

*Approved Meeting Minutes*  
*South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force*  
*Miami Airport Marriott Miami, FL*  
*July 19, 2000*

**Welcome and Introductions**

Ms. Mary Doyle opened meeting at 9:10 AM. Mr. Allison DeFoor introduced Ms. Jamie Deloach (sp). Purpose of today's meeting is to discuss the draft Strategic Plan, incorporate comments, which will be sent to Congress at the end of this month.

**The Following Task Force Members Were Present:**

Mary Doyle, Task Force Chair – U.S. Department of the Interior  
Clarence Anthony, Mayor - City of South Bay  
Brad Brown for Sally Yozell, U.S. Department of Commerce  
Michael Collins, South Florida Water Management District  
Peter Coppelman for Lois Schiffer, U.S. Department of Justice  
Michael Davis, U.S. Department of the Army  
J. Allison DeFoor, Office of the Governor  
Gene Duncan for Dexter Lehtinen, Miccosukee Tribe of Indians  
Richard Harvey for Jonathan Charles Fox, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Jim Shore, Seminole Tribe of Florida  
Ron Smola for Glenda Humiston, U.S. Department of Agriculture

**The Following Task Force Members Were Not Present:**

Jonathan Charles Fox, Environmental Protection Agency  
Glenda Humiston, U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Dexter Lehtinen, Miccosukee Tribe of Indians  
Lois Schiffer, U.S. Department of Justice  
David Struhs, Department of Environmental Protection  
Sally Yozell, U.S. Department of Commerce

**Strategic Plan**

Mr. Rock Salt presented the Working Group recommendations on the seven issues assigned to them by the Task Force.

Issue 1 - Approval of Goals and Subgoals: Working Group recommended approval of Task Force goals and subgoals, recognizing Goal 3 will undergo revision as the state and local process evolves. Mr. Gene Duncan noted that the Miccosukee Tribe was concerned with the inclusion of Goal 3 and any report sent to Congress should not imply there is federal oversight/responsibility for local government actions.

Issue 2 - Name of Plan: The Working Group recommends the plan be called "Coordinating Success: Strategies for Restoration of the South Florida Ecosystem". Mr. Rock Salt noted one comment received from the Department of Justice to change word "Strategies" to "Strategy". Mr. Peter Coppelman explained that Congress directed the Task Force to come up with a Strategic Plan and suggested changing from plural to singular to show there is a strategy and everything is being coordinated. **Action: Task Force agreed to change the title with no objection.**

Issue 3 - Inclusion of History of Restoration: The current draft recommended by the Working Group includes a new background section. Mr. Duncan requested the inclusion of tribal dates and said he would provide information.

Issue 4 - Definition of Task Force role: The Working Group clarified the Task Force role in the revised document. Ms. Patty Power stated the Seminole Tribe concerns that the Strategic Plan will go to Congress and the role of the Task Force be misinterpreted. The Task Force cannot schedule projects as noted on pages 5 and 6 of the draft, nor can it take corrective action. She added that although the Strategic Plan does

not contain anything new, it is the first time it is all being put together in one document. Mr. Coppelman stated everyone agrees with the box on page 3 of the draft and suggested editing the remainder of the document to be consistent. **Action: Task Force agreed to “scrub the document” to ensure it is consistent with the intent.**

Issue 5 - Goal 3 Inclusion and Language: The recommended draft keeps Goal 3 with clarifying language on the Task Force and Working Group’s role. Mr. Duncan reiterated the tribe’s concern with the inclusion of Goal 3 adding that it was not appropriate in the document. Mr. Clarence Anthony noted a few concerns with the statements and conditions listed in the Goal 3 section. He is concerned that the Task Force does not have the authority to require local plans be consistent with anything and suggested using softer terms. Mr. Allison DeFoor added that the state is sensitive and these are desired future conditions. Mr. Anthony stated that while they may be desired future conditions, local governments would only be able to act on when Congress provides the funds to meet these desired goals. Mr. Anthony was asked to help draft edits to this section.

Issue 6 - Land Acquisition and Water Quality Language: The language in the draft plan was revised to reflect state and tribal concerns. Ms. Power provided additional editorial edits which the Task Force agreed to include.

Issue 7 - Project Sheets: Working Group recommends including project sheets as appendix D to the plan, thereby satisfying the statutory requirement of the Task Force to produce an Integrated Financial Plan.

#### Other Edits

Mr. DeFoor asked for reference to the size of the state’s financial contribution. Ms. Power asked for the inclusion of discussion about the conflicts in existing laws that create some of the problems faced in trying to implement these projects. Neal McAliley, Joan Lawrence, Mike Collins and Patty Power were asked to meet during lunch to draft appropriate language for inclusion in the plan. **Task Force Action: The Strategic Plan discussion was tabled until the afternoon session when suggested edits/revisions would be discussed before the plan is voted on.**

#### Dispute Resolution

Mr. Salt reviewed the proposal to design an improved conflict resolution process as requested by the Task Force in May 2000. He reviewed the proposed scope and schedule and explained that if the Task Force agrees to proceed, recommendations will be provided to the Task Force in January. Ms. Doyle stated this would be useful in the discussion of the Task Force’s role and how it functions as well as in the construction of the agendas and the time allotted for these meetings. She hoped this idea would be embraced before she leaves. Mr. DeFoor stated that the process should embrace voluntary resolutions among people who come at it equally and thought it was a good idea. Mr. Collins added the most valuable function the Task Force performs is to provide a forum to discuss the issues.

Mr. Duncan liked the idea of the Task Force discussing issues in depth, but he has been instructed to oppose this formal system of conflict resolution. There is no problem in discussing issues and building consensus without a mediator. Mr. Collins, although not a fan of the Conflict Resolution Consortium, agreed this would bring about process that reaches a resolution of some kind or another. He acknowledged the Tribe’s concern that any attempt to channel conflict resolution could be seen as a disadvantage for the minority shareholders.

Mr. Duncan stated he was not aware of the Task Force discussing any issue other than the 8.5 square mile area and he would love for this group to actively engage in the issues. Mr. Salt explained if this is approved the next step would be to negotiate the contract with the Conflict Resolution Consortium. Mr. Coppelman stated the Task Force could do a better job and reminded everyone that this is a statutory obligation. **Action: The Task Force approved the proposal with one dissenting vote from Mr. Gene Duncan.**

#### Science Priorities

Mr. Ronnie Best announced the Science Conference (Enclosure 2) scheduled for December 2000. He noted the Science Coordination Team (SCT) has undergone a process to clarify the five priority tasks for the next two years and presented the Science Priorities (Enclosure 3).

The SCT will be coming back to the Working Group with a specific workplan highlighting the activities dealing with priorities 3, 4 and 5. He noted that members of the SCT participate on the work of the SCT on their own time and there will be times when the SCT will have to come back to the Task Force and/or Working Group to get the necessary resources to accomplish tasks. The Task Force and Working Group can at any time add to the SCT's priorities as issues arise. Mr. Salt added it was important the agency scientists receive support in their SCT endeavors.

#### Revised CROGEE Workplan

Mr. Salt reviewed the revised CROGEE Workplan as approved by the Working Group, but noted that there was not full Working Group agreement on item 5. In an effort to resolve these issues, the Working Group met and approved a new draft CROGEE Workplan at its mini meeting on July 18, 2000 and presented it as a strike through bold document. Mr. Michael Collins stressed the importance for stating that they are not to get involved on policy issues and that their role is on scientific peer review. Mr. Duncan agreed and added that the second to the last sentence on item 3 which talks about focusing on the "linkage between the upstream components of the greater Everglades and adjacent coastal ecosystems" is directly linked to the Chief's letter dispute and to the issue of whether D13 R of D13 R4 is the preferred alternative. Mr. Duncan felt this language was code language to have CROGEE examine policy decisions. Mr. Michael Davis stated CROGEE is not being asked to revisit policy decisions already made, but rather to help the Task Force in forming future policy decisions. Mr. Salt asked if the Task Force concerns were limited to the "technical vs. policy" issue. Mr. Duncan stated he would feel more comfortable seeing the changes before agreeing to it. **Action: The Task Force referred the workplan back to the Executive Director for final revision, asking that this be scheduled for Task Force action at their October meeting.**

#### Approval of Meeting Minutes

Task Force approved the May 12, May 24 and June 19 meeting minutes with the one misspelled word to be corrected on the May 12 minutes (page 3, choose).

#### Interim Structural Operational Plan (ISOP) / Interim Operational Plan (IOP)

Ms. Doyle stated the Miccosukee Tribe has requested time on this agenda to provide this presentation and no materials were provided in advance to help prepare for this meeting. Mr. Duncan stated the Task Force has not engaged in any meaningful detailed discussion of any issue and gave a power point presentation from the Tribe's perspective. He hoped that this would open the dialogue on this issue.

#### Update on WRDA 2000

Mr. Davis provided an update on ongoing Congressional action on the WRDA bill. He reported that Chairman Smith introduced Senate Bill S2797, which was voted out of full committee on the 28<sup>th</sup> of June. The Corps of Engineers believes this is a good bill with a good basis for Everglades restoration and implementing the CERP. The bill is being "tweaked" in light of issues that have been raised.

#### CERP Implementation

Mr. Dennis Duke reminded everyone that the Design Agreement signed on May 12, 2000 at the last Task Force meeting covers 56 of 68 components, 6 pilot projects, and the program level activities. Funding for the agreement is 50/50 federal and nonfederal. The Corps is in the process of preparing a Master Program Management Plan (MPMP) that will cover the terms and conditions as well as the rules of operation for implementation of the design components with the SFWMD. The MPMP will be presented to the SFWMD Governing Board for approval on August 10, 2000. Once it is approved, the Corps will begin the preparation of individual project management plans, which will also be submitted for approval. Mr. Collins noted that Florida DEP is required by state law to review this after the project implementation report. Mr. Duke added a Program Management Team (PMT) has been initiated to coordinate all the activities. All existing and potential sponsors have been contacted to participate in the PMT meetings that will be scheduled in conjunction with Working Group meetings.

## Public Comment

Richard McNeer presented COL Joe Miller with a hat and thanked him for his contributions. COL Miller thanked everyone and stated he would kindly remember his time working with everyone. He encouraged everyone to put aside their differences to help the everglades.

Madeleine Forten provided a hand out and stated that conflict resolution only exists between agencies and asked if there were any strategies to involve impacted communities and are left out of the process. She said it was unacceptable for communities to not be involved in the decision making process. She quoted from one of the recommendations made by the Flooding Task Force and added that the Corps is evaluating option 6d which will involve condemnation of considerable lands in the 8.5 square mile area and further slow down the modified water deliveries project. She encouraged the Corps to move forward with the authorized project and "quit fooling around with it".

## Strategic Plan Approval

Mr. Salt reported that the approved changes would be incorporated into the document and provided via e-mail by 8:00 am tomorrow.

Mr. Salt asked the Task Force to approve the plan contingent on the comments that will be worked on with Patty Powers and others. It is the intent to not make any changes that are inconsistent with the discussion on the role of the Task Force. Ms. Doyle was not sure if the Task Force was in a position to take a vote now and asked if a vote could be cast via email. Mr. Collins suggested letting everyone see the document before a vote is taken. Ms. Doyle noted the concern with a vote being taken outside of the public forum. Mr. DeFoor stated there is more of a problem voting on something we haven't seen yet.

The Task Force agreed to have a conference call on the following day to approve the Strategic Plan. The call in number as well as the revised Strategic Plan will be available on the web at [www.sfrestore.org](http://www.sfrestore.org). Ms. Doyle suspended the meeting at 2:45 PM until the following day at 5:00 PM when it would resume via conference call to approve the Strategic Plan.

## Enclosures:

1. Briefing Binder
  - a) Agenda
  - b) Working Group Presentation on Revised Draft
  - c) Draft Strategic Plan (Revised July 10, 2000)
  - d) Appendix D
  - e) Proposed Dispute Resolution Gameplan
  - f) SCT Priorities
  - g) Proposed CROGEE Workplan
  - h) ISOP/IOP Presentation
  - i) CERP Implementation
  - j) May 12, 2000 Meeting Minutes
  - k) May 24, 2000 Meeting Minutes
  - l) June 19, 2000 Meeting Minutes

*Approved Conference Call Summary  
South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force  
July 20, 2000*

The Task Force reconvened at 4:30 PM via conference call to review and approve the revised draft of the Strategic Plan dated July 19, 2000.

The Following Task Force Members Were Present:

Mary Doyle, Task Force Chair – U.S. Department of the Interior  
Brad Brown for Sally Yozell, U.S. Department of Commerce  
Mike Collins, South Florida Water Management District  
Peter Coppelman, for Lois Schiffer U.S. Department of Justice  
Richard Harvey for Jonathan Charles Fox, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Michael Davis, U.S. Department of the Army  
Allison DeFoor, Office of the Governor  
Patty Power for Jim Shore, Seminole Tribe of Florida  
Ron Smola for Glenda Humiston, U.S. Department of Agriculture

The Following Individuals (staff/general public) Were Also Present:

Marsha Bansee  
Kevin Burger  
Billy Causey  
Linda Dahl  
Julio Fanjul  
Don Jodrey  
Joan Lawrence  
Neal McAliley  
Richard McNeer  
John Arthur Marshall  
Rafael Monchek  
Mary Plumb  
Rock Salt  
Rick Smith  
Sandy Soto

The Strategic (Strategy) Plan was approved by the Task Force and the votes were recorded as follows:

Mary Doyle - yes  
Brad Brown - yes  
Mike Collins - yes  
Peter Coppelman - yes  
Richard Harvey for Jonathan Charles Fox, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - yes  
Michael Davis - yes  
Allison DeFoor - yes  
Patty Power - yes  
Rick Smith - yes  
Ron Smola for Glenda Humiston, U.S. Department of Agriculture - yes