

COMBINED STRUCTURAL and OPERATING PLAN ADVISORY TEAM

CHARTER

BACKGROUND:

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Jacksonville District, is proceeding to develop a Combined Structural and Operating Plan (CSOP), with an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), for the Modified Water Deliveries to Everglades National Park (Mod Water) and the Canal 111 (C-111) Projects with the assistance of the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), Everglades National Park (ENP) and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). Currently, the two projects are partially completed and are operated in accordance with the Interim Operating Plan (IOP) that was approved in July, 2002. In general, the Corps is using the CSOP study to develop the final operating plan for the two projects and, if necessary, to recommend structural modifications to the authorized C-111 and Mod Water projects. Representatives from federal, state, and local governmental agencies and tribal nations, as well as a number of nongovernmental entities, have expressed interest in participating in the CSOP process. To improve and increase the involvement of the affected stakeholders, the Working Group has been asked to establish an advisory committee to provide advice and recommendations. This advisory group is established in response to that request. The CSOP Overview and Project Purposes and Objectives is attached.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the CSOP Advisory Team (Team) is to assist the Task Force in providing recommendations to the Corps during key phases in the CSOP process and, by doing so, to increase stakeholder participation in the CSOP process.

MEMBERS:

The Team consists of voting stakeholders and non-voting agency/tribal team members as follows:

Stakeholder/Voting Members:

Carol Rist – League of Women Voters - Chair
John Adornato – National Parks and Conservation Association
Medora Alleman – Resident, Grower
Tad Burke – FL Keys Fishing Guides Assoc.
Loly Espino – St. Thomas University
Freddy Fisikelli – Former President Everglades Coordinating Council
Madeleine Fortin – Resident
Cynthia Guerra – Executive Director, Tropical Audubon Society
Arnie Harris – Environmental Advisory Task Force for Miami-Dade County

Deborah Harrison – World Wildlife Fund
James Humble – Dade Agricultural Landowner
Tom MacVicar – Agricultural Consultant
Alice Pena - Resident
Barbara Jean Powell – Everglades Coordinating Council
Reginald Walters – Resident, Former Miami-Dade Planner

Governmental/Non-voting:

DOI – Rock Salt
ENP – Bob Johnson
FDACS – Linda McCarthy
FDEP – Ernie Barnett
Florida Atlantic University – Jim Murley
FWC – Joe Walsh
FWS – Barry Rosen
Miami-Dade County – Roman Gastesi
Miccosukee Tribe of Indians – Terry Rice
Seminole Tribe (Have decided not to participate as a member)
SFWMD – Shawn Sculley
USACE – Dennis Duke
USDA – Bill Reck

GUIDANCE:

1. The Team is charged to provide advice and/or recommendations at various steps of the CSOP planning process. In general, the Corps, in coordination with the SFWMD, ENP and FWS, will provide input to the Team as described below and the Team will advise the Task Force and its Working Group as indicated.
2. The following list consisting of expected input to the Team, Team deliverables and the deliverables' schedule is provided as the initial work plan for the Team.
 - a. At the initial Team meeting, the Corps, in conjunction with the SFWMD, ENP, and FWS, will present the CSOP Overview and Project Purposes and Objectives and brief the Advisory Team on the CSOP.
 - Task 1. The Team will identify key issues and concerns and provide to the Working Group and Task Force the list of issues identified along with any suggestions on how to proceed to resolve issues and concerns.
 - b. The Corps will provide draft performance measures to the Team.
 - Task 2. After receipt of the draft performance measures, the Team will identify key issues and concerns and provide comments to the Working Group and Task Force on those performance measures.

- c. The Corps will provide an initial array of Alternatives to the Team.
Task 3. The Team will review the Alternatives, identify issues and provide their recommended improvements to the array, either as recommendations for new alternatives or adjustments to any of the alternatives in the initial array.

 - d. The Corps will furnish detailed Alternatives, along with necessary technical information, to the Team for review.
Task 4. The Team will review the detailed Alternatives and identify issues, improvements and recommended changes associated with each. The Team will provide progress reports to the Working Group and Task Force every two (2) months, or as otherwise directed, until the task is completed.

 - e. The Corps will provide the Team with its alternative analysis, including the initial conclusions on the preferred plan.
Task 5. The Team will review the preferred plan and report to the Working Group and Task Force with its final recommendations.
- 3. All of the Team reports to the Working Group and Task Force should be written. The Working Group, and as appropriate the Task Force, will schedule time at its first meeting after each report to allow a presentation by the Team and a discussion of the report.

 - 4. The Working Group will forward its recommendations to the Task Force as appropriate.

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. The Team will serve in an advisory role to the Working Group and Task Force. Participation on the Team does not constitute participation in the Corps' formal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) public comment process and does not preclude Team members from fully participating in the NEPA public comment process. Neither does participation on the Team modify the independent decision-making authorities and responsibilities of any agencies participating on the Team.

- 2. It is intended that the Team provide advice to the Working Group and Task Force to assist the Task Force in providing its input on CSOP.

- 3. All Team meetings will be open to the public and time will be included on the agenda for public comment. Meetings will be advertised in accordance with the Task Force/Working Group's Public Affairs Procedures.

- 4. It is not intended that the deliverable schedule necessarily be done sequentially. The Corps and the Team Chair will coordinate the schedule and allow for flexibility when necessary.

5. The meeting schedule will be adjusted as necessary to respond to the planning guidelines.
6. The Team shall strive to develop consensus recommendations to the Working Group and Task Force and use the Task Force/Working Group protocol for approving its reports. When complete consensus is unattainable, a 2/3 majority vote will suffice for final Team actions. Actions other than final approvals may be taken by a simple majority vote. If there is not complete consensus, the comments/recommendations of dissenting members shall be indicated as such and included along with the majority recommendation.
7. Meetings of the Team will be facilitated by independent professional facilitators.
8. The Office of the Executive Director will work closely with the Team, the facilitators and the Corps and its partners to provide assistance as needed.

Attachment:

CSOP Overview and Project Purposes and Objectives – to be provided