

Biscayne Bay Regional Restoration Coordination Team

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

March 18, 2015

Attendees

Pamela Sweeney
Phil Everingham
Sarah Bellmund
Joan Browder
Caroline McLaughlin
Dan Kipnis
Nancy Diersing
Kim Taplin
Michelle Metcalf
Sam Poole
Peter Swart
Joan Lawrence
Rebecca Eliot by phone

1. Welcome and Introductions

Phil Everingham, Chairman of the BBRRCT, called the meeting to order and asked everyone to introduce themselves and to give a short background on themselves. The Team found the background helpful and thought we should do this periodically as new people come into the Team. Kim Taplin told the Team that she is the new designated BBRRCT member from the Corps.

2. Integrated Delivery Schedule (IDS) for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP):

Kim Taplin, Project Manager, Army Corps of Engineers, gave a presentation on the IDS with background information. The IDS workshops are being held under the auspices of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force Working Group and provide an interactive forum for stakeholders to provide their sequencing priorities to the Corps and to discuss their ideas as a group. Kim's presentation can be found in the BBRRCT section on The Task force website at: http://www.evergladesrestoration.gov/content/brrct_handouts.html). Further information on the IDS can be found on the Task Force website under the IDS tabs. It is organized by meeting and contains the presentations, minutes, and a video of the meetings.

Dan Kipnis brought up Sea Level Rise and its effect on the typical Corps process. He emphasized the emergency nature of sending water south to combat sea level rise. Kim said that the Corps will “build” sea level rise into its planning efforts. It was mentioned that everything west of the coastal ridge was Everglades and water needs to flow south to aid in combatting sea level rise. It was mentioned that there doesn’t seem to be a sense of urgency. It was noted that storage south of Lake Okeechobee was in CERP. The BBRRCT as an advisory body to the Working Group wishes to draft a letter to the WG recommending the BBCW Project Phases 1 & 2 should be a high priority; Caroline McLaughlin volunteered to draft the letter. Sam Poole mentioned that he represents a group that has proposed a reservoir concept for Phase 2 of the BBCW Project; the Team would like Sam & his group to give BBRRCT a presentation on their concept.

3. Biscayne Bay Habitat Focus Area (HFA) Moving Forward: what This Means For The Bay and What This Process Will Likely Be: NOAA’s Habitat Focus Area:

Joan Browder, Leader, Ecosystems Investigations Unit and Co-Lead on Biscayne Bay Habitat Focus Area, said that March 30th is the NOAA deadline for proposals. There was a request to include bottle-nosed dolphin in the analysis as they are often the first indicators of a biotoxin problem, also manatees. There will also be an emphasis on sawfish. Joan’s presentation can be found at:

http://www.evergladesrestoration.gov/content/bbrrct_handouts.html)

4. Nitrogen and Nitrogen Isotopes in the Biscayne Bay Watershed with Resulting Downstream Consequences:

Dr. Peter Swart, RSMAS, University of Miami gave a presentation titled *Sources of Nutrients in Biscayne Bay, A Nitrogen Tracer Study*. Dr. Swart’s “take home message” is

- In Biscayne Bay there is a clear signature of N derived from anthropogenic sources in the Nitrate , POM, algae, sponges, seagrasses, and sediments
- This source could be either sewage or a result of fractionation at high concentrations
- No differences in the trends (2006-2007) between any of these components
- This signature is mainly present in South Biscayne Bay and not clear in North Biscayne Bay

He stated that these factors are present in or near Biscayne Bay

- An area of outstanding water in which the flora and fauna has declined over the past century as a result of the input of sewage, dredging, pollution and other activities
- Adjacent to a population of 5 million people who create waste
- Adjacent to a large land fill “Mount Trashmore” which leaches organic material into the Bay
- Also near several sewage treatment plants
- Adjacent to South Dade heavy agriculture (Palm Nurseries)
- Adjacent to Turkey Point Nuclear Power Plant

Dr. Swart’s presentation can be found at:

http://www.evergladesrestoration.gov/content/bbrrct_handouts.html)

5. **Wrap-up**

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:00pm.