

*Approved Meeting Minutes
South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force
Doral Marriott, Miami, FL
September 26, 2007*

Welcome and Administrative Items

Ms. Kameran Onley called the meeting called to order at 1:38 PM. She welcomed Mr. Eric Eikenberg from the Governor's Office, Mr. Ron Tenpas from the Department of Justice, and Ms. Karen Brunelle from the Department of Transportation. She thanked Mr. Matt McKeown for his contributions to the Task Force and announced that he is now working at the Department of the Interior. She reiterated her desire to discuss more substantive items at the meetings and said that the field trips help to identify challenging issues as well as highlight successes. She reemphasized this year's themes for the Task Force of teamwork/partnerships and success on the ground. She thanked everyone who contributed to the field trip of the 8.5 Square Mile Area and Tamiami Trail. She was encouraged to see the construction underway in the 8.5 Square Mile Area and noted that project would be completed soon. She recognized that ecosystem restoration was very challenging and encouraged the members to re-double their partnership efforts because no single agency could accomplish our common goals on their own. Secretary Sole reiterated the importance of partnerships and his desire to tackle more substantive issues given the high-level of leadership around the table and in the audience. He said the Task Force, with public participation, should focus on making progress, identifying the most important issues, next steps and on teamwork. He thanked Secretary Woodley for his participation. He thanked Senator Martinez and Senator Nelson for their leadership and help with WRDA. Ms. Onley announced that Secretary Sole would Chair the next two meetings beginning in December while she is on maternity leave.

*Kameran Onley, Chair, U.S. Department of the Interior
Michael Sole, Vice Chair, Department of Environmental Protection
Ken Ammon for Carol Wehle, Executive Director, South Florida Water Management District
Karen M. Brunelle for Linda Lawson, Director, U.S. Department of Transportation
Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Commissioner, Miami Dade County
Eric Eikenberg, Deputy Chief of Staff, Executive office of the Governor
Dexter Lehtinen for Miccosukee Tribe of Indians
Ron Marlow for Gary Mast, Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment,
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Jim Murley for Clarence Anthony, Mayor, City of South Bay
Peter Ortner for Timothy Keeney, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, U.S.
Department of Commerce
Patty Power for Jim Shore, Seminole Tribe of Florida
Dee Stewart for Benjamin Grumbles, Assistant Administrator Office of Water, U.S.
Environmental Protection Agency
Ron Tenpas, Acting Assistant Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice
J.P. Woodley, U S. Department of the Army*

Whiparound

Mr. Ken Ammon reported the SFWMD Governing Board decided in September to prohibit environmental resource permits in a coastal section of the Biscayne Bay Coastal

Wetlands (BBCW) project since it is a unique habitat. It was the first time such a decision was made to deny permit requests on undeveloped lands in sensitive areas for a particular project footprint. Ms. Dee Stewart announced EPA released a report (Everglades Ecosystem Assessment – R-EMAP Status Report) on September 19 documenting the ecological condition of the freshwater portion of the publicly owned Everglades. The report represents the third phase of an 11 year study which is part of EPA's monitoring efforts and is available via the Region 4 website.

Mr. Gene Duncan provided excerpts from EPA's report indicating that STA discharges averaged 44 ppb and the phosphorus load in the soil has increased. It also notes that 25% of the soil in the Everglades is polluted, up from 16%. Mr. Dexter Lehtinen said the Tribe is concerned with the water regime which puts the water unnaturally low south of the Trail and high north of the Trail. Water quality continues to be a concern and the current EPA study shows the phosphorus in the soil continues to expand and the loads to the Everglades from the discharges are increasing. He noted that for the first time in a twelve month period, BMPs in the EAA did not achieve the 25% load reduction target.

Mr. Ron Tenpas introduced himself as the Acting Assistant Attorney General since his nomination is pending. Mr. John Paul Woodley said he was pleased with the Senate approving WRDA and that he fully supports the Everglades related aspects of that bill. For issues unrelated to Everglades restoration, however, he sent a letter recommending the President not approve the bill in its current form. He noted that once the WRDA becomes law he would have much more flexibility in advocating federal appropriations for Everglades restoration projects. He recognized Mr. Dennis Duke who is quickly approaching his retirement

Mr. Eric Eikenberg said he brought the commitment of Governor Christ to this effort both from a resources and a political capital perspective. He noted that he has worked with many of the people present at the meeting in his previous role in Congressman Clay Shaw office. He expressed his desire to focus on what we needed to do to complete these projects. Ms. Patty Power said that the WRDA bill was long over due and she urged the Task Force to consider sending a message that the WRDA bill not be vetoed. Mr. Roman Gastesi announced that Miami Dade County purchased 331 acres of CERP lands through their EEL program. He also noted the reuse projects are well underway. Mr. Ron Marlow announced the Secretary of Agriculture resigned the prior week and the new acting Secretary is Chuck Connors. USDA is working with Congress to get a Farm Bill approved. He announced they were able to obligate \$49 million in WRP with \$6 million here in south Florida. He encouraged the local partners to have projects ready to go in the event additional money is reallocated at the end of the year. He announced the state technical committee that works with Farm Bill programs agreed to cost share at 75% all water quality related work that goes on in the Okeechobee watershed. Mr. Peter Ortner said that NOAA agreed with the CISRERP that Everglades restoration needs to move forward with incremental adaptive restoration to achieve something on the ground, sooner rather than later. He recognized the strong cooperation between NOAA and the district on monitoring and said that monitoring would be a key to moving restoration forward on science-based decisions.

Quarter in Review and Quarter Ahead

Corps Update

Mr. Stu Appelbaum noted the ongoing work on the Integrated Delivery Schedule and the Guidance Memoranda (GM). He said the Herbert Hoover Dike (HHD) toe ditch filling has been completed and the contracts on the seepage berm and cut off walls have been awarded. He announced the Corps awarded the C-111 contract, submitted the Site 1 final PIR to Congress and posted the final Broward County WPAs for review. Upcoming events include the sixty day comment period on the GMs and the expect Chiefs of Engineers' Report on the Broward County WPAs and the C-43 western storage reservoir. He reviewed the critical components of the NAS' CISRERP Report. He said it would be good to have metrics for each of the five components outlined in the report and reviewed some conceptual ideas. He said the question is: *Are you doing the things necessary to put things on the ground that will lead to Interim Goals and Targets.* He noted the good discussion while out on the field trip and reviewed the history of the Modified Water Deliveries project stressing that everything revolves around what will be done with Tamiami Trail. He reviewed a concept slide (provided by DOI during the tour) for illustrative purposes that would move flow from 3A to 3B through Shark River Slough.

Commissioner Diaz asked about the status of the rock mining issue. Mr. Appelbaum said it is a regulatory matter and the draft SEIS is out. The Corps has to work quickly given the extraordinary deadlines. Commissioner Diaz also stated the County was unable to give its support to the Eighth Street Tamiami Trail Bridge due to the many questions that remain unanswered along with the costs associated with the bridge option. Mr. Appelbaum clarified the Eighth Street Bridge is a generic term and said they are still gathering information in order to make the right decision. They want to minimize impacts and address the many technical challenges. Mr. Sole said they need closure although he is also not sure of the solution. He said the CERP solution may be twenty years away and the Incremental Adaptive Restoration will be important in formulating a plan based on real performance. He hoped they could all get behind the LRR process.

Mr. Lehtinen asked why they would build a new bridge on a new road bed. Mr. Appelbaum explained that it was just a concept slide. Ms. Onley asked whether they were going to be opening up new ideas through the LRR process. Mr. Appelbaum said that the limited time frame that will be a factor in the number of alternatives and the decision making process. Mr. Eikenberg asked when they would break ground. Mr. Appelbaum said it will depend on the alternative and whether the NEPA and design work has been completed. He added the report will be submitted by next summer. Mr. Sole asked how this could be done quickly in order to get some flows. Mr. Salt said Mr. Kimball and the Corps agreed they don't need to wait on the LRR to start a pilot project to remove material and provide additional information on improving the flows. Mr. Appelbaum said they also need to have discussions with the Department of Transportation to develop the alternatives. Mr. Lehtinen said his assumption has always been that culvert cleaning is within existing authority and funding sources while the bridges would need new authority. They need to move as much as is 'practicable' and then move on to DECOMP. Mr. Appelbaum clarified culvert cleaning is really addressing getaway capacity.

Ms. Sara Fain (NPCA) said DOI's proposal merits being looked at adding it is not a new alternative and encouraged everyone to get behind the LRR process. She commented on the handout from the field trip noting that if they raised stages by 8.5 feet then 70% of the road would have to be raised.

Rock Salt said the purpose of the pilot project is to get more empirical data. Ms. Onley said the handout is conceptual and recognized the tension surrounding this issue. She said the goal is still to get the water moving as soon as possible. Mr. Lehtinen asked for clarification on what Ms. Fain was referring to with the DOI proposal. Ms. Fain clarified she was referring to the conceptual plan.

Avian Ecology Workshop

Mr. Paul Souza said they are looking at multiple species and how restoration will affect them. He reviewed the findings from the 2003 Avian Ecology Workshop and reviewed the current effort spearheaded by the Sustainable Ecosystems Institute. The fundamental issue they are now trying to address is how the species will adapt to habitat changes as restoration moves forward. He provided an overview of the independent panel of scientists and the issues they addressed. He noted that over 100 people attended the workshop which was also webcast and is available on DVD. He said a lot of positive feedback was received on the workshop. He said the panel is assimilating the information and a draft report of their recommendations is due in December 2007 with a peer reviewed, published journal articles due next year. He said the take home message is that to recover species you must recover the ecosystem. Mr. May added they have asked Dr. Bronson from SEI to make a presentation and answer questions at the December Task Force meeting.

Mr. Gene Duncan said they need to consider what they are going do about the sub populations of the sparrow that are in the direct path of Modified Water Deliveries project. Mr. Souza replied it is clear that it will be wetter in some places and the panel recognizes this and will hopefully consider the issue.

Mr. Herman Mendez said he is concerned about the mammals noting they have already lost 95 % of the deer population. If it gets wetter and there are no tree islands then it will be a reflection of how the ecosystem is working. The species of deer that lives here is only found here and is not found anywhere else in the world. Other mammals such as otters and bison have also decreased. Birds can fly, but mammals need a place to go.

Mr. Souza said it is a wonderful concern and people often focus on the imperiled species but they don't want to lose sight of those species that are not on any list. They need to remember the big picture of restoration and avoid other species from getting listed. He said that tree islands are critical and that in the future some places maybe wetter and some places may be able to have tree islands where they aren't found now.

Everglades Restoration

Mr. Ken Ammon reviewed the Southern Everglades initiative which includes the Acceler8 program. He provided a construction update of the projects under the Acceler8 program as well as upcoming activities for the next ninety days. He noted a 28% increase in the cost of materials since 2005 and 46% increase in the cost of gasoline and 33% increase for diesel.

Northern Everglades

Mr. Ammon said the Northern Everglades initiative includes all areas that CERP did not include when it was formulated and will be addressing water quality issues at the source. He reviewed the objectives, alternatives and progress to date on the Phase II Lake Okeechobee Watershed Construction Project which is on schedule to be submitted to the Florida Legislature by February 2008.

Working Group

Mr. Ammon reported the group met in July and the primary focus was the initial recommendations for changes to the Strategy. He said that the group's initial recommendations would be presented tomorrow. He noted that the WRAC provided feedback and that the final recommendations will be provided to the Task Force in December.

Ms. Onley asked about the purposes and goals for the Northern Everglades initiative. Mr. Ammon said it is intended to meet the TMDLs for Lake Okeechobee and estuaries although they have not been established yet. It will also help keep Lake Okeechobee in a more reasonable range and the water levels will be managed by adding more storage and cleaning up the water – which will help them meet their water quality goals for the lake and estuaries. The last objective will address the water supply deficiencies up in the Osceola with possible harvesting of water. Ms. Onley asked whether the legislation referenced CERP. Mr. Ammon said he did not believe it did but added that when they started with the Phase II Plan, they started with reasonable constraints to not affect the CERP and existing water supply of users. Mr. Sole added that \$100 million of additional funding was provided and that it is a complementary initiative to CERP with the primary focus of ensuring water quality and quantity goals are met for Lake Okeechobee. Ms. Onley asked about the extent of outreach to the federal Congress. Mr. Ammon said it has been limited but the federal representatives in Florida have been briefed. Mr. Eikenberg said this is a main priority for Governor Crist and they are committed to the health of Lake Okeechobee and the estuaries. Mr. Ammon added that Everglades restoration presumed that the Kissimmee restoration would be complete noting this was the missing piece and will provide rippling effects to Everglades restoration that they did not anticipate.

Mr. German Mendez asked what happened to the animals when a canal was recently backfilled - were they relocated or buried? He asked what will happen to the animals when the L-67 and Miami Canal are backfilled. Mr. Ammon said it is a slow process allowing for the migration of species to occur. They modify construction activities to

optimize the protection of the species. Most of those issues are included in the 404 considerations.

Mr. Patrick Hayes asked what is happening with the water already in the lake and the phosphorus loads. Mr. Ammon replied it is a huge problem especially in the muck layer at the bottom of the lake which is stirred up every time a hurricane comes through. They are considering all practical management methods. With the drought conditions they were able to bring in bulldozers and move a legacy Phosphorus layer out of the lake. He said they are now looking at having a re-circulating STA on both the east and west sides of Lake Okeechobee to slowly remove the phosphorus twenty four hours a day, seven days a week. Other sites such as Lakeside Ranch are also being looked at. Mr. Sole said they have to focus on getting the inflows to a level that reduces the amount of phosphorus coming into the lake.

Science Coordination Group (SCG) Update

Mr. Rock Salt provided an update on behalf of Mr. Ken Haddad who is the SCG Chair. The SCG has devoted much of its time to developing the tracking metrics and means of communicating the status of the nine ecological indicators which were approved by the Task Force. The goal is to have the system ready in time for use in the next Strategic Plan (2008).

Long Term Restoration Issues

Land Acquisition Update

Ms. Ruth Clements reported that as of June 30, 2007 they have purchased over 55% of the lands for CERP with 172,392 acres remaining. She emphasized the remaining acres do not include lands needed for the Northern Everglades initiative since those will be defined in the plan. She reviewed the criteria used in buying lands which include health, safety and welfare, legal mandates and capital improvements and reviewed projects that are top priorities, such as the Herbert Hoover Dike. She reviewed the various tools available to purchase lands such as Save Our Everglades, Florida Forever as well as local government partnerships.

Public Comment

Ms. Jacqui Cohen (Audubon) said Audubon was pleased with the Governing Board's decision to prohibit the ERPs in the critical areas of the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands and recommend the federal government implement a similar policy within the CERP footprint.

Ms. April Gromnicki (Audubon) echoed Ms. Power's comments and added that Audubon has been advocating for passage of WRDA and the authorization of Everglades projects. She noted the unprecedented levels of funding for ecosystem restoration projects for places such as Louisiana and they are actively advocating an override of any potential veto. They are looking for a significant investment in the President's Budget next year - \$250 million in federal investment for FY 09 for projects such as the Kissimmee River Restoration and Modified Water Deliveries.

Ms. Onley noted this was Mr. Dennis Duke's last Task Force meeting. She thanked him for all his efforts in getting her up to speed adding she was sad to see him retire. On behalf of the Task Force Ms. Onley presented Mr. Duke with a Clyde Butcher photograph and memento.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.

*Approved Meeting Minutes
South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force
Doral Marriott, Miami, FL
September 27, 2007*

Administrative Items

Ms. Onley called meeting called to order at 9:10 AM. Mr. Sole made a motion to approve the May minutes which was seconded by Ms. Power. The minutes were approved without discussion.

Consultation

Integrated Delivery Schedule

Mr. Stu Appelbaum noted the Yellow Book did have an implementation plan with sequencing of CERP projects based on the assumption of having an average of \$200 million federal and \$200 million non federal per year with an estimated thirty five years to implement. The current version of the Master Implementation Sequencing Plan (MISP) was completed in 2005 and contains a banding concept rather than a detailed schedule. The latest GAO Report dated May 2007 identified a sequencing issue. The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) also provided the first CISRERP report a year ago noting that time is of the essence and they need to focus on those projects that will restore the characteristics of the Everglades. The NAS said that the best way to deal with uncertainty is to build something, learn from it and then use what is learned in the next phase – a process called Incremental Adaptive Restoration (IAR). This is similar to what has been done in the Kissimmee River Restoration with the pilot projects and demonstration projects. The NAS also stated that the existing authorization and budgeting process would need to be modified to fit the needs of IAR. The Integrated Delivery Schedule (IDS) concept includes CERP, CERP foundation projects such as Modified Water Deliveries, and non-CERP projects. He added that Modified Water Deliveries, when fully implemented will affect DECOMP, CERP, and other projects. He reviewed the proposed guiding principles for the IDS as well as four potential themes (sheetflow, estuary restoration, storage and Lake Okeechobee) that could be used for sequencing projects. He introduced the concept of using “splash” sheets to provide multiple scenarios for implementing projects. They intend to continue to develop the themes and then work the sequencing out with a splash sheet with the funding scenario to be dealt with last. He stated this would be a six month process and asked for Task Force input.

Ms. Power stated they are never going to have all the money they need and they need to keep the decision making process open to the public. She said the process Mr. Appelbaum presented seems to be a rational way that allows the unpredictability of the political system to get factored in. Mr. Appelbaum said this is different from what they have done in the past in trying to do a little something all over the system. It will be difficult and require tough decisions because everyone will want their project done first.

Mr. Eikenberg said the splash sheet would be helpful as a roadmap and asked where the state component particularly with the estuaries falls into this concept. Mr. Appelbaum

said he has been concentrating on the federal component but they need to get the state projects, such as Acceler8, included. Mr. Sole said he sees the development of the IDS as an opportunity for vetting with the Task Force as well as getting stakeholder buy-in. Mr. Appelbaum agreed the Task Force would be important in helping them put the roadmap together. Mr. Sole noted the Task Force will help provide the basis for those hard decisions that have to be made. Ms. Power said the Seminole Tribe recognizes there are projects on the books that will benefit the tribe that will never get built. The Seminole Tribe has learned that you need to keep all the stakeholders onboard until you achieve your goals.

Ms. Onley noted there will be a huge education process to explain how they are trying to change the process to get results on the ground and the earlier they can start doing that the better. Mr. Appelbaum asked whether these are the right four themes or whether there are additional ones that should be looked at. Mr. Sole recommended limiting the number of funding scenarios.

Mr. Patrick Hayes (Martin County Soil and Water and Loxahatchee River Coalition) said they are looking at thirty plus years with overlapping priorities and they need to focus on getting the maximum environmental benefit.

Ms. Sara Fain (National Parks Conservation Association) said the Everglades Foundation and the Everglades Coalition passed its essentials for Everglades restoration this year and thought it would be useful for guiding this process. She said she saw sheetflow restoration which includes removing the barriers to flow, water quality and storage as key items to look at. She noted the importance of Modified Water Deliveries and DECOMP as well as finding compatible recreational uses that do not constrain projects.

Mr. Richard Grosso (Everglades Law Center) said ASR is not going to provide the amount of water once thought. Looking at back pumping issues and estuary problems it is clear that it is now time to look at additional storage in the EAA and he asked the Task Force to put this issue 'front and center'.

Ms. Jacqui Cohen (Audubon) said they are pleased to see the inclusion of IAR into the process. She noted the importance of maintaining stakeholder buy-in and stressed the importance of completing the foundation projects.

Ms. Onley said the process Mr. Appelbaum laid out seems like a good and logical way of proceeding. She assured folks that the Integrated Delivery Schedule is not a done deal but acknowledged hard decisions will be made and noted the importance of sticking to the decisions once they are made. It seems the potential themes have been captured and she encouraged limiting the analysis funding levels. She looked forward to receiving additional information and more detailed splash sheets at the December meeting. Mr. Ken Ammon said it would be a powerful tool that would show Congress what can be done and in what time frame.

Guidance Memoranda

Mr. Appelbaum reviewed the draft Guidance Memoranda (GMs) which provide detailed instructions to the Project Delivery Teams (PDTs) on how to perform certain tasks in support of the program. They were developed by an interagency team and most of the comments received focused on GM 3 and GM 4 and concerns about the availability of water and the reservation process. They have gone through an extensive process over the last two years and the final revised draft was posted on the web in August. The start of the public comment period will be delayed until mid October. The document is currently available and can be downloaded from the web and they are hoping to get to closure by the end of the year or in January.

Mr. Gene Duncan noted that WRDA 2000 provided for no elimination or transfer of existing legal sources as of December 11, 2000 and it was written into law. He said the question remains as to what happens when projects outside of CERP eliminate or transfer those existing sources. He said it seems to the Tribe that if the Corps maintains they don't have any legal responsibility to achieve what was in the Yellow Book and there is no mechanism in place to achieve those goals, he asked how they would ever achieve restoration. Mr. Appelbaum said he draws a distinction between a legal requirement and a policy and planning perspective. From a planning perspective, CERP was predicated on there being a baseline of water being available and CERP would be built on top of that. There are provisions and commitments that have been made to protect baseline water, however, it is their interpretation of the statute that it is limited to the implementation of CERP.

Mr. Duncan said if there is no obligation on anyone to not eliminate or transfer he questioned how they get there. Ms. Onley noted they did not have any legal requirements with the Kissimmee to get a certain level of environmental benefits and it has exceeded expectations. Mr. Duncan said Kissimmee is a State project and this is a CERP program. Mr. Appelbaum said that every word is carefully chosen and the legislation clearly says 'implementation of CERP' - that the implementation of the plan was not going to cause harm to others. Ms. Power said the savings clause was not a technical but a political solution. Mr. Appelbaum said they quoted the language verbatim from the Governor's Commission document.

Mr. Duncan stated there is a significant storage difference with the lake. Mr. Appelbaum explained the lake is due to current conditions with the system and the problems with the Herbert Hoover Dike. The dike will be fixed and there will be Acceler8 projects in place and the early storage projects will make a difference.

Mr. Patrick Hayes said the savings clause has two fundamental flaws, under Florida law the natural system is not a legal user or provider of water. They are talking about man made water basins when they should be talking about watersheds.

Ms. Martha Musgrove asked for clarification on one of the graphs Mr. Appelbaum presented. She also stated that the Lake Level Regulations and the Guidance Memoranda

are being mixed up at these meetings. She said there is also no consensus as to who gets water and when and it will not be easy to resolve.

Long Term Restoration Issues

Strategy Update and Initial Recommendations

Mr. Greg May provided a presentation with the recommendations prepared by the Working Group. He reviewed each of the current subgoals and objectives as well as the proposed changes.

Mr. Sole noted that they have now acquired 4.9 million acres for Everglades restoration and he questions the viability of achieving the goal of acquiring an additional 480,000 acres for recreation. They need to maximize and improve compatible recreational opportunities on existing lands rather than looking at buying more land adding he would like to make the goals more attainable. Mr. May said that compatible recreational uses on restoration lands was a great comment and one often made by Mr. Jack Moller and Ms. Barbara Jean Powell. In Goal 2 land acquisition for conservation, there are opportunities for recreation and they will ensure this is described in the narrative. Commissioner Diaz said they have a growing problem with ATV riders who are destroying some sensitive habitat as well as the two riders who fell into a levy, but they have nowhere to ride. He encouraged everyone to work together to find solutions. Mr. May said they have several recreational groups and he would get back to the Commission with a recommendation on the best forum.

Mr. Sole said he supports goal 3-A but they need to be cautious of the wording adding it needs to be clear that this is still in the purview of the local government while being cognizant of the Task Force's authority and scope. Mr. May agreed it needs to reflect their strategic coordination role. Mr. Jim Murley said he understands the sensitivity and they should try to get the right language to integrate local governments. He supports the work the Working Group has done to update Goal 3. Mr. May noted questions remain as to how agencies can better deal with restoration and growth management. Mr. May said the final recommendations would be provided at the December Task Force meeting.

Mr. Ron Tenpas observed that the framework for this presentation differed from the framework (themes) of the IDS presentation. He said this difference may provide complications further down the road. You are developing two broad priority documents and you would expect them to be in sync. Mr. May recognized the brilliance of the observation and said that once the IDS framework was completed they could consider changes to the strategy framework. Mr. Murley said the WRAC suggested that climate change is also an issue that will need to be looked at and suggested it be included somewhere in future editions.

Mr. Richard Grosso highlighted the importance of Goal 3 and said he appreciated the recommendations and referenced his written comments. The loss of land, increase in land values, and development pressures are the biggest challenges you have. It is a huge issue and yes there are jurisdictional boundaries, but the federal team should not be shy in saying to local governments that the counties are expected to be a full partner. The

federal government should be frank and honest in commenting on development projects and comprehensive plan amendments since the federal government is in the business of knowing the science and the potential impacts. The federal players need to do much more and they have run out of time. He gave kudos to Secretary Pelham and Ms. Wehle for their commitment in improving the coordination between land acquisition for restoration and growth management.

Ms. Martha Musgrove complimented Mr. May for bringing this to the Task Force adding she long believed that regulatory policy should reflect planning policy. She echoed Mr. Grosso's comments and added she has been talking to local officials in the Kissimmee Valley about CERP and Lake Okeechobee and she has gotten a lot of feedback. There is concern that the Farm Bill defines the Natural Resources Conservation programs that may limit its usefulness in Florida and she hoped this matter would be clarified so that Florida can fully benefit from this program.

Mr. Patrick Hayes echoed Mr. Grosso's comments and encouraged they not look at individual permits but at the entire watershed. He asked for the water quality objectives to be reviewed for subgoals 1-A and 1-B adding that the relationship between storage and treatment seems to be off.

Action Items

Land Acquisition Strategy

Ms. Theresa Woody presented the draft strategy and noted it was sent out in August and was presented to the WRAC. She reviewed the new discussion items which were added. Mr. Sole made a motion to accept the Land Acquisition Strategy which was seconded by Commissioner Diaz. There was no discussion and it was accepted by the Task Force.

Task Force Resolution

Ms. Onley said she along with Mr. Sole and Mr. Eikenberg would like to make Modified Water Deliveries and Tamiami Trail a priority for this Task Force and adopt a resolution to that effect. Mr. Greg Knecht presented a draft resolution for Task Force discussion.

Mr. Duncan said MWD requires restoring the flows 'to the extent practicable' the natural flows is a goal of CERP not MWD. It has been their position that if the culverts and the areas downstream were cleaned out there would be enough flowage capacity to restore the flows. The Miccosukee tribe doesn't support doing something to the trail when they haven't done something to the culverts. Mr. Eikenberg said the cleaning of the culverts south of the trail is already in the works. He asked for a progress update on the culverts at the December meeting. He said the Governor's Office supports Mr. Woodley and the Corps in moving forward with this project.

Mr. Appelbaum clarified the culverts are in good shape but they are talking about the get away capacity that would be dealt with in the pilot project. Ms. Power asked about the purpose of the resolution. Mr. Sole said the purpose is to get the Task Force in a clear position of support of the Corps' process of moving on with some restoration of flow through Tamiami Trail. Ms. Power said the WRDA Conference Report language is more

accurate and she would rather see this say they support the Conference Report language and the bill being enacted. Mr. Duncan agreed adding that the current language could be used by those people advocating any number of things. Mr. Sole said he had no objection to adding a reference to the Conference Report recommendations to that. He said he hoped this would send Congress the message that there is consensus in south Florida with moving this forward. Mr. Sole made a motion to adopt the resolution and Commissioner Diaz seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Duncan announced the 2007 Consolidated Report is on the SFWMD website. He noted that the concentration of water entering into Everglades Protection Area from all sources is 56 ppb, into Loxahatchee it is 57.6, into WCA 2 is 25.4 and into WCA 3 is 23.8 adding this is a long way from 10 ppb. He said that what was going out of the STAs was the same as what was going into the Water Conservation Areas (WCAs). He said they had a December 31, 2006 deadline and the data shows how far they still have to go to get to the 10 ppb.

Ms. Onley noted Mr. Rock Salt will co-chair the December meeting which will include a joint session with the Water Resources Advisory Commission (WRAC) and a tour of Biscayne Bay. Mr. Rock Salt recognized the enormous contributions Mr. John Carnes has made and wished him well. Mr. May agreed saying that Mr. Carnes has been an invaluable member of the team. Ms Onley thanked the entire staff who worked on putting the meeting together.

Meeting adjourned at 12:10 PM.

Enclosures:

1. Briefing Binder
 - a. Agenda
 - b. Task Force Roster
 - c. Meeting Minutes, May 2007
 - d. Meeting evaluation summaries
 - e. Acceler8 Update
 - f. Northern Everglades Update
 - g. Avian Ecology Workshop
 - i. Report Status
 - ii. Power Point
 - h. Corps Update
 - i. Land Acquisition Update
 - j. Strategy Update and Initial Recommendations
 - k. Land Acquisition Strategy
 - l. Integrated Delivery Schedule presentation
 - m. Guidance Memoranda
2. Miccosukee Tribe handout
3. Task Force Resolution