequisite for the SFWMD to receive cost share credit for land purchased and project work already done as well as for the project to proceed.

The questions and general discussion focused on the need for more protection for Biscayne Bay than just the proposed reservation for the BBCW Project. The Team generally thought that a larger area of the Bay should be protected, that groundwater should be protected as well as surface water, and that water from terminated permits should not be reallocated for consumptive use. The team also thought that Biscayne Bay needed to be placed back on the State Priority Water Bodies List for establishment of further protections.

The proposed rule will be taken to the March regular meeting of the SFWMD Governing Board for authorization to publish a Notice of Rulemaking for the BBCW Reservation.

3. Discussion of the CEPP Planning Project

Team members conducted a discussion of issues and concerns related to the Central Everglades Planning Process. Team member concerns focused primarily on possible impacts to water supply for Biscayne Bay and Miami-Dade County. Concern was also expressed that at present the models used do not reflect accurately flows to Biscayne Bay. There was a discussion of applying Adaptive Management to the process. Erik Stabenau joined the group after the formal end of the meeting to answer questions.

4. Future Items and Meeting Wrap-Up

Among potential future agenda topics mentioned are Review of Action Steps, CEPP Update, Operations to improve freshwater flows to Biscayne Bay, and land acquisition as a legislative mandate with Cynthia Guerra. Chairman Frost adjourned the meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for March 27th.