

*Approved Minutes  
South Florida Ecosystem Restoration  
Working Group Meeting  
SFWMD, West Palm Beach, FL  
July 19, 2007*

**Welcome and Introductions**

Ken Ammon called the meeting called to order at 1:10 PM noting that several members are attending a meeting in Washington. He presented the agenda (Encl. 1) and the draft minutes (Encl. 2), scheduled for approval the following day. He reminded everyone to identify themselves each time they speak since the meeting is being web cast.

<b>Working Group Members</b>	July 19	July 20	Alternates attending
Ken Ammon, Chair – South Florida Water Management District	-	√	
Dan Kimball, Vice Chair NPS - Everglades National Park & Dry Tortugas	-	√	
Billy Causey – NOAA, FL Keys Nat'l Marine Sanctuary	-	-	
Alex Chester – NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service	-	-	Bonnie Ponwith
Sheri Coven - Department of Community Affairs	-	-	Craig Diamond
Bob Crim - FL Dept. of Transportation	√	√	
Wayne Daltry – Southwest FL Regional Planning Council	√	√	
Dennis Duke - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	-	√	Kim Taplin
Gene Duncan – Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of FL	-	-	
Joe Frank – Bureau of Indian Affairs	√	√	
Roman Gastesi, Miami Dade County	-	√	
George Hadley – U.S. Dept of Transportation	-	-	
Veronica Harrell-James - U.S. Attorney's Office	√	√	
Eric Hughes – Environmental Protection Agency	√	√	
Greg Knecht - FL Dept of Environmental Protection	√	√	
Vacant – Office of the Governor of Florida	-	-	
W. Ray Scott - FL Dept of Agriculture and Consumer Services	-	-	
Paul Souza – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	-	√	Pamela Reck
Craig Tepper – Seminole Tribe of Florida	√	√	
Kenneth S. Todd – Palm Beach County Water Resources Manager	√	√	
Joe Walsh – Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	-	-	
Jess D. Weaver – U.S.G.S.	-	-	Jim Smoot
Rick Wilkins - Broward County Department of Natural Resource Protection	-	-	
Ed Wright – U.S. Department of Agriculture	√	√	
Greg May, Special Advisor	√	√	
Ken Haddad, Science Coordination Group Liaison	-	-	Rock Salt

**Whip Around**

Craig Diamond on behalf of Sherri Coven reported DCA met with the SFWMD and are looking at rural lands planning in the Northern Everglades area. Ken Ammon said they are discussing a broad range of issues and are working to come up with strategies for future land use planning. Ed Wright said they may not have a Farm Bill by Sep 30 but discussions are currently ongoing. He reported that folks from the University of Florida are working on a model to map lands under the Water Conservation Areas, EAA and Big Cypress.

Greg Knecht reported the Global Climate Summit was held in Miami the prior week and some executive orders have come out of the Governor's Office as a result of the summit. Eric Hughes announced EPA will be releasing a 2005 re-map report and he added that

they are seeing a stabilization of the soil depths out in the water conservation areas. Kim Taplin for Dennis Duke reported the draft report on the Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule has been posted on the website and a series of public meetings will be held in August.

Ken Ammon announced the Legislature passed the Northern Everglades legislation which will result in enhancing the District's ability to plan and implement additional projects north of Lake Okeechobee, Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie in order to manage high flows and nutrient loads. Most of the southern everglades restoration program was concentrated south of Lake Okeechobee but the primary issues are high lake stages, a dike in need of repair and estuarine impacts. It makes sense to address those issues of excess quantity and quality at the source, Kissimmee River Valley. A legislative report is due on February 1, 2008 on the first plan with the Estuarine Plan due a year later. State Legislature's Tax Reform Bill will go before the voters in January. The impacts and implications are not yet known. Greg May reported the House passed its version of the Energy and Water bill which affects many of the restoration projects. The GAO report and its implications to restoration will be discussed tomorrow.

### **Strategic Goals and Objectives**

Greg May provided a Power Point (Encl. 3) reminded everyone the Working Group was charged by the Task Force to look at the subgoals, objectives and projects in the Strategy. The Working Group then formed a Strategy Team to provide recommendations. The Strategy team held five publicly noticed conference calls and he recognized Joni Warner, John Outland and Sheri Coven who served as goal leaders.

#### *Comments and Questions on Goal 1*

Diana Aranda (Arthur R. Marshall Foundation) asked whether ASR would be natural and whether part of the objective is to include recharge. Greg said it is a managed system where they would take water during the rainy system and store it in the aquifer. Ken Ammon added that ASR is just one way to capture water. The reintroduction of water will provide recharge and resource protection in the future.

Kristina Richards (Arthur R. Marshall Foundation) asked about the risks associated with arsenic as well as the effect on climate restrictions and reductions that will be needed since reverse osmosis is energy intensive and costly. Ken Ammon said that any alternative technology will be expensive either through land acquisition or the treatment process. They can no longer afford with the population growth in south Florida to continue to use conventional sources that are in competition with the environment. They are trying to determine how to retrofit and mitigate for all the impacts of the past to protect the natural system and they need to have all the tools available in addition to ASR. Risks are not totally known at this time and data collection and monitoring is ongoing, however, they are confident that ASR can work even if not at the scale CERP anticipated.

Diana Aranda noted the objective is to get the hydrology right and she was not sure how ASR could do that in a biological system. Greg said they have to look at the existing

plans with CERP. ASR was selected because it helps provide water availability over multi year droughts noting for example that surface storage is limited due to evaporation.

Ken Ammon asked whether all the TMDLs would be established by 2011. Greg Knecht said that those identified as part of the Consent Decree have a schedule that is driven by legal requirements and those listed since then should not be part of the 2011 date. Greg Knecht suggested they specify which TMDL they are talking about. Craig Diamond questioned whether this could be driven by the Clean Water Act. Greg May said the question is whether they should modify it in terms of the big picture story. Ken Ammon said it would be useful to see the list to make that determination. Eric Hughes said the public will be thinking in a broader context rather than what was said in a consent decree. Ken Ammon said that even if a TMDL is not set they have enough research data to know whether they have a problem and come up with a plan to address “hot spots” in any basin. Eric Hughes said DEP and EPA will be working on TMDLs in 2012 and asked whether that would be viewed as them not meeting the 1-B.2 objective. Greg Knecht suggested they remove the 2011 date and tweak the narrative. Greg May asked Greg Knecht to review the narrative.

Martha Musgrove (Decision Makers Forum) said she would like to see government move ahead of the litigation curve and suggested they set up as an objective “establishing locally based action plans to reduce pollutants” and define the TMDLS most pertinent to CERP under the tasks. It will provide a plan to move forward in a broad scale which is what the public wants to see and they need to be specific. Ken Ammon agreed. Greg May said that the next step would be for DEP to present a revised narrative and then they can select the subset for the objectives.

#### *Comments and Questions on Goal 2*

Greg May noted that while Goal 1 provides the outputs, Goal 2 deals more with the outcomes. DEP recommended they change the date from 2015 to 2020 to coincide with the Florida Forever cycle. The Strategy team also recommends putting the conservation aspect in Goal 2 and sustainable aspect in Goal 3. Ed Wright said that is exactly where the Wetland Reserve Program should be. Ken Ammon asked if there is a DOI opportunity for inclusion in terms of funding. Greg May said the department has grant programs and would explore including something similar to what was done in the 1990s. Ann Morkill said they anticipate getting \$1 million in the next fiscal year for the land and water conservation fund for acquisition of NWR in the Florida Keys.

Kristina Richards asked how much of the 5.8 million acres is owned and the location of the lands that will be purchased. Greg said they could provide the percentage at a later date and they are considering including a graphic such as a pie chart showing how much has been acquired and how much remains to be acquired. Ken Ammon said the 5.8 million acres is far and above what was identified in CERP and includes WCAs, ENP and other state acquisitions. Greg May noted the Land Acquisition Strategy contains maps that provide a wealth of information as to location.

Bonnie Ponwith said NOAA will look at the narrative and said that recent advances in the science arena have brought some things to light such as the importance of small patch reefs. NOAA is also monitoring coral diseases and climate change as a stressor on coral reefs. Craig Diamond asked whether it would be useful to specify that the 20% is spatial extent instead of linear frontage. He added that additional tasks may be warranted dealing with research and preservation of the mosaic recognizing there is diversity. Greg May noted objective 2-A.3 goes back to the RESTUDY and although it was relevant for the Yellow Book they now need to go back and review what has been learned since then. Recommended changes will be presented for the Working Group to consider.

Ken Ammon echoed moving objective 2-B.1 and giving it more meat. Craig Tepper noted the problem with tropical soda apple which is widespread and resilient. Ed Wright noted the problem with cogen grass in the right of ways. Dan Thayer said his group has identified 62 priority species and Florida may be one of the most invaded places on the planet. Bob Doren introduced Alan Dray, Dan Thayer and LeRoy Rogers. He said the NEWTT and FIATT groups recommend changing objective 2-B.2 to read “prevent new invasive exotic species being introduced that could become problems in natural areas and prevent insipient populations in natural areas from spreading” and they will provide a number of project statements. Greg May said they need to review the narrative statement to make sure they have captured it clearly and asked about the unit of measurement. Bob Doren said it would be different for different projects and would depend on many factors. The types of measurement would be project specific. Greg May asked for the narrative to be updated in order to communicate the “big picture” first.

Cynthia Plockelman (Audubon Society of the Everglades) asked whether they looked at pursuing restrictions on pet trade introduction.

Dan Thayer said prevention is difficult to implement and he noted how Australia screens plants which are considered bad unless proven otherwise. He agreed with Cynthia and reported the SFWMD has asked FWS to look at the Lacey Act as a way to restrict the movement of large constrictors. Greg May recognized the Florida Legislature for acting on the python problem and will hopefully provide additional tools to deal with existing problems.

#### *Comments and Questions on Goal 3*

Greg May noted Sherri Coven provided new, revised and re-sequencing of objectives for 3-A.1.

John Arthur Marshall (Arthur R. Marshall Foundation) said he liked the new proposed objective noting all the threats that could impede Everglades restoration such as the proposed landfill next to the Arthur R. Marshall Refuge. He agreed that DCA and DEP should be engaged and hoped this objective would be used in the Strategy.

Ed Wright noted they are moving away from numerical targets and use the word “increase” but no number for the re-writes. Greg May said that is a fair comment and

they are still working on it. Craig Diamond said they had internal debates about what the baselines.

Greg May there is a suggestion to add an objective 3-A.6 asking whether they should address the need for comprehensive environmental assessments for developments that are regional in scale or for multiple development proposals and how they could ensure that restoration projects such as the Northern Everglades and CERP components are woven into the development approval process.

Kristina Richards asked whether the five brown field rehabilitation projects be omitted or whether they would fall to local governments. Greg May clarified the Brownfield program continues and the team questions whether it is still the best objective. Eric Hughes said he likes the more general discussion. Craig Diamond said they would be better off looking at different measures and it is still the intent to minimize the impact on undeveloped property.

Scott Holtz asked whether the new objective 3-A.2 (old 3-A.1) is for lands other than lands acquired for projects. Greg May explained the boundaries need to be defined. They were concentrating on trails but will now broaden that and need to make sure they can separate it from what is in Goal 2. Scott Holtz asked about the methodology that would be used if they put in a hard number in the future. Greg May said it is an iterative process partly based on funding programs and availability.

Martha Musgrove said CERP left out the local governments and they are the ones who exercise land use power. They need strong educational programs and mergers with local land use planning. She suggested changing objective 3-A.1 to determine the potential impact from the conversion of undeveloped and agricultural lands. She also suggested renumbering and not deleting the original objectives such as the greenways and trails and brown fields. It is not technically environmental restoration/preservation but the infrastructure component is applicable and would encourage funding for small communities to redevelop. She said the real need is to define the footprint and then develop an educational component explaining why these lands are important for the ultimate goal. She also suggested they add all the programs within the Farm Bill for objective 3-A.2. For objective 3-A.3 she said the new language is excellent and encouraged visiting with local governments when they are reviewing their comprehensive plans.

Kristina Richards, referring to objective 3-A.5, suggested they work with the Department of Education to include a lot of what is going on it into the educational curriculum.

### **Acceler8 Update**

Tommy Strowd provided a Power Point (Encl. 4) on the current status of the program noting there is \$312 million in construction. STA 2 Cell 4 expansion is 97% complete, STA 6 Section 2 is 98% complete and the C-44 Reservoir Test Cell Pilot is 99% complete with the Site preparation ongoing.

Bob Crim asked about the WPAs in Broward County. Ken Ammon noted there is a draft Basis of Design Report that is close to completion and they are hoping it will be included in WRDA for a Section 902 adjustment. It is one of the conditionally authorized projects in WRDA 2000 and the price between land, design standards and inflation has gone up. The Corps has specifically requested to do the final design and construction and the SFWMD has agreed. He noted the Corps will have an active construction role in South Florida.

John Arthur Marshall (Arthur R. Marshall Foundation) provided written comments (Encl. 5) and stated that it is the view of NGOs that Acceler8 does not appear to fit the goals of enhancing ecological values or the underlying objectives but does fit the goals of enhancing economic values and social well being and its objectives. He noted they have posed some fundamental questions to COL Grosskruger and the Science Coordination Group. The public is being asked to accept untested hypotheses absent any data to confirm that the structural approach is more cost effective than the non structural approach. The public wants to see the data to have the assurance that the right decisions are being made.

Ken Ammon acknowledged they were good comments but they are CERP related. The NGOs are implying these are just reservoir projects that will be used for water supply purposes for agricultural and urban use. The Governing Board approved assurances for the natural system at the last meeting that committed Acceler8 projects would be used for environmental restoration first. He added the wetland restoration projects in Acceler8 such as Picayune Strand do go to the goals and objectives of increasing spatial extent of wetlands. Governing Board committed to quantifying the natural system water made available by those projects through reservation or allocation and although not legally required it was determined to be the right thing to do. They are following Congressional guidance and moving forward. The flowway going through the EAA and the Everglades is not possible because of topography and water quality.

John Arthur Marshall said he disagreed adding there are indications that it would not be difficult. He urged them to re-institute the Pond Apple Forest and then restore the Sawgrass Plains. Ken Ammon said the next time the Corps reformulates the Yellow Book, the flowway may be put in the mix to be looked at but at this point they are implementing the conditionally authorized projects.

Kim Taplin thanked John Arthur Marshall for his comments and noted COL Grosskruger has sent a response to his questions and she reiterated that there was an initial authorization in WRDA 2000 to implement this first increment of storage to get this early benefit. They acknowledge this will not solve the entire problem but they need to move forward and get some projects in the ground now. Because of the concerns associated with the effectiveness of ASR, the Corps is working on a study. She said it would be more devastating to institute the flowway now.

Scott Holtz (Arthur R. Marshall Foundation) asked how adaptive management is still being maintained given time pressures. Ken Ammon said the real adaptive management

will occur after they start operating the facility and they need to keep RECOVER involved.

Kristina Richards asked how a large algal bloom in the Reservoir will be addressed. Ken Ammon said this was EPA's main concern and these reservoirs will be used to store local basin runoff water and clean it before it goes out to the estuaries but he agreed that in the event of an algal bloom they would shut it down.

### **Northern Everglades**

Tom Teets provided a Power Point (Encl. 6) reviewing the Northern Everglades initiative which includes the Caloosahatchee Basin, St Lucie Basin and Lake Okeechobee Watershed. Legislation provides a dedicated source of funding and expands the scope of the Save Our Everglades Trust Fund. They are now able to fund the Lake Okeechobee Water Protection Plan and the Rivers Watershed Protection Plan. It also extends the state's ability to fund CERP and Northern Everglades through 2020 among other things. They will assemble baseline information and alternative formulation this summer and the draft Phase II Technical Plan will be finished by October 2007. Final Plan is due to the Governing Board in January and then to the Legislature in February 2008.

Newton Cook said FDEP is removing all the Hydrilla and the amount of Phosphorus could be drastically reduced if they could learn how to manage hydrilla rather than eradicate it adding that when it is killed the native submerged plants do not come back and if they do they are weak. Subsequently you end up with muck bottoms. Ken Ammon asked whether exotics will be addressed in the Northern Plan and Tom Teets said there was not much on exotics. Ken Ammon said it may be indirect but reasonable to include.

### **Biscayne Bay Regional Restoration Coordination Team**

Evan Skornick provided a letter (Encl. 7a) to the Working Group in relation to the algal bloom in Northeast Florida Bay and Southern Biscayne Bay. The team identified that a need exists for long term monitoring and tracking of trends and higher resolution/more localized monitoring. Team would like to serve as the forum for public input for this issue in the future. He provided a Power Point (Encl. 7b) reviewing the recommended membership revisions to the charter. Greg May thanked Evan Skornick and Audrey Ordines for her work on the team noting that her last day with the SFWMD is July 31. He noted there are substantial changes to the charter being proposed and recommended action at the next meeting. Ken Ammon said the issue of the Chair would be discussed the following morning.

### **Land Acquisition Task Team (LATT)**

Ann Morkill noted the team has met twice to update the Land Acquisition Strategy for the July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007 reporting period. There have been refinements as well as the addition of acres managed under mitigation banks and a map showing the different mitigation banks. Final team meeting is scheduled for August and the draft plan will be distributed by August 24th to the Working Group and presented to the Task Force at its September meeting. Team directive (Encl. 8) provided as background information. Greg

May noted the draft would be provided via e-mail and a special meeting or conference call would only be scheduled if needed.

### **Litigation Update**

Veronica Harrell-James provided a handout (Encl. 9) compiled by Mark Brown from the Department of Justice on those cases currently in litigation including the East Everglades acquisitions. She highlighted a number of recent decisions which are referenced in the handout.

Greg May noted that 40% of the Lakebelt permits have been enjoined and he asked Bob Crim whether DOT would update the actual estimated impact on construction costs in South Florida based on this decision. Bob Crim said he was not sure and added that the Legislature created a Strategic Aggregate Task Force and representatives will be identified from DOT, DEP and DCA with his Chief Engineer to head up the effort.

### **Public Comment**

Newton Cook recognized the Arthur R. Marshall Foundation and its great educational program. He said that if DECOMP had been accomplished this year they would have had a disaster in the WCAs. There are no more sloughs and tree islands and in the event of a hurricane there will be dead deer and drowned animals for hundreds of miles. He cautioned that DECOMP could make it worse than it is now and they need levy remnants, no matter what the Yellow Book says. Ken Ammon said they are working on a sequencing plan adding there is no model in the world that will ever predict what will happen in the Everglades. Corps and District are going to implement DECOMP in phases.

Kristina Richards asked about the use of box culverts rather than sky bridges for Tamiami Trail noting the expenses associated with the Roosevelt Bridge in Martin County. Ken Ammon said that because they are going to raise water levels north of the road, the road itself has to be raised.

John Arthur Marshall said he has recommended they have a workshop on the flowway issue and discuss the pros and cons in the near future because once they install the EAA Reservoir 1 and 2 the Plan Six Flowway will be thrown out. Ken Ammon said the use of the word "flowway" could mean anything from 200,000 acres of the EAA to a segmented 30,000 acre STA. Because it means different things to different people they have to be specific as to what they think needs to be looked at as an alternative. They want to see how much of the problem will be fixed at the source with the Northern Everglades Plan.

Wayne Daltry said the Northern Everglades Bill is a good thing. He reported he attended the Climate Conference and would provide a report the following morning. He also commented on a report written by P.O. Saunders entitled *The Breach of Lake Okeechobee* and added it would be good for the Corps and the District to review.

Ken Ammon reminded everyone about the no host social and adjourned the meeting at 5:15 PM.

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**Administrative Items**

Ken Ammon called meeting to order at 8:30 AM and presented the April minutes for approval. Ken Todd made a motion seconded by Wayne Daltry and the minutes were approved. BBRRCT is in need of an interim Chair and Ken Ammon proposed Evan Skornick serve until a permanent Chair is chosen. Roman Gastesi made a motion which was seconded by Ed Wright. There was no discussion and motion passed.

**Whip Around**

Dan Kimball said they have been working on the preliminary alternatives for the General Management Plan for ENP and have been dealing with a wide range of issues. Seven public meetings were held with over 1,500 attendees and the Plan will be finished in the summer of 2009.

Dennis Duke said WRDA is in conference and the House has produced its Fiscal Year 2008 appropriations bill. He announced he will be retiring in September. Wayne Daltry reported on the Climate Change Conference held in Miami noting that according to the conference much of Florida is in peril due to energy use and waste and global warming will affect restoration.

Dan Kimball said they just completed a publication *Climate Change and the South Florida Parks* which is linked to their website. The issues involve sea level rise, increase in temperature and increase in the quantity and intensity of hurricanes. Paul Souza said his agency took steps to de-list the Bald Eagle adding there are now over 10,000 nesting pairs of Bald Eagles in the lower 48 states. He introduced Pam Repp who is the new Assistant Field Supervisor for Everglades Restoration and is originally from Washington State. Roman Gastesi reported Miami Dade County is moving forward with its alternative water supply plan. Dan Kimball reported the World Heritage Committee voted 20 to 0 to take ENP off the list of World Heritage in Danger. ENP must report back to the committee on a set of benchmarks each year and ENP could go back on the list.

**Executive Director's Report**

Greg May encouraged everyone to attend the August 13 – 15 Avian Ecology Workshop at FIU and the September 26 – 27 Task Force meeting. The last GAO report found the sequencing for CERP is not consistent with WRDA 2000, Interim Goals need to be signed and interface is needed between the large number of models (hydrologic and ecologic) in order to make better decisions. Ken Ammon said he was not clear on the sequencing issue and their comments to GAO reflected that. Rock Salt said the CISRERP raised the issue that they may be over relying on models. Greg May added

GAO relied on the CISRERP report and one of the major recommendations was to get empirical data rather than rely on the models. Greg May recognized Greg Jubinsky who received the Department of the Interior's Cooperative Conservation Service Award for his work on uplands invasive exotic plant management and Kameran Onley who assumed responsibility as the Asst. Secretary for Water and Science.

### **Long Term Restoration Issues**

#### *Avian Ecology Workshop*

Paul Souza provided an update (Encl. 10) on the upcoming workshop scheduled for Aug 13 – 15, 2007 at FIU. He noted the key question is how well the restoration effort will affect these species. The workshop will focus on four species (Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow, Snail Kite, Wood Stork and Roseate Spoonbill) and provide a forum to hear the scientific dialogue, raise questions and engage scientists. Panel will synthesize information and provide a scientific report followed by a peer reviewed publication in 2008.

Paul Souza noted they are under a court order to produce a rule for critical habitat for the Sparrow and his request for an extension in order to benefit from the workshop was denied. They have a dynamic system and they will see changes as a result of restoration and his agency has the charge of safeguarding the survival and recovery of the species. Ken Ammon commented the District also has a transition strategy as they build reservoirs allowing the species to adapt and move. He said he looked forward to seeing the recommendations from the workshop.

### **Quarter in Review and Quarter Ahead**

#### *Corps Update*

Dennis Duke provided a Power Point (Encl. 11) reviewing accomplishments made over the last ninety days. The Corps continues to backfill the toe ditch on the Herbert Hoover Dike (HHD) and has completed three target areas. They have awarded the contract for the S-333 modifications and the Interim Goals and Targets Agreement was signed in April. Ground Breaking Ceremony is scheduled on August 2 at 10:00 AM at the S-332D structure. Activities for the next ninety days include the awarding of the cutoff wall contracts for the HHD, completing administration review of Site 1 PIR 1 and publishing the final PIR for Broward County WPA. He reviewed current challenges which include dealing with low lake levels and drought despite recent rains. Ken Todd asked about the status of the Corps' section by section analysis of the HHD. Dennis said there was an initial analysis based on available data but FEMA is now funding aerial surveys of the entire area surrounding Lake Okeechobee which will be incorporated into a new analysis.

Wayne Daltry asked about the progress on pre CERP reservations. Dennis said the Governing Board approved a resolution to initiate development of the rules for the Indian River Lagoon and assurances for the Acceler8 projects. Ken Ammon added the Governing Board Resolution clarifies the state's intent on the Acceler8 program. The water will be protected and projects will be operated consistent with the federal and state agreement. They recognize the need to protect existing water in the system and they are expanding the water availability rule to include the Lake Okeechobee service area. They

have not yet gone through reservation rulemaking and decided that the appropriate place to work through policy and legal issues would be the Indian River Lagoon.

Bob Crim asked for an update on Tamiami Trail. Dennis Duke said Congress raised their initial concern in 2005 with the release of the Revised General Re-Evaluation Report (GRR) which came up with the bridge plan. They expect a 60% design to be done by August and they have been working on the real estate appraisals for the commercial operations. The House has its language in the WRDA 2007 and Senator Nelson has submitted language for consideration. Because the cost is now over \$400 million the Corps is preparing a limited GRR as a supplement and has committed to provide the report to HQ by the end of this calendar year.

Martha Musgrove asked what portion could be done if the President vetoes the WRDA bill. Dennis Duke said they are continuing to work and are preparing the limited GRR. Everything they are doing is already authorized with over \$300 million going towards such things as buying land in the 8.5 square mile area, constructing pump station, levy, canal, STA and raising Tiger Tail Camp. They currently have \$57 million some of which will be spent on the 8.5 SMA. They have \$15 million for Interior and \$35 million for the Corps in FY08.

#### *Integrated Delivery Schedule*

Dennis Duke provided an update (Encl. 12) on the schedule which will include all the projects in the south Florida adding the draft schedule will be realistic since it will include the funding to support the schedule. Initial Draft will be presented to the WRAC, Governing Board and the Task Force and public workshops will be held for additional input. Key considerations include the Herbert Hoover Dike being repaired, foundation projects and Acceler8 being completed.

Dr. Tom Poulson (Arthur R. Marshall Foundation) noted his concern that continuing with cell 1 and cell 2 reservoirs in the EAA will preclude any future possibility of a flowway in the EAA. The NRDC has a suit in progress because NEPA has not been done. Ken Ammon said they are continuing with the first phase of the EAA Reservoir and the second phase will be looking at the feasibility of doing the entire 380,000 acre feet. Dennis Duke added the location may not be appropriate and it will be in a separate analysis. He clarified that NEPA was done but the challenge is over the PIR not being completed.

#### *Science Coordination Group (SCG) Update*

Rock Salt noted the SCG presented the Draft Plan for Coordinating Science (PCS) to the Task Force and they requested an independent review which has been commissioned. The revised PCS will be presented to the Task Force at its December meeting. SCG is refining the methodology for reporting indicator status and is also considering two additional indicators, one dealing with vegetative mosaic and the other dealing with contaminants. He reviewed other SCG topics of interest including adaptive management as suggested by CISRERP which was also discussed at the National Conference on

Ecosystem Restoration held in St. Louis. SCG participated in a Human Ecology Workshop and is also discussing climate change.

#### *Strategic Goals and Objectives Overview*

Greg May reviewed the proposed changes under subgoal 3-B. Wayne Daltry said objective 3-B.1 is about half of what is needed with the other half dealing with flood prevention particularly in the future when they have growth and climate change issues. They may have some areas like the 8.5 SMA and Southern Crew extension that were dealt with on a parcel by parcel basis but the flood insurance maps are putting things 1 foot lower due to sea level rise in the future.

Greg May said the narrative tries to describe all the major components they are undertaking to achieve the subgoal and they have taken some narrative pieces that are easy to quantify and put them in objectives. They are concentrating on objectives today but they are not the entire thing. There are also have ongoing procedures in each of the agencies, for example, if a new development is being proposed, then the permit application would be reviewed by various agencies and someone should do an analysis on the increase in flood protection. Wayne Daltry said there are sites that will still flood and they will be challenged to provide flood protection. He asked for the addition of a new bullet that would read 'continue to promote prevention of future flooding in land use decisions'. Craig Diamond added that FEMA updates its flood mitigation document every three years and that could be the vehicle that is used for this. Greg May asked Wayne Daltry, Ken Todd and Roman Gastesi to come up with some proposed language, unit of measure and a lead agency who can track this every year.

Ken Ammon stated the counties are preparing Master Drainage Plans to identify areas that are developed and frequently flood and those undeveloped areas that flood and may be appropriate for water management facilities. The federal and state governments are building facilities to either provide drainage or move water and they need to make sure they don't impact those plans. Greg May said it is part of the savings clause analysis and they are aware of it. Greg May noted objective 3-B.2 deals with rehabilitating the Herbert Hoover Dike. 3-C.1 deals with regional water supply needs. Wayne Daltry suggested they include language such as 'within a water budget' adding they now need to go back and increase storage. Ken Ammon said the new language looks like water supply rather than a flood control issue and added that there are too many ideas in one bullet. Wayne Daltry commented on the use of the word 'reclamation' in 3-C.5 and 3-C.2. Greg May agreed they need to have a clear understanding of the terms being used. Ken Todd questioned the use of the word 'reuse' and suggested making it clearer.

John Arthur Marshall said the Task Force could take on the role of facilitator for the EAA since they have everyone around the table. Greg May reminded everyone that the Task Force has a coordination role and DCA, DEP and the counties have a large role in growth management and are currently coordinating those types of issues. Greg May noted an e-mail would be sent out with the follow-on tasks and feedback should be provided in writing. John Arthur Marshall reiterated the need for a workshop to discuss the pros and cons of a Plan 6 conveyance and the need for it to be done soon because the reservoir

construction will block flowway and projects on other side. Ken Ammon reminded everyone of the discussion held the prior day and the decision to see how much of this could be addressed through the Northern Everglades program.

### **Public Comment**

Tom Poulson (Arthur R. Marshall Foundation) said they have not shown that it is feasible and the option should stay on the table.

John Arthur Marshall said they need to use sound science and data rather than absolute statements.

Dennis Duke clarified that the Phase 2 effort has expanded in scope considerably to incorporate the Northern Everglades. They are waiting for concept plan on storage and a flowpath from Orlando to Florida Bay. An entire series of efforts will begin to determine what will be needed. John Arthur Marshall said an ASR contingency plan could have answered many questions. Dennis Duke disagreed adding it does not address how to move it.

Rock Salt commented on Dennis' Power Point slide with the bullet on water quality and cost sharing. He explained that part of the problem is that there is not enough treatment as you bring the water down and there are legalities of who pays for it. CERP can't be used to meet the state's Consent Decree responsibilities but there are questions as to whether this is a new requirement from restoration. Ken Ammon said they are waiting for CEQ to weigh in on that issue.

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 AM.

### Enclosures:

1. Agenda
2. Draft Minutes, April 2007
3. Strategic Goals and Objectives
  - a. Strategy Memo
  - b. DRAFT Strategy Recommendations
  - c. DRAFT Strategy
  - d. Integrated Financial Plan
  - e. Team's Recommendations
4. Everglades Restoration (A8) Update
5. Arthur Marshall comments on Acceler8
6. Northern Everglades Initiative Update
7. Biscayne Bay Regional Restoration Coordination Team (BBRRCT)
  - a. Power Point Presentation
  - b. Algal Bloom Memo
  - c. Subcommittee Recommendations on Membership
  - d. Team Agenda
8. Land Acquisition Strategy Task Team Directive
9. Litigation Update

10. Avian Ecology Update
11. Corps Update
12. Integrated Delivery Schedule Update
13. Science Coordination Group (SCG) Update