

*Approved Mini Meeting Summary
South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Working Group
October 15, 2003*

Rick Smith called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM and noted there were no changes to the agenda. He reviewed the follow-up assignments to the Task Force meeting.

Working Group Members	Oct. 15	Alternates
Ernie Barnett – FL Dept of Environmental Protection		
John Benjamin – National Park Service		
Frank Bernardino – South Florida Water Management District	√	
G. Ronnie Best – U.S.G.S.	√	
COL Robert M. Carpenter - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers		
Billy Causey – NOAA, FL Keys Nat'l Marine Sanctuary		
Wayne Daltry – Southwest FL Regional Planning Council		
Essie Duffie – NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service		
Gene Duncan – Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of FL		
Roman Gastesi, Jr. – Miami Dade County	√	
Joanna Goger, U.S. Department of Justice		
George Hadley – U.S. Dept of Transportation		
Thaddeus Hamilton - U.S. Department of Agriculture		
Richard Harvey – Environmental Protection Agency		
Norman Hemming – U.S. Attorney's Office		
Chris Katzenmiller – Bureau of Indian Affairs	√	
Peter B. Ortner – NOAA	√	
Donna Pope - FL Dept. of Transportation		
Fred Rapach – Palm Beach County Water Utilities Dept		
Terry Rice – Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida		
W. Ray Scott - FL Dept of Agriculture and Consumer Services	√	
Jay Slack – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	√	
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		
Kenneth S. Todd – Palm Beach County Water Resources Manager		
Joe Walsh - Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission		
Vacant - Department of Community Affairs		
Greg May, Director	√	
Garrett Wallace, Special Advisor		

Charters - Greg May thanked everyone who helped refine the charters over lunch. He noted the Task Force expectation that the next revisions to the draft charters would be turned around within 10-days. Frank Bernardino suggested making the Science Charter more compatible with the new Working Group charter structure. He observed a good balance between discretionary items and directives in the revised charters. He asked the group whether they wanted to polish it as a group or have Greg May and his staff work on the revisions. Ron Smola agreed that OED should take the document and send it out. Jay Slack said the concept of doing a list of priorities each year is important and asked whether the Working Group needs to draft the list. Greg May said that the Task Force might ask the Working Group to craft a recommended list. **Follow-up: Both charters would be revised and sent out for review the following week. Greg May will work membership principals and alternates and suggestions should be submitted to him.**

Land Acquisition Strategy - Rick Smith explained that they would be submitting numbers by the end of the month. He noted that new information is underlined in the current draft and he hopes to provide a final draft to the Task Force in November. Theresa added that there is now some level of reporting form all 16 counties. The team is looking forward to the actual strategic planning of acquiring lands. Ron Smola complimented the team and moved for approval of the document to be transmitted to the Task Force. Theresa added that the WRAC reviewed this edition of the Strategy and had no comments. Rick said it is

important to get the local governments involved to define the lands that they have designated for ecosystem restoration. Joe Walsh said the document still needs to say where it wants to go with land acquisition. This document talks about the tools available.

CSOP Advisory Team Charter - The CSOP Charter was approved with none opposed. Roman Gastesi said that he was happy that the Corps had accelerated the Modified Water Deliveries project and asked how this team would synchronize with their schedule. Greg explained the team would meet periodically to meet the schedules of the Task Force and the Corps.

Tenth Anniversary Celebration - The group discussed the Tenth Anniversary Celebration for the December Task Force meeting and solicited ideas for the meeting structure. Rick Smith suggested using a good facilitator at that meeting to get ideas and suggested pairing the Working Group members with their Task Force counterparts. Greg said he would incorporate their recommendations into a written plan to provide structure for additional feedback.

Annual Report Discussion - Linda Friar stated that she is the staff point of contact responsible for updating the Annual Report. Greg noted that this is not a statutory responsibility and there is a possibility that there won't be an annual report. Linda reviewed two documents: a draft of the Annual Report and a list of topics that needed to be updated. Rick said that much of the information that she is seeking is available from other entities. It shouldn't be difficult if the format crosses over easily. Roman asked whether they had to do the Annual Report and if it was mandated like the Biennial Report. Greg explained that while it is not mandated, it could be useful as a draft of the biennial update and that it was important to start the process early to make the Congressional deadline. Frank Bernardino said he saw the value of starting early, but was not sure that they should "tackle" another report. Greg said that the agencies would need to determine if it was more efficient and useful to provide the information once a year or once every two years. Jay Slack said that he uses the report frequently in their budgeting and noted how ready availability of the information in this format. Rick said that he used it in reporting to his leadership and it was good to have back up to support a \$14.8 billion dollar program. Linda added that GAO and the Interior Appropriations Committees also use it. She noted that it was hard to provide feedback on a 12-month timeframe. Roman explained that he does not have all the information or the staff support needed. Greg asked if it was easier for them to keep it on a yearly cycle. Rick said this would push people who are going to do the work. Ronnie Best said that if there was a need for an Annual Report then it would be statutory.

Public Comment

April Gromnicki said that she was hopeful that the new meeting format would provide improved coordination among the various restoration players.

Brenda Chalifour said that Rick Smith had represented the Governor's Office through many administrations and each time he has done so professionally and diplomatically. She added that she was "thrilled" to have him in south Florida and asked him to keep them smiling and laughing and wished him luck.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM.

Enclosure:

1. Agenda