

**SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION TASK FORCE SPONSORED  
PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOP**

**2022 INTEGRATED DELIVERY SCHEDULE  
WORKSHOP SUMMARY**

Virtual Meeting via ZOOM  
November 18, 2022  
9:30 AM – 12:30 PM

**Workshop Video:** <https://youtu.be/Auktal1kR0Y>

**Attendees:**

Anteneh Abiy	Adam Gelber	Ben Olsen
Caryl Alarcon	Danette Goss	Gib Owen
Steve Alm	Christopher Guth	Mindy Parrott
Lee Angelelli	Martha Guyas	April Patterson
Albrey Arrington	Tim Gysan	Harold Peterson
Andrea Atkinson	Kenny Hayman	Libby Pigman
Kiren Bahm	Candida Heater	Nyla Pipes
Bill Baker	Allen Herskowitz	Todd Polk
Marsha Bansee	Nafeeza Hooseinny-	Kellie Ralston
Ernie Barnett	Nabibaksh	Armando Ramirez
Terrie Bates	Marie Huber	Walter Reigner
Lisis Batista	Bonnie Irving	Jennifer Reynolds
Carrie Beeler	Christopher Johns	Bruce Ritchie
Ronald Bergeron	Neil Johnson	Robert Robbins
Milton Block	Bob Johnson	Todd Roberts
Karen Bohnsack	Fahmida Khatun	Ellen Rogers
Ingrid Bon	Lee Killinger	Gregory Rogers
Kevin Burger	Jen Leeds	Ana Rojas
Jose Cabaleiro	Jason Ludwig	Elizabeth Ross
Liz Caneja	John Maehl	Sharon Seagren
Allyn Childress	Alicia Magloire	Evelyn Sergeant
Tasso Cocoves	Ian Markovich	Erica Skolte
Maya Compton-Grant	Pierre Massena	News Smart
Jeff Couch	Julie Maytok	Jennifer Smith
Dan Crawford	Jasmina McKibben	Bradley Solyan
Casey Darling Kniffin	Alexa Menashe	Sandy Soto
Jay Diedzic	Lyanne Mendez	Erik Stabenau
Jeff Dixon	Molly Messer	Christine Stapleton
Steven Eagle	Brenda Mills	Donatto Surratt
Tabitha Elkington	Patrice MoreyTaughner	Mark Swymer
Rebecca Elliott	Patrick Murphy	Osama Tarabih
James Erskine	Melodie Naja	Jennifer Thera
Veronica Fasselt	Caitlin Newcamp	Zulamet Vega-Liriano
Chrissie Figueroa	Nicole Niemeyer	Eva Vélez
Jake Fojtik	Nicole Niemeyer	Caitlin Wall
Gary Franklin	Anna Normand	Joanna Weaver

## 1. Welcome and Introductions

Adam Gelber, Director of the US Department of Interior's Office of Everglades Restoration Initiatives (OERI) and the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force (SFERTF), welcomed everyone to the Integrated Delivery Schedule (IDS) workshop. He reminded everyone that this workshop is being held in response to a formal request made by the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) at the July 7, 2022, Working Group/Science Coordination Group meeting. The IDS provides an overall strategy and sequence for the planning, design, and construction of projects within the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration (SFER) program. He explained that James Erskine, Chair of the Working Group, will be helping to facilitate the workshop along with Allyn Childress and Sandy Soto of the OERI.

James Erskine, Working Group Chair, thanked everyone for participating and reminded everyone that the workshop is being recorded. He noted that after the presentations there will be a Q&A session. In addition to the speakers (Tabitha Elkington, Dan Crawford, Danette Goss, and Zulamet Vega-Liriano), there is a panel of agency staff available for the discussion portion of the agenda:

- Eva Velez, April Patterson, Tim Gysan, and Tasso Cocoves from the US Army Corps of Engineers.
- Nafeeza Hooseinny, Mindy Parrott, and Jennifer Leeds from the South Florida Water Management District.
- Andrea Atkinson from the National Park Service.

## 2. Workshop Procedures

Allyn Childress, OERI, went over the [workshop procedures](#) and noted that today's workshop has two ways for attendees to participate and provide both questions and comments. She noted the Task Force and Working Group helped coordinate the development of the initial IDS in 2008 and have conducted stakeholder workshops for public engagement on subsequent updates. This workshop will facilitate two-way dialogue between the public and staff. There are two ways to participate in the workshop: first through a Q&A session using the chat feature and secondly through verbal public comment using the raise hand feature. A workshop summary will be prepared and that along with the entire record of the workshop will be formally transmitted to the Corps and SFMWD. The materials from this workshop are available at [EvergladesRestoration.gov](http://EvergladesRestoration.gov).

## 3. Introductory Remarks

James Erskine introduced LTC Todd Polk (USACE) and Jennifer Reynolds (SFWMD) for some brief remarks. LTC Polk stated that the goal of the SFER program is to improve the health of the Everglades ecosystem including Lake Okeechobee. He went over some restoration highlights and thanked OERI and USACE staff for providing today's workshop and members of the public for participating. Jennifer Reynolds noted that it is an honor to be here and thanked everyone for participating. She noted that LTC Polk outlined the program's momentum and said it is a time to celebrate progress and keep that momentum.

## 4. IDS Presentations

Tabitha Elkington, USACE, was pleased to present the [2022 IDS](#). It is the roadmap for the SFER program and represents the project sequencing and serves as the Master

Implementation Sequencing Plan mentioned in the Yellow Book. The IDS is updated on an annual basis. For the 2022 IDS, they provided two listening sessions, gave updates at WG/SCG meetings, and more. She described the IDS “placemat” and explained what each page covers. Her presentation covered page 1 and the rest of the presenters covered page 2. She went over current progress highlights and noted the new RECOVER module is now included. Her presentation detailed the following:

- [IDS Purpose and Background](#)
  - Foundation and Non-CERP Projects
  - CERP Generation 1 Projects
  - CERP Generation 2 Projects
  - Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP; Generation 3)
  - Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project (Generation 4)
  - Planning Projects

Following her presentation, a thorough overview of each item on the second page of the IDS was provided:

- [The Restoration Framework: System Operating Manuals](#), Dan Crawford, USACE
- [Expanding the RECOVER Footprint](#), Danette Goss, USACE
- [CERP Components Overview](#), Zulamet Vega-Liriano, USACE

## 5. Q&A Moderated Via Chat with All Attendees

James Erskine announced the discussion portion of today's workshop. Allyn Childress and April Patterson read out questions from the chat feature to the panelists.

### Q: Kellie Ralston 10:46 AM

Thank you for the great overview of the IDS. Can you speak to the project timelines-what has changed since the last IDS? Particularly projects that have been accelerated vs projects that have been extended.

A: Eva Velez said she would give a few examples because there is a lot. This FY 2023 Oct-sept. We are excited that we are advancing construction of CEPP South. The SFWMD presentation at the Task Force meeting that showed SRS is hydrated through dry season because of the bridges and seepage barrier; and we get to award contract to advance it even more. The culvert and L67 levee will go in construction (in the next few weeks and months) and the S-356 pump station (pump station on east side) that will deliver water back to SRS and Everglades and also the S355W spillway inside the L-29 that helps regulate how water moves will be constructed.

### Q: Mark Swymer 10:48 AM

Will projects and plans be posted online anytime soon? For example, on the USACE website, will there be a scope of work posted for the upcoming Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration?

A: Eva Velez said that the LOWR project is in the feasibility study stage and there is a report on the website. All the information on the evolution of this plan. It is not yet complete, has not gone to Congress, and it does not have a Chief's Report yet.

**Q: Ben Olsen 10:50 AM**

Have there been any changes to the West Everglades Restoration Project (WERP) planned stormwater treatment area in the Wingate Mill STA since it was announced there would be a reevaluation? If yes, can you elaborate on the changes. If no, can you give an update on when the plans will be released?

A: Eva Velez said that WERP is another project that is in the feasibility stage. She directed him to page 1 of the IDS that shows WERP listed in the white bar, indicating the feasibility stage. That means they have not yet been completed and they have not gone to Congress. WERP is one of those lines. She said the USACE presented at the Task Force meeting in October in Washington DC, and we have to make a change to one part and that is the Wingate Mills STA. She confirmed that the Corps and SFWMD teams are working on what that would mean and have not solved it yet. They want to work with public, Tribes, and agency partners. They are looking for options and want to hear from all of you. The changes are in progress and will be done together.

**Q: Nyla Pipes 10:55 AM**

What happens with the TSP for WERP? Can you expand on that?

A: Eva Velez explained that the Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) is a milestone that has been achieved and completed. As they work on another iteration of the STA itself, it will become part of what is published. They write the report and publishing it is the next milestone.

**6. Public Comment Via Raise Hand**

James Erskine announced the public comment portion of today's workshop.

**Ronald Bergeron** noted that he is speaking on behalf of himself, the Bergeron Foundation. He stated that it is important to go forward with restoration with a few exceptions. Glad to hear the Wingate Mills STA is being studied. Sitting in the pristine environment of the Kissimmee Billy Strand, it is a pristine property, with century old cypress trees and beautiful orchids. He stated that it is important as we move forward to build STAs in an altered environment like we have done the last 22 years of Everglades restoration. He would rather STAs be sited in a cane field, orange grove, or cow pasture to achieve quality of water to benefit the Everglades. He stated that it is extremely important to work together. There are 5 stakeholders, with the number 1 stakeholder being the environment. We have Miccosukee and Seminole private property owners and the Big Cypress Preserve. At the end of the day, it is important to have true restoration. The Big Cypress is a rain driven system with primary panther habitats and primary corridor of connectivity for panthers crossing the Caloosahatchee River. He reiterated that it is an extremely high value environment. As we go forward (which is extremely important to go forward), we need to work together for benefit of our beautiful Everglades and thank you.

**7. Closing Comments and Adjourn**

James Erskine thanked the presenters, the OERI staff, and the public for participating. Adam Gelber reminded everyone that OERI will transmit the workshop proceedings to the Corps and SFWMD on behalf of the Working Group. He added that information can be found at [EvergladesRestoration.gov](http://EvergladesRestoration.gov), including a recording of today's workshop.

Workshop adjourned at 11:00 AM.