

# **BISCAYNE BAY REGIONAL RESTORATION COORDINATION TEAM**

Meeting #27

December 12, 2003  
9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

South Florida Water Management District  
Miami-Dade Field Station

## **Report of Proceedings**

### **WELCOME/CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Team Chair, Humberto Alonso, opened the meeting by wishing everyone good holidays and thanking them for their hard work and support. He had several announcements:

1. Audrey Ordenes, former representative for Citizens for a Better South Florida, has accepted a position and is working for the South Florida Water Management District; therefore, she will no longer be serving on the Team.
2. Former member, Lloyd Miller, has been speaking with Mr. Alonso, and is interested in returning in his capacity as representative for the environmental group, the Isaac Walton League.
3. The Project Manager for the Team has been changed to Liz Abbott, Senior Planner, SFWMD, who was introduced to the Team. The previously announced Project Manager, John Hulsey, was unable to continue in his position due to scheduling conflicts, but will remain a Designee member of the Team.
4. With regard to the Team's suggestions regarding balance and membership, Mr. Alonso will be submitting requests for stakeholder representation on the Team to the Working Group at their January, 2004 meeting. As always, Working Group members are free to either serve on the Team or designate someone to represent them. Decisions of the Working Group will be announced as soon as possible.

Member Joan Browder, NOAA, announced that Peter Ortner has resigned his membership of the Team and will be designating a new representative in his place.

#### Members present:

Humberto Alonso, Jr., Chair, South Florida Water Management District  
Daniel Apt, Department of Environmental Protection  
Marisa Bluestone, Florida Legislature-Miami-Dade County  
Joan Browder, NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service  
Rick Clark, Biscayne National Park  
Marsha Colbert, Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve  
Marella Crane, UF Seagrass  
John Hulsey, South Florida Regional Planning Council  
William Losner, Dade County Farm Bureau  
M.J. Matthews, Catenese Center

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Rafaela Monchek, South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force  
Joe Walsh, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

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 Guidelines. She explained the procedure for Observers: If an Observer wishes to speak to the Team, they need to fill in a 3x5 card with their name and give it to either the Facilitator or whoever is staffing the Registration Table. Once called on, each speaker will be given 3 minutes time to address the Team. Thoughts or suggestions expressed in Public Comment are not recorded and will not appear in the Report of Proceedings. If an Observer wishes to have his/her comments appear in the Report, there are two methods; 1) write any thoughts on the "Idea Parking Lot" or 2) fill in a formal Comment Card (provided at the Registration Desk. It is the option of the writer to have his/her name affiliated with comments; however, if an Observer has indicated his/her name on either the Idea Parking Lot or the Comment Card, the name will appear in the Report.

All Reports of Proceedings, Exhibits, Team Guidelines and other pertinent information can be found at [www.sfrpc.com/institute.htm](http://www.sfrpc.com/institute.htm), then "Projects", then BRRCT.

### **PROJECT MANAGER'S REPORT/WORKPLAN**

Liz Abbott discussed her new role as BRRCT Project Manager. She handed out a "Work Program" (Exhibit B) which built on the Plan drafted by Mr. Hulsey at the last meeting, and explained how the Team input will be used to draft the Action Plan. In drafting the Plan, the work of the BBPI and the Team's previous work will be incorporated to the greatest extent possible. Once drafted, the Action Plan will be brought back to the Team for comments, suggestions, changes, etc.

### **GOAL GROUP REVIEW/BREAK**

Ms. Fleischer directed Team Members to their packets for a copy of the Small Group Instructions, which outlined their next task. (Exhibit C) Team members were to gather in their sub Groups and review and refine their Objectives to ensure they are SMART: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and have a Timetable. Once all Objectives were reviewed, each one was to be assigned an approximate timeline: Short= current to 3years; Medium=3-10 years; or L= greater than 10 years. Members were provided a worksheet for designating these time periods (Exhibit D).

The Results of the Small Group refinement and time designations are reflected in the Chart attached to this Report as Exhibit E.

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## **SMALL GROUP REPORTS**

At the end of this exercise, each of the work group gave a short report on the results of their work.

### **SMALL GROUP REPORT AND PLENARY DISCUSSION- *USES AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITY GOAL***

Following the Group's Report, the Team comments were:

1. With regard to Sub Goal Sustainable Uses, Objective #1:
  - a. The largest single source of loss of agricultural land is national parks.
  - b. If you are going to identify bayside property, do it immediately and find funding now to purchase so it doesn't cloud what will happen to agricultural land.
  
2. With regard to the Fishing SubGroup:
  - a. Need new Objective that addresses threats to fish populations.
  - b. Change the wording in Objective #9 to read: "Improve information on fishing harvest and effort."
  - c. Objective #1 and #2: In restoring fish populations, remember to consider that fresh water habitat is being lost and that people are taking small fish out of the Bay.
  - d. The objective for fish populations needs to include two parts:
    - i. Evaluation with its end date
    - ii. Minimize with its end date
  
3. With regard to Boating SubGroup:
  - a. Issue #8 should read: "THE increasing number of vessels...."

### **SMALL GROUP REPORT AND PLENARY DISCUSSION- *ACCESSIBLE GOAL***

No comments were made.

### **SMALL GROUP REPORT AND PLENARY DISCUSSION- *RESTORATION GOAL***

Following the Group's Report, the Team comments were:

1. With regard to Pollution SubGroup, Marine Based: add an Action Step regarding Balloon releases into the water by cruise ships and land based parties
2. With regard to Watershed/Coastal SubGroup: Identify and find money immediately.

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## **PROJECT MANAGER'S PRESENTATION/EXPERT TEAMS PLENARY DISCUSSION**

At the conclusion of the Small Group Reports, Ms. Abbott presented a short powerpoint presentation outlining a proposed list of experts to work on the development of draft action steps to implement the objectives identified for each sub-group (Exhibit F). Following Ms. Abbott's presentation, Team members made the following suggestions:

1. Ecological/Physical Restoration Goal:
  - a. Member, Daniel Apt, FDEP, volunteered to participate on this group
  
2. Supports Uses and Economic Activities Goal:
  - a. Get a representative from the State Parks on Biscayne Bay
  - b. Florida Marine Research Institute: Lisa Oppleman-Lobello
  - c. SE District DEP permitting section- Tim Rach
  - d. Dr. David Harding- FFW in Tallahassee
  - e. Building Industry- Truly Burton
  - f. Port Authority - Juan Kuryla, Asst. Port Director
  - g. Visitor's Bureau of Greater Miami
  - h. Marine Patrol (for enforcement issues)
  - i. Dr. David Letson- University of Miami Economist
  - j. Latin Builders Association-Executive Director
  - k. Dade County Farm Bureau
  - l. Recreational Fishing Group- Eric Vandermark
  - m. Environmental interest- Roberto Torres with the Nature Conservancy

Ms. Abbott observed that if all the suggestions for the "Uses and Economic Activities" Goal were accepted, this expert advisory group would be too large. She and Mr. Alonso indicated they would discuss the appropriate balance for this group using the Team's suggestions while ensuring a manageable size.

Ms. Abbott reminded the Team that these expert groups are only for the purpose of making suggestions to the Team with regard to action steps to be associated with the Objectives developed by the Team. These action steps will then be brought to the Team for finalization and approval.

## **ADJOURN**

Prior to adjourning, Mr. Alonso acknowledged the efforts of Amy Condon, Project Manager, TPL, Biscayne Bay Strategic Access Plan. Ms. Condon has had great success in acquiring funds outside of those provided by the SFWMD to ensure the implementation of the Access Plan.

A Team member inquired as to how the work of the BBRRCT relates to the South Miami Dade Watershed Study. Further, in answer to the inquiry of how this Team's efforts differ from the work done by the BBPI, Mr. Alonso explained that the BBRRCT work is broader and its work will continue into the future. BBPI was a short-term process that produced excellent results, one of which was the formation of this Team.

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The Facilitator then reminded Team members that meetings are scheduled for the second Friday of each month. She then asked members to fill in their Evaluations prior to adjourning for the day.

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