

BISCAYNE BAY REGIONAL RESTORATION COORDINATION TEAM

Meeting #32

8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.*

May 14, 2004

Biscayne National Park
Homestead, Florida

Report of Proceedings

WELCOME/CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Team Chair, Humberto Alonso, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. He reported that the process of generating the Action Plan would be accelerated in order to have a draft by mid-September. This will require members to do some work outside the meetings. The Action Plan will form the basis that can be used by agencies and organizations for establishing their funding priorities and requests.

Members present:

Humberto Alonso, Jr., Chair, South Florida Water Management District
Daniel Apt, Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Fran Bohnsack, Miami River Marine Group
Joan Browder, NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service
Sarah Bellmund, Biscayne National Park
Marsha Colbert, Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve
Amy Condon, Trust for Public Land
Marella Crane, John D. Campbell Agricultural Center
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
Theo Long, Biscayne Nature Center
Susan Markley, Department of Environmental Resources Management
Rafaela Monchek, South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force
Patrick Pitts, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Keith Revell, At Large member
Joe Walsh, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Mr. Alonso then turned the meeting over to the Project Manager, Liz Abbott, as the Facilitator, Janice Fleischer could not attend the meeting.

AGENDA REVIEW/GUIDELINES

See Exhibit A for the Agenda.

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

OVERVIEW OF THE BISCAYNE BAY ECONOMIC STUDY

Grace Johns, Ph.D., Senior Associate and Natural Resource Economist, gave a presentation on the Biscayne Bay Economic Study. (Exhibit B)

Following the Presentation, Team members made the following comments:

1. What is the Independent Review Panel? Who is on it?
2. What were management questions?
3. Are various uses captured in surveys?
4. Did the uses include activities on tributaries?
 - Send out list of Independent Review members
 - Put this presentation and other information on the website
5. Water Quality Plan, Boater Recreational Access Plan and Public Recreation Access Plan are managed by local government agencies
6. Why was 1980 used as start date? (budget driven?)
7. Present coral reef information to Task Force (Rafaela will talk to Greg)
8. Survey area stops at the county line (will try to include Card Sound) – Barnes Sound?
9. How will Keys users be counted? Would like to have Keys users commuting up to Bay included. Also, projects affecting activities in the Bay (blasting, dredging, etc.)
10. Independent Review Panel – add County and State representation- need land managers on this panel
11. Independent Panel was selected from past discussion
12. How many surveys?
 - Residents – 2,000 Boaters – 2,000
 - Usually get 33% back, but since survey is long, expect 25%; survey will be sent to team
13. Aggregated data will be shown
 - Economic information was taken from NOAA, four counties, State
14. Reef survey: not just on economic value of artificial reefs
15. Visitor surveys: sites chosen: all marinas, parks, but not Biscayne National Park due to special approval that is needed; surveys are handed out
16. Work plans will be handed out; comments should go to the South Florida Water Management District
17. How will the Biscayne National Park General Management Plan scenarios included?
18. Guide fishing is included under recreational fishing and businesses
19. Are juvenile fish in Bay included somehow? Loss of recruitment? (Grace will talk to NOAA to come up with a model.)
20. By not including Monroe County (Card and Barnes Sounds) – part of the ocean reef community is left out; there is a concern that this study will be just for the Dade portion of the Bay not including Broward and Monroe commuters
21. Cruise ships go to the Port of Miami, not Port Everglades
22. Coral Reef Study - \$47 million artificial reef numbers added to natural reef numbers do not add up to the total shown. Footnote reason why not.
23. We need to determine what information is needed by our Team that can not be separated from data and the report that is being done (what we may need in the future that would require a new report if done later)

24. Must be clear on what is and what isn't included in the report
25. Sarah Bellmund offered to help look for more funding; pointed out other team members may also
26. Shipping industry needs to be included in the economic study
 - consider Army Corps Of Engineers & Port economic studies

PROJECT MANAGER'S REPORT

Liz Abbott, Project Manager for the BBRRCT gave a presentation on the status of the team's work and the action plan development. Exhibit C

BISCAYNE BAY STRATEGIC ACCESS PLAN OVERVIEW

Amy Condon, The Trust for Public Land, Project Manager of the Access Plan gave a presentation on the current draft of the Plan. Exhibit D

Following Ms. Condon's presentation, the Team made the following comments and suggestions:

1. Shine a bright light on some areas that don't provide the access experience desired. Highlight as undesirable.
2. Metropolitan Planning Organization & City of Miami are doing water taxi studies
3. Dry storage has lost capacity due to market conditions – hard to replace lost space.
4. Walkways/waterside trails – a lot of developers want to fill in over the Bay to make the walk. This use needs to be accommodated on land.
5. How does the recommendation to assemble a state-enabled coordinating group build from this group (BBRRCT)?
 - permitting decisions are not part of this group
 - The BBRRCT cannot become the state-enabled coordinating group recommended.
6. Miami River Commission Model for a group was vetted in the Biscayne Bay Partnership Initiative Survey Team Report
7. There are 50 Action Steps in Plan, what are the priorities? (show this for public awareness)
8. This year the BBRRCT will not be putting together a project list; the Action Plan developed will be used by agencies to select funding priorities.
9. Access to easements – consider other issues when getting rid of easements
10. Viewscapes – towers (1 mile or more from shoreline); the County and State need a coordinated cell phone plan; also maximize uses on each tower – make it a statewide policy
11. There should be a prioritized list of the most important things in the Plan
12. What is the process this Team use to adopt the Access Plan? We will discuss later
13. Don't want to create another team (Goal 1, Objective 1); this team is tasked with a lot of the same objectives and it would be against BBPI recommendations for another team.
14. Distribution of brochure is to parks, hotels, and decision makers.
15. Miami River Commission was formed the same way. Document suggests another group be formed and original group appreciates it.
16. Courtesy to people on the Access Plan Team (Note: During the presentation of the Access Plan, some Team members were not as courteous as is usual which may have been the cause of this comment)

At this point in the day, the Team broke for lunch.

BISCAYNE BAY STRATEGIC SCIENCE PLAN

John Hunt, Program Administrator, Florida Marine Research Institute was the next speaker. Mr. Hunt presented findings from the Biscayne Bay Strategic Science Plan. Exhibit E

Following Mr. Hunt's presentation, Team members made the following comments and suggestions:

1. Science Plan is in 2-5 year timeframe. This group can help determine what the gaps are (hear what's going on and identify management priorities)
2. The Plan was built on the BBPI and Science Workshop
3. New updates are made through periodic science conferences (Florida Bay and the Greater Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Conference (GEER)). There has been Biscayne Bay conferences/sessions but not as well organized as Florida Bay.
4. The National Park Service funded 5 projects since BBPI; it is time for another workshop to see what's been done in the last 3 years.
5. Document is as far as Program Management Committee (PMC) would like to go (i.e. the Team does not want to make project decisions). BBRRCT does not choose the project – the idea is to coordinate priorities.
6. Having a central set of questions tells us if a project is a priority and allows BBRRCT to coordinate getting questions answered regarding that project.
7. Would Florida Bay questions be appropriate for Biscayne Bay also? Florida Bay knowledge is thorough – we should build on it
8. Incorporate Science Plan into our Action Plan; have a workshop; prioritization can take place in the process; funding (if received) goes to appropriate agency; continue to work with PMC on priorities
9. Our Action Plan will be prioritized, we will no longer be working with project lists, move on to coordination
10. PMC meets the 2nd Monday of every month
11. Need to wait till the Science Coordinating Group and the Working Group have settled in their new roles to see how the Plan is handled

MEMBER FORUM

Ms. Abbott asked if anyone from the Team had any announcements; there were none.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments made prior to meeting adjournment.

NEXT MEETING DETAILS AND HOMEWORK

The Project Manager reviewed the homework assignment for the team members to review the Biscayne Bay Public Access Plan and the draft endorsement language and be prepared to discuss them at the next meeting.

The Project Manager announced that the next meeting of the Team would not be at the regularly scheduled time of June 11. Members would be receiving emails from the Team Facilitator to set up a new date for June.

IDEA PARKING LOT

“Increase public involvement and input into the BBRRCT by having some meetings that are well advertised and in the evening.”

“The Plan we are currently creating would most accurately be called a Strategic Plan, not an Action Plan. An Action Plan is a sub set that is annualized priority for a Strategic Plan.”
