

## **Biscayne Bay Regional Restoration Coordination Team**

**NOAA Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory (AOML)  
4301 Rickenbacker Causeway  
Miami, FL 33149**

**April 16,, 2014**

### **Attendees**

Pamela Sweeney  
Phil Everingham  
Inger Hansen  
Joan Browder  
Stephen Blair  
Nancy Diersing  
Sarah de Fusco  
Susan Shapiro  
Benn Jeffrey Mullins  
Dan Kipnis  
Brian Carlstrom  
Caroline McLaughlin (by phone)  
Laura Eldridge  
Nicole Rocli

### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

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

### **2. Chairman Update – Working Group Presentation:**

The Chairman gave the Team an update on the Report he presented to the Working Group/Science Coordination Group meeting held on April 2<sup>nd</sup> at the South Florida Water Management District Headquarters in West Palm Beach.

(Note: The Report to the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force Working Group can be found on the Task Force Web Site at <http://www.evergladesrestoration.gov/bbrct.html> )

### **3. African Dust and its Contribution to Algal Blooms in Florida:**

Dr. Peter Swart, Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, University of Miami, gave a presentation on African Dust and its Contribution to Algal blooms in Florida – “Is Dust the Answer to Life, the Bahamas & Everything – No Fish story”. The Bahamas contain the world’s

largest carbonate platform – it is over 100 million years old. The Great Bahama Bank is a “carbonate factory” composed of dust & iron which is “marching toward Miami. A portion of the presentation and discussion focused on theories of what causes “whittings” found in the Bahamas.

(Note: the above presentation can be found on the Task Force website at <http://www.evergladesrestoration.gov/brrct.html> )

**4. Sea Level Rise & its Effects on the Everglades, Biscayne Bay, and the Developed Areas in South Florida:**

Captain Dan Kipnis, BBRRCT Member and a member of the Blue Ribbon Sea Level Rise & Flooding Commission appointed by the Mayor of the City of Miami Beach, gave a presentation on predicted sea level rise and the threats it poses to Miami-Dade County and the State of Florida. The City of Miami Beach is taking proactive measures with the goal of stopping flooding for 20 years as an objective; measures include building higher and installing pumps. More freshwater flowing south is needed to combat sea level rise. The Department of the Interior has long viewed restoration projects sending more freshwater south as one of the ways to combat sea level rise.

(Note: the above presentation can be found on the Task Force website at <http://www.evergladesrestoration.gov/brrct.html> )

**5. Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary:**

Nancy Diersing, BBRRCT Member and Science Interpreter for the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, lead a discussion of planning for the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. The discussion focused on the Shallow Water Wildlife and Protect Working Group’s recommendations for Card and Barnes Sounds. The following websites contain pertinent information:

- All announcements, notes, resources and other materials related to the sanctuary’s marine zone and regulatory review is available on the sanctuary’s website, <http://floridakeys.noaa.gov/> under the advisory council tab
- Specific information regarding the outcome of Shallow Water Wildlife and Habitat Protection Working Group is available by visiting <http://floridakeys.noaa.gov/review/shallowwater.html>
- Mapping tools used by the Shallow Water Wildlife and Habitat Protection Working Group are available by visiting [http://ocean.floridamarine.org/fkms\\_zone\\_review/shallow\\_water.html](http://ocean.floridamarine.org/fkms_zone_review/shallow_water.html)

**6. Sub-Team Committee Reports:**

BBRRCT Member Stephen Blair reported on the efforts to date of the ad hoc group working on the Freshwater Needs for Biscayne Bay project.

**7. Wrap-up**

It was announced that the Elliot Key Harbor is opening tomorrow! The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:00pm.