

MEETING SUMMARY

Biscayne Bay Regional Restoration Coordination Team

SFWMD Field Station
9001 NW 58 Street
Miami, FL

June 27, 2012

Attendees

Dick Frost

Pamela Sweeney

Megan Tinsley

Dan Kipnis

Phil Everingham

Jerilyn Ashworth

Sarah Bellmund

Michael Thicksten

Michelle Metcalf

Benn Jeffrey Mullins

Joan Browder Susan Markley

1. Welcome and Introductions

Dick Frost called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone as Chair of the Biscayne Bay Regional Restoration Coordination Team (BBRRCT or Team), and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

2. Coastal Society Conference Review

Pamela Sweeney introduced the Coastal Society Conference Review topic. Jerilyn Ashworth brought the poster to the meeting for the rest of the Team to view. The Team gave kudos to the panel and those who worked on the poster. Dan will work with Pamela and Michelle re preparing the panel video to post on the Task Force web site. There was a consensus that it is very difficult to go to conferences, especially given fiscal limitations; local venues may work better. The poster may be converted to a slide for Dick to use at the next Working Group Meeting.

3. BBRRCT Strategy for Moving Forward

Dick Frost began the discussion on the Team's Strategy for moving forward. Water is a goal that everyone can agree on. It is important to get something done and to be proactive. Presentations should be relevant to the goal. Just watching presentations is not proactive. There is a need to take a look at the present Action Steps for revision – need to reexamine Team priorities. The Action Steps should be prioritized. The Team needs to work on the priority Action Steps first. There was also consensus that the Team needs to narrow its focus to be more effective. Meeting Agendas should flow from the prioritized Action Steps. It was determined that a sub-committee should provide a "straw man" of revised Action Steps to the Team. Phil Everingham will chair the committee also consisting of Dick Frost, Pamela Sweeney, Joan Browder, Patrick Pitts, Don Pybas, Sarah Bellmund, and Joan Lawrence.

The Team felt that the first big issue deals with freshwater to Biscayne Bay – both getting more freshwater to Biscayne Bay and protecting existing water. Potential subtopics include reviewing the South Dade Agricultural Drawdown, use of reclaimed water; status of the USACE Study, the SFWMD Regional Analysis, the Florida City Canal Structures Project, the C-111 Spreader Canal Project, and the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands (BBCW) Project; protections for the Bay including BBCW Project Reservations, expanded reservations for the Bay and the establishment of Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs) for the Bay (Biscayne Bay is no longer on the State Priority Water Bodies List for setting an MFL) to make recommendations to the Working Group. Another priority issue discussed was compatibility with the built environment. Possible subtopics are economic values, public access to the Bay, recreation, and law enforcement. It also would be helpful to ascertain the economic value of the Bay. Team members mentioned that BNP has such a report. Protection of the Bay was also suggested which might include habitat protection, and water quality.

Scheduling

There will be no meeting of the BBRCT in August. Sarah Bellmund mentioned the possibility of a BNP hosted snorkeling trip for the Team in August. September, October, and November BBRCT Meetings will be held back on Key Biscayne on the 4th Wednesday of the month at the NOAA Southeast Fisheries Science Center Statistics Building, 75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami. The December BBRCT Meeting will be held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month to avoid conflicts with the December Holidays. Joan Browder will look into reserving the NOAA Southeast Fisheries Science Center Statistics Building room on Key Biscayne previously utilized for Team meetings for the upcoming year beginning with the December meeting.