

## **Biscayne Bay Regional Restoration Coordination Team Charter**

**BACKGROUND:** The management of Biscayne Bay involves a large number of local, state, and federal agencies as well as nongovernmental organizations and individuals. In 1999, the Florida Legislature created the Biscayne Bay partnership Initiative (BBPI). Its mission was the development of an open and inclusive, community-based forum to survey public and private sector activities and programs affecting Biscayne Bay, and to provide recommendations for actions to protect, improve and enhance the bay's resources, its social, economic, and natural values, with its ecological health as a priority. In January 2001, the BBPI issued a final report that recommended the establishment of a Biscayne Bay Team as part of the Working Group of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force.

The report described the goal for the Team as follows: To preserve, protect, and enhance Biscayne Bay and its connected waters so that the ecological and aesthetic values of Biscayne Bay may endure for the enjoyment of future generations. In addition, the report suggested that the Team recognize the importance of watershed management for the protection of Biscayne Bay and outlined functions for the team as identified in the Purpose that follows.

**PURPOSE:** Using the final report of the BBPI as a guide, the Team will integrate and coordinate restoration, enhancement, and preservation projects, plans and activities, and will work toward maintaining a functioning ecosystem while promoting a sustainable region. Specifically, the purpose of the Team is to:

1. provide a forum for public involvement, outreach and interagency coordination and communication
2. identify goals and performance measures related to key issues and to assess the achievement of those goals
3. identify funding requirements
4. review elements of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) that affect Biscayne Bay

The Team will serve as the principal advisory body to the Working Group for issues in this region.

**MEMBERS:** The Team consists of 23 members with 12 governmental entities and 11 nongovernmental entities, an undetermined number of ex officio, non-voting members.

One representative from each entity will constitute the voting membership:

- South Florida Water Management District
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service
- Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory/National Marine Fisheries Service
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection
- Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve

- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
- South Florida Regional Planning Council
- Miami-Dade County Planning and Zoning Department
- University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Miami-Dade County Extension
- Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Resources Management
- National Park Service – Biscayne National Park
- 4 Conservation Based Entities\*
- 5 Business/User Groups\*
- 1 Environmental Education Provider\*
- 1 At-Large\*

\*These members are to be appointed by the Chair, based upon recommendations from the team. The proposed members need to be ratified by the Working Group.

Each Team membership slot shall be filled by one designated individual, with the option of one designated alternate. The Working Group will appoint one of the team as Chairperson. The team will vote on a Vice Chairperson. The Chairperson and Vice Chairperson shall be designees and not alternates.

#### **GUIDANCE:**

##### Specific Guidance:

1. The initial objective of the Team is to develop a Biscayne Bay Action Plan that will guide efforts and prioritize activities to balance appropriate economic use with improved public access, increased habitat restoration, and environmental protection. The Team shall also submit an annual progress report to the Working Group beginning December 2001.
2. As part of the planning process for the Biscayne Bay Action Plan, the Team should identify issues that may impede restoration efforts and cannot be resolved within the team. These issues, as will issues identified during implementation, should be presented to the Working Group for assistance. The presentation of these issues will normally be included in one of the Working Group's regularly scheduled meetings.
3. The Team should focus on the region as defined by the watershed boundaries of Biscayne Bay, Stretching from Dumfoundling Bay south to U.S. Highway 1. This boundary corresponds with the Surface Water Improvement Boundary (SWIM) for Biscayne Bay.

##### General Guidance:

4. The Team will serve in an advisory role, and not as a direct granting or operation agency.
5. The Team will not supplant agency authority or have any regulatory authority.
6. The work of the team will be consistent with the Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve Act.
7. The team will coordinate with entities involved in coordinating scientific/research efforts, including that of the Science Coordination Group (SCG).

## **ADMINISTRATION:**

1. A majority of the members then serving will constitute a quorum.
2. The Chair shall have the power to create and charge standing and/or single purpose subcommittees. Subcommittee chairs shall be Designees or Alternates. Subcommittee members can include non-Team members.
3. If a voting member (either the designee or alternate) misses three consecutive meetings, their status moves from voting member to non-voting member until such time as the organization they represent names another designee and/or alternate, or the voting member attends three consecutive meetings to reinstate voting privileges.
4. There is no time limit for the term of any member.
5. Any vacancy on the Team shall be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made.

## **DELIVERABLES:**

The team shall produce the following interim and final deliverables for review and approval of the Working Group:

1. Annual Progress Report (beginning December 2001)
2. A Biscayne Bay Action Plan
3. Issues as necessary

## **ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. All team meetings will be open to the public and time will be included in the agenda for public comment.
2. Meetings will be advertised in accordance with the Pilot Public Affairs Procedures
3. The Office of the Executive Director (OED) will provide staff support to assist the Team.