

# SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION TASK FORCE

February 17, 2011

## Workshop Agenda

North Collier Regional Park Exhibit Hall  
15000 Livingston Road  
Naples, FL 34109

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

### Context for the Workshop

- *The National Research Council (NRC) reports that accelerated restoration progress is even more important given continued declines in the ecosystem.*
- *To adapt and maximize restoration progress going forward, science and decision making must be thoughtfully linked and stakeholders fully engaged.*
- *In January, Secretary Salazar and ASA(CW) Darcy committed to an improved planning process that would be informed by what we've learned.*
- *The NRC reports that as restoration begins to change the ecosystem, open and transparent mechanisms for integrating science into decision making will be beneficial for everyone.*

*Public engagement will take place at various points throughout this interactive workshop. The Chair will call a break at a convenient time during the workshop.*

## Thursday, February 17, 2011 – Task Force Workshop 1:00 – 5:30PM

### Welcome, Workshop Goals, Guidelines and Introductions (Tab 1)

*The workshop responds to the National Research Council (NRC) recommendations and Task Force guidance from the October meeting and will identify follow-on actions to help accelerate restoration benefits by improving the use of science in decision making and stakeholder engagement.*

Shannon  
Estenoz

### Linking Science and Decision Making (10 p) (Tab 2)

**Purpose:** *To provide a project-level and system-wide example of tools for linking science and management. In order for science to be useful to decision makers, it must be communicated in understandable terms and related to actions that they can control.*

Greg May

### Stakeholder Involvement and Analytical Tools (15 p) (Tab 3)

**Purpose:** *To present an example of analysis and communication tools as well as robust stakeholder involvement used in restoration planning.*

Temperince  
Morgan  
Tom Van Lent

### Discussion Regarding the Example Above

**Purpose:** *To discuss the use of the analytical and communication tools and stakeholder involvement in restoration planning. The NRC report recommends strengthening analytical tools for evaluating restoration planning alternatives and implementing more robust stakeholder engagement practices.*

Facilitated  
Discussion

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#### **Discussion Questions**

- *What worked well in terms of: Stakeholder engagement approach? Analytical tools? Communication tools?*
- *What were the challenges in terms of: Stakeholder engagement approach? Analytical tools? Communication tools?*
- *What are the lessons learned going forward in terms of: Stakeholder engagement? Analytical tools? Communication tools?*

#### **System-wide Ecological Indicators, Background and Status (15 p) (Tab 4)**

Bob Doren

**Purpose:** *To provide an overview of the tool that the Task Force uses to assess the current status of the ecosystem and to track how it will respond to implementation of the suite of projects and operational changes over time.*

#### **System-wide Ecological Indicator Example (10 p) (Tab 5)**

Joel Trexler

**Purpose:** *To provide an overview of the underlying science and communication of the status of one of the indicators.*

#### **Feedback on the System-wide Ecological Indicator Stoplights as a Communication Tool**

Facilitated Discussion

**Purpose:** *To solicit feedback regarding the System-wide Ecological Indicator stoplight assessments as a communication tool. The NRC stated that the stoplight assessment does an excellent job of communicating the status of each indicator but recommended that feedback should be sought in order to refine future assessments.*

#### **Questions by a Show of Hands**

- *The red-yellow-green “stoplight” tool in the assessment reports is helpful in communicating the current status of the ecosystem:*  
  
*Agree\_\_\_Disagree\_\_\_Neutral\_\_\_*
- *Over time the red-yellow-green “stoplight” tool in future assessment reports will be helpful in communicating the ecosystem response to on-going restoration efforts:*  
  
*Agree\_\_\_Disagree\_\_\_Neutral\_\_\_*

#### **Multi-Objective Decision Tools (10 p)**

Jayantha Obeysekera

**Purpose:** *To provide an update on the South Florida Water Management District’s collaboration with MIT to develop tools for maximizing restoration benefits through analysis using multiple criteria.*

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#### What Other Tools, Efforts, or Engagement Approaches do We Need and What Needs to be Improved?

Facilitated  
Discussion

***Purpose:** To discuss and identify improvements to current efforts and other mechanisms that could be used to enhance the use of science in decision making.*

#### Areas and Questions for Discussion

- *How effective are the current stakeholder engagement processes and how can they be improved?*
  - *What are the challenges for implementing more robust stakeholder engagement in restoration?*
  - *What are the opportunities for stakeholder collaboration in implementing adaptive management and engaging in restoration planning?*
- *What are some better and more transparent mechanisms for integrating science into decision making?*
- *Does the current institutional structure help link the science findings back to decision making?*
- *What role can systems planning support tools and integrated hydrologic, ecological and biogeochemical models play in restoration projects and plans?*
  - *What do you believe are the key challenges in utilizing analytic and communication tools to evaluate options in CERP and Everglades restoration more broadly?*
  - *What are the key opportunities?*

#### Follow-on Actions Discussion

***Purpose:** To identify specific follow-on actions to ensure an on-going comprehensive and layered dialogue between scientists and decision makers and to help accelerate restoration benefits by improving the use of science in decision making and stakeholder involvement in restoration planning.*

Facilitated  
Discussion

#### Areas and Questions for Discussion

- *What specific actions could be taken to improve the current stakeholder processes?*
- *What specific actions can be taken to provide better and more transparent mechanisms for integrating science into decision making?*
- *What specific actions could be taken to improve the current institutional structure help link the science findings back to decision making?*
- *What specific actions can be taken to develop systems planning support tools and integrated hydrologic, ecological and biogeochemical models?*

#### Adjourn

Shannon  
Estenoz

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**Friday, February 18, 2011 Groundbreaking Ceremony 10:00 – 11:30AM**

**Invite and Directions (Tab 6)**

Updated 2/16/11