

BISCAYNE BAY REGIONAL RESTORATION COORDINATION TEAM

Meeting #31

April 16, 2004
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

John D. Campbell Agricultural Center
Homestead, Florida

Report of Proceedings

WELCOME/CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Team Chair, Humberto Alonso, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. He reported to the Team regarding his endeavors to enhance Team representation with the addition of new members and other means of gaining outside input. Mr. Alonso told the Team that although he felt it was currently well balanced, he was responsive to the Team's desires for more representation from the private sector. He reported that he intended to contact Ed Swakon to become a Designee member of the Team representing the Development Community in lieu of his current alternate status for Phil Everingham and the Miami Marine Council.

With regard to new members the Team had previously authorized and requested, he reported that he had spoken with Mary Scott Russell of the League of Cities and she had agreed to appoint two new members to the Team; representatives from Miami and Palmetto Bay; the Team will be notified as soon as those appointments are made. Additionally, Theo Long, Executive Director of the Biscayne Nature Center and Juan Kurlya of the Port of Miami have agreed to become Team members but were unable to attend this meeting. As a last note, Mr. Alonso indicated he had spoken with Team member and representative of Biscayne National Park, Rick Clark, regarding the involvement of commercial and recreational fishers on the Team. Mr. Clark had suggested that the monthly commitment to meetings would prohibit their attendance as it would take them away from their livelihoods. He suggested involving the fishers by placing them on expert sub teams and gaining their valuable input in that manner.

As a last announcement, Mr. Alonso announced that he had been promoted to Director of all the District Service Centers which would place an additional time burden on him. He assured the Team he was committed to them and their work and would see them through the writing of the Action Plan.

Members present:

Humberto Alonso, Jr., Chair, South Florida Water Management District
Daniel Apt, Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Joan Browder, NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service
Sarah Bellmund, Biscayne National Park
Marsha Colbert, Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve
Nancy Diersing, NOAA, Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary
Cindy Dwyer, Miami Dade Planning and Zoning
Phil Everingham, Miami Marine Council

John Hulsey, South Florida Regional Planning Council
Ken Lipner, Miami River Marine Group
Susan Markley, Department of Environmental Resources Management
Rafaela Monchek, South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force
Keith Revell, At Large member
John Sanchez, Dade County Farm Bureau

Mr. Alonso then turned the meeting over to the Facilitator, Janice Fleischer.

AGENDA REVIEW/GUIDELINES

Ms. Fleischer reviewed the Agenda for the day (Exhibit A) and reminded members about their discussion Guidelines.

All Reports of Proceedings, Exhibits, Team Guidelines and other pertinent information can be found at www.sfrpc.com/institute.htm, then "Projects", then BBRRCT.

TURNING OUR ACTION PLAN INTO ACTION

Team member, Rafaela Monchek and Richard Mcneer, Esq., of the Department of the Interior's Solicitor's office gave a powerpoint presentation entitled "Turning our Action Plan into Action" which discussed the history of the Team and its relationship to the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force and its Working Group. (Exhibit B)

Following the Presentation, Team members made the following comments:

1. How much action can the Team take?
 - a. Remembering we are an advisory body to an advisory body
2. Try to be as specific as necessary in the Action Plan so it is not necessary to get constant approvals from the Working Group
3. The Action Plan has flexibility; it would be able to be modified as needed
4. This Team is authorized to implement the Action Plan consistent with its communication and coordination roles.
5. Do individual agencies need to review the Action Plan to see if it is consistent with their internal policies/procedures?
6. The Plan is not self-executing; as an Advisory board the Team can not force action
7. This is not a "sunshine" group; however we still need to have:
 - a. Open meetings
 - b. Public comment
 - c. Public notice of meetings

As a result of this lengthy discussion, Team members drafted and adopted Interim Procedures with Respect to Advocacy and Draft Work Products (Exhibit C)

PROJECT MANAGER'S REPORT

Team Project Manager, Liz Abbott gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Team's Action Plan and its progress as well as reviewing the members on each expert team. Specifically, an overview of the feedback from the ecological /physical restoration expert team was presented.

This expert team suggested endorsing existing plans such as the Biscayne Bay Strategic Science Plan and making the objectives more general. (Exhibit D)

Members made the following comments following Ms. Abbott's presentation:

1. Strategic Plan needs to include a strategic process by which things are decided upon
2. Action plan needs to include actions that the BBRRCT won't do themselves, but others will be responsible for implementing

OVERARCHING OBJECTIVES: REFINING COORDINATION AND DRAFTING FUNDING

Work then began on refining the Coordination sub goal of the Overarching Themes of the Plan and the initial drafting and consideration of the Funding sub goal. This discussion began just prior to lunch and continued throughout the day with the Team taking breaks and asking for public comment as appropriate.

The results of this discussion are reflected in Exhibit E.

These comments are in addition to the work reflected on Exhibit E, the revised chart:

1. A new category is needed for Enforcement
2. Enforcement is a huge issue
3. Law enforcement currently gets money to do non Bay related actions; this money is coming from violations related to the Bay and the money should go directly back into Bay improvement/upkeep, etc.
4. There is an issue with money and jurisdiction coordination

Additionally, in response to one member reminding the Team that they had previously discussed funding opportunities and license tags several years ago, the Facilitator reviewed a few notes from past meetings. She reminded them that they had discussed special license tags during meeting 11, soliciting funds from the cruise ship industry during meeting 17, and initiating an "adoption" of the Bay program during meeting 18.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no outside public present and no comment was made either before lunch or just prior to meeting adjournment.

MEMBER FORUM

A new procedure which will appear on every agenda is the Member Forum. This is an opportunity for Team members to make announcements, comments, suggestions or other items which either were not made earlier in the day or did not pertain to the day's agenda or are only related to their own agency or constituency activities.

Members made the following announcements:

1. We need to hear from experts at the next meeting so we can flesh out the Action Plan

2. What are the MAJOR threats and opportunities to the Bay and what are our priorities (evaluate the “what” and the “why”)
3. We need to institutionalize the process of submitting needs and how money is granted and distributed
4. We need to move more quickly
5. There is a concern with the Biscayne Bay Access Plan process
6. We need a public forum to get input on the Action Plan before we take it to the Working Group
7. Possibly have public input two times: sometime soon and again when we are ready to take the Plan to the Working Group
8. Send out an email whenever the expert teams are meeting so Team members can attend if they desire
9. There will be a training on managing visitor use on June 15-16, 2004 (Marsha Colbert will get us details)
10. Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve has hired a second full time person who may become Marsha Colbert’s alternate on this Team
11. We should have status reports from groups who were funded by the Team in past years
12. We need a forum for important issues to be brought up and discussed
13. We should identify the top 10 things that will measure the success of the work on Biscayne Bay (i.e. “We are making progress on Biscayne Bay because.....)

NEXT MEETING

The Project Manager announced that the next meeting of the Team would be on May 14 and would be held at Biscayne National Park. The meeting will begin and end earlier to accommodate Team members who live or work a long distance away and who will arrive the night before. The meeting will begin at 8:00 am and conclude at 2:00 pm. Team members will be asked to bring their own lunches and an optional fun activity will be planned for the afternoon.

MEMBER COMMENT CARDS:

“A public forum should be held to solicit comments prior to finalizing the Action Plan. This will foster ultimate acceptance of the Action Plan by both the general public and the Task Force, promote its successful implementation and help to publicize the work of the Team.”

-Cindy Dwyer, Miami Dade Planning and Zoning
