

## **South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force**

Outreach, Environmental and Economic Equity Coordination Team (OEET)

### **First Reading Draft Charter**

September 24, 2001, Key Largo, Strategy

#### **BACKGROUND:**

One of the country's most significant environmental initiatives is the restoration of the Everglades and the south Florida ecosystem. Maintaining a sustainable ecosystem in south Florida requires a coordinated approach that transcends political boundaries and specific agency jurisdictions. The governance and planning for south Florida involves 16 county governments, 130+ municipalities, 2 tribal governments, numerous special districts, six Metropolitan Planning Organizations, five Regional Planning Councils, the south Florida Water Management District, five major state environmental and planning agencies, and 8 federal agencies. The ultimate success of efforts to restore the south Florida ecosystem will hinge on the ability of these governments to work together with an unprecedented level of partnership.

The Working Group and Task Force members recognize the importance of outreach and education early in the process of developing plans for restoration projects and in implementing these projects. The Water Resources Act (WRDA) of 2000 emphasizes the importance of a strong outreach and environmental justice program that will provide socially and economically disadvantaged communities and individuals access and information to support and participate in ecosystem restoration. Each participating agency of the Working Group and task force is charged with developing programs and projects within their area of responsibility to achieve goals toward a more informed and engaged public. Consequently, the Coordinating Success, Strategy for Restoration document recognizes that there is an opportunity to facilitate coordination and integration of the many programs and projects whose goal is to engage the diverse and growing human population of this complex ecosystem.

#### **Purpose:**

The Outreach, Environmental and Economic Equity Coordination Team will develop for Working Group consideration a comprehensive interagency strategy for a system-wide approach for Outreach and Environmental and Economic Equity, including environmental Justice. The strategy should seek to optimize interagency collaboration, eliminates duplication of efforts, and

encourages cost sharing without infringing on existing missions, authorities or jurisdictions of the participating agencies. The first phase of this strategy development will include an inventory of government and non-government programs already in place.

**MEMBERS:**

Thaddeus Hamilton, USDA-NRCS	Jerry Krenz, SFWMD
Billy Causey NOAA, FKNMS	Ron Smola, USDA-NRCS
Bonnie Kranzer, SFWMD (Jerry Krenz)	Wayne Daltry, SWRPC
Bradford Brown, NOAA	Julio Fanjul, SFWMD
Joan Lawrence, SFWMD	Linda Friar, OED
Nanciann Regalado, USACE	Carrie Beeler, OED
Rock Salt, SFERTF-OED	

Other WG Members or their appointees as assigned

**GUIDANCE:**

- a. The goal of the OECT is to develop a strategy for integrating Outreach and Environmental and Economic Equity programs supporting the ecosystem restoration efforts. When completed, the OECT strategy should provide a broad picture of all current Outreach and Environmental and Economic Equity initiatives that contribute to the restoration.
- b. The OECT Strategy should provide specific recommendations that would reduce duplication, increase communication and coordination, avoid misunderstandings, and improve the message.
- c. The OECT will identify the potential applications and linkages among governmental and non-governmental programs that could help to achieve shared Outreach and Environmental and Economic Equity goals in the region.
- d. The OECT strategy may provide input to the development and revisions to Goal 3 of the Task Force Strategic Plan, as appropriate.
- e. The team will provide periodic briefings to the Working Group on their efforts.

**DELIVERABLES:**

The OECT will produce the following interim and final deliverables for review and approval of the Working Group:

- An inventory of current Outreach and Environmental and Economic Equity efforts, including environmental justice that supports restoration in south Florida.

- A strategy for integrating Outreach and Environmental and Economic Equity programs needed for ecosystem restoration projects that will improve existing efforts, seek a common message, and encourage partnerships when practicable. This strategy will be provided to the Working Group on or before July 31, 2002.

**ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. All OEET meetings will be open to the public and publicly noticed through appropriate Public communication process. The representative from the Office of the Executive Director (OED) will serve as the staff and administrative support to the committee.
2. The chairs should coordinate with the Office of the Executive Director (Linda Friar 305-348-1660 or Carrie Beeler 305-348-6745) to receive additional administrative instructions or to arrange for additional support needs for the team.

Signed by:

Working Group Chair