

DRAFT AGENDA

SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION JOINT WORKING GROUP (WG) AND SCIENCE COORDINATION GROUP (SCG) MEETING

South Florida Water Management District
3301 Gun Club Road
Building B-1, Governing Board Auditorium
West Palm Beach, FL 33406
Thursday, September 1, 2022
9:30 AM – 3:30 PM

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| 9:30 – 9:45 | 1. Welcome and Introductions
<i>Purpose:</i> To present the goals for the meeting and review administrative instructions. | James Erskine
WG Chair
Lawrence Glenn
SCG Chair
Adam Gelber
OERI |
| 9:45 – 10:15 | 2. Member Whip-Around
<i>Purpose:</i> Each member will have the opportunity to provide brief introductory remarks and announcements. | |
| 10:15 – 10:20 | 3. Approval of Meeting Summary
<i>Purpose:</i> The summary from the July 2022 meeting is being presented for member approval. | James Erskine
WG Chair |
| 10:20 – 10:30 | 4. Office of Everglades Restoration Initiatives (OERI) Update
<i>Purpose:</i> The Director of OERI will provide a status report on the Draft 2022 Biennial Report. The Biennial Report, required in WRDA 1996, synthesizes the efforts by Task Force members and reports biennially on activities and progress made toward restoration. An update on the Oct 19 th Task Force meeting will also be provided. | Adam Gelber
OERI |
| 10:30 – 10:45 | 5. Florida's Coral Reef Coordination Team Charter
<i>Purpose:</i> The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) have developed a draft charter for the proposed team that would be housed under the WG. The team would seek to coordinate management and restoration-related activities to conserve and restore Florida's Coral Reef and ensure enhanced integration with the water management and restoration activities taking place upstream in the watershed throughout the South Florida Ecosystem. The draft Charter is being presented for a second reading and member approval. | James Erskine
FWC
Wes Brooks
FDEP |

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- 10:45 – 11:25 **6. Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project - Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Update**
Purpose: The SFWMD and the USACE are updating the ASR Science Plan, which describes potential studies to be conducted as ASR wells are implemented in a phased manner. Updated with input from an independent peer-review panel of scientists, the 2022 ASR Science Plan presents an overarching program of scientific studies that will support a phased ASR implementation schedule for the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project (LOWRP).
Elizabeth Caneja
Robert Verrastro
Anna Wachnicka
SFWMD
- 11:25 – 11:45 **7. WRDA 2020 - Invasive Species Risk Assessment Prioritization and Management**
Purpose: WRDA 2020 directs the Task Force to develop a priority list of invasive species that significantly impact the structure and function of ecological communities, native species, or habitats within the South Florida Ecosystem. Using guidance issued by the Task Force and the WG/SCG, the OERI is facilitating a team of experts in accomplishing this task. Staff will provide an update on the team's activities, criteria and list development, and next steps.
Adam Gelber
Carrie Beeler
Allyn Childress
OERI
- 11:45 – 12:00 **Public Comment**
- 12:00 – 12:40 **Lunch Break**
- 12:40 – 1:00 **8. USACE Program and Project Update**
Purpose: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will provide an update on restoration planning, design, and construction projects.
Eva Velez
USACE
- 1:00 – 1:20 **9. SFWMD Program and Project Update**
Purpose: The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) will provide an update on ongoing restoration planning, design, and construction. In addition to moving forward with features within the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration (SFER) Program, the SFWMD also manages the Restoration Strategies Program, a suite of projects created to improve water quality in America's Everglades.
Mindy Parrott
SFWMD
- 1:20 – 1:50 **10. Integrated Delivery Schedule (IDS)**
Purpose: The IDS provides the roadmap for sequencing, planning, design and construction of both federal and state projects related to Everglades restoration. The current IDS will be presented for member input.
Tabitha Elkington
USACE

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| 1:50 – 2:10 | 11. Western Everglades Restoration Project
<i>Purpose: The goals of WERP are to improve the quantity, quality, timing, and distribution of water in the Western Everglades to re-establish ecological connectivity, reduce the severity and frequency of wildfires, and restore low nutrient conditions. The Tentatively Selected Plan, Alternative Hr, will be reviewed.</i> | Steve Baisden
USACE
Joanna Weaver
SFWMD |
| 2:10 – 2:30 | 12. Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual (LOSOM)
<i>Purpose: The LOSOM effort is re-evaluating Lake Okeechobee operations to coincide with the completion of the Herbert Hoover Dike rehabilitation in 2022. The LOSOM effort will re-examine the opportunities to balance the congressionally authorized project purposes for flood control, water supply, navigation, recreation, and preservation of fish and wildlife resources.</i> | Tim Gysan
USACE |
| 2:30 – 2:50 | 13. REstoration COordination and VERification (RECOVER) – Southwest Florida Module
<i>Purpose: RECOVER ensures Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) implementation is guided by the best available science. This presentation will focus on the new Southwest Florida Module - where, why, and what's next.</i> | Rodrigo Sedeno
USACE |
| 2:50 – 3:05 | 14. National Research Council (NRC) Report
<i>Purpose: Consistent with the requirements of WRDA 2000, the Secretary of the Army, the Secretary of Interior and the Governor of Florida established an independent review panel through NRC. The Committee on Independent Scientific Review of Everglades Restoration Progress (CISRERP) was asked to present a report every two years on CERP progress. An update of CISRERP's report 'Progress Toward Restoring the Everglades, The Ninth Biennial Review, 2022' will be provided.</i> | Bob Johnson
OERI |
| 3:05 – 3:20 | Public Comment | |
| 3:20 – 3:30 | Next Steps and Closing Comments | |
| 3:30 | Adjourn | |

Working Group Duties: To assist the Task Force in providing intergovernmental coordination, exchanging information, facilitating the resolution of conflict, assisting members, and promoting public participation.

Science Coordination Group Duties: To assist the Task Force in providing intergovernmental coordination of the programmatic scientific aspects of restoration of the South Florida Ecosystem.

Updated 8/24/22