GOAL:

Safe Enjoyment, Security and Enforcement

NO MEMBERS PRESENT ON NOV 21, CHANGES YET

ISSUES:

SUBGROUP:

Safe Boating

- Safe boating access
- Increase in power boat use may result in increase in accidents/fatalities
- License and lesson requirements for boating

COMMENTS:

Certification is preferable to license Education is the common thread

Should there be an agency: **Boater's Information Center**For Biscayne Bay

OBJECTIVES:

- Educate 25% boaters in 10 years to develop safe boating skills as needed
- Increase communitybased education programs/facilities to reach 40% of boating public within 10 years
- Increase boater access to information specific to Biscayne Bay
- Adopt a uniform method or system of instruction

SUBGROUP: Law Enforcement/ Homeland Security

ISSUES:

- Lack of environmental? law enforcement
- Lack of regulatory enforcement (vessel use, development)
- Failure to enforce and/or implement existing public access or private and public development sites
- Increasing incidence of illegal immigration via the Bay
- Law enforcement nearly non-existen; at night none in many areas
- Security and vandalism of access improvements
- Need to increase awareness and preparedness of <u>our</u> security on water

- Multiagency coordination for effective law enforcement (County-City-50%-2 years)
- Integrate law enforcement with education programs (all 5 years)
- Seawatch (crimewatch) program (100% 2-years all access marinas/places)

Biscayne Bay Strategic Access Plan Advisory Team

Goals and Objectives As of November 21, 2003

GOAL:

Comprehensive Environmental

Education and Public Awareness

SUBGROUP:

ISSUES:

Lack of a partnership

Providers

ISSUES:

SUBGROUP:

Appreciation

- Creation of community buy-in
- Under-appreciation of the Bay by masses...let's go to beach instead
- Cultural barriers to appreciation of Bay

OBJECTIVES:

- Create public appreciation of Biscayne Bay through by increasing "on the water" experiences by 10%.
- Create "Bay Experience" (definition: multi-media film, sailing, fishing, kayaking, boating, snorkeling, to show on large screen "you are there" experience) at major cultural (definition: Youth Fair, Boat Shows, Festival Miami, Miami River Days, Calle Ocho, etc.)
- Make a bay presence at County/City/non-profit historical events
- Create a mascot to represent the Bay
- Form an off-shoot of awareness group to advocate for Biscayne Bay to local, state, federal politicians
- Expand the website to real time stills/video including audioinformative and natural sounds
 - o Discover Biscayne Bay.Org
 - o USGS's SOFIA, Biscayne 360 degree video clip

SUBGROUP:

Advocates

ISSUES:

Public participation in preservation action

OBJECTIVES:

• Increase public participation in cleanups by 10% within 5 years.

SUBGROUP:

Public Awareness

ISSUES:

- Public awareness
- Challenge communicating to people not aware of access (change to: Lack of public communication about public access and value of the bay
- Signage on major roads (US1, I-95)
- What is in the public's best interest (remove)
- Lack of marketing of the Bay in relation to the beach and other attractions
- Eco-adventure opportunities for tourism and community

OBJECTIVES:

- Create public awareness of Bay through media, speakers, displays, banners (yearly) within the next 5 years
- Create true communication plan including dinverse cultural groups

Move these to Action Steps:

- Utilize Bay access facilities (i.e. marinas) to increase awareness of Bay
- Improve signage on public rights-of-way to direct people to visual access of Bay

SUBGROUP:

Education

ISSUES:

- Education
- More Bay education at marinas
- Coastal educational facilities
- Lack of educational awareness of protecting Bay
- Uneducated politicians
- Clean marina and clean boater program
- Education component
- Knowledge (or lack thereof) of physical characteristics of Bay
- Partnership with school system to reach youth
- Educational component

OBJECTIVES:

and coalition

- Create a partnership to promote education activities by 2005.
- Linkage between federal, state and local
- Local communities NFP(?)
- Linkages to include
 Miami Dade Environmental
 Education providers to BB
 Env. Educ. Alliance
- Link to Sunshine State Standards for use by teachers in FCAT
- Link to existing programs ie 4-H
- Explore additional partners (Smithsonian, PEW, NEP, etc.)

SUBGROUP: Funding

ISSUES:

 Lack of funding for programs, education facilities and public information (new item added to list

OBJECTIVES:

• Increase a funding source for Bay awareness to education by attaining grant funding by 2010.

OBJECTIVES:

- Increase Bay education by 2010.
- Produce easy to use public pieces that inform i.e. species guides
- Inventory supplemental piences for on-going i.e. Mast Academy has a Miami River Curriculum for 4/5th graders; add a Bay component and they have a bird studies at Everglades National Park and Wakodahatchee but no shorebird component
- Decide on comprehensive Bay education: physical, biological, chemical, historical, safety, anthropological, cultural experience

-

GOAL: Economic Vitality and Smart Growth

SUBGROUP: Shoreline Development

ISSUES

- Coastal Development
- Increasing development density and reduced access
- Over-development of Bayfront
- No growth management; haphazard development on waterfront
- Condos, condos, condos
- Need county shoreline review committee decisions checked on in development (i.e. are they doing what they are supposed to?)
- No one follows comprehensive plan and shoreline development recommendations
- Additional new construction directly on the waterfronts that lead to loss of natural areas
- Examine new construction directly on waterfronts that lead to loss of natural areas
- Development closing public access
- Gated communities
- Development
- Decreased opportunities for access because of inappropriate development/building on shoreline
- Better enforcement of shoreline development regulations
- Inappropriate development proposals on few remaining undeveloped parcels, both public and private
- Private homes and condos along the Bay
- Private ownership of shoreline
- Design treatment of water's edge
- Enforcement of design guidelines
- Add redevelopment as an issue

SUBGROUP: Public Lands

And Submerged Lands

ISSUES

- Public Land
- Funding for public land
- Public vs. private uses
- Municipal tax bases outweigh public benefit and resource protection
- Protection of Bay parks
- Open/public/park lands often neglected, unsafe, in disrepair, full of homeless (i.e. Bicentennial Park)
- A number of undeveloped parcels strategy to access issues remain that could, with intervention, become part of the solution rather than the problem
- Preserving access
- Private temporary uses prevent public access (like car race)
- Degradation of submerged lands

OBJECTIVES:

- Create dedicated funding source for acquisition of public access within next 5 years; perhaps link to 2004 GOB
- Preserve and enhance existing public parks/access, including boating facilities
- Conduct an economic study to determine the value of public lands
- Conduct a study of inaccessible public lands (i.e. causeways)

SUBGROUP: Port Development

And Miami River

ISSUES

- Port of Miami expansion/dredging
- Public should be involved in giving input into the new Master Plan for the Port of Miami
- Public input before Enivironmental Impact Studies, while they are still in planning stage
- Port development can bring negative environmental impacts

OBJECTIVES:

 There needs to be an Objective that deals with the Port of Miami expansion and dredging

SUBGROUP: Economics

This category should be eliminated and the subject of economics should be added to each subgroup

ISSUES

Economics

OBJECTIVES:

• Maintain or improve economic stability of marine industry

OBJECTIVES:

- Miami-Dade Comp Plan should be amended to require dedicated public access for all shoreline development (timeframe: during EAR process)
- Enforce existing design guidelines for shoreline
- Develop design guidelines for areas without them
- Require private shoreline development to provide public access (Baywalks, etc.)
- Modify/enforce Shoreline Ordinance to achieve thies within 2 years.

SUBGROUP: Visual Access

ISSUES

- View corridors
- Development controls on new construction to maximize visual access
- Too many high-rises blocking Bay view
- Commercial development blocks visual access
- New development blocking Bay views
- Protection of extraordinary aesthetic values of Biscayne National Park shoreline from development

OBJECTIVES:

- Implement height restrictions in relation to Biscayne National Park and 100% of other natural shoreline areas (timeframe: next EAR process
- Promote viewscape "staging" to allow shoreline development of certain types
- Heights and viewscapes?
- Add heights to existing Shoreline Ordinance?

SUBGROUP: Boat Access and Facilities

ISSUES

- Too much emphasis on accommodating more boats how much is enough?
- Not enough marinas will decrease the economy generated by boating on the Bay
- Loss of water-dependent shoreline uses and access caused by redevelopment (encourage responsible water related commercial uses and amenties)
- Commercial vs. pleasure/recreational use on the Bay
- Recognition of economic impact/potential
- Limited "big" boat access and wet slips
- Limited boat ramps
- Need for moorings, pump out boats/launch service
- Special needs and access

OBJECTIVES:

- Increase boat slips and boat ramps by 10% by 2020
- Maintain existing marina and boatslip spaces
- Create Bluebelt for water dependent use (tax and other financial incentives) within 2 years
- Conduct needs assessment of boat slips/moorings/dry storage within 2 years
- Create zoning overlays that require water depent use and public access on the Bay
- Address noise impacts/issues within zoning overlays to not impede water dependent uses
- More efficient use of existing big boat/wetslips
- Fully fund and implement economic studies such as the Hazen and Sawyer and Marine Industries Association of S.Florida

SUBGROUP: Smart Growth

ISSUES

- Divide between activists and developers; balance between economic development and resource protection
- Potential destruction of environmental resources in order to create access (seagrass, hardbottom, mangroves, etc.
- Industries that only seek monetary gain and don't worry about social/environmental impacts to resources
- Desire to make money off land no matter the environmental consequences
- Putting "for profit" private development on public Bayfront and submerged lands
- Can people shift from exploiting the shoreline for profit to ecotourism focus?
- As costs for ships/boat facilities increase, access for lower income groups decreases
- Eco-tourism

- Strike balance between environmentally sustainable development and public access
- Conduct public forums for common ground between
- developers/activists/users/industry
- Educate public/users/decisionmakers re:
 Smart Growth for the Bay

SUBGROUP

Agency Coordination

Lack of Agency jurisdictional coordination with respect to policy, plans and regulations

ISSUES:

- Increase interagency jurisdiction cooperation
- Multiple jurisdictions over Bay access issues leads to miscommunications/lack of coordinated effort
- Coordination among agencies
- Lack of coordinated coastal management plan-Should this be moved to smart growth?
- Need to resolve debate which delays results unnecessarily
- Difficulty of resolving federal/state/private
- debate...therefore, no action taken until too late
- Confusing jurisdictions///state/county/cities/CORPS/National Park

OBJECTIVES:

- Coordinated review and assessment of policies, plans and development proposals by a team comprised of relevant jurisdictions within 5 years
- Develop multijurisdictional mechanism with formal base stakeholder in put, to prevent initiating large public works projects without local gov't approval; RFP's must follow same or similar process

Coordinated Governance and Sound Public Policy

SUBGROUP

Political Issues

(1) Uninformed decision-making by politicians and communities; (2) Lack of political will to implement sound policy decisions

ISSUES:

- Developers' abilities to get land use changes; politicos beholden to developers
- Uneducated politicians- move to Education Group?
- Political support for Bay protection and political will to fight off self-serving interests-Cover this in Action
- Environmental impacts of decisions
- Not enough involvement by policy makers
- Neighborhood association objections to public access projects

OBJECTIVES:

- 100% Formal adoption of Access Plan by county and municipalities governing boards boarding on Bay within 2 years and implementation by building and zoning departments within 43 years.
- Inform county, municipal, state elected representatives of Access Plan prior to submission for approval
- Develop mechanism to inform neighborhood associations of Access Plan and engage or partner with on Access Projects.

GOAL:

SUBGROUP

Policy (Land Use)

(1) Lack of consistent policies balancing development, access and environment; (2) Lack of adherence to land-use policies

ISSUES:

- No commitment and enforcement to preserve land with access to Bay
- Allowing variances to regulatory requirements that are intended to protect Bay or provide access
- Public policy requiring more waterfront property to have adequate access and more water-dependent uses
- Turkey Point expansion- Met by Objective on height restrictions under Smart Growth/Visual Access?
- Cities grant land use changes on waterfront then cry about having no waterfront, boat slips and marinas
- Regulations to keep all shoreline from being privatized
- Too many [zoning] and bay setback and side setback variances granted
- Balancing access with maintaining Bay management
- Appropriate use of state-owned submerged lands
- That Army Corp dredging frenzy- Ask full Team
- Creation of overall master plan

OBJECTIVES:

- Comprehensive plans and development regulations for each municipality and the county amended within 5 years to follow recommendations of the Biscayne Bay
- Decrease the number of county and city zoning setback and access variances along the waterfront that are approved by 80% in the next 10 years.
- Create a fee schedule that is proportionally based on encroachment for when variances are allowed. Proceeds will be applied to Biscayne Bay acquisition, education, and enhancement projects
- Prohibit additional conversion of publicly owned Bayfront to access restricted private development and access restricted public/private partnerships.
- Create an increase of accessible shorelands from access restricted development by 5% within each municipality.
- Prohibition on preemption of State owned submerged lands for construction of new private marinas.

SUBGROUP

Permitting Ineffective and cumbersome permitting

ISSUES:

- Balancing and maintaining Bay management
- Compliance with regulatory agencies too expensive to encourage marina development
- Minimizing accessibility by overregulation

OBJECTIVES:

Develop consistent, streamlined and effective permitting process that implements policies of the Access Plan within 5–4 years

SUBGROUP

Coordination of Enforcement

Enforcement of policies and regulations comprised by a lack of agency coordination and political will.

ISSUES:

- Selective or lack of enforcement of regulations
- Current regulations not enforced///why pass more regulations when there is not enforcement currently?
- Strong public policy base for public access not translated fully into implementing mechanisms and/or laws
- Lack of regulatory enforcement
- Inconsistent enforcement and lack of implementation of existing policies
- Failure to enforce or implement existing public access on private and public development sites
- Comprehensive Plan not followed
- No commitment to protect water quality- ask full
- Lack of enforcement (comp plan, shoreline review)

- Create adequately funded, multi-jurisdiction team to effectively enforce regulation
- Each municipality will create their own regulatory staff to enforce shoreline access, setback's and land use.
- Create a county compliance mechanism and staff to enforce existing county shoreline ordinances within unincorporated areas and municipalities.

SUBGROUP:

Capacity

Provide opportunities to increase access without sacrificing environmental values or resources

ISSUES:

- What is carrying capacity of the Bay?
- Impacts on water quality from increased use
- Access Bay on boardwalks through sensitive areas
- Lack of appreciation for preservation initiatives that have allowed some natural shoreline
- Too much access could exceed Bay's carrying capacity
- Increased awareness toward sustainability
- Without balancing access with other sometimes competing issues, such as aesthetics or environmental protection some intrinsic values of Bay can be lost in the name of access
- How can we balance access and preservation of habitats>
- Create designated access points so people do not destroy fragile ecosystems while trying to find places to launch canoes, kayaks, etc.
- Public might create negative impact if access points are overused.
- Does public access/ownership guarantee protection
- Must protect intrinsic values of Bay that create the "incentive" to want to access it
- Lack of appreciation that humans are not the only ones who use the Bay
- Challenge of Port operations and expansion

OBJECTIVES:

- Immediately establish parameters for resources with a determination of the maximum uses that provide for sustainability. Efforts should be dynamic, ongoing and dynamic.
- Implement and use cutting-edge management tools that increase access while preserving wildlife and habitat.

GOAL: Respect for Wildlife and Environmental Sustainability

SUBGROUP: (Also a SubGoal)

Restoration

The bay must be made accessible to thos eentities that have the means and ability to environmentally restore the bay. A restored bay provides experiences that can't be provided otherwise.

ISSUES:

- Ecosystem resources
- Resource protection
- Fragility of ecosystem
- Habitat protection (e.g. seagrass and natural shoreline)
- Avoidance of environmentally damaging human impacts
- Restoring and preserving the environmental integrity of the Bay
- Loss of habitat
- Negative environmental impacts

OBJECTIVES:

- Identify opportunities within and along the bay for environmental restoration and preservation. Complete this inventory with 1 year.
- Immediately define activities that have adverse impacts on the environmental quality of bay and eliminate these uses (Threat analysis of Port)
- Focus on restoration projects that provide natural means of enhancing water quality (like seagrass, mangroves, sponges, etc.)

SUBGROUP:

Wildlife

Healthy populations of wildlife and habitat need to be increased to enhance access experiences.

ISSUES:

- Loss of animal life (e.g. turtles and mammals other than manatees)
- Fish/shellfish populations; increase biomass
- Impact of Bay access on critical wildlife habitat
- Not enough mind is paid to animals and plants in the Bay
- Manatees and manatee protection
- Protection of seabirds
- Critical habitat within and adjacent for protected species and other sealife (see issues under Subgroup "Capacity"

OBJECTIVES:

- Immediately, and as information becomes available, revise regulations as needed to enhance fish and other wildlife populations and increase habitat
- Coordinate state and local agency enforcement efforts to maximize fishing and development regulations in order to protect wildlife and habitat

SUBGROUP:

Pollution

Eliminate as many sources of pollution as possible.

ISSUES:

Water quality

FORM A BISCAYNE BAY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- Need to control and limit pollution (point sources easier)
- o Water quality is important for access
- o Should be a Bay we can swim in
- o Runoff (stormwater)
- o Mechanical (exhaust, oil, solvents, fuels)
- o Sewage (boats, marinas, uplands)
- Turbidity
- Litter/trash
- Trash in waterways leading to Bay impedes access
- o Trash along the shore
- Dredging and tidal changes relative to Port
- Other
- o Noise
- o Air
- o Visual

- Immediately determine sources of pollution,
 Develop a plan to address those sources
- Within 5 years, ensure that all types of existing bay access facilities and sites include infrastructure to reduce pollution streams (pumpout stations, solid waste containers, restrooms, etc.); make this infrastructure a regiment for all new access facilities and sites
- Continue to retrofit sources of stormwater pollution with emphasis on bay coastal areas and residential islands
- Encourage beneficial environmental practices in shoreline, maintenance, retrofit and development

GOAL: Responsible and Balanced Access

SUBGROUP: Trails (walking/biking)

ISSUES:

- Required baywalk "connector bridge" never constructed between Bayside and marina
- Connecting pedestrian routes
- Passive land access-bike trails/walking trails
- Not a lot of pedestrian/visual access in North Bay
- Bike/pedestrian access
- Continuous baywalk/riverwalk
- No bike/Walk trails alongside bayside in safe,
- Master plan for countywide baywalk continually in urbanized areas as much as possible

OBJECTIVES:

To develop a comprehensive bayside walking/bikeway which will increase visual and or physical access to Biscayne Bay and restrooms and pumpouts at marinas.

SUBGROUP: Facilities and Places

ISSUES:

- Access vs. regulations (dredging and docks)
- No growth for marinas
- Not enough slips (wet or dry)
- Limited launch sites for canoes and kayaks
- Appropriate boating access
- Safe boating access
- Expanding access
- Increase in yacht access generates sales and revenue
- To increase vessel storage and accessibility
- Need for more boat slips and ramps
- Small boat use and access (ramps, marinas)
- More access for canoes and kayaks
- Lack of safe swimming (recreational) as in North Bay
- Stiltsville

OBJECTIVES:

- For marinas both public and private (wet and dry storage) and boat launch:
- Provide a variety of storage and launch boat facilities (motor, sail, canoe and kayak) at appropriate levels
- The public knows where facilities are
- To inventory both public and private water related facilities for existing wet/dry boat storage and boat
- To determine evaluate the "carrying" capacity of the Bay and the and make recommendations on the need for additional facilities
- To disseminate Bay access information to the public
- To improve visible public and commercial places (such as street ends and commercial spaces)
- Analyze the opportunities for facilities and places (wet/dry boat storage and ???? sites

COMBINE THESE TWO GROUPS AGAIN

SUBGROUP: Activity

ISSUES:

- Recreation opportunities
- Need more water transportation (water taxi, boat
- Water taxi/bus/ferry service like Ft. Lauderdale, New York City, etc.
- Water-based tourism (boat tours, taxi)
- Eco-adventure opportunities for tourism and
- Responsible jet ski use
- Responsible boating
- Passive water use canoe and kayak
- Commercial vs. recreation use of Bay
- Visual access
- Lack of adequate fishing spots along Bay
- Not enough fishing access
- High speed motorized cat

SUBGROUP: People

ISSUES:

- Handicap access
- Lack of access for non-boat owners
- Lack of access to non-motorized vessels and other users of Bay
- Increasing access to minorities to use Bay has to be a priority
- Low-income population cannot get onto water

OBJECTIVES: FOR BOTH ACTIVITIES AND PEOPLE (NOW A COMBINED GROUP)

- To encourage a variety of commercial operators (e.g. taxis, tours) to provide access to and across the Bay (within carrying capacity.
- To increase public visual and physical access to
- To improve provide public access and information through education programs provided through the school system and other organizations
- To develop a public conveyance system to islands, stiltsville, and other Bay opportunities
- To develop a comprehensive swimming program to teach every child to swim
- To develop a comprehensive boating program
- To develop watersports programs for youth and the general public which are fully accessible

SUBGROUP:

Carrying Capacity
ADD THIS TO USER
CONFLICTS AND
ELIMINATE THIS

ISSUES:

- What is carrying capacity of the Bay?
- Overuse
- Increase in power boat use may result in increase in accidents/fatalities
- Too many power boats
- Overuse too many vessels on Bay
- Tourism overcrowding

MOVE TO ISSUES WITH USER CONFLICTS

OBJECTIVES:

- By 2006, maximum number of users for safety, sustainability and user conflicts will be known (within different areas)
- Provide access commensurate with carrying capacity

SUBGROUP:

Places

ADD TO PLACES

ISSUES:

- Not enough upland access points
- Public vs. private uses
- Private ownership of shoreline
- Amount of land in public ownership
- Preserve historic sites and buildings on the coast
- Stiltsville
- North Bay ignored

OBJECTIVES:

- By _____, all areas of the Bay will be included in a comprehensive plan to provide access to the Bay
- By ______, a comprehensive access plan will utilize existing points of interest

SUBGROUP: User Conflicts

ISSUES:

- Conflict of motorized boats and passive boaters
- User conflicts (kayaks, jet skis)
- Boaters resenting manatee zones
- Competing interess for Bay access types (i.e. marina vs. fishing pier)

OBJECTIVES:

Identify user conflicts in Biscayne Bay

