

Biscayne Bay Regional Restoration Coordination Team

NOAA Atlantic Oceanographic & Meteorological Laboratory
4301 Rickenbacker Causeway (entrance across from 75 Virginia Beach Drive)
Key Biscayne, FL 33149

July 15, 2015

Attendees

Phil Everingham
Sarah Bellmund
Caroline McLaughlin
Nancy Diersing
Joan Lawrence
Dan Kipnis
Julie Dick
Cara Capp
Laura Eldridge
Matt Morrison
Caroline Herman
Steve Blaisden
Sam Poole

1. Welcome and Introductions

Phil Everingham, Chairman of the BBRRCT, called the meeting to order.

2. Team Business/ Discussion:

The Team had a general discussion on items of interest.

3. Presentation/Discussion: Proposal for a Reservoir in Southwest Miami-Dade County as the Water Supply for the CERP Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Phase 2 Project:

Sam Poole, attorney, Berger Singerman, gave a presentation on the Proposed Biscayne Bay Ecosystem Restoration Reservoir. The proposal is to construct an in-ground reservoir using the existing rock mine east of ENP and adjacent to L-31N Canal west of Miami, to capture surface water and seepage. The reservoir is proposed as a potential source of clean fresh water available for seasonal releases into the regional canal system for ecosystem restoration of Biscayne Bay with no impacts to ENP. The source of water to fill the reservoir is regional system water and rainfall. The reservoir is proposed as one of the alternatives considered to supply additional

freshwater to Biscayne national Park and Biscayne Bay in the BBCW Phase 2 Project. This presentation may be found in the BBRRCT section on the Task Force website:

http://www.evergladesrestoration.gov/content/bbrrct_handouts.html).

4. Presentation/Discussion: Intern project:

Laura Eldridge (BBAP) RSMAS briefed the Team on an intern project examining alternative ways of getting messages to the boating public.

5. Presentation/Discussion: Comprehensive Update on the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands (BBCW) Project:

Matt Morrison, Chief, Office of Federal Policy and Coordination, South Florida Water management District (SFWMD) and Stephen Blaisden, Project manager, Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands project, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, gave a joint update on the BBCW Project including:

- BBCW Pilot Test Results
- BBCW Design and Construction Schedule
- BBCW funding opportunities

The Team was interested in the land requirements remaining for Phase 1 as well as land needed for Phase 2. Within the next 6 months there will be an analysis of remaining lands needed for Phase 1. Mr. Morrison was asked to provide a list of properties likely to be needed for Phase 2. Funding for land acquisition remains an issue. This presentation may be found in the BBRRCT section on the Task Force website:

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6. Wrap-up

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:00pm.