

*Approved Minutes*  
*South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Working Group*  
*Homestead, FL*  
*February 6, 2001*

**Welcome and Introductions**

Wayne Daltry, new Working Group Chair, opened meeting at 1:00 PM and welcomed Thaddeus Hamilton additional USDA representative to the Working Group. The agenda (Enclosure 1) was ratified and the draft minutes (Enclosure 2) presented. Fred Rapach requested a SFWMD update on the current drought situation. Craig Tepper requested an update of the CESI resources/effort at the next meeting. Everyone was encouraged to attend the Taylor Slough Bridges Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at Everglades National Park the following day. Mike Richardson welcomed everyone to south Dade and encouraged everyone to attend the Community Dinner/Workshop this evening.

Working Group Members	Feb. 6	Feb. 7	Alternates
Aller, Chuck - FL Dept of Agriculture and Consumer Services	-	-	Linda McCarthy
			Bill Jolly
			John Outland
Barnett, Ernie – FL Dept of Environmental Protection	–	–	
Best, Ronnie – USGS	√	–	
Bradford, Mark – Bureau of Indian Affairs	-	-	
Brad Brown – NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service	-	-	
Billy Causey - NOAA, FL Keys Nat'l Marine Sanctuary	√	√	
Wayne Daltry - Southwest FL Regional Planning Council	√	√	
Frank Duke – Palm Beach County Planning	–	√	
Gene Duncan - Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of FL	√	–	
Gary Evink - FL Dept. of Transportation	√	√	
Frank Finch – South Florida Water Management District	√	√	
Maureen Finnerty – National Park Service	√	√	
Steve Forsythe – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	√	√	
Michael Goldstein – Gunster, Yoakely, Valdes-Fauli & Stewart	-	-	Sue Alspach
			Carlos Espinosa
George Hadley – U.S. Dept of Transportation	-	-	
Thaddeus Hamilton - U.S. Department of Agriculture	√	√	
Richard Harvey - Environmental Protection Agency	–	–	Jan Rogers (day 2 only)
Vacancy - U.S.G.S. - Water Resources Division	√	√	
Ronald Jones – Southeast Environmental Research Center	√	√	
Barbara Junge – U.S. Attorney's Office	-	–	
Kristina Katsaros - NOAA – AOML	-	-	
Toy Keller – Department of Community Affairs	√	√	
Neal McAliley – U.S. Dept. of Justice	√	√	
COL Greg May - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	√	√	
Mary Ann Poole - Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	√	√	
Fred Rapach – Palm Beach County Water Utilities Dept	√	√	
Terry Rice – Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida	√	√	
Rick Smith - Office of the Governor of Florida	√	√	
Ron Smola - U.S. Department of Agriculture	√	√	
Steve Somerville - Broward County Department of Natural Resource Protection	-	-	Lorraine Guise
Craig Tepper, Seminole Tribe of Florida	√	√	
Bonnie Kranzer, Special Advisor	√	√	
Rock Salt, Special Advisor	√	√	

**Vice Chair Nominations**

Ronnie Best nominated Neal McAliley. Neal McAliley declined because of his workload as well as well as the transition in the government. Nomination withdrawn. Craig Tepper nominated COL May and Ronnie Best seconds the motion. COL May was elected as Vice Chair.

**Executive Director**

Rock Salt reviewed the results of the January 2001 Task Force meeting. The Task Force discussed and approved the Vice Chair Protocol (Enclosure 3) and elected Michael Collins as their Vice Chair. He is the only leadership position at present on the Task Force until the federal designees are appointed by the new

Administration. The Task Force approved the Biennial Report, which is currently at the printers. The Task Force accepted the Dispute Resolution Report and endorsed the recommendation the Working Group put together a detailed effort to give specificity to the recommendations contained in the report. The 2001 Workplan (Enclosure 4), Action/Issue (Enclosure 5) and Issue Team (Enclosure 6) Tracking Charts presented. The Working Group agreed to dissolve the ISP Team since it has completed its work and thanked all the participants for their work. Public Outreach Survey has been sent out and a detailed facilitated session would be scheduled for the next Working Group meeting.

#### Dispute Resolution Issue Team Directive

Rock Salt presented the draft directive (Enclosure 7) for a first reading with approval to be scheduled for the following meeting. Fred Rapach recommended the team consult with the Corps about the relationship between this effort and what the Corps and the SFWMD are doing. **Follow-up: Comments should be provided to Marsha Bansee by February 20.**

#### Land Acquisition Issue Team Directive

John Outland presented the revised directive (Enclosure 8). Wayne Daltry suggested adding the word "private" under the guidance section. The plan will be delivered to Congress by October 2001. Rick Smith noted GAO's criticism at there not being a plan for the overall acquisition of land to accomplish restoration and the response was that there was a plan through the state's acquisition process. Wayne Daltry suggested responding to Congress with the federal plan showing where the money is being spent and having appendices showing state, local and private programs. Brad Brown stated the plan should show the effort is not duplicative. Thaddeus Hamilton encouraged looking at conservation of natural resources up front and not as an afterthought. Ron Smola asked to be added to the membership and suggested including private landowners and nonprofits. Rock Salt said his office is contracting with the technical support to work with the chairs on this effort. Wayne Daltry suggested the technology be compatible with what everyone is using. **Action: Working Group approved the directive as amended.**

#### NEWTT Team Directive

Bob Doren presented the revised directive (Enclosure 9) and reviewed the deliverables and target dates. Rick Smith noted Bob Doren's work has been recognized in Tallahassee. Senator Bronson held hearings before the Senate Natural Resources Committee about exotics in Florida and this issue will be prevalent in the Legislature this year. Fred Rapach echoed Rick's comments and commended Bob for his work and effort. Bob Doren said the Working Group could help by making this as high a priority as getting the water right. **Action: Working Group approved the directive. A first draft of the Coordinated Budget for this effort will be presented at the March Working Group meeting.**

#### Science Coordination Team (SCT) Update

Ronnie Best reported there were over 510 attendees at the Science Conference. **An immediate research needs list (next two years) has been generated and will be presented to the Working Group at the March meeting.** He noted Nat Reed's positive comments in his letter on the Conference (Enclosure 10). The SCT is revisiting its membership due to attendance. He encouraged everyone to forward the Science Information Needs (Enclosure 11) document, which is a product of the SCT and Florida Bay Coastal Areas PMC, to the appropriate individuals. **A full presentation followed by Working Group action on this document will be scheduled for the next meeting.** Ronnie Best clarified this is a framework of information needs and a follow-up document will be provided in 6-9 months. Bob Johnson reviewed the discussions from the last CROGEE meeting. The CROGEE will now focus its efforts on Florida Bay and the adjacent estuarine areas. The next CROGEE meeting will be held at the tail end of the Florida Bay Science Conference in April.

Billy Causey offered to bring a presentation to a future SCT meeting on the Ecological Risk Assessment Model by Dr. Mark Harwell.

#### Role of the Working Group

Frank Finch stated he valued the face to face contact as a result of these meetings but questioned what this group is supposed to do other than sharing information. COL May agreed the "newness issue" is a big part

as understanding where it is the Working Group wants to go from here. Maureen Finnerty echoed their comments and questioned what this group would be working on now that CERP is a reality.

Craig Tepper added this forum provides the Seminole Tribe with a seat at the table and stakeholders with the opportunity to provide input and urged getting the dispute resolution mechanism done. Fred Rapach stated this group needs to look at adapting/changing for this phase of the Plan and added this is the “only game in town” with all the agencies and interest groups are present. He looked forward to this group playing a more vital role. Rock reviewed the history of the Task Force and Working Group. Neal McAliley noted there are other forums/venues where folks involved in ecosystem restoration can get together and talk. This is the one place where everyone sits at the table to discuss issues and share information. The Working Group and the Task Force can aide in conflict resolution. He agreed the Working Group has played an important role in the past but has not yet articulated where it is going.

Wayne Daltry suggested having a signed document with each Working Group member expressing in writing what it is they hope the Working Group would accomplish. Terry Rice said it was important to have high-level agency participation. Sue Alspach added it is not just CERP or Modified Water Deliveries alone but a million things that are going on from local government land acquisition programs and to the exotic species program. Everyone sitting around the table needs to have a collective knowledge of everything that is going on to pull this together as one big program. Billy Causey said that what has been done until now is the framework for where the Working Group is going. He expressed his concern about the coastal issues and hoped the forum is maintained where these issues could be discussed and reminded everyone that there is much more involved that just the CERP. He encouraged the group to continue meeting and reminded everyone that it will only be as good as the time the individual members put into it.

Rick Smith stated implementing CERP in a cost effective manner is at the top of the Governor’s list. He added the Task Force and Working Group should play a key role in helping to advise how to achieve the goals while meeting the water related needs of the region in a way that is cost effective. He added that it was critical for the Science Coordination Team, CROGEE and others continue to forge a non-duplicative plan needed to fill the gaps.

Frank Finch said he appreciated the comments made and was impressed with what has been accomplished in getting the Restudy to Congress and added that having everyone at the table is part of a process that works. He acknowledged this topic would not conclude today and these discussions should continue. He urged the Working Group to also discuss how often this group meets and how it interacts with other venues.

Fred Rapach said this group could help in resolving the WRDA 2000 assurances that are interpreted differently by the various stakeholders. The Task Force and Working Group have an obligation to stay involved (i.e. Programmatic Regulation). He suggested the Working Group meet monthly if needed to get the work done. Ronnie Best stated the Working Group will play a significant role ensuring science continues to be at the core. Rock Salt noted the tendency of the Working Group to not be as involved as they had been. **Follow-up: The Working Group will continue the discussion on its role and the frequency of meetings at a future meeting.**

### Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow Background/General

Rock Salt noted that a series of presentations will be made in order to frame this issue and it is intended to inform and not resolve any of the issues. Today’s discussion would stay clear of those issues in litigation. He reviewed a prior presentation made by Gene Duncan at both the July 2000 Task Force and October 2000 Working Group meetings. The Tribe stated the actions being taken were based on bad science, bad law and contrary to the common goal of restoration. They also stated these actions led to an ill considered reasonable and prudent alternative and forced the Corps of Engineers to develop a set of ill conceived responses in the ISOP which led to the flooding of tree islands north of Tamiami Trail, flooding of farms in south Dade county and that it precipitated a number of water quality issues.

At the December 2000 meeting Steve Forsythe distributed a memo in a Q&A format showing the variety of ways the FWS was using science. They stated there was no evidence the ISOP was causing these other problems the tribe had raised. They affirmed their commitment to multi-species approach to endangered species management.

### Legal Summary

Dewey Worth highlighted three cases the SFWMD is involved in at present:

- NRDC v. USACE, et al - Action brought by 8 environmental groups against SFWMD and USACE. It is alleged that the operation of the C&SF has caused a decline on the Sparrow population and the existing operations contributes to violation of the Endangered Species Act. It also alleges the defendants failed to implement measures to protect historic flows to Shark River Slough including NE Shark River Slough.
- SFWMD v. NRDC – A counterclaim specifically pertaining to the reasonable and prudent alternative of which the FWS was asking the SFWMD to implement. It is the District’s perspective that implementing specific actions would lead to constitutional problems one being they would not be charged with taking private property without just compensation. The second part of the lawsuit is that the remedy may also violate the Endangered Species Act by placing greater weight on the protection of the Sparrow and potential detriment to other species (snail kite and wood stork).
- Miccosukee Tribe v US - Action brought by the tribe, 3 agricultural business and 2 private residents alleging the USACE implementation of the ISOP violates NEPA, regulations governing C&SF operations, the 5<sup>th</sup> amendment (question of due process), ESA (by endangering other species) and violates the Indian Trust Doctrine. All three cases have been consolidated as a procedural mechanism and the Judge set aside the Indian Trust doctrine. The merits of the claims and court decisions are pending.

### IOP/ISOP

Susan Sylvester provided a Power Point presentation (Enclosure 12). She noted the operational program in place prior to ISOP was the Experimental Program/Test 7 Phase. A different operational plan was necessary for 2000 because of the Biological Opinion received from the FWS in 1999. Water levels were considered too high by the FWS for the Western habitat and the area was too dry for the eastern population. The ISOP was used for the year 2000 to try to remedy the situation. A temporary deviation to WCA 2A maximizing releases to the coast and water levels were held higher and allowed water from going toward WCA 3-A. In WCA 3-A water was routed through the south Dade conveyance system. Releases were maximized during a time period when the Corps would not be normally making any type of regulatory release. ISOP 2001 minimized flows that would have impacted the western habitat. There will be changes to the pumping rate for 332 B and D as the Corps tries to maximize and optimize when water is delivered throughout the year. The plan at this time does not call for a second detention area. IOP is identical or equal to ISOP 2001. The draft IOP EIS will be entered in the federal register in February and public comment period is from February – April 2001. Final IOP EIS will be entered into the federal register in June 2001 and public comment period runs from June – July 2001. Final record of decision is expected by September 2001. Current water levels are less than 5.5 for the western population and water levels are low for the eastern population. Nesting conditions for the sparrow are optimum at present. **Follow-up: Working Group members asked to be provided with copies of the briefing slides.**

### Endangered Species Act

Steve Forsythe reviewed the legislative history and various components of the Endangered Species Act (Enclosure 13) and noted its purpose is to provide for conservation of species. Primary reason for listing of a species is due to loss of habitat. Implementation of the recovery of the 69 listed species in Florida is critical and is currently underway. He noted that less than 20 species have been recovered in the history of the ESA.

### State Overview

MaryAnn Poole reviewed the differences and similarities (Enclosure 14) with the Endangered Species Act. The major differences from the ESA are include there was no mandate for recovery plans in the past, no designation of critical habitats, more conservative interpretation of “take”, few if any take allowances and

no requirement for consultation (no biological opinion). The concept of endangered and threatened status are similar, there are new requirements for management plans when a species is listed, concept of take is similar, same species is listed and the aim of protecting species at risk. The Commission has an additional category of species at risk (species of special concern).

### Open Discussion

Gene Duncan stated the issue of balance, water quality, flood control of urban areas versus Everglades restoration, single v multi species management, critical habitat versus non critical habitat, snail kites versus wood storks all boils down to these issues not being resolved through NEPA. He added that this is why this issue is before this group today and being litigated in court. He questioned whether the Endangered Species Act would control the entire restoration effort and whether the FWS use the ESA to disregard the requirements of NEPA.

COL May suggested this group focus on the policy and program level as opposed to the individual project. Neal McAliley agreed the Working Group should focus on a higher level of generality and this group has been effective on planning efforts over the last few years. He did not agree there had been single species management and the assumption that the ISOP resulted in major impacts on the Caloosahatchee. Rick Smith added it was worthwhile to settle this stuff before it goes to litigation. He said his questions had not been answered on the decline of tree islands in the state's Everglades caused by higher water levels. He asked what the FWS could have done differently in declaring jeopardy on the Sparrow. Frank Finch stated everyone has agreed for the Working Group to discuss those things before they go into litigation. He suggested dropping the sparrow subject while it is being handled in court and suggested discussing the broader issue of the Endangered Species Act and its role in restoration. Rick Smith asked Steve Forsythe to identify where there is opportunity for consultation as Tamiami Trail is raised in dealing with the wood stork colony. **Action: This discussion was tabled and would be brought back up the following day during the discussion on the role of the Working Group.**

### Goal 3 Steering Committee Update

Linda Friar stated team meetings would be scheduled immediately following the meetings of the Working Group. The sub goals developed by the team will be presented at the March meeting.

### Growth Management Commission

Linda Friar reported the group has been looking at the Growth Management laws in the State of Florida and will provide recommendations to the Governor on February 15, 2001. Fourth draft will be made available tomorrow and agencies should review the document. A total of 78 recommendations were discussed one of which proposes changing the regulatory oversight role of the state in growth management down to local governments. Additional information available at <http://www.floridagrowth.org/>

### Public Comment

Frank Finch announced permission has been received today to start a release on the **Lake Istokpoga** drawdown. A 30,000-acre exotic burn of torpedo grass and melaleuca up in Lake Okeechobee is being completed.

Mike Black (Dade County Commissioner Reboredo) provided a letter/resolution (Enclosure 15) in support of implementing the CERP Seepage Barrier Project and encouraged support of this project in the State Legislature to get the \$4 million needed into this year's budget.

Mike Richardson (First National Bank of Homestead) encouraged everyone to attend the dinner and workshop at the Women's Club this evening. A presentation will be made by the USACE and SFWMD on Everglades restoration projects affecting south Dade.

Mark Musaus (Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee NWR) invited everyone to attend the 2<sup>d</sup> Annual Everglades Day co sponsored by a local chapter of the Audubon Society to promote Everglades awareness.

Meeting adjourned at 5:55 PM

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February 7, 2001*

#### Welcome and Administrative Announcements

Wayne Daltry opened meeting at 10:55 AM. Frank Finch requested the December minutes be amended on page 7 sentence should read "encouraged the Working Group to take one hour to do an overview and determine where to go from there". Minutes approved as amended.

#### CROGEE Update

Brad Brown reviewed the recommendations made by the CROGEE in their ASR report. A regional scale flow model is needed with exploratory wells in key areas to understand the geophysics involved. There were specific recommendations to the need to evaluate aspects during the pilot projects. The pilots cannot be looked at strictly from an engineering standpoint but also from monitoring the water issues. They proposed establishing priorities of scientific work on the issue of water quality. If the water is to be re used in ecosystem restoration then experiments of the water in ecological test situation is needed. Particular attention will need to be paid to the quality of the water as it comes back. The uncertainty of ASR needs to be reduced by having studies that go beyond the scope of what is now proposed in the pilot projects.

Fred Rapach noted the report recommends regional studies should preclude the local studies. He asked if the PDT for the pilot projects is doing anything to respond. Stu Appelbaum noted the CROGEE report is based on earlier draft of the Project Management Plan. The Team is reviewing the report along with the current management plan and much has already been incorporated. The team is also in the process of scoping out the regional studies and the CROGEE report provides some guidance on the types of activities that need to be done in the regional studies. Fred Rapach suggested the ASR Issue Team review the report. Rock Salt agreed the report raised questions as to whether there are adequate standards and whether there is an understanding of the implications of putting this water into the Everglades. Fred Rapach made a motion for the ASR Issue Team to review the CROGEE Report and provide recommendations to the Working Group. Brad Brown suggested the Working Group send out a press release acknowledging it has received the report and is working on it. John Outland suggested the PDT brief the Working Group at a future meeting. Mary Ann Poole made a friendly amendment to involve the POSST. Rock Salt clarified the role of POSST is currently on hold pending the results of the survey as well as Working Group discussion as to its role. **Working Group Action: Voted 16 to 5 in favor of motion for the ASR Issue Team to review the CROGEE Report, pilot projects and provide recommendations to the Working Group on how to deal with ASR.**

#### Litigation Update

Neal McAliley focused on three cases:

- New lawsuit filed against the Park Service by environmentalists alleging they have done too much to restrict the use of off road vehicles in the Big Cypress National Preserve. Prior lawsuit filed by several environmental groups against NPS in the mid 1990s alleging they did not have an adequate off road vehicle management plan. The Park Service agreed to do additional studies and a record of decision was issued last year. Some of the areas have been closed to off road vehicles and restricts vehicles to established trails.
- The County's developer HABDI and a Council of Unions have filed a lawsuit in Washington, DC alleging the Air Force had violated the law by not turning the base property to Dade County for redevelopment as a commercial airport over soon enough. Government has filed a motion for a transfer of venue to South Florida.
- Endangered Species Act cases filed by Biodiversity Legal Foundation against FWS: 1) Big Cypress Fox Squirrel alleges FWS has not followed listing requirements of section 4 of the ESA; 2) CSSS alleges FWS needs to designate more critical habitat for the sparrow.
- Coalition of environmental groups has sued the State of Florida, Interior and the Corps over the effects of their actions on the manatees. A settlement has been reached of this case.

## South Florida Water Quality Protection Program Update

Melissa Meeker stated DEP is taking the lead in putting together the Water Quality Protection Program. The Program is intended to identify the problems and design the components to address the problems. It is a three-phase effort with Phase I containing the background document and Phase 2 looking at the information (water quality trends, etc.) and what can be done to improve water quality. Thaddeus Hamilton requested a copy of the Phase I document and to be added to the mailing list.

## CERP Update

Dennis Duke ([www.evergladesplan.org](http://www.evergladesplan.org)) provided a Power Point presentation (Enclosure 16). Project Management Plans for Lake Okeechobee ASR and Hillsboro Site 1 ASR will be completed by the end of the month. Lakebelt In ground Reservoir and Wastewater Reuse Pilot projects are getting started. PMP for Southern Golden Gate Estates is due to be completed in March 2001. Five feasibility studies are underway. He reviewed the WRDA 2000 assurance of project benefits. He encouraged the involvement of this group in the process.

## RECOVER

Stu Appelbaum provided a Power Point Presentation (Enclosure 17) reviewing the recover process. The objectives of RECOVER include evaluating and assessing the performance of the Plan as well as recommending refinements and improvements in the design and operation of CERP components. He reviewed the role of each of the Teams. The Regional Evaluation Team will keep score and put it back in the system-wide context and will provide feedback on how the individual projects fit into the total picture. Comprehensive Plan Refinement Team will be the keeper of the Plan and will recommend proposed refinements. Model Development and Refinement Team will coordinate and oversee the refinement of major regional scale models and coordinate development of new models. The Operations Planning Team will support the PDT and look at interim operational plans. Water Quality Team will provide linkage to PDTs to ensure integration of water quality considerations, provide evaluation of CERP components, develop and review water quality performance measures and also coordinate with other water quality efforts. The RECOVER Leadership Group will coordinate activities of the RECOVER teams, set priorities, provide direction and leadership, and issue an annual report card. Management Plan will spell out the RECOVER activities for the next three years and establish costs and responsibilities for Corps and SFWMD. Annual Report Card will convey to the public and decision makers how well Plan is meeting objectives.

## Drought Update

Frank Finch stated the low water conditions have enabled a 30,000-acre burn on exotics as well as a 20 – 25,000-acre on mostly torpedo grass. Lake Istokpoga draw down will be done ahead of schedule. Hotline has been established and the situation is being treated similar to a hurricane with a total of 7,600 calls received to date since September. An effort has been made to educate and partner with law enforcement. The average rainfall for year 2000, driest year since 1938, was 39.4 inches down from the average 52 inches. The Governing Board authorized the expenditure of \$3 million to purchase temporary submersible pumps that will be used when water can no longer be flowed over the spillway. Currently in a regional Phase II water restriction for the first time in the District's history.

## Public Comment

April Gromnicki (Audubon of Florida) said she was encouraged by the Working Group's discussion on its role and thought this group could play an effective role in reaching the public. Audubon shares the concerns of the CROGEE and encourages the regional study stay ahead of the individual pilot projects. She noted her concern that 2/3 of the CERP initial projects are now behind schedule and it is not clear as to the reason.

Mary Munson (National Parks Conservation Association) thanked the group for its work. She encouraged the noticing of public workshops and meetings be improved. She noted the confusion with the Tamiami Trail CERP project that has been initiated.

Mike Richardson (First National Bank of Homestead) thanked the Corps and SFWMD for their presentations at the workshop. He admonished the group for not communicating well with the public and pointed to the excellent opportunity that exists in reaching the locals when meetings are rotated around south Florida.

CPT Ed Davidson (Audubon) concerned opportunities are being missed and although the drought is a misfortune, it is an opportunity to educate the public as to why this project is needed. South Florida had all of this water with no place to keep it and now finds itself in the worst drought in years.

Wayne Daltry recognized Gary Evink who would be retiring after 31 years of service. Gary Evink wished the group luck.

Thaddeus Hamilton invited anyone interested to join the USDA-NRCS Earth Team. It is a national volunteer program enabling thousands of citizens and organizations to volunteer in the preservation of natural resources. Members receive the benefit of having the agency provide workers comp for their conservation projects. He also announced it is the end of the United College Fund drive and interested individuals should contact him.

#### Follow-up Actions

1. Facilitated Session on Public Outreach/Results of Survey will be scheduled for next meeting
2. CESI Update will be scheduled for next meeting
3. Comments due on draft Dispute Resolution Directive by Feb 20 to Marsha Bansee
4. Full presentation of the Science Information Needs by the SCT at the next meeting
5. John Ogden to link up with NOAA on having a presentation at a future WG meeting
6. ASR Issue Team to review the CROGEE ASR report and various other documents and provide recommendations to the WG
7. OED will follow up with ENP on the NE Shark Slough land acquisition status
8. OED will send all the web sites referenced during meeting via email
9. OED will post on briefing materials on the website
10. Frequency of WG meetings on a future agenda

Billy Causey announced the No Discharge regulation for the Florida Keys signed by the Governor this past December is now in the federal register. It is hoped this will be implemented in this quarter. The Secretary for the Department of Commerce signed the last federal action on the sanctuary side on December 17, 2000 for the Ecological Reserve in the Dry Tortugas. Unanimous support for a draft rule to move forward with the Reserve will go for public notice in the Florida Administrative Weekly. The FWCC will have their last meeting the same week the Working Group meets in Tallahassee.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM

#### Enclosures:

1. Agenda
2. December minutes
3. Vice Chair Protocol
4. 2001 Workplan
5. Action/Issue Tracking Chart
6. Issue Team Tracking
7. draft Directive Dispute Resolution
8. draft Directive Land Acquisition
9. NEWWT directive
10. Nat Reed letter
11. Science Information Needs
12. ISOP/IOP Power Point Presentation
13. Endangered Species Act Basics
14. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Slide Presentation
15. Commissioner Reboredo letter (dated 2/5/01 re: Seepage Barrier Project)
16. CERP Power Point Presentation (7 February 01)
17. RECOVER Power Point Presentation (7 February 01)