

**Approved Joint Meeting Minutes  
South Florida Ecosystem Restoration  
Working Group and Science Coordination Group  
October 21, 2009**

**Opening Remarks and Introductions**

Dan Kimball called meeting to order at 10:10 AM. The agenda (Encl. 1) was presented and minutes (Encl. 2) were introduced. Members were reminded to review them for approval the following morning.

In Attendance:	Day 1	Day 2	
<b>Working Group (WG) Members</b>	Oct 21	Oct 22	Alternates
Dan Kimball - Chair - NPS - ENP & Dry Tortugas	√	√	
Greg Knecht - Vice Chair - FL Dept of Environmental	√	√	
Ken Ammon - South Florida Water Management District	√	√	
Stu Appelbaum - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	√	√	
Billy Causey - NOAA, FL Keys Nat'l Marine Sanctuary	-	-	Sean Morton
Sheri Coven - Department of Community Affairs	√	√	
Wayne Daltry - Southwest FL Regional Planning Council		√	
Gene Duncan - Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of FL	√	√	
Joe Frank - Bureau of Indian Affairs	-	-	
Roman Gastesi - Local Government	-	-	
George Hadley - U.S. Dept of Transportation			
Veronica Harrell - James - U.S. Attorney's Office	-	-	
Eric Hughes - Environmental Protection Agency	√		
Fred Noble - FL Dept. of Transportation	√	√	
Bonnie Ponwith - NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service			
Barry Rosen - United States Geological Survey	-	-	Stephanie
W. Ray Scott - FL Dept of Agriculture and Consumer	-	-	
Paul Souza - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	-	-	Pam Repp
Jon Steverson - Office of the Governor of Florida	-	-	
Craig Tepper - Seminole Tribe of Florida			
Kenneth Todd - Palm Beach County Water Resources			
Joe Walsh - Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation	√	√	
Vacant - Broward County Department of Natural Resource	-	-	
Ed Wright - U.S. Department of Agriculture	√	√	
Greg May - Special Advisor	√	√	
<b>Science Coordination Group (SCG) Members</b>			
Ken Haddad - Chair - Science Coordination Group	√		
Vacant - Vice Chair – Science Coordination Group			
Calvin Arnold - U.S. Department of Agriculture	√	√	
John Baldwin - Florida Atlantic University	√		
Ronnie Best - United States Geological Survey	√	√	
Joan Browder - NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service	√	√	

Susan Grey - South Florida Water Management District	√	√
Todd Hopkins - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	√	√
Bob Johnson - Everglades National Park	√	√
Libby Johns - NOAA, AOML		
Chris Keble - NOAA, AOML		
Chad Kennedy - FL Dept of Environmental Protection	√	
Cherise Maples - Seminole Tribe of Florida		
Susan Markley - Department of Environmental Resource	√	√
Bill Reck - U.S. Department of Agriculture		
Garth Redfield - South Florida Water Management District		√
Terry Rice - Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of FL		
Debra Shafer - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers		

### **Task Force Assignments**

#### *Overview*

Dan Kimball reminded the members that the Task Force gave the Working Group (WG) and Science Coordination Group (SCG) three assignments at its June 2009 meeting. With regards to climate change they were asked to provide a synthesis of the research and actions that are underway with a focus on adaptation and communication. The new science summary should focus on new scientific and technical concepts that have evolved since CERP. The invasive exotic animals summary should include a summary of key species that need to be addressed as part of Goal 2 of the restoration effort as well as what types of actions need to be taken. He noted a lot of work has occurred since they were given the assignments. Drafting teams worked throughout July and August. Draft documents were sent out on Sep 1<sup>st</sup> for comments and an overview was provided to the Task Force at its last meeting. The science paper received the most comments and they have been trying to synthesis some complex topics. The goal at this meeting is to refine the three briefs and provide them to the Task Force in advance of its next meeting.

Ken Haddad thanked Susan Markley for her help. He noted that they do have some conflicts but they are not going to take one side versus another but would make sure those conflicts are understood. Joe Walsh said they did a fantastic job on the revised science draft. Susan Markley noted the other two briefs are in a more finalized format and that remains the goal for the science paper as well. The science paper is currently longer and the goal is to reduce it. Ken Haddad noted that if they collectively agree that something needs to be added then they will. Gene Duncan thanked the people who finally put some balance into the document but said he was still concerned that some of it may be cut out and then may become an unacceptable document. Ken Haddad said he should not be overly concerned. Susan Markley noted that in the earlier draft some important details were not articulated adequately and did not have the citations or references. Ronnie Best suggested they hear the information and the length of the paper could be a product that emerges from the process.

Greg May noted that they did not want to have a one size fits all format for all three briefs. The last section of the science document does not have conclusions or recommendations but it does have some insights from the scientific perspective which the team thought that was right for this particular paper. Ken Haddad said that most of the recommendations that would come out of this would be policy oriented and they could discuss this when they get to the end. Joan Browder noted that something that could come out of this could be a recommendation that the Task Force encourage a synthesis of the new science similar to what was done in 1994 by Ogden and Davis and then again in 2000 by Porter and Porter. Ken Haddad agreed those are legitimate discussions. Gene Duncan said he is okay with the way it is currently written but added that it is disconcerting that the new science would change some of the policy decisions about flood control or water supply, etc.

### **New Science**

Allyn Childress noted there are two new science documents: track changes version (Encl. 3a) and a clean version (Encl. 3b). Susan Markley explained that substantive comments were received on the sections dealing with water, flow and continuing degradation of the system in the absence of restoration. Calvin Arnold asked for the definition of 'new science'. Susan Markley said it goes back to the assignment from the Task Force to provide a briefing paper that summarized in a non-technical way those things that have been learned/emerged since CERP was authorized in 2000.

Paragraph 2 – information was moved up to the beginning of this section; comments on the continuing decline needing a higher profile. Ronnie Best suggested adding a few more examples to show the Everglades is much more diverse than tree islands. He also suggested adding a sentence to end on a positive note rather than a negative note. Declining health will be resolved with ecosystem restoration. Pam Repp said she agreed with the statements but what is new is the sense of urgency and they need to have restoration happening sooner.

Paragraph 3 – Susan Marley noted this paragraph generated the most concern and the last two sentences on the original draft were deleted. Additional information has been added to explain what the scientific evidence is for the southern Estuaries being fresher historically than previously understood in 2000 and there is more emphasis on the paleo-ecological evidence. Bob Johnson said it is his understanding that the paleo-ecological studies have been done throughout multiple areas of the Everglades and all the studies indicate that the Everglades were wetter in this earlier period except for the impounded areas and no one wants to make those impounded areas wetter. Ronnie Best agreed the entire Everglades was a wetter system and had longer hydroperiods. It was also a faster flowing system than what they see today, partly because of Tamiami Trail. Gene Duncan said it is the classic question of how to put 10 pounds of sugar in a 5 pound sack. Same demand in the south but only half the Everglades in the north. They have to talk about the policy implications of doubling up the water in the WCAs. Joe Walsh said he is troubled that at one point the criticism was that they did not properly reference their remarks and his staff took exception to very sweeping remarks. They have done a great job of supporting how far they can take the remarks with the studies that are being cited. Bob is now saying the citations support the broader/sweeping comments that were in the first

time. Either the comments are supported by the citations or they are not. Susan Markley said there was concern that readers would misinterpret what the statements meant and she tried to put in more specific information based on the documents she had available. Going back to an overly, broad statement will not satisfy the concerns. She asked Ronnie Best and Bob Johnson to suggest an additional phrase or sentence as well as a citation or two that will clarify this rather than going backwards. Ronnie Best said that in re-reading the paragraph it reads fine and does capture the science. Bob Johnson said that if there is evidence the Central Everglades were drier then they should put that in but the evidence is that the Central Everglades was wetter. The reference for Saunders was picked because the graphic is simpler for people to understand but the better reference is the 2008 South Florida Environmental Report that the SFWMD and DEP put out, however, the graphic is harder for the public to understand. Susan Markey acknowledged that there are several places in the document where there may be better references. She noted much of the emerging information is in technical reports to agencies and there is nothing wrong with using that since it is really important. She suggested they change the citation and asked Bob Johnson to help her. Wayne Daltry said that what was is history and knowing it is useful but what they have now is reality. The work of RECOVER needs to get back to the Task Force and get worked back into the plan. Craig Tepper added that they are trying to capture a lot of science. He asked whether there is a definitive set of how much flow is coming out of the preserve lands going into the 'middle grass'/Conservation Areas. There is a gap and it needs to be looked at. Susan Markley clarified the paper would summarize things that have been learned and would not include a gaps analysis. Greg May added that there will be other assignments that will come out of this. Ronnie Best said the best answer to the question asking where all the water is coming from and where it goes would be a direct measurement of where the water is and the Everglades Depth Estimation Network (EDEN) can provide the depth of water at any of the locations fairly accurately. How that water got there is implied and he agreed they should have an input box and define where it comes from. Susan Romanach agreed the science is captured well and suggested they follow the format similar to science journals and use a footnote for the references to save space.

Paragraph 4 – Ronnie Best noted the folks involved in sediment transport flow have some edits that say flow is more than water since it can be sediment transport. Stephanie Romanach suggested referring to the physical and biological processes and citing what they are.

Paragraph 5 – Susan Markley noted some additional detailed information was inserted. Gene Duncan said he was trying to reconcile some of the statements and asked how they turn prolonged high water events into drought. Susan explained the comments were provided by Joette Lorion however not all her details were included. The drought section is an example of a natural pattern that may have an effect on the marsh habitat and snail kites and the water management regimes are broad and would include too high events. Extreme water levels were a concern and a sentence was added to the beginning of the paragraph. Ken Haddad said that if this is read on its own it gives the impression that drought is what is impacting the Snail Kite. Gene said the actual quote talks about prolonged high water events, deeper sloughs, and undesirable habitats. Lorraine Heisler suggested eliminating the reference to drought and

striking the word critical since it is open to interpretation. Joan Browder suggested specific language 'shifting water management regimes and climate cycles or long term trends affect quality of critical marsh habitat or apple snail abundance'. Chad Kennedy noted the reference in the conclusions section to the Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow but it is not mentioned anywhere else in the paper. Pam Repp said she is not aware of anything in the scientific literature that the timing and rate of change of water levels are as critical as water depths and durations and recommended the sentence read 'in addition, the timing and rate of change of water levels are critical to ecological functions in Lake Okeechobee and the Everglades marshes' and not provide a comparison unless it is in the scientific literature. Ken Haddad suggested taking out 'as critical' and add 'important'. Ronnie Best said that they are equally important. Todd Hopkins noted that nowhere in the document do they explain to decision makers that there are broken parts and pieces all over the system and flow is going in different ways in different places. He sees a lot of what could be considered as conflicting statements. Ken Haddad agreed that it is a bit conflicting and they need to make sure it is clear when the document is handed off. Joan Browder said that maybe they can say something up in the front of the document that states new science is helping to strengthen their understanding. Ken Haddad said they can look at that and try to get it balanced. Todd Hopkins added that the new science is adding to what they already know and the sense of urgency needs to be through this entire document. Susan Markley acknowledged the valid concern that policy decisions could be made based on this four page briefing paper and this paper is not the right vehicle to discuss management decisions and it has been decided that the paper will not recommend policy actions.

Paragraph 6 – Gene Duncan asked to add the fact that 67% of the acreage has been lost and 54% of tree islands are gone. Susan Grey clarified that it is all of WCA 3. Ronnie Best agreed they should include the specific reference.

Paragraph 7 – Lorraine Heisler suggested they could move out the sub paragraphs and reference the other documents, if space is an issue. Ronnie Best did not agree because this is a stand-alone document and needs to be comprehensive. Ronnie Best asked to include exotic fish and snails that carry harmful parasites. Stephanie Romanach said that Lynn Wingard may have asked to have that reference removed. Susan Markley noted they have a placeholder for the graphic that is in this current draft.

Paragraph 8 – Joan Browder said she wanted to include some of the new work done on copper. Gene Duncan said he liked the graphic on soil phosphorus and would like that to remain. He asked for the inclusion of the study from the SFWMD team that estimates soil loading continues at an additional 1% per year and every year they delay getting the right water quality it goes up another 1%. Wayne Daltry asked to include a statement that there will be new data coming in from the state's watershed analysis for TMDLs. Ronnie Best asked for an edit to state '67% of the marsh area' adding that other areas of the ecosystem notably ENP have experienced an increase in methyl mercury in fish. The sentence seems to indicate a decrease when the new evidence shows an increase in ENP. He also had an addition relating to sulfur impacted marsh areas that he will provide to Susan Markley.

Paragraph 9 - Pam Repp was concerned with the term “data suggests”. Susan Markley noted that another word that was more direct was used and some felt it was not accurate. Pam couldn’t give a suggestion not knowing the background of the document. Susan Grey said that the SFWMD’s South Florida Ecosystem Report says that it does contribute to phosphorous problems. She added that there is new information on legacy phosphorous that is not in this document and it needs to have a focus north of the Lake. Susan Markley thought that what Susan Gray was talking about related to adding water from the watershed not soil. Gene Duncan said he thought it would be good to say something about the Lake getting four times the amount the TMDLs allow. Susan Markley said that legacy phosphorous was a term that not all reviewers liked, but she will try to add it in here.

Paragraph 10 - John Baldwin thought the document should add avian species since many species use the area as a nursery. Bob Johnson said it is a little confusing mixing the issues for the northern and southern estuaries. Joe Walsh suggested the language in the 3<sup>rd</sup> line be changed from both to ‘either/or’.

Paragraph 11 - No Comments

Paragraph 12 - Pam Repp said the findings right now indicate increased frequency and intensity in storms. They could say something like “may affect” or “possibility” that frequency could increase. Sean Morton asked that they add a sentence about the changing ocean chemistry and acidification.

Paragraph 13 - No Comments

Paragraph 14 - No Comments

Paragraph 15 - Ronnie Best asked that the word contaminants be added to the first sentence. He also asked that “impacts of contaminants” be added to the last sentence. Joan Browder thought they should add salinity models here such as the Time and Marshall’s model. Susan Markley explained that the Marshall’s model is in the beginning and to save space they tried not to say it twice.

### *Conclusions*

Paragraph 16 - No Comments

Paragraph 17 - Pam Repp said she believed that the last sentence was not quite right, but that increased flows needed to be considered. Gene believed that in the whole debate about more water and flows, there has to be a balance between water volumes and tree islands. He said he thought it was correct. Greg Knecht said it implies that there can be no changes in quality over the system. Decline implies they can’t change anything anywhere and some degradation in quality in the right areas may be okay. Ronnie Best said he thought the paragraph needed more language about water quality issues including nutrients, sulfur, conductivity, and mercury. Pam said the language seems like a decision and this is not a decision document. Craig Tepper suggested changing the word “must” to “should” and use the term “impacts” rather than “decline”.

Paragraph 18 - No Comments

Paragraph 19 - No Comments

Paragraph 20 - No Comments

Paragraph 21 - No Comments

Pam Repp asked that more specific language be added to the conclusions about the Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow and other avian species. Bob Johnson explained that the section that discussed the rise and fall of water had more on the sparrow, but got deleted. Susan Markley believed that the concept needs to be included but maybe in another section. Gene Duncan said he provided a 10 sentence paragraph about avian species that was not included. He also discussed the USFWS incidental take statement and said he thought that the two were not compatible. Todd Hopkins explained 'take' doesn't always mean 'kill'. Ronnie Best believed it was fine in the conclusion and it was better than saying it twice. Susan Markley said she will go over the information provided at an earlier SCG meeting and edit this section. Chad asked about Kissimmee and the work done on water quality adding that he thought there would be some new science. Bob Johnson said there was language that talked about flows to the Lake but it got edited out. Ken Haddad noted it will come back in the phosphorous discussion.

Ken Haddad noted a there were comments that there are no recommendations and there needs to be a broader technical synthesis. He asked if there was any interest to add this to the document. Wayne Daltry and Joan Browder said they would like to see it worked in, something encouraging the production of something. Joan Browder suggested another book on new science that would be more comprehensive than the ecological indicators. Lorraine Heisler noted that RECOVER has started a defining success effort, independent of the Task Force, and they are preparing a synthesis document called 'Knowledge Gained' which is intended to talk about new science, new engineering and technical knowledge and will be a larger, well referenced document. They will have a thorough review process and discuss the implications to restoration in an open forum that this will take place over the next nine months. Greg May agreed this is vitally important and rather than list specific products he suggested they include a general statement acknowledging that fact is in this document. Ken Haddad suggested it be the last statement and follow-on with future needs. Joan Browder agreed they did not need to identify a specific book and Greg May's suggestion would be appropriate. Greg May said he would give some thought as to how best to tee this up for the Task Force.

#### *Public Comment*

John Marshall (Arthur R. Marshall Foundation) suggested changing the title to Science Update 2009 and doing updates on off years from the *Biennial Report*. He thought that in the Scientific Tools and Methods section there should be mention of the fact that there are no CEMs for the EAA. He pointed out that in June 2008 the Governor of Florida said that they would buy land (River Of Grass) a real need for CEM for this area. He also thought that the loss of fifty percent of the Everglades reference needs to have more exact numbers and include how much spatial

extent will be restored. He said that they should figure out what the needs are and let someone else figure out how to fill those needs.

### **Climate Change**

Dan Kimball asked for general comments on the draft (Encl. 4). Bob Johnson noted that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report is four years old. Dan Kimball noted these numbers will change and they are using the best information available, the new report is expected in 2013. Joan Browder asked why the information from the IPCC was used and then scaled down instead of using Florida models. Len Berry noted that when discussing sea level change the downscale error is irrelevant but it is important when talking about precipitation and other issues. Joe Walsh suggested including these points in the paper.

Paragraph 1- Stephanie Romanach suggested that should add something about the built system in the 1<sup>st</sup> sentence.

Paragraph 2 – No Comments

Paragraph 3 – It was noted that the IPCC report was not read by everyone and there were issues with the web site. Glenn Landers said the new Corps guidance is to do scenarios using the low, intermediate and high rate. Wayne Daltry said this item has policy implications and he believed they should lead with the fact that restoration is not a futile effort. Ronnie Best said the IPCC document is peer reviewed. Bob Johnson said that they tried to structure the document by what the science says. Glenn Landers explained that a lot of the information comes from CISRERP. Ronnie Best suggested putting confronting change upfront. Dan Kimball agreed. Ronnie Best said a healthy freshwater estuary is critical regardless and to move it to adaptation.

Paragraph 4 - Dan Kimball noted some adjustments may be made

Paragraph 5 - Stephanie Romanach noted that disease was left out of the “what might happen” section. Ronnie Best added tropical avian species.

Paragraph 6 - Bob Johnson thought storm surges related to mangroves. Len Barry said that they might want to talk about the two different types of migration because buffer zones are needed both ways. Todd Hopkins noted that the document talks about the importance of seagrass but not carbon sequestration related to seagrass. Todd Hopkins said he will draft something up. Dan Kimball said they should not get into mitigation. Todd Hopkins clarified he wanted to add discussion about the added benefit not mitigation. Ronnie talked about using science to talk about carbon sequestration added from restoration. Dan Kimball said if it is related to restoration then they should include it. Len Barry pointed to the fact that they don't mention peat at all and accumulation is very important to the system and related to climate change.

Paragraph 7 - The Governor's name was misspelled.

Paragraph 8 - Sherri Coven said she found this section was very vague and offered to edit it. She wanted to clarify the whole issue of retrofitting and pumping. Len Barry added the concept of going from a gravity system to pump system.

Paragraph 9 - No Comments

Paragraph 10 - No Comments

Paragraph 11 - No Comments

Paragraph 12 – Stephanie Romanach noted that GS stands for Geological Survey. Susan Markley said Miami-Dade has a Task Force that can be added as an example of stuff being done. Dan Kimball suggested adding Broward County’s Task Force too. Jim Murley said there is a four county Summit the following Sunday. Todd Hopkins suggested they could add a link to what the agencies are doing on the SCG website. Greg May said they referenced the System-wide Indicator Report. They can include links to documents but the challenge is in maintaining it.

Paragraph 13 - Glenn Landers said the Corps has a circular.

Paragraph 14 - No Comments

Paragraph 15 - No Comments

Paragraph 16 - Glenn Landers said they need to check the date, but he believes it is 2014. Joe Walsh informed the group that Chuck Collins has submitted comments. Steve Traxler said USGS, FWS and MIT are creating a climate change models envelope.

Paragraph 17 – Jayantha Obeysekera said it would be good to mention stationarity, the lack of regional information and the uncertainties in projections in the conclusion. Craig Tepper thought the second set of bullets should be in one sentence. He said that this is an individual agency examination not the broader look similar to sequestering carbon, clean water, and energy. He asked if there is a way to connect all the get to opportunities or solution like biofuels. He said that Algae Turf scrubber now can be reused as an example of some opportunities and suggested talking about a winning solution. Dan Kimball said that some of the way to get at it is to look at the total ecosystem restoration impacts from climate change and look for opportunities that are a two for one. He added that Everglades Restoration will be a climate change mitigation tool. Wayne Daltry said he never saw the word stationarity. Bob Johnson said it started as a water resource water planning term.

Ronnie Best said that there should be a 4<sup>th</sup> bullet that discusses how much a restored Everglades contributes to the net sequestration of carbon. Todd Hopkins said he would like to see a statement about the fact that restoration is good for climate change and use a more active voice.

Paragraph 18 - Wayne Daltry said it should be land and water resource not just water. Craig Tepper thought it should relate to points from earlier in the document.

Paragraph 19 - The concept of increasing freshwater flow is not quite captured. Jayantha Obeysekera thought one benefit of looking at climate change and restoration is that regional information that is obtained can help reduce uncertainty. He added that there must be five different numbers on sea level rise and they are all over place just like temperature range. Greg May said it was a good point and that there may be a need for a workshop. Todd Hopkins thought it was a good idea to use the low, medium, and high ranges to create consistency.

Dan Kimball wrapped up the discussion by going over the list of agreed information to be provided.

#### *Public Comment*

John Marshall said that one reason was he wanted a CEM for the EAA was the pond apple forest. He said that restoring it will provide a significant benefit and they are not looking at the big picture. He said restoring the pond apple forest meets all seven CERP objectives.

#### **Invasive Exotic Animals**

Dan Thayer noted he has directed the Invasive Plant Management Program for the last twenty one years and his expertise is with weed science. However, the SFWMD is trying to get a handle on the invasive exotic animals, particularly the python issue on their property. Art Roybal noted he has served as the Co-Chair to the FIATT, also co-Chair to ECISMA and is the technical lead for this paper. The draft (Encl. 5) was presented for comments.

Paragraph 1 - Ed Wright suggested they tie in the language in the second sentence with the language used in the Presidential Executive Order 'if they naturalize and establish free living populations that cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health they become invasive'. Art Roybal agreed that 'naturalize' is not necessarily a negative term and they could incorporate that into the definition. Joan Browder Art asked for clarification on whether they were saying that all introduced species that become established are not invasive. Art Roybal said that just because it's not native doesn't mean that it's invasive. Definition entails economic or environmental harm or human safety concerns. Joan Browder suggested they use 'can become invasive'. Joe Walsh said there are a few terms that are preferred such as using introduced in place of exotic. Art Roybal replied they will review the document and not use 'invasive species' in every case and maybe use 'non native species'. Susan Markley said the newspaper insert the NPS and FWCC collaborated on dealt with a similar issue and she suggested they take a look at it.

Paragraph 2 – Joan Browder suggested some additions, after the first sentence insert 'Many of these species originate from the trade in exotic animals that constitutes a significant number of terrestrial and aquatic fishes, reptiles, birds, mammals and many invert taxa. This means that the introductory pathway is known and can be controlled at some level, however, it might involve hard choices and restriction of sale of some species, white lists, black lists or similar.' Down in the last part of the paragraph she suggested adding 'Some species are completely new to science and none of the imported species were assessed for invasive potential. This is due to a lack of an accepted procedure to do so at this time (for animals) the primary reason for not having one is the lack of knowledge for most species' basic ecology in their native habitats.

There are also many examples of exotics with significant levels of unpredictability in new habitats. This unpredictability also undermines the undertaking of any 'invasive ranking process' development. She provided two examples in Florida including the Pacific Lion fish which is growing larger than ever recorded in their native habitat. Art Roybal noted many of the comments submitted by Tom Jackson were already incorporated but they would be reviewed. Joe Walsh provided a minor correction on a scientific name. Greg May noted the audience is policy people and suggested they take out the scientific names.

Paragraph 3 – Joe Walsh noted that the statement in the last sentence 'none of the imported species were assessed for invasive potential' is actually a pre-introduction assessment that did not occur because they have a 40-year old risk assessment program for species that have gotten into Florida and that needs to be clarified. It was also unclear whether the species were being assessed for parasites and diseases that are invasive or whether the species themselves were being assessed and it needs to be made clearer. Todd Hopkins suggested shortening the sentence 'according to UFWS records' followed by the two citations on the end by dropping the front part of the sentence.

Paragraph 4 – Joe Walsh clarified the state does have an exotic fish program in Boca Raton. Also, in the past decade where fish have gotten out into the wild and they have been detected they have been assessed.

Paragraph 5 – No Comments

Paragraph 6 – No Comments

Paragraph 7 – No Comments

Paragraph 8 – Wayne Daltry asked if the graphic was accurate and the members were told that it is based on actual stomach contents that Skip Snow has looked at. Art Roybal asked the group whether the graphic was effective and everyone agreed it is better than a list but it should be put in context.

Paragraph 9 - Pam Repp said she was not sure if the elements should be included since they are not narrowing the field of focus to what they are doing here in south Florida. Greg May said they capture all the elements of a program needed to address animals in south Florida or anywhere else for that matter. Art Roybal added the elements themselves were taken out of the draft Strategic Plan and similarly laid out in Weeds Won't Wait. Greg May added that when they considered options on how to tell this story they realized there wasn't enough context or background to fully communicate what they needed to say on what they are doing with plants. Joe Walsh said some of the best examples of coordination are the plants such as Brazilian Pepper and Melaleuca, etc. Calvin Arnold said he understood the importance of connecting back to existing documents and programs but they could focus this valuable space more effectively. He was not sure if it has meaning to the Task Force to see a hodgepodge of terms in a series.

Joe Walsh referring to the last sentence on slow progress, suggested that organization is something that will have to be looked at since the participating agencies have very different missions and responsibilities. Art Roybal said that is addressed in 'what more can we do' where they discuss FIATT and ECISMA which are coordinating bodies. Joe Walsh said the comments are more like boots on the ground such as the panther operation in the field and not just a committee. Pam Repp suggested adding the word 'implement' in addition to plan and coordinate. Greg May said it would be good to add that they need a local and regional response. Dan Thayer said that folks wanted to join FIATT and ECISMA because there was value to working as a team. If they are detecting something early they need to act rapidly. They have a chance to test that now with the African python. The Gambian pouch rat is a good example that it can be done. Dan Thayer said they need to address funding as well as issues of working on lands and trap development. He added that they have so much to learn and there are some great ideas such as developing a synthetic pheromone to go along with the traps.

Greg May said they are making recommendations for national level screening and controls and response and agreed they can add more specific local actions. Wayne Daltry reviewed some examples of work Lee County is undertaking such as the establishment of a localized taxing unit that is going after iguanas. Art Roybal noted that the participants on ECISMA and FIATT are volunteers. Ronnie Best said they are passing the hat to attack the African python problem. The testing of the tracks is being funded by USGS and his point is that they are attacking the problem with willing participants. The truth of the matter is that they need dedicated funding to attack the problem. Art Roybal said ECISMA is looking for solutions such as having each member agency contribute funds and have non profits hold the money. Some funds were received from the Everglades Foundation but have since dried up. He agreed they needed dedicated funds to set up an early detection response team. Greg Knecht said they need to beef up that section on what more needs to be done. Greg May said that if you have additional funds then you need to know what the highest priority items are as the next step after this paper. Dan Kimball noted that for the python problem they are using part of the fees they collect at the park and they are cobbling together a budget since there is no base funding.

Paragraph 10 – Joe Walsh noted he had no substantial comments just editorial ones that he would provide to Allyn for the remainder of the document.

Paragraph 11 – No Comments

Paragraph 12 – No Comments

Paragraph 13 – Joan Browder will provide specific comments to Allyn.

Conclusion section – Pam Repp noted she has trouble with use of '100%' – invasive species come in through ships, storms, etc. Art Roybal agreed the '100%' will be taken out.

Sean Morton asked if it would be easier to refer to the incident command system by name and could provide Allyn with specifics. Greg Knecht asked for the graphics to be to scale. Calvin Arnold asked whether they could include a specific number in the document as of a certain date.

Art Roybal said it was in the original version of this document and then taken out. Greg Knecht agreed it would be helpful to show the magnitude. Art Roybal noted that in the continental U.S., south Florida has the most non-native species.

### **Next Steps**

Greg May noted they will be looking at second and third drafts. The revised drafts will go out a week from today on October 28<sup>th</sup>. Comments will be due back by the 11<sup>th</sup>. The invasive exotics paper will go out a little later. Calvin Arnold suggested someone do a side-by-side of all three final documents to make sure there is no conflicting information.

### **General Public Comments**

John Arthur Marshall (Arthur R. Marshall Foundation) invited everyone to attend the 2010 Everglades Coalition Conference which will be celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Conference will be held from January 7-10, 2010 at the PGA Resort in Palm Beach Gardens. It will also be the WMD's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Greg May recognized Ken Haddad who will be retiring at the end of year and will no longer be the Chair of the SCG. He thanked him for serving as Chair of the SCG for six years. He is a well respected Everglades scientist, manager and policy maker. He personally thanked him for his extraordinary leadership. Dan Kimball noted all the astounding things they have done and all the issues they have dealt with adding he has been a great colleague who will be missed. Ken Haddad thanked everyone noting the SCG has been a phenomenal group to work with and he has enjoyed it.

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 PM

***Approved Joint Meeting Minutes  
South Florida Ecosystem Restoration  
Working Group and Science Coordination Group  
October 22, 2009***

**Welcome and Administrative Announcements**

Ken Haddad called the meeting to order at 8:40 AM. Draft meeting minutes were presented for approval. Wayne Daltry made a motion to approve, there were no member comments and the minutes were approved without objection.

**Whiparound**

Calvin Arnold invited the WG and SCG to meet at the USDA facility in Ft. Pierce which is able to accommodate the group. Sean Morton also invited the group to meet at the NOAA facility in Key West. Pam Repp thanked everyone who worked on setting up the successful C-111 tour. She reported that FWS has recently released the Climate Change Strategic Plan and Action Plan which is available on the national website. USGS also released the risk assessment for large constrictors and FWS is evaluating whether to list some of the large constrictors as injurious under the Lacey Act.

Sheri Coven reported that DCA is involved in two rulemaking initiatives: one is to amend Chapter 9 to address whether there is justification for the needed additional homes; also on HB 697, required comp plan amendments to include strategies to reduce vehicle miles traveled. Information on both initiatives is available on the web under public notices. She reported that DCA has found the Palm Beach County Comprehensive Plan Amendment for the inland port not in compliance and the basis was no demonstration of need, urban sprawl and technical issues. She noted there was not mention the prior day of the Florida Energy and Climate Commission, Jim Murley sits as Chair of that Commission and she recommended the group follow some of the work the group will be doing in the coming year. She also announced that they have an intern working on land use analysis for four CERP projects and it will be the first of several.

Todd Hopkins reported that the NAS' next meeting will be in early December in Jacksonville, FL. Stu Appelbaum said they are on track for an award on the Picayune Strand and Ground Breaking is possible in early January. Ken Ammon noted that two months ago the Governing Board along with the Corps codified eight agreements that included the Master Agreement. The Master Agreement was a milestone since it took seven years to negotiate and is the follow-up to the Design Agreement they did in 2001. The WMD also approved three separate construction contracts for the C-111 SC for a total of \$35 million and they anticipate breaking ground next month. The project and lands committee agreed to incorporate all the southern section of section 34 for the CREW project located in Collier County and they anticipate moving forward through friendly condemnation and willing seller.

Greg Knecht reported on two hot topics: EPA is taking the lead in establishing numeric nutrient criteria for rivers, streams and lakes in Florida. Florida has a narrative criterion for nutrients with the exception of Everglades Protection Area where they have a numeric Phosphorus criterion. EPA will be proposing numeric nutrient criteria early next year which will have ramifications for

Florida and DEP. DEP is working on evaluating their designated uses or classification system for waters in the state of Florida. They will look at waters in the state and their uses. Ed Wright reported the President has signed the Agricultural Appropriations Act which funds most of USDA with the exception of the Forest Service. The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) set a record the prior fiscal year with \$50 million in the 16 counties in south Florida and they hope to set a record this coming fiscal year if they are able to get the funding. Bob Johnson reported the Tamiami Trail limited Re-evaluation Report is moving forward, Congress directed Interior to do a study on future bridging and roadway improvements. Interior is working with the Corps on the Engineering and Design and the cost estimates for the range of alternatives are substantially lower today than they were back in 2005. Congress asked DOI to report back in March 2010. The NPS manages the Critical Ecosystems Studies Initiative (CESI) that supports DOI science needs in south Florida and it has funded almost \$80 million worth of research and monitoring since 1997. The Science Plan was developed by the three bureaus in south Florida and they selected 12 projects they are moving forward on to include the Freshwater Synthesis Project which was submitted by the Everglades Foundation. They are in the process of compiling the academics and the effort will start in the spring. A special session is planned as part of the GEER Conference.

Wayne Daltry noted that local governments have stayed active even during the recession. Lee County is going to hold a public hearing on their density reduction groundwater resource effort which is the equivalent of Dade County's mining zone. They will be assessing the resource and demand and impact on water resources. They have invested in a water model to assess the impacts before actually seeing them after development and using that for approval or denial. They are also undertaking a prototype similar to Picayune Strand dealing with a subdivision partially located in Lehigh Acres which calls for retraction of approximately 1/3 of the lots. They have had partial recovery of the Caloosahatchee River just by enhanced operation. He asked if anyone read the book *Paving Paradise* and pointed to the fact that Lee County reviewed every permit since 2007 and found that there were 250 wetland permits. Looking at those areas where 1/3 of the property or more was wetlands they came up with 2,000 acres of wetlands being destroyed and 600 acres of wetlands not being mitigated. He said that if this is Everglades restoration then they are focusing a lot on capital projects and planning efforts with no impact on the day to day activities that put them deeper into the hole.

Ronnie Best announced the 2010 GEER Conference 'The Greater Everglades: A living Laboratory of Change' will be held in Naples, FL starting on the 12<sup>th</sup> of July. Special sessions on hydrology synthesis and invasive species are planned. The apple snail population dynamics seminar will be held over the next two days in the Ft. Lauderdale area and Phil Darby will be in attendance to try and develop the decision rules that drive a population. Stephanie Romanach is the lead for the model development. There has been a change in the USGS structure and the Florida Integrated Science Center (FISC) was dissolved as of Thursday the prior week. The original intent was to integrate the three sciences: geology (St. Pete); biology (Gainesville); and hydrology (statewide) and USGS will be going back to the standard protocol of having a science center for each, similar to the rest of the nation. Barry Rosen will be working as part of Ronnie's team and Stephanie will remain as the alternate for both members on the WG and SCG. CESI,

joint DOI effort that includes USGS' funding initiative and some of the projects are jointly funded by USGS and CESI. Since 1995 USGS has put in \$105 million which is a significant contribution and by doing it jointly with CESI it gives them a stronger linkage of science issue with management issues. Fred Noble announced that FDOT is in the process of advertising for research related to sea level rise and effects to critical infrastructure. Effort is being coordinated through the Office of Policy Planning and information from this effort will be incorporated into the 2060 Transportation Plan. Stephanie Romanach reported that two additional local projects on climate change will be started in addition to the one she previously reported on at the July meeting. A project looking at how species' geographic ranges will shift due to the effects of climate change has been funded with CESI money and represents collaboration between the University of FL, USGS, NPS and FWS.

Greg May reported on the last Task Force meeting which was held and reviewed the topics which were discussed. The C-111 SC consultation took place in the field and he thanked the staff who worked to make it happen. The Land Acquisition Strategy (LAS) was unanimously accepted by the Task Force and he added that the document becomes better every year. Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for December but the dates may be changed. Additional information will be provided at a later date. He reported that he was able to attend a National Science Foundation meeting and one of the major themes was integrating science and policy. The classic issue and challenge remains how to synthesis the science they are doing and translate it in a way that can be integrated into policy and management decisions. The Ecological Indicators report was well received by the National Science Foundation.

Dan Kimball thanked the Governing Board and the staff at the WMD for their work on the C-111. They are advancing a pilot troll zone in Florida Bay and they are hoping to have the pilot project in place in the spring. They have 30 authorized agents in ENP to capture pythons and 281 have been captured as of last Monday. They are working with LTC Kinard and looking at ways to enhance detection and possibly use unmanned aerial vehicles. They now have webcams, one at the Anhinga Trail and Dry Tortugas (underwater webcam) that provide spectacular viewing. He thanked everyone for their work the prior day noting they were some complex topics. Garth Redfield congratulated DEP on their rulemaking effort on designated uses and the District is strongly supporting the effort. Ken Haddad noted the Commission is on a small town tour and the next commission meeting will be held Dec 9 - 10, 2009 in Clewiston, FL. One of the topics of interest is looking further at reptiles of concern. They will be working with the Legislature on options such as banning internet trade, etc. He reported he will be retiring Dec 31<sup>st</sup> and Nick Wiley, Assistant Executive Director [nick.wiley@myfwc.com](mailto:nick.wiley@myfwc.com) has been chosen to replace him. Greg Holder will replace Nick in his current capacity.

### **Consultation Workshop**

#### *Decomartmentalization "Decomp" Physical Model*

Fred Sklar introduced Stephen Baisden, new Project Manager for the Corps. He provided a presentation (Encl. 6) noting that the Project Delivery Team (PDT) recognized in 2005 that they had a fundamental problem with development of the PIR. The team recognized there were scientific uncertainties associated with DECOMP such as the effects of backfilling canals;

quantification of the ecological benefits of sheetflow; ecological effects of levee modifications; water depth and hydroperiod tolerance of tree islands; assessment of seepage; and calibration of hydrologic models. It was from these uncertainties that the DECOMP Adaptive Management Plan (DAMP) Physical Model came from. The purpose was to address uncertainties and constraints in Everglades restoration to assist the DECOMP PIR. It would also use stakeholder participation and to help them refine their understanding of ecological benefits to support the selection of alternative plans. They would find the best restoration design for DECOMP without compromising water supply or flood control and obtain a better scientific understanding of how 'pristine' and 'impacted' regions of the ecosystem will respond to hydrologic restoration. He noted that nowhere in the system have they seen a reversal of fortune. He reviewed the physical model concept which is to move water along historic flow paths from WCA-3A through controlled openings in the L-67A levee, through the "pocket" to canal and levee modifications on the L-67C into WCA-3B. He reviewed the history noting they have been at this since the fall of 2004 and the end result is the Prius Model v3.4 which is a hybrid. It was no longer called DAMP Physical Model and then known as the DECOMP Physical Model because in February 2008 MWD was put on hold. They were no longer moving forward with addressing all the uncertainties associated with DECOMP. In July 2008 the PDT decided to re-initiate the physical model and de-couple it from MWD. Now the money going to be spent on science has been diverted and used to create culverts on the L-67A levee. That design means that it is smaller in spatial extent.

Scot Hagerthey reviewed the tasks of the Science Plan, one of the most widely requested documents. Of the six major uncertainties that the DECOMP PDT came up with, three (uncertainty 1, 2 and 5) can be addressed well and one (uncertainty 3) can be addressed to some degree. The final design consists of a 750 csf gated culvert which passes water from the L-67 A into the pocket, an area they designate as the flowway. On the L-67C they degrade 3,000 feet of levy and backfill the canal in three treatments (complete backfill, partial backfill, no backfill). The DECOMP Physical Model is an un-replicated large spatial scale experiment, a before after control impact (BACI) design. Their timeline is to begin the before impact monitoring in October 2010 and induce impact in October 2012. The operational window is the period when they actually conduct the experiment and that window was chosen given their constraints such as Total Phosphorus. For example, the period between Oct and Jan is when total phosphorus concentrations in the canals are the lowest of the year and they are certain they can meet their water quality conditions. He reminded the group that a lot of the science being used is state of the art and was specifically developed for the Everglades. They have gone through the NEPA scoping process, EA goes out next week for public comment, installation and testing will begin in Oct 2010 and completion is planned for February 2014. Everything that is built will be removed. DPM is a BACI design experiment to evaluate uncertainty associated with DECOMP. The information obtained from this will be provided to the PDT on a regular basis.

Bob Johnson said a complicating issue on the schedule is that the conveyance features associated with MWDs are moving forward and are scheduled to be completed in 2013 in the middle of this testing and close to this project. He suggested the conveyance and seepage

control team for the MWDs project get together and talk about what may potentially happen. He also noted that this is set up to be a one-time experiment and he said he hoped they could re-think making this a disposable type project. There is value to keep some of the stuff going and the policy people need to understand that. Gene Duncan said he is confused as to how the exact same concept in the same location is not the same thing. Stu Appelbaum noted that this is an experiment and they are specifically trying to get information about the characteristics of sheetflow that will then drive the DECOMP process. MWD is an authorized project to move water and will achieve more sheetflow but is not an experiment. The DECOMP is at a much larger scale and they need the experimental results. They are linked since they are physically located near each other and they need to make sure they are cognizant of this fact. If they revise the Science Plan then they may need to put out supplemental NEPA documents. Gene Duncan asked whether it was a prohibition of law to start turning dirt in advance of completion of MWDs. Stu explained that it is an experiment for a period of time and when they are done they will remove the structures. The features will not be operated in perpetuity.

Bob Johnson noted another concern that as they add water to WCA-3B, no matter how carefully, they will have increased seepage out to the east. There is a seepage management feature that was built but not operational (S-356 pump station) and with these projects moving forward they need to have this online. The tribe has been adamant about not supporting S-356 and they could end up investing a lot of money for construction and not able to operate it. The \$7 million pump has been sitting there for a long time and not operating. Fred Sklar added they would never exceed 8.5 feet due to the experiment and they would not exceed what is currently in place. Bob Johnson said that even at 8.5 as designed, it drove higher levels which triggered a requirement for seepage control. When they asked the Corps what would happen with S-356 the Corps said that the feature is located to the south in CERP. But in MWD long before they do DECOMP they will be raising the water which increases seepage and the pump station is the best way to mitigate for it.

Garth Redfield asked about the limiting factors. Bob Johnson said there are stakeholders that do not support running the pump station and the tribe sees the S-356 as a shotgun pointed at them. When water is released into the L-29 canal and raise water levels and discharge from the east into the same canal you are decreasing the potential water that comes from WCA-3A. This has to be worked out and he was not sure if it would be addressed as part of the combined operating plan. Gene Duncan added that the groundwater well at 3273 has the 6.8 foot constraint on it. When ground water level comes up water can't be discharged and the only thing that can happen is that the tribal lands will go under water unless they are going to flood south Dade. Fred Sklar made an announcement that on October 30 there will be a climate change workshop at SFWMD in the morning about the LTER program at FIU.

### **CERP Sea Level Change Guidance Update**

Glenn Landers provided a presentation (Encl. 7). He informed the group that the Corps of Engineers issued a circular on sea level rise in December of last year. He discussed the Yellow Book assumptions on Sea Level rise. CERP GM 16 in May 2004 had RCOVER do a sensitivity analysis. In September 2008 CISRERP looked at higher threats of Sea Level rise and at that

time they thought that 3 feet was the upper limit for the turn of the century. UN numbers were 0.8-2 meters. The guidance from the Corps gives details about how to calculate sea level rise. The update of CGM 16 will use tidal stations from Key West, which contain data for the last 130 years. The Corps is doing a recon level report and then will follow up with a technical report in 2011, and finally they will write a planning report.

Glenn provided a slide that discussed the different measures and statistics being used in Florida to highlight the point that some consistency is needed. CEQ made some efforts related to climate change by providing guidance for the administration in late spring. He explained the scenarios that are suggested include a high, medium, and low range. He said the scenarios will be used for planning to 2050 and 100 years and part of that is to minimize development in high risk areas. He discussed the considerations for risk assessment and management. He said to anticipate model development for this initiative. He discussed the proposed schedule. The next IPCC is scheduled for 2013 or 2014 but there will also be other documents likely to capture the new science that is evolving. He informed the group of the flood control concerns and the impacts of future sea level rise. He discussed salt water intrusions concerns and the USGS finding of intrusion based on sea level rise scenarios. Increase evaporation changes in rainfall likely need increase in storage capacity.

Ken Ammon said that sea level rise is an uncertainty and he is concerned over range of uncertainty and how this information may be used to slow down some of the progress that has been made with PIRs. He added that there are 4 PIRs that we are hoping to get into the next WRDA for authorization. He said he does not want to slow down restoration because of the circular. He added that this is a young and uncertain issue, and he is not suggesting we ignore it but he does not want to build in an additional layer of bureaucracy on CERP implementation. He explained that the C-111 SC and other PIRs are getting comment to address sea level rise and climate change. He hopes for more quantitative data. Ken said he hopes the guidance is clear. Glenn said that as CGM 16 is drafted these concepts will be part of the discussions.

Wayne Daltry believes this conversation is occurring on every coastal state. He added that DOD has projections that include the movement 100's of millions of people. He said it is not right to just use IPCC science. Glenn said they used National Academies of Science NRC report. Ronnie said the advantage is that these are peer reviewed while internet data may not be peer reviewed. Susan noted that Miami Dade is working with USGS to look at local surface/groundwater and evaluate salt intrusion and draws to inform flood protection models and management decisions that will be used for the consumptive use permit. She said that the science team is helping Miami Dade County to get better data on topography. She added that there is a more detailed database for built areas but the natural system is more difficult and they are about to collaborate with ENP to make improvements in that area. Dan Kimball said that we are talking about is a lot of uncertainty, for example as ENP rebuilds Flamingo we have to make decisions if there is a compelling case to rebuild with climate change predictions. He said that when we get the question, "is restoration still worth doing with CC pending" we need to answer with 1 voice to say yes. Todd Hopkins pointed out that the uncertainties can be addressed in the adaptive management framework as part of CERP.

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

Dick Frost introduced himself as the Chair of Biscayne Bay Regional Restoration Coordination Team (BBRRCT). He said he was thrilled to be before the group and in the interest on these issues. The purpose of the team is to keep the WG members informed. He told the group that members of the BBRRCT work with Biscayne Bay intimately. They spend part of their time sharing information and they sometimes do a report or a formal letter to the WG for example, the letter on algal blooms. Historically, the estuary relied on fresh water from the aquifer and flows from mainland. In dry season the surface water would dry up and groundwater was slow and steady.

Dick Frost gave an overview of what he would cover in his presentation (Encl. 8a). He noted that the 1st 3 items on the list are projects and the last few are related to the BBCW project. He added that there are only two CERP projects designed to benefit the Bay. The FPL turkey point expansion has issues concerning the BBRRCT related to water resource needs and disposal. He added the team would like to know if the water needed will come from the Bay, the aquifer or from reuse. He said the team is also concerned that there has not been enough attention given to the impacts that the quarry might have. He explained that the teams 3<sup>rd</sup> concern was any additional stress related to salinity in the Bay.

Dick Frost noted that land acquisition for resource protection for the Bay is needed and the current lower values could help. He added that he was glad the South Florida Water Management District is engaged in land acquisition. He said that the team shares information on sustainable uses of the Bay and that the Bay has almost every type of marine activity. He added that compatible land uses is another important aspect of resource protection in the Bay. He said the team -attempt to stay apprised of ongoing efforts related to habitat restoration and learn from them. The team also tries to find out what is known about potential impacts on the watershed related to sea level rise and any planning initiatives but that this is a frustrating activity.

Dick Frost reminded the Group that the BBRRCT was re-shaped and the team was comprised of energized, knowledgeable group of people. He reviewed the products and tools for the BBRRCT including the revised charter, the action plan and the action steps. Greg May said he appreciates the time Dick spent driving up and noted that the team likes his leadership. He said that he is personally grateful for the leadership from Dick Frost and Chad Kennedy. Gene Duncan asked if the team is looking at impacts of seepage management projects and the potential for the project to cut off flows to the Bay. Dick Frost said the team was looking at that question. Gene Duncan asked what the team is saying about it. Dick Frost explained that it is something that is a concern and referenced in the Yellow Book. He said that there has not been anything conclusive to say it would cause harm to the Bay but the team is staying tuned into the issue.

Mark Lewis said that it is important for phase 2 of both projects to be complete and that if we do not figure out how to get more water through C-111 the Bay will be harmed. He said that if only the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of the projects were complete, the Bay will be harmed. He explained that it

doesn't mean stop phase 1, it only means that completing phase 2 is a must. He added that he is a big supporter of ROG because it provides the opportunity to get large volumes of water to the Bay. Dan Kimball thanked the team for all the hard work. He asked if the land acquisition related to the importance of the Virginia key visitor center. Dick Frost said no it is not specific to the visitor center.

### **Public Comment**

John Marshall provided a handout (Encl. 9) for the Everglades Coalition Conference 2010. He explained his organization has a strong role in education. He said that there will be a 4 -5 day trek that ends in grassy waters. He also said that his organization was planning big national media coverage to make the nation aware of the importance of the Everglades. He explained a handout and the importance of getting the teachers involved. He said that the conference will end with a tour of new of visitor center and Sam Hamilton will make remarks at that time. He added that he is hoping to get Ken Salazar to the conference. He announced the GEER conference January 2010, the ACES conference, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> biennial report from NRC would be coming out. He hoped all could attend the conference and added that he will use the update for some of the educational aspects.

Greg May asked Allyn Childress to send out a message to members and sub team members about the items agreed to yesterday and for any updates or edits to be submitted by next Tuesday the 27<sup>th</sup>. He informed the group that the plan was to turn around the science document and climate change document by the end of month, and then the invasive exotics document a week later. Dan Kimball thanked staff and Ken Haddad for his leadership with the SCG. Ken Haddad thanked everyone for taking time out to do work on the Everglades. He added that it seems like some things are breaking loose and he hopes it creates a snowball effect. He pressed the team not to lose their sense of urgency. He thanked the staff involved and Greg May for being great partner in making the SCG work.

Meeting adjourned.

### **Enclosures:**

1. Agenda
2. Draft Meeting minutes, July 2009
3. New Science Information Brief
  - a. Track Changes version
  - b. Accepted Changes version
4. Climate Change Information Brief
5. Invasive Exotic Animals Information Brief
6. DECOMP Physical Model presentation

7. CERP Sea Level Change Guidance Update presentation
8. Biscayne Bay Regional Restoration Coordination Team
  - a. Presentation
  - b. Report to the Working Group
9. Everglades Coalition Conference