

**AGENDA**  
**SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION TASK FORCE**  
West Palm Beach, Florida  
February 27 – 28, 2008

*Task Force Duties: To provide intergovernmental coordination, exchange information, facilitate the resolution of conflict, coordinate programmatic science, assist members, and promote public participation.*

**Wednesday, February 27, 2008**

8:30 – 12:00      **Field Trip highlighting Lake Okeechobee and the Herbert Hoover Dike**

**Location and time:** Meet inside the lobby of the Hilton Palm Beach Airport hotel at 8:30 AM and board bus. The bus will return to the hotel at 12:00 noon.

**On Wednesday afternoon the meeting will be held at the Crowne Plaza**

1:00 – 1:05      **Introduction and Opening Remarks (Tab 1)** Mike Sole  
*The goals for the meeting and the December meeting minutes will be presented.*

1:05 – 1:45      **Whiparound**  
*Each member has the option of providing brief introductory remarks at this time.*

1:45 – 4:45      **Integrated Delivery Schedule (IDS) Workshop (Tab 2)** Stu Appelbaum  
***Purpose:** The purpose of the Integrated Delivery Schedule (IDS) Workshop is to discuss and identify the optimum sequence of key hydrologic projects that deliver meaningful restoration benefits as early as possible consistent with law and available funding. The IDS will include CERP and non-CERP projects, to include Foundation Projects such as Kissimmee River Restoration and Modified Water Deliveries to Everglades National Park. It will also include system operating manuals which will be revised at key points. The goal of the IDS is to develop a schedule for achieving restoration benefits as soon as possible consistent with existing state and federal authorizations and funding.*

**Task Force Objectives:**

- Coordinate the development of consistent plans, programs, projects and priorities
- Provide members with the opportunity to engage in the development of the IDS.
- Provide the public with an opportunity to comment on the development of the IDS.
- Assist the implementing agencies by providing intergovernmental and public input during development of the IDS including the identification of areas of consensus or concern.

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**Background:** Hydrologic or Goal 1 “Getting the Water Right” projects in south Florida can generally be divided into Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) and non-CERP projects. Some of the non-CERP projects were considered as precursors during the CERP planning process. These projects are sometimes referred to as Foundation Projects. The State is also providing dedicated funding for additional projects in the Northern Everglades.

**Related Items:**

- Master Implementation Sequencing Plan (MISP) – the Programmatic Regulations for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan address the MISP (see 33 CFR Part 385.30 excerpt)
- Adaptive Management (AM) – the Programmatic Regulations for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan address AM (see 33 CFR Part 385.31 excerpt)

4:45 – 5:30

**Modified Water Deliveries (MWD) Consultation (Tab 3)**

Stu Appelbaum

**Purpose:** The Corps will present its recommended option for addressing MWD project Tamiami Trail modifications.

**Task Force Objectives:**

- Coordinate the development of consistent plans and projects.
- Provide members with the opportunity to better understand the recommended plan and provide comments.
- Provide the public with an opportunity to better understand the recommended plan and provide comments.
- Assist the implementing agencies by providing intergovernmental and public feedback.

**Background:** The project consists of structural features that will provide to the extent practicable more natural hydrological conditions in Everglades National Park and Water Conservation Area 3. Several key project features have been or will soon be completed such as the 8.5 Square Mile Area. The Task Force unanimously approved a resolution in September 2007 urging the expeditious completion of the modifications to Tamiami Trail. In addition to the modifications to Tamiami Trail as part of the MWD project, future modifications to the Trail necessary for full restoration benefits will be addressed in other projects.

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5:30 – 5:45      **Public Comment**

5:45              **Adjourn**

6:00              **No Host Social**

*Public Comment will be taken after each agenda item*

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**Thursday, February 28, 2008**

**On Thursday morning the meeting will be held at the Hilton Palm Beach Airport hotel**

8:30 – 8:35      **Opening Remarks and Administrative Items**      Mike Sole

8:35 – 9:00      **Northern Everglades Plan – River Watershed Protection Plan Development Process** (Tab 4)      Temperince Morgan

***Purpose:** The purpose of the plan is to identify projects to meet Okeechobee Watershed Total Maximum Daily Loads, manage lake levels from an ecological perspective, and manage flows to meet desirable salinity ranges for the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries.*

**Task Force Objectives:**

- Coordinate the development of consistent plans, programs and projects.
- Provide members with the opportunity to better understand the recommended plan and provide comments.
- Provide the public with an opportunity to better understand the recommended plan and provide comments.

***Background:** In 2007 the Florida Legislature expanded the Lake Okeechobee Protection Act to include protection and restoration of the interconnected Kissimmee, Lake Okeechobee, Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie watersheds. The SFWMD Governing Board approved the Lake Okeechobee Phase II Technical Plan on January 8, 2008 and submitted it to the Florida Legislature on February 1, 2008.*

9:00 – 9:45      **Assessing and Communicating System-wide Indicators - Discussion and Next Steps** (Tab 5)      Rock Salt Bob Doren

***Purpose:** The recommended approach for assessing and communicating the status of the System-wide indicators (identified in the 2006 Task Force Strategy) will be presented for feedback and guidance. The first assessment of these indicators will be documented in the 2008 Task Force Biennial Report.*

**Task Force Objectives:**

- Coordinate the development of consistent strategies, plans and science.
- Provide members with the opportunity to review and ask questions about the recommended approach.
- Provide the public with an opportunity to provide comments and ask questions.
- Provide Task Force feedback and guidance to complete this task.

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**Background:** *At the request of the Task Force, the Science Coordination Group (SCG) in close coordination with RECOVER (Restoration Coordination and Verification – an interagency scientific and technical team for CERP) identified a recommended set of System-wide indicators that were scientifically based and peer reviewed. This suite of 13 System-wide indicators was included the 2006 Task Force Strategy. The SCG in close coordination with RECOVER has developed an approach for assessing and communicating the status of the System-wide indicators from a scientific perspective. A recommended approach for using this information to report the status of the System-wide indicators in the Biennial Report will be presented. The indicators are one of the means the Task Force uses to report the status of restoration and progress every two years in the Biennial Report.*

9:45 - 10:00

**Break**

10:00 – 11:00

**Plan to Coordinate Science - Requirements and Next Steps (Tab 6)**

**Purpose:** *The Task Force will review the current status of the Plan for Coordinating Science and provide guidance for completing the plan. The review will include the status of the edits to the current draft plan as well as the results of the independent panel that addressed the prioritization of the science gaps identified in the current draft plan.*

**Task Force Objectives:**

- Coordinate the development of consistent plans and science.
- Provide members with the opportunity to review and ask questions about the current status of the steps to complete the plan.
- Provide the public with an opportunity to comment and ask questions.
- Provide Task Force guidance to complete the plan.

**Background:** *The Task Force approved its first Plan for Coordinating Science in December 2004. A draft of the second plan was presented to the Task Force in September 2006. In May 2007 the Task Force approved a 3 step approach for completing the Plan for Coordinating Science. The first step was to provide member edits to the existing draft plan to clarify the purpose of the plan. The second step was to have an independent panel assist the Task Force to further refine its process for prioritizing the gaps identified in the draft plan. The third step was to consider the results from steps one and two and complete the plan.*

Greg May  
Dr. Jeff Jordan

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- 11:00 – 11:15    **The Year Ahead (Tab 7)**    Greg May
- Purpose:** The Executive Director will review the meeting dates and key reporting tasks for the year including the 2008 Task Force Strategy, Biennial Report, Plan for Coordinating Science and Land Acquisition Strategy.*
- Task Force Objectives:***
- Coordinate and report on the development of consistent strategies, plans, programs and science.
  - Provide members with the opportunity to review and ask questions about the key reporting tasks for 2008.
  - Provide the public with an opportunity to comment and ask questions about the key reporting tasks for 2008.
- Background:** The Task Force prepares a number of reports to document various aspects of intergovernmental coordination. Several of these reports are directed by Congress or congressional language.*
- 11:15 – 11:30    **Public Comment**
- 11:30 – 11:45    **Next Steps, Closing Comments and Evaluations**    Mike Sole
- 11:45    **Adjourn**

*Public Comment will be taken after each agenda item*

Updated 02/19/08