

Approved Meeting Minutes
South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Working Group
Tallahassee, FL
March 26, 2001

Welcome and Introductions

COL James May called meeting to order at 3:28PM. The following announcements were made: Wayne Daltry's father in law passed away; Ernie Barnett's mother passed away; Aaron Higer will be going in for surgery tomorrow morning. Agenda (Enclosure 1) ratified and February meeting minutes (Enclosure 2) presented. Working Group members encouraged to attend the no host social following the meeting. Toy Keller invited individuals to attend the Design with Nature meeting taking place at 6:00PM at City Hall.

Working Group Members	March 26	March 27	Alternates
Aller, Chuck - FL Dept of Agriculture and Consumer Services	-	-	
Barnett, Ernie – FL Dept of Environmental Protection	-	-	John Outland
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	-	-	Joan Lawrence
Maureen Finnerty – National Park Service	-	-	Elaine Hall
Steve Forsythe – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	√	√	
Michael Goldstein – Gunster, Yoakely, Valdes-Fauli & Stewart	-	-	Sue Alspach
George Hadley – U.S. Dept of Transportation	-	-	
Thaddeus Hamilton - U.S. Department of Agriculture	√	√	
Richard Harvey - Environmental Protection Agency	√	√	
Vacancy - U.S.G.S. - Water Resources Division	-	-	Carl Goodwin
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	-	-	
Craig Tepper, Seminole Tribe of Florida	√	√	
Bonnie Kranzer, Special Advisor	√	√	
Rock Salt, Special Advisor	√	√	

Facilitated Discussion on Public Outreach

Rock Salt noted this agenda items is a follow-up to the Lessons Learned Workshop to examine the function and role of the public outreach committee. The Florida Conflict Resolution Consortium conducted a survey and the results will be presented followed by a facilitated discussion of *next steps*. Bob Jones reviewed survey results (Enclosure 3) noting public outreach efforts are taking place among participating agencies as well as efforts taking place to inform and involve the public about this group. The survey suggests that public outreach is an important function and it is hoped to build on this today. Need to determine which efforts currently being undertaken by the Office of the Executive Director on behalf of the Working Group should be continued or improved as well as identify additional items that should be implemented. Bonnie Kranzer suggested the group define what it wants its public outreach to be. Joan Lawrence stated there is a Public Outreach Plan for CERP and there will be a future role for the Working Group. Fred Rapach suggested first discussing the role the Working Group plays in CERP, ASR, and

Implementation of the CERP. Rock Salt clarified that the public outreach as it relates to CERP is the responsibility of the Corps and the SFWMD. This group is not directly involved in actual restoration and the primary responsibility for public outreach rests with those agencies. The Working Group can serve a role in helping to get all the folks dealing with restoration talking to one another. He asked how the Office of the Executive Director could do its support better so that there is more of a public outreach benefit for the Working Group. Rick Smith suggested members sitting facing the public and having public comment earlier in the meeting. He also urged better noticing of meeting beyond what is required as well as developing contacts with the press and the media. Fred Rapach suggested this group do some homework so everyone can have a sense of purpose of what this group can do beyond coordinating and sharing information. Rock Salt proposed Thaddeus Hamilton and Bonnie Kranzer put together a proposal. Thaddeus Hamilton noted this ties in to his Earth Team presentation and volunteered to work on this issue. Rock Salt proposed Thaddeus Hamilton and Bonnie Kranzer put together a proposal. COL May suggested the Working Group spend time discussing the Working Group mission. **Working Group Action: Discussion tabled until Working Group has a discussion on its role at the following meeting.**

Everglades Construction Project/STA Update

Gary Goforth noted four of the storm water treatment areas are complete (STA 1 west, STA 2, STA 6 and STA 5). Each has gone through the operational startup phase and has met the net improvement test for phosphorus before discharge is allowed. Construction of STA 3 / 4, largest treatment area, is underway as well as the design and construction of STA 1-East. The budget for non-federal activities is approximately \$518 million. Although construction has been halfway completed, construction of STA 3 / 4 is as expensive as the prior four STAs. Hi highlighted several milestones: change order has been kept under 2%; use a lot of partnering with construction contracts; and have used a high percentage of minority owned businesses. All the treatment areas are exceeding expectations and are doing better than the interim target of 50 ppb. Net improvement was received on STA 5, which was formerly in agriculture, after a period of 7 – 9 months. As these areas dry out vegetation becomes stressed and the operational target is to keep a minimum of 6 inches of water in the treatment areas to keep the plants viable. This has been relaxed since landowners in the Everglades Agricultural Area are in Phase III restrictions and are getting 10 – 20% of the water they need for their crops. STA 1-East is the only treatment area being built by the federal government as part of the C-51 project. The inflow pump station is under construction and is 30% complete. The outflow pump station in the south end is also under construction. Improved performance has been seen in the ENR project particularly with the use of the submerged aquatic vegetation, which can survive in just 6 inches of water. Rains last week brought the water level up.

Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Bill

Rich Duerling provided a Power Point presentation (Enclosure 4) on the proposed Bill, which allows Zone of Discharge (ZOD) for coliform and other biological constituents, sodium and secondary drinking water standard parameters. It takes the risk-based approach that was in an EPA letter sent to the Secretary of DEP and the SFWMD in 1999. It calls for *no endangerment* within the Safe Drinking Water Act. The proposed bill would address issues statewide and not just in the Everglades Area. ZOD will be specified at a certain distance based on what is submitted and on technical information. Monitoring below the well will be required if the ZOD is used for drinking water. Most situations will require monitoring the wells above the ASR and at the edge.

Richard Harvey noted EPA worked with DEP on this bill. The Legal Environmental Assistance Foundation voiced their objections on this bill at the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee Meeting. EPA's position is that this bill is not inconsistent with the Safe Drinking Water Act. He added that this legislation is not self-implementing since it anticipates some programmatic changes that need to go through rulemaking. This applies statewide and in the interim, until the rules are established and implemented, EPA anticipates it will deal with the CERP pilot wells including the City of West Palm Beach Well and possibly the Miami wells under the February 9, 1999 letter signed by John Hankinson. He also reiterated that the risk-based approach does apply to the Miami wells and they are covered by the February 1999 approach. He noted Miami Dade had tried to get a limited aquifer exemption, which was problematic. Rock Salt noted the Governor's Commission recommended the Task Force and Working Group pursue a common sense approach to the ASR permitting issues, pursuing ways that the water wouldn't have to be treated both before and after. Based upon that, Richard Harvey working with EPA was able to get the letter

cited earlier. The Task Force and the Working Group has been involved in the ASR treatment policy issues. Richard Harvey noted there are some slight variations but it is consistent with the February 1999 letter. It is enough of a change that the UIC folks wanted to initiate rule making because of the opportunity for misunderstanding.

CERP ASR Update

Pete Kwaitkowski stated the CERP has three sites for pilot ASR facilities in Lake Okeechobee, Caloosahatchee and Western Hillsboro. The CERP also requires an ASR Regional Study, which is a programmatic activity. The Project Management Plan (PMP) for the Lake Okeechobee ASR was approved on March 15, 2001. The contract for the three test wells was approved by the Governing Board on March 15, 2001. Construction slated to start in April/May 2001. A study is underway cooperatively with the Southwest Florida Water Management District on the rate and processes of microorganism die offs. Approval of the PMP for the Western Hillsboro ASR is expected within the next two weeks. The final scope of work for the water quality study is being finalized. Both these projects were authorized under WRDA 1999. The Caloosahatchee ASR pilot was authorized by WRDA 2000 and approval of the PMP is scheduled for September 2001. Letter signed by COL May authorizing the development of the PMP for the ASR Regional Study. A letter of invitation will be sent to everyone for a two-day session in May. Rick Smith questioned whether the treatment plants have the ability to treat for all the microorganisms. Pete Kwaitkowski believed any of the water treatment plants around Lake Okeechobee currently have treatment processes in place. Richard Harvey stated that if a drinking water plant wants to access the stored water, they have to follow the *under the direct influence* provision of the rule and provide filtration. He clarified that there are some facilities, such as in Tallahassee that just pump and chlorinate, but none in south Florida. He was not aware of any utility that would have to provide a higher degree of treatment because of this. The ASR Bill also limits the access to the bubble of water to the utility that put the water down there. Fred Rapach asked if the CROGEE issue requiring a regional study prior to pilot projects. Rock Salt noted both are being done in tandem and is consistent with the CROGEE Report. Brad Brown asked if a Question and Answer booklet has been put together. COL May agreed from the Corps' perspectives that all the necessary tools are needed to address all of these issues.

Water Shortage Update – Tom Teets reported that drought conditions continue to worsen despite rains. Governing Board directed staff at their last meeting to develop a Phase III Implementation Plan and solicit additional public comment. Public workshop held on March 21 regarding the impacts of going into Phase III. The draft Plan will be presented at the emergency Governing Board meeting and it will define specific triggers for implementation of Phase III restrictions. Plan will also expand other WMD actions to address the drought more comprehensively such as outreach and public awareness, increased enforcement and operation modifications within the system. The District has purchased and installed 14 submersible pumps around the lake to be used once the water levels drop below 10 feet making 1 million acre feet of water available.

Minimum Flows and Levels – Joan Lawrence announced the SFWMD Governing Board authorized the publication of minimum flows and levels in the Florida Administrative Weekly on March 15, 2001 on Lake Okeechobee, Everglades, Caloosahatchee River, Biscayne Aquifer and the Lower West Coast Aquifers. This will be published in April followed by a twenty-one day window for challenging this rule. The Governing Board would be able to adopt the rules in May 2001 if there are no challenges and become effective in June 2001. Elaine Hall stated the next two rule-making opportunities are critical. A lot of resources has been dedicated by ENP to this effort and has provided extensive comments throughout the process. She complimented the District with their open process. She urged for an extensive briefing at the next meeting. She noted her concern with the sever ability issue if a piece of the rule is challenged.

Follow-up: In depth presentation to be provided at the May Working Group meeting.

State Litigation – Frank Nearhoof stated a status hearing is scheduled before Judge Hoeveler this Friday and he has asked for an update status on everything that has been agreed to under the settlement agreement. He is also prepared to rule on a wide array of motions, including the motion to modify the dates. There is an issue with the state permit for STA 5 and a hearing date has been scheduled for May 22 – 24. Currently

working to resolve the issues including the impacts to the Rotenberger including the cattail expansion that is expected since it is a disturbed system.

State Legislation - Two bills, Senate Bill 1524 sponsored by Senator Constantine and House Bill 1603 sponsored by Rep. Mayfield, have been recently introduced. Both these bills put in place a program for permitting CERP project components (construction, operation, maintenance and modification).

Dispute Resolution Issue Team Directive

Rock Salt presented the revised draft (Enclosure 5). The team will take the recommendations from the expert panel and bring recommendations and guidelines back to the Working Group. Steve Forsythe made a motion to move forward and Fred Rapach seconded. **Action: Working Group approved Team Directive as presented.**

Land Acquisition Issue Team

John Outland reported team met this morning. He introduced Jim Moller who is the facilitator/contractor with the team. Assembled in response to the GAO report identifying a need to have a land acquisition plan for south Florida. Task ahead is to prepare a plan that shows all that is going on and meets the need of the GAO report without subjecting to federal oversight those lands the federal government is not directly involved in acquiring. Team will be following the guidance in the approved Team Directive (Enclosure 6). Individual agencies are currently pulling together their data. Fred Rapach noted the recent action by the Senate on the re-direction of funds. Jim Moller stated this could affect when lands are acquired. Rick Smith clarified the Governor has sent a letter to the Senate opposing this issue. Fred Rapach handed out a copy of Palm Beach County's Resolution (Enclosure 7).

Exotic Plants Strategic Plan Implementation

Rock Salt presented the coordinated budget request (Enclosure 8). There may be initiatives in both the Congress and the State to create funding sources for the control of invasive exotic plants. Rock Salt encouraged members to contact Bob Doren and consider this information in budget preparations.

NE Shark Slough Land Acquisition

Elaine Hall presented the update (Enclosure 9) 100,582 acres in public ownership and 6,470 remain in private ownership. NPS acquisitions will be completed by the summer and the U.S. Attorney's Office will continue with its condemnation pieces. Land Commission has provided the NPS with an agreement on the appraised value of \$600 per acre. Barbara Junge added there are actually 1,700 cases filed. Rick Smith requested an update on the dollars spent as well as an estimate of what is needed to complete. Rick Smith noted the state has donated 42,000 + acres and was not sure if this satisfied their 20%. Rick Smith announced the Governor Bush signed the letter approving the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program.

SCT Update

Ronnie Best requested time on the May agenda for Dr. Gary Lytton to present the Big Cypress Basin Science Plan and on the June agenda for Dr. Mark Harwell to give a Biscayne Bay presentation. GEER Science Forum is being planned and may be delayed. SCT has agreed to take a lead role in ensuring external peer review of the Monitoring and Assessment Plan. Abstract booklets from the Symposium (Enclosure 10) are now available. The SCT was encouraged to link up with the Science Committee from the Biscayne Bay Partnership Initiative and with the Biscayne Bay Project Management Committee. **Follow-up: A Coastal Systems technical session would be scheduled in conjunction with a future meeting.**

No public comments made and meeting adjourned at 6:03 PM.

*Approved Meeting Minutes
South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Working Group
Tallahassee, FL
March 27, 2001*

Welcome and Introductions

COL May called meeting to order at 8:40 AM. Meeting minutes approved with Thaddeus Hamilton's corrections to be provided.

Supreme Court Ruling on Section 404

COL May noted John Simion was unable to attend he provided an overview on the Supreme Court ruling on the isolated wetlands issue. It is the Corps assessment that 20% of the 14 million acres of wetlands in Florida are isolated. The Corps is negotiating with the other federal resource agencies and is currently not taking permits either future or retroactively on a programmatic basis and is awaiting Headquarters' guidance.

Governing Board Water Resources Advisory Commission

Joan Lawrence stated the Governing Board created an advisory body on March 15, 2001. The draft resolution (Enclosure 11) has not yet been signed. The group would serve as a forum and identify opportunities for enhancing coordination, provide opportunities for public input on key issues and recommend strategies for improving coordination and eliminating duplicative efforts. Membership from six classifications: south Florida business community, water supply utilities, agriculture, public interest groups, local government, environmental organizations as well as one representative from government agencies: USACE, DOI, EPA, DEP, FDACS, FFWCC. Representatives from Miccosukee and Seminole Tribes and other state and regional agencies as deemed necessary will also be appointed. The Governing Board Chair will select the Chair for this Commission.

Growth Management Commission

Linda Friar provided a summary (Enclosure 12) of the final report prepared by the Commission that was charged to look at the planning roles of the state, regional and local government as well as the role of citizens in growth management. The Commission recommends that the 2001 Legislature consider 8 issues identified. Additional information available online at: <http://www.floridagrowth.org>

Rick Smith noted HB 1119 relating to water and land use that is currently moving through the state Legislature. Fred Rapach stated the bill is a little extreme on those issues and needs to be toned down. Bonnie Kranzer reminded everyone the Governor's Commission for A Sustainable south Florida wrote a report on full cost accounting and hoped to see some of the work reflected in legislation. She offered to provide those interested with a copy of this report.

Sustainable Agriculture Task Team

Ron Smola presented the Executive Summary (Enclosure 13) for A New Look at Agriculture discussion paper. The Working Group recognized agriculture serves a significant role and established the team to work on this issue. The final document identifies the five priority areas that need to be addressed as well as priority actions for each of those areas. Much of the work from this document will be used to develop Sub Goal 3.b. of the Strategy document. The team will meet again to discuss possible next steps and will come back to the Working Group with a revised team directive. The full document is available online at: <http://us-farm.com> Ron Smola made a motion for the Working Group to accept the report and Steve Forsythe seconded the motion. **Action: Working Group accepted the report as presented.**

Goal 3 Steering Committee Update

Linda Friar presented for Working Group approval the proposed sub goal language (Enclosure 14).

- Sub Goal 3A – Reduce and/or eliminate growth related negative impacts on the natural system.
- Sub Goal 3B – Promote environmentally sound and economically viable agriculture
- Sub Goal 3C1 – Provide flood control to meet sustainable demands of urban and suburban communities.

- Sub Goal 3C2 – Provide water resources to sustain the needs of the natural system and the demands of urban and suburban communities.
- Sub Goal 3D – Incorporate environmental justice policies and programs into Task Force and Working Group effort.

Joan Lawrence suggested changing “provide flood control” to “maintain flood control”. COL May clarified the C&SF is what provides the flood control. Ron Smola suggested including “rural areas” relative to the flood control. Thaddeus Hamilton made a motion to accept the sub goals. **Action: Working Group agreed for team to move forward with the sub goals as presented and for Linda Friar to come back to the may meeting with the sub goals further defined.**

Report on Water Projects and Initiatives

Dennis Duke gave a Power Point Presentation (Enclosure 14) on the status of CERP Implementation. Water Preserve and Indian River Lagoon Feasibility studies will both be completed in 2001. SW FL Feasibility study is a new effort that will be completed by February 2005 at a cost of \$12 million. The Corps is working on the twelve initial projects including six pilot projects with an additional 15 projects. He reviewed the project development process and the design agreement execution status with the seven local sponsors (SFWMD 5/00, Palm Beach County 5/01, Lee County 7/01, Seminole Tribe 7/01, Miccosukee Tribe 7/01, FL DEP 8/01 and Miami-Dade County 3/11). The SFWMD Master Program Management Plan provides the framework for the management of the Program and Volume II provides an Annual Report and Work Plan and will be revised twice annually. Strategy Plans, a two-page white paper to address each issue (ASR, Wastewater Reuse, Water Quality, Lake Belt, Seepage Management, Real Estate, Manatee Protection and Expanded Multi Species Recovery Plan) is a new item to tie things together with an overall concept. Craig Tepper suggested the strategy papers should include O&M and the control of exotics.

Sue Alspach asked for clarification that real estate acquisition does not have to wait for finalization of the PIR. Joan Lawrence noted there is pressure for the SFWMD to proceed with real estate acquisition (i.e., Martin County has already passed a sales tax referendum to raise money for land acquisition). The footprint needs to be refined during the PIR process and the SFWMD will move forward with land acquisition and will not wait for the Corps to send in the request to certify lands. COL May noted this represents an unusual situation where there is an authorized conceptual plan and the details are now needed for the project features. Land acquisition is the responsibility of the local sponsor and credit will be given once the Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA) is signed. COL May stressed it is important for the Working Group to be aware of the process and the risks that are involved. Rock Salt added it is hoped that the SFWMD would move ahead as lands become available and there is an expectation the Corps will take that into account as the PIR is developed. Implementation Plan Public Workshop scheduled for this Friday in W. Palm Beach from 1 - 4PM.

Program Management Plans

Stu Appelbaum presented the Public Outreach Management Plan (Enclosure 16). Although it is a separate plan from the Socio-Economic Plan, both have been developed in tandem and will go through the approval process together because of the linkage. WRDA 2000 has a provision to ensure participation of businesses owned by disadvantaged individuals and communication with affected communities paying attention to impacts to socially and economically disadvantaged individuals and those with limited English proficiency. Focus group meetings have been held with stakeholders, plan will be revised and additional meetings will be scheduled. Work broken down into five major task groups: public information and education; outreach to socially and economically disadvantaged communities; agency, public, and stakeholder involvement; internal communication; and management and assessment of outreach activities. Outreach Activities for five-years total \$9.3 million for program level activities not including project specific outreach that will be part of the PMP.

Bonnie Kranzer presented the Socio-Economic and Environmental Justice Management Plan (Enclosure 17) with the work being broken down by objectives into six task groups: economic equity; baseline data, environmental justice; project level support; improved methodologies; and evaluation and adaptive assessment. Eight focus group meetings held with minority communities and additional meetings are

planned. Both plans were written for internal use and much criticism has been made that the documents are not in layman's language. Group is working on this issue because of the amount of interest. Program \$3.25 million over 3 years with 54% funding from the SFWMD. Fred Rapach asked about the contracting out issue and who would make the call to dole the project out to one single entity versus breaking it out into smaller components. Stu Appelbaum stated the Corps and the WMD would make the decision and one would have responsibility for some or all of the contracting. A procurement strategy to balance the social needs and meet the WRDA 2000 requirements while still being good stewards of public funds. Brad Brown noted there is disconnect between the goal of involving the African American communities and the tasks and suggested using the term "black" instead of African American since it is an all inclusive term.

Local Government Cost Share

Joan Lawrence stated the SFWMD is unable to fund the 50% local cost share alone. Currently looking for existing funding sources within the counties, future funding sources and conceptual footprints for projects within counties and those lands that may already be in the hands of local governments. It is hoped that the SFWMD will be able to tap into the counties' existing land programs.

RECOVER

John Ogden provided an update (Enclosure 18) on the four program level activities:

1. RECOVER Program Management Plan document being revised in response to comments received at March 7 public workshop and revised document will be presented to the Governing Board on April 11, 2001. Total COE/SFWMD budget for all RECOVER activities will be \$15.3 million for FY 02 with \$9.5 million supporting system-wide monitoring and assessment tasks.
2. CERP Monitoring and Assessment Plan Outline (Enclosure 19) presented. Plan will go before agency and public review in April/May 2001. A formal agency review will be requested in April with a letter and CD being sent to the agencies. A technical issues workshop will be held in May 2001 to sort out the responses and issues that are raised.
3. Partnership Agreement is a multi-agency agreement defining the roles and responsibilities of all the participating agencies on RECOVER teams. Will define the benefits to participating agencies and describes processes and products of the multi-agency collaboration in RECOVER. The agreement has gone through internal revisions and will go before the SCT in April and will be brought before the Working Group to ensure the agencies are comfortable with it. The Working Group was asked to take the lead in setting up a facilitated workshop to work through this document.
4. CERP Report Card Workshops to review base line report and design report card will be held in April/May 2001. It will report to public and decision makers on how well the Plan is meeting its objectives. First annual CERP report card scheduled for October 2001.

Carl Goodwin stated he was not clear on how changes get incorporated after a PIR is developed. COL May said there could be add on features and secondary projects to fully implement projects. Craig Tepper asked how the social economic impacts/benefits could be known until the Goal 3 stuff is done. John Ogden stated the current monitoring plan has some hydrological elements in the urban and agricultural areas. Carl Goodwin made a motion to follow John Ogden's recommended approach for the Working Group to work through the Partnership Agreement and Joan Lawrence seconded. **Follow-up: Working Group agreed to have a workshop in conjunction with a future Working Group meeting to work through the Partnership Agreement.**

Executive Director's Report

Rock Salt presented the 2001 Workplan and Action/Issue Tracking Chart (Enclosure 20 – 21) presented. One action item has been rated red and it is linked to the Working Group roles and mission. This item will be discussed at the next meeting. The Regional Action Forum information packet (Enclosure 22) was also presented. Two forums scheduled for SW Florida on March 29 and Kissimmee on April 10. The former PCTs have been given the opportunity to re-invent themselves in ways that would prove more useful from their perspective. Working Group members were encouraged to participate in the forums. Issue Team Tracking Chart (Enclosure 23) provided and it was noted that the Lake Okeechobee Team could be dissolved. Meeting calendar (Enclosure 24) provided, Task Force meeting scheduled to meet in July 2001.

Biennial Report (Enclosure 25) black and white version provided. **Follow-up: Fred Rapach requested an update on Lake Okeechobee sediment removal at a future meeting.**

Earth Team Update

Thaddeus Hamilton presented the draft SFERP Partnership Agreement and the Draft Cooperative Working Agreement (Enclosure 26) between the Task Force and the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Partnership. He asked the members to take this document back to their outreach personnel for review. He described the Earth Team (Enclosure 27) program and Russell Setti displayed some of the materials (hats, t-shirts, etc.) produced by the Department of Agriculture and given to volunteers. He noted this is a national program that is already funded and offered the Working Group the opportunity to tap into this program. A video, produced by the Broward County in cooperation with federal and state agencies, was shown.

Follow-Up Action Items

1. Discussion on public outreach was tabled until after the Working Group discusses its role at the May meeting.
2. A Coastal Systems technical workshop will be scheduled in conjunction with the June meeting.
3. An in depth presentation will be scheduled on Minimum Flows and Levels at the May meeting.
4. Goal 3 Subgoals to be further defined/refined and presented at the May meeting.
5. Partnership Agreement workshop will be scheduled in conjunction with a future meeting.
6. A Lake Okeechobee sediment removal briefing will be scheduled for the May meeting
7. Drought update requested for the May meeting.

No public comments made and meeting adjourned at 12:55PM. The next meeting is scheduled for May 23 – 24, 2001.

Enclosures:

1. Agenda
2. February minutes
3. Summary of Survey Responses (March, 2001)
4. Proposed ASR Bill Power Point Presentation
5. Draft Dispute Resolution Issue Team Directive
6. Approved Land Acquisition Task Team Directive
7. Palm Beach County Resolution opposing expenditure of P2000 funds
8. Invasive Exotics Coordinated Budget Request
9. ENP Land Acquisition Update
10. GEER Science Conference Abstracts
11. Draft Resolution creating Governing Board Water Resources Advisory Commission
12. Summary of Growth Management Commission
13. Executive Summary for A New Look at Agriculture
14. Goal 3 Proposed Sub Goal Language
15. CERP Implementation Update
16. Draft Public Outreach Management Plan
17. Draft Socio-Economic and Environmental Justice Management Plan
18. RECOVER Update
19. CERP Monitoring and Assessment Plan Outline
20. 2001 Working Group Workplan
21. Action/Issue Tracking Chart
22. Regional Action Forum
23. Issue Team Tracking Chart
24. Meeting Calendar
25. Biennial Report
26. SFERP Partnership and Draft Cooperative Working Agreement
27. Earth Team Brochures