

*Approved Meeting Minutes
South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force
West Palm Beach, Florida
May 21, 2008*

Welcome and Introductions

Ms. Kameran Onley called meeting to order at 1:10 PM and thanked Mr. Mike Sole for chairing the meetings while she was on maternity leave. She recognized Commissioner Karen Marcus from Palm Beach County and Mr. Carlos Suarez, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service. Ms. Onley announced that Mayor Clarence Anthony resigned from his position as Mayor in April and thanked him for his service on the Task Force since 1996. She thanked everyone who helped with the morning field trip to Stormwater Treatment Areas 1 East and 1 West. She added the tours have proven to be very beneficial. Ms. Onley presented the draft minutes from the meeting in February. Mr. Sole made a motion to approve the minutes which was seconded by Ms. Patty Power and the minutes were approved.

*Kameran Onley, Chair, U.S. Department of the Interior
Michael Sole, Vice Chair, Department of Environmental Protection
Billy Causey for Timothy Keeney, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, U.S. Department of Commerce
James Christian for Linda Lawson, U.S. Department of Transportation
Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Commissioner, Miami Dade County
Gene Duncan for Dexter Lehtinen for Miccosukee Tribe of Indians
George Dunlop for J.P. Woodley, U.S. Department of the Army
Benjamin Grumbles, Assistant Administrator Office of Water, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Patty Power for Jim Shore, Seminole Tribe of Florida
Kari Smith for Gary Mast, Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Tom Teets for Carol Wehle, Executive Director, South Florida Water Management District
Ron Tenpas, Acting Assistant Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice
Michael Collins, Chair, Water Resources Advisory Committee*

Whiparound

Mr. James Christian said he was new to the group and was looking forward to working with everyone. Mr. Billy Causey announced the celebration of the International Year of the Reef 2008. He said that the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation will be hosting the Sixth Annual Capitol Hill Ocean Week which will be held from June 3 – 5, 2008 in Washington, D.C. Topics will include marine debris, ocean health, climate change, reducing the effects of climate change on oceans, and successful ocean partnerships, etc. Mr. George Dunlop reported the Corps has published the notice for public comment on the scoping phase of the review of the Programmatic Regulations (Pro Regs) for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan. The comment period closes on August 18 and he encouraged everyone to provide comments.

Mr. Sole reported the Florida Legislature just wrapped up its session adding it will be a tight budget year. He said the Legislature continued its support of the environment and

noted Everglades funding received \$50 million and Florida Forever was fully funded at \$300 million. He also announced that the Legislature passed Florida's Energy and Climate Act which puts Florida in the forefront of climate change and is something Floridians should be excited about. He reported that Mr. Towson Fraser sends his regrets and is unable to attend the meeting due to the Legislative session. Ms. Onley gave a special thanks to everyone working on the firefighting efforts. She reported the Secretary is working on a marine debris initiative for the Capital Hill Ocean Week and they are also working with the First Lady's office on a trailer for the Little Mermaid DVD series.

Mr. Mike Collins announced the WRAC passed a resolution which was adopted by the Governing Board for the Pro Regs to be simplified and streamlined. Although the intent to provide consistent implementation of CERP projects was good, he noted that there have been a large number of delays. He suggested the Working Group should take this issue up and report back to the Task Force on possible recommendations. He announced they are working on year round water conservation rules and policies that could help avoid the severe restrictions they've had to impose in the past. Mr. Gene Duncan said the tribe made the decision to put 8,000 acres back into the Everglades system and with the help of the SFWMD the work plan is now complete and the 404 application has been submitted to the Corps. He said that this will be the largest amount of land that will be restored without the need for any land acquisition costs. Mr. Tom Teets reported the Governing Board took action on a resolution suspending work for up to six months on the EAA Reservoir. The contractor will be paid to stay on site during that time so that they can re-initiate the work when the litigation is settled. He concluded by announcing that the Corps has also initiated a review of the Principles and Guidelines and is providing an opportunity for input.

Program Update

Mr. Stu Appelbaum provided a presentation and reviewed highlights of the Corps program. He noted that a review of the Pro Regs is required every five years and is specifically mandated by WRDA 2000. A notice was published in the Federal Register to officially open the 90 day public comment period for scoping. He said that he appreciates the resolution and asked for specific ideas to simplify and improve the Pro Regs. He said the Corps will hold meetings to determine what areas specifically need to be reviewed and go through the rule making process. He noted that those revisions would require the concurrence of the Secretary of Interior and the Governor before the Secretary of the Army can promulgate the revisions.

Mr. Dunlop said it will be a lengthy process and it will not be possible for this administration to bring it to a conclusion. He noted that it was important to have a process to ensure that people are paying attention and dealing with the policy issues so that the new administration will have some guidance and advice when it comes on board. Mr. Collins reminded the group that the last time there was a change in administrations, the Task Force did not meet for quite some time and he suggested they have a contingency plan in place so that the Task Force can continue to meet.

Mr. Appelbaum also reviewed the accomplishments of the Corps over the last 90 days and provided updates on the Kissimmee River Restoration, Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule and Herbert Hoover Dike rehabilitation.

Tamiami Trail Modifications Limited Reevaluation Report (LRR)

Mr. Appelbaum provided a presentation that reviewed the current status of the Modified Water Deliveries (MWD) Tamiami Trail Modifications LRR. Based on the feedback from the February Task Force meeting, the Corps re-looked the entire evaluation criteria. As a result a new final four alternatives and TSP were selected. The TSP 3.2.2a includes a one mile eastern bridge, 8.5 foot stage and road reinforcement to match the higher stage. He said the additional cost of \$28 million will provide more benefits for the money. And he noted there is currently a favorable bid climate due to the economy. He recognized the great cooperation from the agencies. He noted that 125 comments were received and reviewed and he discussed some of them. DOI for example supported the plan, EPA had some concerns with the swales and the Miccosukee Tribe had serious concerns with and objected to the bridge. He noted they are still on schedule to provide the report to Congress by July 1st. He reviewed the status of the six agreements needed to proceed to construction.

Mr. Sole asked whether now is the time to try to answer the “what’s next question.” He said it was very important to demonstrate performance on the ground. Mr. Appelbaum said many people were concerned about the additional modifications needed to Tamiami Trail to support restoration and he said the Corps was serious about getting over the goal line. Mr. Collins said it would be nice to see in the documents a commitment of what they are going to do next and how to proceed in the future. Mr. Dunlop said it is always a good idea to prepare for contingencies and they better be prepared to not be surprised that they’ve had this thing closed down on them.

Mr. Sole said that he hears that for the MWD project this would be the end, but what’s next is the CERP and Federal Highway projects. There seems to be support to build this MWD project, measure its performance and then determine what will be needed to fully restore the flows. He said he would hate to engage in that discussion before they have all the data. Ms. Onley said she thought the IDS discussion is the “what’s next.” Mr. Duncan said the tribe objects to the selected alternative and provided a handout outlining the details of the objections. Mr. Sole thanked the Corps and Interior for moving this project as expeditiously as they have.

Public Comment

Mr. Khalil Kettering said he recognizes the one mile bridge is the first step towards restoring the flows and does not fully provide comprehensive restoration. They look forward to other projects adding that time is of the essence.

Ms. Martha Musgrove said it is imperative that they proceed and get closure on MWD so they can get to Decompartmentalization (or DECOMP). They can only get the one mile bridge this year and she encouraged them to get it done.

Integrated Delivery Schedule (IDS)

Mr. Appelbaum provided a presentation summarizing the Task Force discussion to date to include a set of guiding principles that should guide the development of the IDS. He reviewed the project matrix with colored bands - green for example representing foundation projects. He reviewed the remaining commitments estimated at \$1.9 billion federal and \$1.8 billion non-federal.

Mr. Sole noted that not all of the non-CERP projects are on the matrix and he thought the plan was to include them all. Mr. Appelbaum explained that the Herbert Hoover Dike is not included because it is funded separately and the state projects, such as the Northern Everglades, could be added once the state provides the information. Mr. Sole clarified the guiding principles states that all projects should be included and this is what the Task Force agreed to. Mr. Collins added that although CERP is a big part of the picture they need to understand how all the projects affect restoration and whether there are gaps. He suggested that a companion analysis could help everyone understand the complete picture. Mr. Appelbaum said they could put a companion piece together with schedule and cost information provided from the state on their projects.

Mr. Patrick Hayes (WRAC) agreed it was confusing because there are projects that are not acknowledged such as the Northern Palm Beach Plan. Ms. Onley said she was also under the impression that the IDS would include all projects. Mr. Appelbaum clarified that these projects represent federal projects done in cooperation with the state and a lot of the other projects are state only initiatives. They are focusing on federal projects due to the tenuous nature of the federal funding process. Mr. Collins said the \$200 million does not include base costs and costs associated with 'keeping the lights on' and at some point they need to know the baseline. Mr. Appelbaum noted that \$64 million comes off the top and they are reviewing those costs very seriously in Jacksonville. He then reviewed the annual CERP planning, design and program costs. He summarized the assumptions for the \$200 million and \$300 million preliminary splash charts. Mr. Appelbaum, Ms. Karen Tippet and Mr. Brian Files provided a live sequencing demonstration using an interactive tool that enabled them to move projects forward and allowing members to see what is possible given constraints of funding and land not being available.

Ms. Power said the demonstration was very helpful and asked how they could make sure they are achieving the restoration goals rather than building what they can buy. Mr. Appelbaum said they need to start with the commitments and finish what's on their plate and then work on projects such as sheet flow and DECOMP. He noted that there is not a simple answer and there are many factors that have to be taken into account. Ms. Onley added that at some point they are going to have to make decisions and stick with them. Everyone is not going to get what they want and they need to break ground soon and see restoration benefits.

Mr. Sole said they have been discussing how to prioritize projects and said this is a great tool but he is ready to begin discussing what the priorities are. Ms. Power said that if they finish what is on the plate then they will not have too much flexibility to do more after and she suggested that and they may need to do a hybrid approach. Mr. Collins said

they need to manage expectations. Ms. Power said they need to look at where they are and what they need and that should be the driver. She added that it is the Seminole Tribe's position that you have to have shared adversity and benefits and make sure you are serving every level of the constituency.

Ms. Onley asked for clarification on the Master Implementation Sequencing Plan (MISP) process as it relates to the IDS. Mr. Appelbaum said that whatever comes out of the IDS for the CERP projects would be used for the MISP.

Public Comment

Mr. Patrick Hayes said this is not just about federal projects adding there is a phenomenal amount of work they have in the ground.

Ms. Martha Musgrove said they are not going to get consensus on a list of projects that excludes projects. Budgets set priorities your priorities have to be a part of your budget process. She noted that the American people think \$8 billion has been spent on Everglades restoration. She added that although she believes in models as tools for making decisions, they have become tools for evading decisions.

Ms. Julie Hill (Audubon of Florida) noted they had the opportunity to meet with the Corps to discuss the IDS and their scientists were saying that they are in crisis mode. The Everglades continue to deteriorate and the longer they take the more difficult it will be. They want to see a prioritization based on quick restoration benefits and better communication between the scientists and the managers. They would like to see as much as possible restoration completed before any further damage is done.

Mr. Khalil Kettering ((NPCA) said that although cost is a constraint, money is a means to an end and they need to keep in mind what it is they want to achieve.

Mr. Billy Causey said that one of the best things they can pass off to the next administration is momentum or they will be at risk of losing dollars. Ms. Onley asked whether they have an idea of what projects would provide what benefits for the system. Mr. Appelbaum said the foundation projects represented in the green band provide important benefits and it would not make sense to stop or curtail them. The blue band represents the first increment of storage projects and you have to have a certain amount of storage to provide the water necessary to achieve ecological goals. The pink band represents completion of the Indian River Lagoon (IRL) features. He said it was a fair question to ask whether that should come at the expense of something else.

Mr. Greg May suggested they go through "what if" scenarios for the remainder of the discussion and develop guidance for the joint Working Group and Science Coordination Group meeting in July. Mr. Sole asked how the sequence of projects on the IDS relates to the MISP. Mr. Appelbaum said they are changing some of the schedules and it won't match up. But he noted they are not constrained by the current MISP which is a work in progress. Mr. Appelbaum returned to the interactive session but without adjusting the foundation projects. Mr. Sole asked what projects could go faster. Mr. Appelbaum said

Broward County WPAs and Site 1 are two examples of projects that could go faster. He added that he does not have the scheduling data for a number of projects and so he does not have a fully accurate tool today. Mr. Sole said they are not ready for this discussion. Commissioner Diaz asked for the inclusion of the project sponsors on the matrix. Mr. Sole said they are not prepared today to move projects up. Mr. Causey said they need some criteria, for example knowing which are near completion, in order to have this discussion. Ms. Onley suggested that staff could discuss and provide the Task Force with some scenarios for consideration. She asked Mr. Appelbaum to work with the Working Group and Science Coordination Group and present options at the September meeting.

Mr. Collins said they need to focus on what will be needed to finish the foundation projects and the expedited projects adding that the SFWMD no longer has the flexibility to take on projects. Mr. Sole said they need to plan for the next ten years and see what is broken. Mr. Appelbaum said that it is a misnomer to say that reservoir storage is not about restoration because it is a necessary ingredient towards restoration. Ms. Onley said it makes sense to finish the foundation projects and identify the barriers to finish them. Mr. May said that additional time is available tomorrow to discuss this further and sum things up.

Public Comment

Ms. Musgrove asked for clarification on how the funding is defined for the \$200 million and \$300 million scenarios and whether it is CERP or total funding. Mr. Appelbaum said the assumption in the Yellow Book was \$200 million for CERP on federal side while the IDS scenarios are \$200 and \$300 million for CERP and non-CERP projects.

Mr. John Arthur Marshall (Arthur R. Marshall Foundation) said the Everglades Coalition will ask that the EAA be designated as an area of critical state concern with the primary purpose of preventing development that will preclude CERP options in the future. He asked to hear about other options, if there are others. He noted the importance of keeping up with the impact of climate change and sea level rise on CERP.

Mr. Ralph R. Gouldy said that Monroe County is re-entering as a stakeholder at these meetings and that he is representing Mr. Roman Gastesi. Although the Keys do not have CERP projects, they are a recipient of the waters coming through the Everglades and Florida Bay and have a huge stake in what happens.

Ms. Onley said she wants people think hard about providing clear direction on how best handle the Task Force during transition.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 PM.

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Welcome and Introductions

Ms. Onley called meeting called to order at 8:40 AM.

Continuation of Integrated Delivery Schedule (IDS) Discussion

Ms. Onley summarized the previous day's IDS discussion noting that they need to focus on the foundation projects and then on what's next. Mr. Collins said it was not about stopping the other projects but about providing more direction to PDTs, for example, in the development of the PIRs. They need to change the way they apportion their time and management needs to give their staff better direction. Mr. Sole said they are also missing input from the public and stakeholders on what is broken. As an example he noted the interest in the additional work on Tamiami Trail necessary for restoration adding that it will be better to be responsive now rather than reactive later. Mr. Collins said he believes the rest of Tamiami Trail becomes DECOMP Phase II and if not then someone needs to recommend where it should end up.

Mr. Duncan said that part of the reason the tribe objects to the LRR is because of the bridge and the prohibition in federal law to build bridges in MWD. If the project gets built and the swales are not cleaned, then 90% of that area will be overly dry and he believes they will cause damage to Everglades National Park (ENP). And Miami Dade County will be flooded because the seepage management issue has not been addressed. He said a worse solution could not have been picked and he said he can't imagine why ENP is supporting this. He explained that even if the spreader swales are cleaned they still have to raise Tamiami Trail. Ms. Onley urged everyone to sit down and talk through these things.

Consultation

Schedule

Mr. Brian Files reiterated that the Pro Regs state the Task Force will be provided with the opportunity to be consulted on a number of items which he reviewed. He provided a proposed schedule of items for Task Force and Working Group consultation for the remainder of the year.

Mr. Duncan noted a lawsuit has stopped construction on the EAA storage reservoir because there is no demonstration of environmental benefits. He believed that if the EAA were not so deep but more shallow, you would get the storage needed and water quality treatment and everyone wins. Mr. Sole agreed water quality is essential but water quantity is just as important until they have the capability to manage the volume of water needed to effectively manage the system. He said Mr. Duncan's point is well taken but it is a tough challenge. Mr. Duncan said they already move more water through than the STAs are able to treat. A better solution is to build the storage in a way that reduces phosphorus. Mr. Sole said that no one in the room wants to accept dirty water and the

goal is to deliver good water quality and quantity. While there is no magic project that does everything, collectively all the projects as a whole will do that and everyone needs to recognize that fact.

L31 North (L30) Seepage Management Pilot Project

Mr. John Shaffer provided a presentation which reviewed key elements of the project. He said the project purpose is to resolve key uncertainties associated with technologies that will likely be considered to control seepage from ENP and WCA 3B. Issues include the reliability of materials, cost and time requirements and constructability issues. He reviewed the selected alternative plan and how it would be constructed. He reviewed a comparison of the flows and noted that although there are some inefficiencies there is a net gain to WCA 3B. He reviewed the proposed schedule and project cost of \$15.2 million which is still under the 902 cost limits.

Mr. Duncan requested a copy of the blasting permit submitted to DERM. The tribe is concerned about the use of explosives inside the levy which is close to the Miccosukee Tribe's casino. Mr. Shaffer said the contractor will be allowed to determine the means and methods of material removal. He emphasized that if it includes blasting then the tribe will be included as an interested party.

Mr. Sole asked if the predicted performance is meeting expectations. Mr. Shaffer said the numbers are right for the pilot project where their main goal is to learn about the ability to seasonally manage seepage. Mr. Collins added this pilot will become part of the project and in this case there is no other way to determine what the seepage rates need to be. Mr. Teets asked if they have discussed using different types of slurry walls. Mr. Shaffer said they are trying to not be so prescriptive that they foreclose any options the contractors come up with. Mr. Collins added they will do core samples along the way and the information they obtain from the pilot project will enable them to make changes as needed.

Ms. Martha Musgrove asked why the pilot project is being built north of the main project which is supposed be further south. Mr. Shaffer said ENP full scale seepage management project has been expanded to include seepage management along the L-30 to support DECOMP and the original ENP seepage management project. Ms. Onley noted there was general agreement and support for this project.

Winsberg Farms

Mr. Robert Medlock provided a presentation reviewing the project authorization, location and objectives which include restoring 150 acres of wetlands in Palm Beach County. The Tentatively Selected Plan will hydrate 114 acres using treated wastewater. He reviewed the features for Phases I and II. Phase I has been constructed by Palm Beach County and Phase II is intended to be constructed by the Corps. The final PIR is planned for October 2008 and current estimated cost is \$19 million. He noted that some of the project costs cannot be cost shared by the Corps due to regulations.

Mr. Grumbles noted the importance of restoring wetlands here in Florida and nationally and added that the objective of the project is not water quality but restoring wetlands for habitat, recreation and increasing the quantity of water in the natural system. Mr. Medlock said the water is currently deep well injected. Mr. Grumbles noted the trend of beneficial re-use across the country and he said EPA is interested in reclaiming water like this project does. He asked about the design challenges. Mr. Medlock said there is landscape material that was put in by the county for aesthetic purposes and when you build a levy you cannot have anything that will undermine its stability. The Corps will work with the county to have the trees removed.

Commissioner Diaz asked whether the levy will hold a 100-year storm and what was located on the other side of the levy. Mr. Medlock noted the entire system, Phase I and II, will hold a 100 year storm. If the 100-year storm is exceeded, it spills over into another cell. He said there was a residential area around it and the L-30 to the south. Commissioner Diaz noted they had three 100-year storms over a period of 18 months and he asked whether the residential area would be flooded if that were to happen again. Mr. Collins said the entire system would be flooded and there would be no hold harmless with three of those events. Mr. Medlock said it is designed to not overflow its banks adding the water could still be put into deep well injection.

Mr. Dunlop commented on the cost of this particular project compared with the cost of wetlands restoration in other parts of the country. Mr. Sole said that this is a wetland restoration that also has to account for flood protection. It is a phenomenal challenge and responsibility to make sure they do not adversely impact the adjacent developed land. Mr. Collins noted that they have the same issue with the Picayune Strand to meet the 100 year flood protection. Ms. Onley noted there was no public comment and there is general support for this project. Mr. Sole added there is also a great water quality benefit with this particular project.

Dialogue with the Working Group and Science Coordination Group

Mr. Greg Knecht, representing Mr. Ammon, Mr. Kimball, Mr. Haddad and Mr. Salt, provided an overview of the joint Working Group and Science Coordination Group meeting in April. On their behalf he presented a recommendation to the Task Force for the groups to conduct a workshop to review the current process to develop PIRs, identify lessons learned to date and develop recommendations to streamline or improve the current PIR process.

C-111 Spreader Canal Working Group Consultation

Mr. Michael Collis provided a presentation reviewing the project location and key points. He noted the project has been split into two PIRs. The first PIR (western) is designed to provide improved water deliveries to Florida Bay via Taylor Slough. The second PIR (eastern) will deal with project uncertainties which will be addressed through design test features. He reviewed the components of the TSP, Alternative 2D, which include the Frog Pond infiltration basin, seepage control, and intermediate water control features. The total estimated cost is \$119 million.

Ms. Power asked if they needed a PIR before doing the design test. Mr. Collins said no adding that funding is a concern and they believe they will be able to do one of the features in the upcoming year. Mr. Collins noted they originally started with one project but ran into problems with the eastern portion regarding flow rates and pump sizes. The environmental community wanted them to follow a basic elevation path with the canal. Rather than let the entire project get delayed, there was consensus to move forward with the Frog Pond portion of the project. As a standalone project it will provide major benefits and does not have the opposition or technical questions surrounding the eastern portion. Therefore a decision was made to split the two projects and proceed where they had consensus. Mr. Collins asked if they are planning to work with FDACs to put together some BMPs as they move forward. Mr. Greg Knecht said he has been contacted and they will be talking about that the following month. Ms. Onley noted there was no public comment.

Demonstration

Mr. Skip Snow provided a demonstration of a prototype python trap with a live python to the Task Force members and meeting participants. He answered questions concerning the problems that this invasive exotic snake is causing and potential strategies to deal with these challenges.

Strategies for Dealing with Invasive Exotic Species

Mr. Bob Doren recognized everyone at the meeting who works on exotics. He provided a presentation noting there are millions of acres of natural lands in the U.S. and Florida that are infested invasive exotic plants and animals that alter the ecosystem. It is estimated that 90,000 species have been introduced into the US which cause a tremendous impact to the ecosystem. These figures are conservative numbers since they do not include all of the insects or nematodes. He reviewed the Task Force goal dealing with invasive exotic plants and animals and the three measurable objectives from the Strategy. He recognized the measurable progress that has been made with *Melaleuca* due to bio-control. He reviewed the work products and tasks given to the Noxious Exotic Weed Task Team (NEWTT) and the Florida Invasive Animal Task Team (FIATT) which were established by the Working Group. He noted several reports were available for those who are interested in additional information: *Broken Screens* about animal importation into the U.S; invasive wildlife introduction in Florida by the Environmental Law Institute; and a journal article by Andrea Fowler and David Lodge, *Frontiers in Ecology* on the failure of the Lacey Act in protecting our borders. Mr. Doren said that they can be effective and noted the success seen in Australia and New Zealand.

Commissioner Pepe Diaz emphasized the extensive problem in his district noting they are working with partner agencies to deal with the invasive animals. Mr. Duncan said they do not have enough staff to deal with this issue and he thought some sort of bounty type program would help. Mr. Doren said there are regulatory and legal issues that need to be resolved and evaluated at the state level. Ms. Onley said there is also a significant role for the private sector in coming up with ways to address these issues and not just to rely on local governments. Mr. Doren said it is key to educate people not to buy them in the

first place. Mr. Collins said using the western model of having professional bounty hunters would be helpful.

Public Comment

Mr. John Arthur Marshall suggested employing the assistance of an organization such as Duck Hunters Unlimited where you would be able to combine the duck hunters and water fowlers.

Mr. Dan Clark said he has personally seen the water monitor problem adjacent to the conservation areas.

Ms. Christina Serezoff King (Nature Conservancy) reiterated Mr. Doren's comments and added that the political will for prevention in the U.S. is possible. She said most of the animals and plants are brought in intentionally and they need to do a better job of prevention. They have asked for the Burmese Python to be put on the federal species list which is a slow process and they would like to see a revision to the process. She said they are looking for rapid tools and hoped that during the next legislative session the Task Force would weigh in on having the Lacey Act revised.

Mr. Grumbles noted he works on the Great Lakes restoration and everyone identified that the Asian Carp was one of the greatest threats to the health of the Great Lakes. They accelerated the process that led to the listing of the Asian Carp as an aquatic invasive species. He said the Lacey Act is an important tool in ecosystem restoration that takes a lot of time.

Task Force Reporting Schedule

Mr. Greg May provided a presentation that summarized the three Task Force reports (Strategic Plan and Biennial Report, Plan for Coordinating Science and Land Acquisition Strategy) that will be updated this year. He reviewed the schedule for distribution of draft reports, the multiple opportunities to provide written comments and edits, and approval of the documents. Ms. Power requested that they be able to see the draft documents in a track changes format.

Public Comment

Ms. Stephanie Clark (Cry of the Water) showed a public service announcement (PSA) from the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative. She noted that Broward County is running a PSA called *Gutters to the Glades* showing how the water flows to the Everglades. She was concerned that because most of Broward County runoff flows to the ocean, the message will be conflicting. She hoped that agencies would cooperate and work together to not send conflicting messages and asked if FDEP and the SFWMD could assist in this matter.

Mr. Tom Teets offered to follow up with Ms. Clark. Mr. Sole said they should not feel the need to compete. He said both the reefs and the Everglades are equally important and he is thrilled to see that people are being educated.

Mr. Dan Clark (Cry of the Water) said they are hoping that they will see the benefits of the re-plumbing when the rains come again. He thanked Mr. Sole for the bill that recently passed to do away with ocean outfalls.

Mr. Khalil Kettering (NPCA) asked where he could find out meeting information on the scoping for the swales project. Mr. Teets said it was in the federal register and Mr. Duncan added there was a flier for the public meeting during the LRR process. He noted that because measuring velocity in a culvert is greater than measuring velocity in a one mile wide bridge it caused them to screen out the culverts as a viable option in the LRR. The bridge got selected as a plan and the Park is heading a separate effort to look at the swales as a stand alone project and he said he thought it was fair.

Ms. Onley thanked Mr. Dan Clark and Stephanie Clark for their commitment and effort on the ocean outfall matter.

Mr. Billy Causey reminded everyone of the 11th Annual Coral Reef Symposium which will include a field trip to see the south Florida ecosystem. Ms. Onley thanked the Task Force staff for all their hard work in putting this meeting together. Mr. Sole thanked Mr. and Mrs. Clark for their effort on the ocean outfalls bill adding that it was a team effort to get the bill passed. He said he appreciated the candid dialogue at the meeting. Ms. Onley encouraged everyone to fill out the evaluation forms.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM.

Enclosures:

1. Briefing Booklet
 - a. Agenda
 - b. Draft Meeting Minutes, February 2008
 - c. Evaluation Summaries
 - d. Tamiami Trail Modifications Limited Re-Evaluation Presentation
 - e. Integrated Delivery Schedule (IDS) Workshop Presentation
 - f. IDS Guiding Principles
 - g. IDS Project Matrix
 - h. IDS Splash Charts
 - i. IDS Cash Flow Assumptions
 - j. Consultation Schedule Presentation
 - k. L-31 (L-30) Seepage Management Draft Pilot Project Design Report Presentation
 - l. Winsberg Farms Wetlands Restoration Draft PIR Presentation
 - m. C-111 Spreader Canal Alternative Formulation Briefing
 - n. Strategies for Dealing with Invasive Exotic Species
 - o. Task Force Reporting Schedule for 2008