

Biscayne Bay Regional Restoration Coordination Team

**NOAA SE Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC)
Statistics Building Conference Room
75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami, FL 33149**

January 15, 2014

Attendees

Pamela Sweeney
Phil Everingham
Brian Carlstrom
Sarah Bellmund
Inger Hansen
Joan Browder
Jennifer Tisthammer
Armando Vilaboy
Caroline McLaughlin
Dan Kipnis
Stephen Blair
Jennifer Tisthammer
Nancy Diersing
Natalie Garrett (by phone)
Sarah de Fusco
Susan Shapiro
Patrick Pitts (by phone)
Lisa Krinsky
Ed Russo
Rebecca Elliott
Joan Lawrence

1. Welcome and Introductions

Phil Everingham, Chairman of the BBRRCT, called the meeting to order and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

2. Biscayne National Park General Management Plan

Brian Carlstrom, Superintendent of Biscayne National Park, gave a presentation on the ***Biscayne National Park Supplemental Draft General Management Plan*** which is out for public comment.

The Draft Plan was developed with input from stakeholders and other agencies. There is a new National Park Service Preferred Alternative which includes a Special Recreation Zone. The original Draft Plan was released in 2011; over 18,000 comments were received; most comments were related to the proposed Marine Reserve Zone; the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission with whom the NPS manages the BNP Addition did not support the Marine Reserve Zone as proposed. The NPS consulted with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and NOAA Fisheries. The NPS also held a partner agency workshop. Adaptive management strategies, a science plan and the concept of a Special Recreation Zone came out of the discussions. The Supplemental draft Plan has two new alternatives –Alternative 6 and Alternative 7. Alternative 6, the NPS Preferred Alternative, includes the Special Recreation Zone which balances visitor use and resource protection and is less restrictive than a marine reserve zone; the Florida fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission supports this alternative. Alternative 7 is the same as Alternative 6, except for zone management; the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission does not support Alternative 7. Alternatives 6 & 7 include monitoring with data reviews at 3, 5, 8, and 10 years as well as an independent panel review at 5 and 10 years. The independent panel review provides recommendations on the science plan, monitoring results, and long-term management. After 10 years the NPS makes a decision to either continue the special recreation zone or convert to a marine reserve zone. The Public Comment Period ends on February 20th. Superintendent Carlstrom encouraged team members to submit comments.

(Note: The above presentation can be found on the Task Force website at http://www.sfrestore.org/brrct_handouts_past.html)

3. Update: December 2013 BRRCT Planning Meeting & Subsequent Discussions & Recommendations

BRRCT Chairman Phil Everingham, with assistance from other members present at the December 18th planning meeting, reviewed the recommendations from the BRRCT Planning Sub-Team. The recommendations are contained in the document entitled ***Biscayne Bay Regional Restoration Coordination (BRRCT) Sub-Team Meeting, Deering Estate, Cutler, FL, December 18, 2013.*** Recommendations included, but were not limited to, focusing on the Action Items, expanding the number of Sub-Teams to include a Coordination Sub-Team, Stakeholders Sub-Team, Membership Sub-Team, Economic Impact Sub-Team, and a BRRCT Support Sub-Team. The Sub-Team recommended establishing better coordination with the Task Force Science Coordination Group; BRRCT member Joan Browder, a member of the Science Coordination Group (SCG), will report to the BRRCT on any Biscayne Bay issues from the SCG. Jennifer Tisthammer will discuss her website ideas with Jose Cabaleiro. Jennifer also volunteered to take announcements, etc., out to a broader audience in her capacity with the Deering Estate. Nancy Diersing has informational documents that she will be sharing with the Team.

(Note: Other recommendations are contained in the Sub-Team document which was sent out with the Agenda and can be found on the Task Force website at http://www.sfrestore.org/brrct_handouts_past.html)

4. Everglades Coalition – BRRCT poster, what was discussed, lessons learned, etc.

There was an Everglades Coalition BRRCT Poster Update led by Joan Browder. The group thought that the poster room may not have gotten much traffic as it was not located in a prominent place. Team members thanked the group that provided the poster to the Coalition and suggested that a future poster might be less detailed to appeal to a broader audience.

5. Future Meeting Topics:

Steve Blair gave a short update on the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Project – Future Opportunities for Incremental Implementation, a presentation given by Matt Morrison at the BRRCT November Meeting. A further update was suggested for a future meeting.

Suggested meeting topics brought forward from the November Meeting are:

- An Invasive Exotics Presentation, in particular highlighting those efforts, including inspections by the US Customs & Border Patrol and the USFWS, to prevent invasive exotics from illegally entering South Florida through its airports and sea ports,
- The dredging project at the Port of Miami,
- An update on FPL Units 3 & 4 at Turkey Point, and
- A presentation on Sea Level Rise

6. Meeting location for the February & March BRRCT Meetings

Due to a scheduling conflict the **February and March Meetings of the BRRCT will be held in the first floor conference room at the Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory, 4301 Rickenbacker Causeway, Miami, Florida.** The Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory is the grey 5 story concrete structure across Virginia Beach Drive from our usual meeting location.

7. Wrap-up

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:00pm.