

**Science Coordination Group
Meeting Summary – Meeting#4
Florida International University
11250 SW 112th Avenue
Graham Center, Room 243
Miami, Florida
April 19, 2004**

Attendance:

Members:

Calvin Arnold	John Ogden
Ronnie Best	Peter Ortner
Joan Browder	Bill Reck
Ken Haddad	Terry Rice
Dan Kimball	Barry Rosen
Cherise Maples	Rock Salt
Susan Markley	John Volin
Greg May	

Staff, Contractors, Public:

Lisa Beever	David Erne
Carol Daniels	Chris Farrell
Bob Doren	Kristin Maksimowicz
Kate Elliott	Rafaela Monchek

Members not present: Greg Knecht, Loren Mason, Fred Rapach, Jay Slack

Administrative Items:

The meeting summary was approved without changes. In the future, members will be listed separately from other attendees in the attendance section of the meeting summary.

Whiparound:

Dan Kimball reported that he had been on the job for two months. He looks forward to working with everyone on the SCG. He has some experience running a science program for the Park Service and in creating an understanding between scientists and managers.

Barry Rosen said that he took part in a meeting on tree islands to improve performance measures earlier this week.

Bob thanked Calvin for his comments on the plan to coordinate science.

Rock announced that the DOI science plan would be released as soon as approval is received from Marti Allbright.

Ken announced the Florida legislature was in session.

Greg announced that Booz Allen Hamilton has been hired to help develop the plan to coordinate science and that Jack Gentile has been hired to help develop section IIA.

John Volin thanked Bob for the first draft of several sections of the plan. He offered the Davie FAU office for a future meeting with free parking, donuts and coffee.

John noted that Jack has led the charge on coordinating risk and uncertainty and is encouraged that this team is on a parallel effort with CERP. He also mentioned that he is being absorbed by the task of meeting deadlines for programmatic regulations.

Rock added that interim goals and targets are an important work product and they deserve everyone's attention.

Joan has been on leave for two weeks, but she did go to the Total Systems meeting and was impressed. She will provide feedback on that team's draft products soon. Ronnie Best stressed the importance in developing science this year. Rock added that once we get comfortable with the plan, we will have the opportunity to look at other issues.

Plan for Coordinating Science, Annotated Outline

A new draft was distributed by Booz Allen Hamilton (BAH) with significant changes since the last meeting. This version incorporated Bob Doren's draft, but redefined some of the sections of the plan. The SCG reviewed the draft, and requested a new version be created using the edited Task Force powerpoint presentation as its framework. BAH created this new version, and it was distributed and approved by the SCG the following week. The Annotated Outline was then forwarded on to the Task Force at their May meeting. The annotated outline is included as an appendix to this meeting summary.

Proposed Power Point Briefing to the Task Force

David Erne from BAH presented the draft presentation that will be given to the Task Force in May. The team edited the presentation and deferred to BAH to make additional edits and redistribute to the SCG. This was done, and the SCG reviewed the final version. The final version was presented to the Task Force at their May meeting, and is included as an appendix to this meeting summary.

Public Comment:

Chris Farrell asked for a definition of "part of the S. FL Ecosystem" as stated in Bob Doren's first draft of the outline. In the CERP boundaries, some of the uplands are left out, and the definition should be all encompassing.

Peter responded that the intention is to go beyond CERP boundaries, and that the language should reflect that.

John added that upland and wetland issues are addressed in the CEM.

Summary of Jack's activities:

Last week there was a two-day workshop with a team of 15 scientists to bring Total System model to completion. As the model is restructured, new hypotheses have been created to explain the changes in the ecosystem in South Florida.

The workshop will undertake the following:

- Agree on criteria to evaluate hypotheses
- Create ranking of hypotheses (including strength of hypotheses based on data)
- Rankings will be used to indicate needs

If the workshop is two days, the Florida Bay group will meet; if it is one then only the Total Systems group will meet.

Jack and John will look at the annotated outline text on their section.

Next Steps & Future Meetings:

Future Meeting Discussions:

The members requested that a future meeting include a presentation by Jack Gentile on the needs assessment workshop and further discussion on quality assurance.

The next meeting will be May 20th.

Additional Comments:

Rock mentioned that NOAA produced a list of definitions that may be helpful as an appendix to this plan.