

*Approved Minutes
South Florida Ecosystem Restoration
Task Force Meeting
Secret Woods Nature Center
September 29, 1999*

Ms. Patricia Beneke opened meeting at 1:15 p.m. and acknowledged the tremendous efforts in our efforts to restore the south Florida ecosystem, particularly the Corps, the SFWMD and everyone who participated in the Restudy. The State and the federal governments have acquired 375,000 acres of land to be used for restoration purposes over the past several years. She also stated that work continues with the control of exotic species and with the challenges related to the threatened and endangered species. In addition, the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences announced the formation of the Scientific Advisory Review Panel, an independent group of scientific experts, who will be conducting peer review on the restoration efforts. Ms. Beneke noted the Task Force devoted much time in fulfilling its statutory responsibility to submit comments to the Secretary of the Army and noted that now is the time to look at the many other facets of restoration. Ms. Beneke introduced Ms. Mary Doyle who is working with the Department of Interior and is a former Dean of the Miami University School of Law.

The Following Task Force Members Were Present:

Patricia Beneke, Task Force Chair – U.S. Department of the Interior
Ernie Barnett for David Struhs, Department of Environmental Protection
Brad Brown and Billy Causey 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
Dexter Lehtinen, Miccosukee Tribe of Indians
Dana Minerva for Jonathan Fox, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Jim Murley for Clarence Anthony, City of South Bay
Patty Power for Jim Shore, Seminole Tribe of Florida
Richard VanKlaveren for Glenda Humiston, U.S. Department of Agriculture

The Following Task Force Members Were Not Present:

Clarence Anthony, City of South Bay
Jonathan Charles Fox, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Glenda Humiston, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Lois Schiffer, U.S. Department of Justice
Jim Shore, Seminole Tribe of Florida
David Struhs, Department of Environmental Protection
Raul J. Valdes-Fauli, City of Coral Gables
Sally Yozell, U.S. Department of Commerce

Partnership Agreement with Museum of Discovery and Science

Mr. Rock Salt noted the Task Force approved the Working Group's Public Outreach and Participation Strategy at the February meeting. The Strategy included developing public/private partnerships and the partnership with the Museum of Discovery and Science would be the first of such partnerships. The Task Force voted in favor of approving the Partnership Agreement with one dissenting vote by Mr. Dexter Lehtinen.

Project Review – Water Resource Projects

COL Joe Miller provided an update on the following Corps projects:

Kissimmee River

The Kissimmee River restoration project has two components, a headwater restoration effort and the restoration of the river. The headwater revitalization effort includes improvement to the canals in the upper basin, construction of the S-65 bypass, and improvements to the tributaries feeding into the basin. In the

lower basin, the project focuses on backfilling of pools B, C and D. The construction of the main channel backfill was started in the Spring. Construction of the S65 structure is nearing completion and C 35 and C 36 canal modifications are underway. Contracts for S65A and Gap should be awarded by the end of the month.

C-51 and STA 1 East

The PCA with the SFWMD was executed this past spring. The contracts for the pumps were awarded in May and are critical to the timely completion of this project. Construction is underway with the next scheduled contract will be awarded in the next few months. A revised GRR needs to be approved and the new PCA needs to be executed. Dexter Lehtinen asked about the testing of the S-332D pump. Michael Collins stated preliminary results were good and it puts more water into Taylor Slough. The SFWMD will be pursuing the permits to do the 90 days tests immediately.

Modified Water Deliveries

Several critical issues remain to be solved. A scoping meeting was held in June and the SFWMD withdrew their proposed locally preferred option for the 8.5 square mile area. An alternatives public workshop will be conducted the following week as part of the ongoing SEIS process. A complete package is due to the Governing Board in April. The Corps is working closely with FDOT to assure proper design flows are achieved for Tamiami Trail. The Corps met the reasonable and prudent alternatives for the 1999 Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow breeding season. The Corps has also responded to the biological opinion letter to the FWS and a public scoping meeting is scheduled for November.

Critical Projects

The Corps is close to signing PCAs for 8 Critical Projects, which include the East Coast Canal Structure and the Tamiami Trail Culvert. The Carrying Capacity Study is underway. Southern Golden Gate Estates will be included in the Comprehensive Plan, L31 East has been dropped at this time and the North Fork of New River is under re-consideration by the sponsor. Michael Davis stated that the Office of Management and Budget has to review and approve the Critical Projects and they simply ran out of time, but that all the issues have been resolved. Mike Collins thanked Mike Davis for his assistance with WRDA 99 which is critical to the SFWMD District's being able to capture things that would have been lost under traditional funding arrangements.

Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan

The Corps submitted the Comprehensive Plan for the Restudy to Congress on July 1, 1999. The Plan recommends 68 components and the estimated cost remains at \$7.8 billion with a recommendation for initial authorization of \$1.2 billion.

Mr. Lehtinen requested an acquisition status of the park expansion area be provided at all Task Force meetings. Mr. Dick Ring responded that 73,633 acres have been acquired from all mechanisms with a remaining 35,870 acres to be acquired. The Naples land office of the NPS is moving at an accelerated rate because two-thirds of the funding has been provided in the past two fiscal years. The NPS anticipates having either title to all remaining tracts in the East Everglades addition through willing seller acquisition or have filed imminent domain actions with the Department of Justice by November 2000. Mr. Lehtinen also questioned how much of the \$12 million did the Corps receive from Interior in FY99 for modified water deliveries and requested to be provided with an accounting of where the money is being spent. He also questioned if a Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow or Modified Water Deliveries meeting was held in Washington, DC. Mr. Peter Coppelman acknowledged a meeting was held.

Everglades Construction Project – Mr. Joseph A. Schweigart provided a status update (Enclosure 2) on the ECP and reviewed the construction schedules for the thirteen components with a total project cost is \$135,922,649. Ernie Barnett added that the Governor's Office has asked DEP and the SFWMD to look at ways to expedite the implementation of Phase II technology. A group has been pulled together to come up with a template which is still in a working format with engineering and design as well as compliance and monitoring issues being worked on.

Mr. Ernie Barnett noted that EPA and DEP are working on a Comprehensive Water Quality Strategy and the Working Group is directed in its Charter to assist as well. Mr. Richard Harvey added that this is an effort for all of south Florida and is aimed at "getting the water right". DEP has developed a 303-D list that identifies impaired water bodies. Existing water quality criteria needs to be reviewed to ensure it is adequate to attain or maintain the designated use and the Total Maximum Daily Load needs to be developed on an accelerated schedule.

Program Review – Natural System

Exotic Species Control - Mr. Bob Doren noted the final draft assessment will be available in December 1999. Thirty-one percent of the plants in Florida are non-native plants with 83% of the species brought in for agricultural use becoming invasive. The U.S. losses exceed \$138 billion annually because of exotic species and more than \$100 million are spent in Florida to control invasive plants. More than 500 million plants per year are imported into Miami International Airport every year. Efforts to stem non-native animal species are done separately because the specialties are different. That effort is currently years behind the work that is being done for plants. He concluded his presentation by noting that as the restoration effort prepares to spend \$10 billion to buy land and get the water right this problem needs to be taken care of as well.

Multi Species/Endangered Species - Mr. Steve Forsythe noted the Multi-Species Recovery Plan (MSRP) was finished but has not yet been distributed and is currently available on the internet. FWS will now focus on implementing recovery through the Multi-Species/Ecosystem Recovery Implementation Team (MERIT). Merit will focus on prioritizing recovery actions from an ecosystem perspective. The Restudy and Multi-Species effort is not as well lined up as it had been hoped. Mr. Michael Davis added that once the Restudy is authorized and funded things will move quickly and the difficulty will be in implementing it over the next 20 – 30 years. Steve Forsythe noted a commitment of resources is required by FWS. Those species aligned with the Restudy will be upgraded/improved as that process moves ahead.

Land Acquisition - Mr. Rick Smith reviewed the Comprehensive Map (Enclosure 3) of land acquisition in the south Florida ecosystem since Everglades National Park was dedicated in 1947. The map will include all of the State's lands including Conservation and Recreational lands acquired since 1970's, Save Our River lands, local government lands acquired as a result of bargain shared with the Save Our Rivers Program. National Park Service and Fish and Wildlife Service will also be included. A comprehensive data-base will also be developed and will list projects by title, number of acres acquired (closed on), and expenditures for those acres. Congressman Regula has also requested an estimate of what it will cost to acquire the remaining lands.

State Comprehensive Plan

Mr. Jim Robinson provided a status update on the revisions to the State Comprehensive Plan, which is a statutorily mandated to occur now as well as revisions to Florida's Growth Management Laws. He reviewed the letters (Enclosure 4), one from Governor Bush to President Jennings of the Florida Senate and a letter from Steve Seibert to Speaker Thrasher attaching DCA's "Ten Step Plan" for reform of Growth Management Law. The Governor has instructed the agencies to go through a process examining the statutory mandates and tying those mandates to their legislative proposals. Governor Bush will be prepared to submit a revised State Priority Plan including revisions to Florida's growth management laws during the 2001 Legislative session.

Open Discussion

Ms. Beneke noted the request from the Governor's Office (Enclosure 5) to appoint Ron Jones to the Working Group. The Task Force has dealt with two prior requests, one from DOJ and one from USGS/BRD. Allison DeFoor stated that Dr. Jones is a leading scientist on Everglades issues and is fiercely dedicated to what he believes to be the truth. He noted that time has favored his views over the years. Mr. DeFoor added that he did not care whether Dr. Jones had a vote or not because his ability to be effective is not dependent upon an occasional vote and his power "is in his devotion and loyalty to the truth as he sees it". A motion was made for Ron Jones to be seated on the Working Group as a non-voting member. The Task Force deferred voting until after hearing public comments.

Public Comment

Mr. John Arthur Marshall (Arthur Marshall Foundation) stated that land acquisition is consistent with the first stated goal of the Restudy to increase the spatial extent of natural areas. He added that the goals in the Strategic Plan are not the same goals that are in the final EIS and are substantially different. NEPA requires agencies to prepare supplements if the agency makes substantial changes and it appears that there are two options to either re-emphasize the originally stated goals and encouraged discussion after the presentation on the next day to ensure the plan is comprehend-able.

Mr. Richard Grosso (Environmental Land Use Law Center) applauded the efforts to make the State Comprehensive Plan more useful to people. He urged the Task Force to write to the Governor and DCA to preserve those lands until the Restudy is underway as a state level interest and not defer the decisions to local and county governments. The environmental community concerned about two seats at the table for the Miccosukee Tribe and the Department of Justice when the Charter calls for one senior representative from each agency to sit at the table.

Mr. David Guggenheim (The Everglades Coalition and The Conservancy) noted his appreciation to Billy Causey and Mike Collins about water and water flow out the Caloosahatchee because that water becomes everyone's water. It is important to recognize that Naples is the fastest growing part of the country. He stressed the need to work with local governments on growth management. He announced the Everglades Coalition's 15th Annual Conference will be held from January 6 - 9, 2000 at the Naples Beach Hotel.

Mr. Mike Richardson (First National Bank of Homestead) expressed his deep-seated fear that Interior and USACE have jeopardized the Restudy. Mr. Losner stated in a letter to President Clinton that the further commitments incorporated into Lt. General Joe Ballard's Chief's Report redefined the purpose of the project, eliminated the flood protection assurances and introduced a whole new set of unknowns which were never vetted in a public forum. The Miccosukee Tribe, Brooks Tropicals Inc. and the Dade County Farm Bureau has filed a lawsuit challenging the Chief's report. "The Dade County farmer is terrified that Everglades restoration will destroy his/her business, their way of life and their ability to support their family." The commitments in the Chief's report have robbed COL Miller and his staff of the Jacksonville District of their credibility. He has personally lost his trust in the ability of this Task Force and the federal government to deal honestly with the people of his community.

CPT Ed Davidson (Florida Audubon) agreed there is a flaw in State Comprehensive Plan because there is no connection with what is going on at the local zoning board hearings where the problem is being made worse. He encouraged that a better job needs to be done to point out how money spent on land acquisition will be recycled in the Florida economy.

Mr. Don Chinquina (Tropical Audubon) noted he never attacked Dr. Ron Jones personally and feels that he is a competent scientist. Concerned with who Dr. Jones works for at any given time and noted his fear of there being an unfair representation by specific groups and feared he would be representing the Tribe more than anything else. He closed by saying that the issue is not with voting but with dominating the agenda.

Mr. DeFoor noted that Dr. Jones has represented just about everyone around this table and questioned Mr. Chinquina's representation that the Tribe has bought his opinion. Mr. Chinquina stated that the Tribe has advanced an agenda that is unfair on the 8.5 square mile area. Mr. DeFoor read a quote from Edwin Moure who was Executive Director of the National Audubon's Society - Everglades Campaign who referred to Dr. Jones as "one of the finest scientists working on the Everglades" and "Ron always tells the truth". Mr. DeFoor closed by saying that it doesn't matter whom you are affiliated with if you are speaking the truth. Collins stated the Governing Board will be making the decision on a proposed locally preferred option for the 8.5 square mile area and not this Task Force or Working Group.

Ms. Joette Lorion (representing herself) read from a 1996 article entitled "Swamp Warrior" stating that "Ron Jones is the best there is", she also noted a 1995 article " Top Glades Scientist Like's Being Disliked" states "he ticks everybody off equally". She also noted he won this year's Everglades Coalition award and said she hoped the environmental community remembered how much he has done for the Everglades.

Mr. Dexter Lehtinen encouraged people to look in the archives and noted Ron Jones' position on the 8.5 square mile area was written in November 1992 and has not changed. Billy Causey added that Dr. Jones has been working on the Sanctuary's Water Quality Protection Plan for 5 years.

Open Discussion

The Task Force unanimously voted to appoint Dr. Jones to serve on the Working Group as a non-voting member.

Mr. Lehtinen asked about the Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow/Modified Water Deliveries meeting in Washington, DC on Monday. Mr. Coppelman acknowledge a meeting was convened by the Justice Department along with the Corps and the NPS to discuss issues associated with the Sparrow and Modified Waters. Mr. Lehtinen stated it is incredible for this Task Force to exist when so many meetings are being held in Washington for federal agencies to "get yourselves on the same agenda". Mr. Lehtinen questioned why meetings are being held that have a substantial impact to the tribe, state of Florida and the citizens of Florida and the affected parties can't we know what was discussed. He also asked where the money for Modified Water Deliveries has gone.

Mr. Lehtinen noted the importance for people to recognize the controversy created by the Chief's letter and the adding of 245,000 additional acre-feet of water outside of the public process. He added that the SFWMD wrote memos in January of 1999 stating ENP's request for additional water would obliterate the remaining tree islands, saw grass stands, prairie sloughs in WCA 3A. Mr. Michael Davis responded by clarifying the process for moving a water resources project from inception through the political leadership in the Army and Congress. He added that the Secretary of the Army can accept or reject the report and revisions are made in accordance with policy. The Division Engineer's notice, the public was put on notice that modifications may be made to the report. The Chief and the Secretary have discretion to make changes. He noted that in response to comments received including those from the Department of the Interior, the Corps looked into the desirability of adding additional water into ENP. Careful consideration was given to those concerns identified by various parties as to the potential effects on the WCAs. The issue of the additional 245,000 acre-feet of water was articulated in two letters from COL Joe Miller (February and March) and are part of the plan. This matter was also briefed at Task Force and Working Group meetings. Mr. Davis closed by saying the Army is very concerned with the effects to the WCAs and the next step includes conducting an individual EIS for each component, which would allow the technical work to get done to determine how much needs to be delivered without harming the WCAs.

Mr. Rock Salt stated that he and Richard Harvey have been tasked by the Working Group to assemble additional technical information and that everyone in the Working Group is committed to doing this.

Mr. Woody Wilkes invited everyone to attend the no host social at the Museum of Discovery and Science.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

*Approved Minutes
South Florida Ecosystem Restoration
Task Force Meeting
Secret Woods Nature Center
September 30, 1999*

Ms. Patricia Beneke opened meeting at 8:55 a.m. February and May meeting minutes were approved as presented.

The Following Task Force Members Were Present:

Patricia Beneke, Task Force Chair – U.S. Department of the Interior
Ernie Barnett for David Struhs, Department of Environmental Protection
Brad Brown and Billy Causey 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
Dexter Lehtinen, Miccosukee Tribe of Indians
Dana Minerva for Jonathan Fox, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Jim Murley for Clarence Anthony, City of South Bay
Patty Power for Jim Shore, Seminole Tribe of Florida
Richard VanKlaveren for Glenda Humiston, U.S. Department of Agriculture

The Following Task Force Members Were Not Present:

Clarence Anthony, City of South Bay
Jonathan Charles Fox, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
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Lois Schiffer, U.S. Department of Justice
Jim Shore, Seminole Tribe of Florida
David Struhs, Department of Environmental Protection
Raul J. Valdes-Fauli, City of Coral Gables
Sally Yozell, U.S. Department of Commerce

Science Advisory and Review Panel

Ms. Beneke stated the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) has announced the individuals it has selected to serve on the Science Advisory Review Panel to conduct a peer review of many aspects of south Florida ecosystem restoration. Mr. Rock Salt added this would provide a broad distinguished overview panel to assist the Science Coordination Team. The Task Force passed a resolution in February endorsing the importance of science and calling for the establishment of an outside review panel. The Cooperative Agreement was signed by National Academy of Sciences and the Department of Interior (in support of the Task Force). Funding will be provided by the Interior through the Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Initiative (CESI), which included a program for the coordination of science and peer review. The agreement for the initial year is \$350,000, and it has already been committed out of the CESI. It is hoped that funding for subsequent years will come from a broader array of sources.

Mr. Steven Parker and Mr. David Policansky were present from the National Academy of Science. Mr. Parker explained that the NAS was created in the early 1860's by the Lincoln Administration to advance science and to assure that federal national policies were based on informed science. The NRC is the advisory operation with 700 – 800 studies underway at any given time and produces approximately 400 reports providing advice each year. The first meeting will an open interactive meeting intended to educate the Committee and is planned for December in Florida.

Mr. Salt explained the initial tasks for the panel would be to be briefed on the science supporting Everglades restoration and to provide initial advice to the Task Force. The Task Force may specifically request the panel to do a study such as on ASR and an ad hoc panel would be created to do the work. There

was extensive discussion by the Task Force about the work that would be conducted by the Committee. Mr. Salt clarified that the Committee would meet and provide recommendations as part of the base work. The Task Force could request the Committee to focus in detail on a particular topic. Those items that are proposed need to be approved by the Task Force. It is contemplated that the Committee would provide quarterly status reports that would lay out the plan of work for consideration by the Task Force.

Mr. Mike Collins stated that he was not totally comfortable with the process and requested NAS to provide the Task Force with a workplan. Mr. Collins made a motion that the subjects come back to the Task Force for approval. Mr. Dexter Lehtinen noted his concern about Interior providing information and support that will help the Committee write their reports. Ms. Beneke clarified that the intent is for Interior to perform the administrative function. Mr. Lehtinen noted this document should not have been signed without the Task Force having the opportunity to vote on it. Mr. Collins made a motion that before Committee starts on any project and enters into any reviews, the subject come back to the Task Force for approval. Ms. Minerva added that it would be appropriate for the Committee who is largely from out of state to review background information while the workplan is developed. Mr. Lehtinen added that the Committee should not make any recommendations until they are asked to by the Task Force. Mr. Rock Salt clarified they will prepare a proposed workplan. Ms. Beneke clarified the motion now stands at "the Task Force would approve the work that will be done by the Committee, but they are free to go ahead and get educated about the Everglades and proceed with their workshop. They should come back with a workplan for Task Force approval. The workplan might include that as a result of looking at the overall amount of science that has been done in a certain area, they may recommend additional science being done and they are not precluded from making recommendations linked to scientific and technical review." The motion was passed without objection.

Mr. Lehtinen requested the Committee not communicate more with any one agency. He stated that in the past ENP being the contracting officer as been asserted by the Park as having independent authority to decide how funds are expended. He questioned whether the Park would exercise discretion on something being funded or not funded if it is not satisfied with a particular document. Mr. Dick Ring stated he has a responsibility to ensure the federal procurement and contracting regulations are adhered to, funds are used in the manner for which they are intended, and as member of the Task Force and Working Group, I have a voice similar to every one else does.

Signing Ceremony

The Memorandum of Partnership was signed by Ms. Patricia Beneke as Chair of the Task Force and Ms. Elizabeth Hennings as Interim President of the Museum of Discovery and Science.

Outcome Oriented Strategic Plan

Mr. Richard Harvey stated that several Committees in Congress asked GAO to determine how much and for what purposes federal funding was provided for the restoration of the south Florida ecosystem from fiscal years 1993 - 1999. The GAO report recommended that the Task Force develop an overall Strategic Plan for restoration initiative as well as a decision making process to resolve conflicts. The Strategic Plan needs to be submitted to the Committee by no later than July 2000. The Working Group is working on a draft Strategic Plan outlining how the restoration will occur, identifying resources needed to achieve full restoration, identifying those responsible/accountable for accomplishing specific actions and linking the Strategic Plan to the goals identified by the Task Force to outcome oriented goals. The Task Force was asked to fully support this effort. Mr. Davis questioned what "full restoration" is. Mr. Rock Salt stated the three goals suffice as the definition. Ms. Beneke encouraged the State to help especially with "transforming the built environment." A progress report will be provided at the next Task Force meeting.

Public Comment

Captain Ed Davidson (Florida Audubon) noted the importance in integrating with the state's effort. He acknowledged the flaws in the State Comprehensive Planning process, which will take the population of the state from 15 million to 97 million people if they are implemented as they have been approved.

Mr. Stuart Strahl (National Audubon Society) National Audubon lends its support for moving Critical Projects forward. Modified Water Deliveries is a lynchpin in the southern end of the system that needs to be moved forward. He stressed the number one priority to getting the water right is water storage. Opportunities to store the water need to be accelerated. His organization would be happy to work with the agencies to get the needed land purchased.

Response to Funding of Modified Waters

Mr. Dick Ring stated that this project is being designed and built by the USACE. An agreement with the Committees provides that Interior would provide funding and the NPS seeks funding for this every year as a line item. The money is transferred every year through an interagency agreement. Congress appropriated \$14 million for this project for FY99, but the appropriation committees directed the NPS to take a percentage from every construction line item in order to base fund a professional design center in Denver, Colorado. That resulted in a reduction of the available funds to \$12.6 million. The NPS routinely ask the Corps what they require to proceed and have provided \$8 million dollars of the money requested. NPS has communicated some questions with regards to cost features related to the implementation of the implementation of the experimental water deliveries program which is not part of the Modified Water Deliveries project and with regard to projects associated with the C-111 basin. Money has not yet been transferred and money will remain until expended. The NPS and the Corps are currently reviewing these issues.

Lightning Round

Lake Okeechobee – Mr. Karl Havens summarized the restoration of the Lake, which is heavily impacted by human activities, affected by high phosphorus and water levels and exotic species. SFWMD, DEP and other agencies have programs in place to reduce phosphorus loads into the Lake. The exiting programs will not reduce the phosphorus to the level required to restore the Lake. The Working Group formed the Lake Okeechobee Issue team in 1998 to address the phosphorus issue. The team has completed a draft action plan that focuses on phosphorus and deals with the other problems as well. Mr. Richard Harvey added that the action plan will be brought to the Working Group for approval at its December meeting.

ASR - Mr. Lou Devillon provided an update on the ASR Issue Team that was created by the Working Group to help develop a list of seven issues associated with the ASR technology. It is envisioned that this team will continue to be involved as the Restudy ASR moves forward with the pilot testing. There are two projects: 1) Hillsborough canal - Site 1 and 2) Lake Okeechobee that are pending the execution of a PED agreement with the Corps. Mr. Mike Ornella clarified the PED agreement with SFWMD is in negotiations and issues (work in-kind credit and real estate credits) are currently being worked out. Mr. Davis encouraged the USACE to work with the SFWMD to get the agreements done quickly.

SW Florida EIS - COL Joe Miller stated the USACE is working very hard to coordinate their efforts with those of the local government, state, public and private sector groups to develop a natural resources database that will help in the decision making process to identify environmentally sensitive areas. The intent is to improve the Corps permit review process. An alternative development group will identify the effects of the permitting process. The EIS includes the draft permit and review criteria and states which questions will be asked. It is disclosing information and is providing a mechanism for dialogue and communication. Comment period has been extended through November 2, 1999.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Enclosures:

1. Briefing Binders
 - a) Agenda
 - b) Directions to Museum of Discovery and Science

- c) Partnership Agreement with Museum
 - d) Draft Minutes February 2 - 3, 1999
 - e) Draft Minutes May 25, 1999
 - f) Task Force Science Resolution
 - g) Cooperative Agreement
 - h) The National Academies Proposal
 - i) Panel Membership
 - j) Lightning Round Ballot
 - k) Lightning Round Fact Sheets
 - l) Outcome Oriented Strategic Plan
 - m) ASR Report
 - n) June 17, 1999 letter from the Task Force to Secretary Caldera
 - o) WRDA 96 excerpt
 - p) Task Force Charter
 - q) Task Force Roster
 - r) Working Group Charter
 - s) Working Group Roster
 - t) Public Outreach Strategy
2. Everglades Construction Project Briefing Slides
 3. State of Florida Comprehensive Map
 4. State Comprehensive Plan letters
 5.
 - a) Dexter Lehtinen Memorandum 9/27/99 re: Agenda Items
 - b) Dexter Lehtinen Memorandum 9/29/99 re: Sparrow and Mod. Waters
 - c) SFWMD Comments on ENP Restudy demands dated 1/11/99
 - d) Dexter Lehtinen handout materials