

# **SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION TASK FORCE**

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## **TASK FORCE PROTOCOL REGARDING**

### **CONSENSUS AND VOTING**

(March 2002)

This protocol outlines procedures regarding how the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force shall decide upon a final action, report, or recommendation.

#### **I. General Policy**

The Water Resources Development Act of 1996 created the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force in its present form, but is silent as to how the Task Force should accomplish its missions. The Task Force has always sought the consensus of its members before approving or adopting final reports or recommendations to the Secretary of the Army or to any other decision-making body. Furthermore, in its charter of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Working Group, the Task Force instructed the Working Group to seek consensus, but when consensus was not possible, to take final actions by a two-thirds majority vote.


The sense of the Task Force is that working to achieve consensus is valuable in improving the quality of the Task Force's products and in maintaining the support of the public for the restoration of the South Florida ecosystem. Individual members of the Task Force will come and go for a variety of reasons. Thus it is appropriate to memorialize the current practice and strong commitment of the Task Force to attempt to achieve consensus whenever possible.

#### **II. Consensus and Voting**

- A.** The Task Force shall work to obtain the consensus of its members present at a meeting before taking final action on a report, recommendation, or other final, substantive communication to another body or decision maker.
- B.** When the Task Force cannot reach consensus on a final action, the Task Force may vote upon the question. A two-thirds majority of the members present shall be sufficient for final action. In the event that a majority of the Task Force votes in favor of submitting, adopting, or approving a final report, recommendation, or other final, substantive communication, the dissenting members shall have an opportunity to submit a concise minority report to accompany the majority document.

- C. The Task Force may take non-final action on any matter by a simple majority vote of the members present.
- D. The Chair, or the Vice-Chair as acting Chair, may at any time take a straw poll of the members present, or other such informal, non-binding, but public gauge of the members' opinions on any issue.

**This Protocol is APPROVED and ADOPTED by the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force on March 21, 2002.**

  
Ann Klee  
Task Force Chair

**Attest:**  
Terrence C. Salt  
Executive Director