

Biscayne Bay Regional Restoration Coordination Team

NOAA Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC)
Statistics Building (rear of main building) Conference Room
75 Virginia Beach Drive
Miami, FL 33149

November 18, 2015

Attendees

Phil Everingham
Joan Browder
Nancy Diersing
Dan Kipnis
Patrick Pitts (by phone)
Craig Grossenbacher
Eric Bush
Laura Eldridge
Amanda Bourique
Michelle Metcalf
Caroline McLaughlin
Tom Jackson
Henry Briceno
Tom Jamir
Caroline Herman
Joan Lawrence

1. Welcome and Introductions

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

2. High Tide on Miami Beach: A Peek into the Future:

Dr. Henry Briceno, Associate Florida International University, gave a presentation on *High Tide on Miami Beach: A Peek into the Future*. Dr. Briceno began experimenting in 2013 by measuring the contaminants in flooding waters; he took measurements of water properties during the incoming and receding tide in transects across the bay and also looked at the water coming out of the pumping stations. Dr. Briceno is looking at the nutrients and bacteria in the water during flooding events as it recedes back into the bay. He used human impact tracers in surface and bottom waters. High tide and flood waters are generally contaminated. The City of Miami Beach is doing a good job of pumping off flood waters, but needs to also consider the quality of the water being

pumped back into the ocean. There was a good discussion among Dr. Briceno and team members, including those from Miami-Dade County and FDEP. Team member Dan Kipnis, Chairman of the City of Miami Beach Marine and Waterfront Protection Authority, invited Dr. Briceno and others to attend the next meeting of the Authority on December 8th at 9am in the Miami Beach City Hall, Managers large conference room on the 4th floor.

(Note: As the authors are preparing this information for publication, this presentation will **not** be posted on the Task Force Web Site.)

3. Progress Update on the NOAA Biscayne Bay Habitat Focus Area:

Dr. Tom Jamir, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Fisheries Science Center, gave a ***Progress Update on the NOAA Biscayne Bay Habitat Focus Area***. The project is entering the planning phase. Dr. Jamir gave a detailed presentation of the steps and rationale involved in the planning phase of the project.

(Note: This presentation will be posted (as soon as it is received) on the Task Force website at http://www.sfrestore.org/rrect/bbay/documents/brrct_handouts_past_052114.html)

4. Team Business & Announcements:

Caroline McLaughlin was elected unanimously by the Team as the new Vice-Chair of the BBRRCT.

Due to the upcoming December Holidays, the December BBRRCT Meeting will be held on December 9th instead of December 16th.

Sula Jacobs is the new Acting Superintendent of Biscayne National Park.

5. Spoil Island Restoration in Biscayne National Park:

Dr. Amanda Bourque, NPS-Biscayne National Park, gave a presentation on ***Spoil Island Restoration in Biscayne national Park***. Dr. Bourque reached out to local experts for their thoughts on what could be done to restore the spoil islands in Biscayne National Park. Spoil islands were created by canal dredging as spoil/waste material brought up during the course of canal excavation. Spoil islands are generally filled with exotic/invasive plant species. The path forward included topographic and vegetation surveys, restoration design, NEPA compliance and other NPS planning activities, permitting, contracting, implementation, monitoring, and maintenance. Restoration design and planning was done for the Princeton (C-102) spoil islands, and the Mowry (C-103) Spoil Islands. Dr. Bourque and her team started with the smallest Princeton (C-102) spoil islands in November Of 2013. Exotics removal took place in May of 2015. Planting of native species was scheduled for September 30-October 5, 2015. Site preparation took place in the last 2 weeks

of September. Plants were delivered to BISC on September 29th consisting of 1,360 plants (23 species) from 4 nurseries. The first load was delivered by boat to the island on September 30; planting was done with volunteers on September 13 and October 1-2-5. Watering took place from Day 1 through November 2015 using a watering machine transported to the island by boat. The site was then monitored. 37 volunteers participated in the project and contributed over 250 hours over 6 days. The restored island was christened *Dragonfly Island* (there are a lot of dragonflies on the island). \$51,000 has been spent to date from the \$128,000 in available funding leaving \$77,000 available for future work. Among the morals of this story are:

- Be creative
- Be flexible
- Be persistent
- Be resourceful
- Don't be shy – phone a friend

Among the next steps are C-102 (Princeton Canal), Military Canal, and C-103 (Mowry Canal), and maybe the Peninsulas.

(Note: This presentation with photos can be found on the Task Force website at http://www.sfrestore.org/rrct/bbay/documents/bbrrct_handouts_past_052114.html)

6. **Wrap-up**

After a reminder that the December BBRCT Meeting has been rescheduled to December 9th, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:00pm.