

**Science Coordination Group
DRAFT Meeting Summary – Meeting #7
Florida International University
Graham Center – West Ballroom
11250 SW 8th Street
Miami, Florida 33199
October 5, 2004**

Attendance:

Members:

Joan Browder
Ken Haddad
Bob Johnson
Cherise Maples
Susan Markley
Loren Mason

Greg May
John Ogden
Peter Ortner
Dianne Owen
Rock Salt

Staff, Contractors, Public:

Jim Barnes
Joseph Boyer
Kevin Burger

Bob Doren
Rafaela Monchek
Rafael Olivieri (phone)

Members not present:

Calvin Arnold
Ronnie Best
Richard Harvey
Greg Knecht
Fred Rapach

Bill Reck
Terry Rice
Barry Rosen
Jay Slack

Meeting Summary:

The meeting summary was approved after adding Joan Browder to the "Members present" list. (Motion – Joan Browder; Second - Peter Ortner; the motion was approved unanimously.)

Whiparound:

Greg May announced the October 6th, Task Force conference call, and invited the SCG members to participate. Rock Salt announced the draft DOI Science Plan is out and he asked for input from outside sources. One of the document's main purposes is to help prioritize science funding. Rock added that because of increased costs, DOI and the Corps are reviewing the Mod Waters project to explore better and more cost effective components.

John Ogden mentioned concern over the low attendance, but understood that it may be due to the recent hurricanes. He announced the RECOVER technical teams are being restructured, and they are looking at creating an alliance between RECOVER and the Decomp team.

Loren Mason announced the Corps has been discussing adding a modeler to the IMC to link environmental responses to hydrologic patterns.

Susan Markley announced that some of the restoration projects moving forward are not ready to go. She expressed concern over the lack of a clear process to integrate across disciplines and noted that many of the projects need peer review.

Joan Browder agreed that more feedback is needed before projects advance to the regional audience.

Recently, Joan served on a panel for the group responsible for monitoring ASRs in the Tampa area. She was concerned that they hadn't received a presentation from anyone in South Florida.

Susan added that the county used to participate in the PDTs until they were superseded by the Regional Teams and said the ASR projects were assigned to the Central Regional Team.

Peter announced that there will be a meeting to discuss the disconnect between the Interagency Science Plan for Florida Bay and the oversight panel.

Bob Johnson announced ENP is finalizing the contracting for CESI and he would like to brief the SCG in the near future. This could help the SCG better understand how performance measures fit in with CERP.

Loren Mason announced the ASR test pilot projects are continuing with some streamlining. The Corps is in the process of partnering with the state on these streamlined projects. He asked for input from other agencies.

John Ogden announced a new National Resource Council on Everglades Restoration will meet on October 25-26, in Jacksonville.

Plan to Coordinate Science Phase I Implementation:

Ken made some preliminary assignment for the next meeting and asked that more structure for these assignments be developed. For each of the following tasks, the lead POC will provide a 15 minute presentation to the SCG. The presentation should include their recommendation for who should present the following information to the Task Force at their December 1, 2004 meeting. The Task Force presentation should last no longer than 10 minutes before discussion and should cover the following topics: a) Brief discussion of the needs identified by the Plan for Coordinating Science; b) Brief discussion of the gaps identified by the Plan for Coordinating Science; c) The issues with respect to the gaps and the Task Force's role to coordinate member programs. This briefing should emphasize how well the current agency programs are addressing the gaps with respect to resources, schedules and budgets, etc.

Action	Lead:
Review the Florida Bay/Florida Keys Feasibility Study	Peter Ortner
Review the implementation of the CERP MAP for the Southern Estuaries	John Ogden
Review the FBAMS Strategic Science Plan	Peter Ortner
Review the implementation of the CERP MAP for the Total System	John Ogden

Public Comment:

Joe Boyer from FIU commented that the projects addressed by the Plan are not the only ones that exist. He thought that there should be an analysis of the gaps between the projects. He also expressed concern that "dissolved organic nitrogen" was the only nutrient acronym listed and thought that by doing so conveyed the perception of heightened importance and undeservedly singled it out as the only Florida Bay water quality issue. He suggested discussing increased loading and chemical speciation of the loading.

Ken clarified that this is only Phase I. The gaps referred to will be covered in Phase II. Susan clarified that management and process gaps between projects was started, and that the team agrees there are issues. Additional comments are appreciated.

Plan to Coordinate Science Phase II Development:

Phase II of the plan is due September of 2006. Ken provided the following steps and assignments to prepare for this topic at the next meeting:

Steps:

- 1) Develop a tool to help identify and track the elements that must be completed for Phase II – (Greg)
- 2) Determine how other efforts can be utilized (RECOVER for example) - (John will discuss this with Jack)
- 3) Articulate our prospectus more clearly

- 4) Determine a process and schedule for data sharing and review
- 5) Review the Plan – potentially a joint science and management review
- 6) Hold focus workshops and follow up for each of the CEMs
- 7) Determine the workload and quantity of meetings and workshops; look for ways to improve efficiency

Process to Develop System-Wide Indicators :

Every two years the Task Force provides a Strategic Plan and Biennial Report to Congress. The SCG has been tasked with developing a process for developing set of system-wide indicators for this document addressing the three goals. The process must be open and transparent and include provisions for peer review. After presenting this process to the Task Force, the SCG will then implement the process. A baseline, restoration endpoints and a process to monitor and assess progress must also be developed.

The SCG discussed the topic and following comments were noted:

- Socioeconomic factors affecting the natural system should be considered
- They should be able to help determine if restoration has been achieved or not.
- They should address issues CERP may affect, such as toxins.
- They should address the broad goals and policy of the Task Force strategy

Rock volunteered to work with others to develop a trial approach for this task

Public Comment:

Joe Boyer from FIU provided input on the system-wide indicators. He cautioned that it was easy to focus on keystone species, but this must be balanced with more of an ecosystem approach.

Schedules & Resources:

Peter recommended Adriane Cantilo as an excellent technical writer with a strong scientific background.

Future Meeting Items:

Bob Johnson requested a briefing on CESI projects, and on how performance measures fit in with CERP.

Plan to Coordinate Science Task Force Briefing:

Peter Ortner, Bob Doren, Rock Salt and Greg May participated in the Task Force conference call on October 6, 2004.

The Task Force agenda addressed two SCG issues – the draft plan to coordinate science and the recommended coordination actions for the Task Force.

Mike Collins wanted to ensure that the past and on-going scientific work conducted by the agencies was recognized. To address this investment in science activities, cited by the GAO science report, were added to the plan. The members asked for more definitive statements and more specificity.

Peter Ortner, Susan Markley, Joan Broader and Bob Doren met on November 1, 2004 to revise the draft plan. OED and Booz, Allen, Hamilton made final edits for consistency. The revised draft was sent to the Task Force for review.

The Corps presented a briefing on the Comprehensive Water Quality Feasibility Study. The members provided feedback and asked for another briefing at the December 1, 2004 meeting.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be Monday, November 15th, at Florida International University in the MARC building.