BISCAYNE BAY REGIONAL RESTORATION COORDINATION TEAM
Meeting #36

9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
November 12, 2004

SFWMD Miami Field Station
Miami, Florida

Report of Proceedings

WELCOME

Team Chair, Humberto Alonso, was not able to attend this meeting. The Team Facilitator, Janice Fleischer, and Project Manager, Evan Skornick, moderated the meeting. Ms. Fleischer announced that she had opened her own firm, Flash Resolutions. She provided her new contact information and can be reached at janice@flashresolutions.com or 786-268-2596. Ms. Fleischer will continue to facilitate the BBRRCT as a subcontractor to the Institute for Community Collaboration of the South Florida Regional Planning Council.

AGENDA REVIEW/GUIDELINES

Ms. Fleischer reviewed the day's Agenda (Exhibit A). She explained that the work that was done at the previous meeting is being reviewed and incorporated into a second iteration of the Action Plan and will be presented to the Team at the December meeting. Additionally, Ms. Fleischer informed the group that she had requested the assistance of three Team members in redrafting the Action Plan. This was to ensure Team input into the redrafting and to establish Team rapport with Mr. Skornick who is the new Project Manager. The three Team members who make up the drafting team are: Susan Markley, Amy Condon, and Keith Revell. These three individuals have already met with Mr. Skornick and Ms. Fleischer to begin the discussion of incorporating the Teams comments and concerns into the next draft of the Action Plan.

Ms. Fleischer reminded everyone to turn off their cell phones and beepers and keep side conversations to a minimum.

All Reports of Proceedings, Exhibits, Team Guidelines and other pertinent information can be found on the website of the Institute for Community Collaboration: www.sfrpc.com/institute.htm/bbrrct.htm .

It was pointed out that the comments of Cynthia Guerra and Patrick Pitts had been inadvertently left out of the October 8, 2004 Report of Proceedings. These two members were unable to attend the meeting, but had sent in their comments on the ranking document. Ms. Fleischer apologized and assured them that the October Report would be amended to reflect their input.

Additionally, members commented that, in addition to restoring the Bay, the concept of "maintaining" the Bay should be included in all objectives to be developed.

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Members present:
    Fran Bohnsack, Miami River Marine Group
    Marisa Bluestone, Florida Legislature
    Joan Browder, NOAA/AOML/NMFS
    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
    Cynthia Guerra, Tropical Audubon
    John Hulsey, South Florida Regional Planning Council
    Susan Markley, Department of Environmental Resources Management
    Edith McClintock, Citizens for A Better South Florida
    Lloyd Miller, Izaac Walton League
    Patrick Pitts, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
    Keith Revell, At Large member
    Rafaela Monchek, South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force
    Ed Swakon, At Large member

RANKING REVIEW OF ACTION PLAN 1ST DRAFT/FUTURE WORKPLAN

Ms. Fleischer directed Team members to their packets to find a copy of the Report from the October meeting. This Report contained the results of the ranking of the first draft of the Action Plan. She indicated that, for a first draft, the rankings showed some concerns but were overall good.

For the work of the day, the Team will concentrate on the Overarching Themes as they had not been covered at the last meeting. The Overarching Themes cover three main areas: coordination, funding and evaluation and monitoring.   Ms. Fleischer indicated that she would like the Team to begin by discussing the objectives for the theme of "Coordination" which they had developed in the past to see if there is consensus on the Objectives. Subsequent to discussing Coordination, she indicated that the Team would address "Funding" which had never been discussed, then move on to decide whether the suggested theme of "Evaluation and Monitoring" should be a separate item or, rather, would become objectives of other areas and not set apart as a "stand alone" set of objectives.

She indicated that, at this time, nothing that the Team had suggested in the past was lost; all suggestions made by the Team are being preserved regardless of whether they are contained in the action plan drafts for adoption by the Team. The drafting group will be working first on the three substantive areas of access, economics and restoration (science), and then will begin drafting the overarching themes in accordance with the Team's input.

With regard to changes being discussed in the formatting of the document, all procedural and organizational information will either appear at the end of the document or in an appendix. This is so that the substantive work of the Action Plan can be described first.

Once each overarching and substantive area objectives are finalized by the Team, action steps will be developed. In the interim, and during the development of the objectives and needed

action steps, the Plan will be checked (by the Project Manager with help from the drafting group and the full Team) for gaps, duplications, and items which cut across several objectives. This must be done to ensure efficiency and ensure maximization of resources.

The second iteration of the Action Plan will be reviewed at the December meeting with the goal of finalizing the Action Plan no later than February or March, 2005.

TEAM DISCUSSION: COORDINATION

At this point in the meeting, discussion turned to the Overarching Theme of Coordination. It had been hoped that the Team would be able to begin finalizing the Objectives for this theme; however, several Team members who had indicated they would be in attendance had not yet arrived; therefore a quorum was not available in order to rank or vote. Ms. Fleischer directed members to a sheet containing the Coordination Objectives which had been developed several months earlier. (Exhibit B) The Objectives for Coordination were divided into three areas: being "a voice for the Bay", "a priority setter", and "a clearinghouse".

The Team began by attempting to "wordsmith" the objectives which had been developed, but were unable to come to consensus due to a variety of factors, the most important of which was that a quorum was not present. Additionally, it was apparent there were still feelings of distrust among Team members which were obstructing their ability to collaborate effectively to work toward refining language and solutions which could be agreed upon by all. The facilitator suggested taking a break.

When the Team returned from break, Ms.Fleischer suggested that the discussion continue but without the need to come to consensus; rather, discussion would provide input to the drafting group which they will use in drafting the portion of the Plan with regard to the Overarching Themes.

What follows is a copy of the details of comments and suggestions regarding the objectives for each coordination area:

Generally:
1. "Cumulative impacts" must be a concept that is kept somewhere in the plan
2. Look at work of other groups that are working collaboratively on other bays

NOTE by Facilitator: yellow highlighted areas indicate sections that might be combined to make the concept of the objectives more clear.

"VOICE" area: (with suggestions tracked in red)
1. ~~Maintain~~ Build and maintain awareness of the importance of Biscayne Bay and its issues among agencies, policymakers and the public by advocating the Team's Vision. (clarify "advocate" through action steps)

2. ~~Upon completion of the Action Plan and ongoing, E~~elevate the importance of Biscayne Bay's restoration and maintenance needs in local and regional planning.

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3. Adopt a formal process to define what our unified voice should be. Eliminate this here and put in Action Steps

4. Develop and publicize a "State of the Bay" report card on an annual basis Assess and report the cumulative impacts of activities on Biscayne Bay.

5. Assess and report the effects of specific activities on Biscayne Bay.
6. Evaluate and report the effectiveness of management and restoration actions on Biscayne Bay.
   - Make sure this stays in objectives

"PRIORITY SETTER" area: (with suggestions tracked in red)
7. BBRRCT will make recommendations to the Working Group consistent with the Team's Vision and Action Plan.
   - Why does that sit under "priority setter" instead of "voice"? –thinking of responsibility of talking about what the Bay needs most

8. Complete and periodically update the Team's Action Plan.
   - What is periodically? -every 5 years?
   - 5 years is too long
   - updating was thought of to occur at every meeting
   - The mandate in the charter for an annual review is different from Action Plan
   - Could update Action Plan annually, will have to revisit it sometime.
   - Could remove the word "complete" since this will be a final Plan at the time it is delivered
   - Could state "update as needed"

9. Based on clearinghouse activities of the BBRRCT, make recommendations to address gaps, duplication and conflicts.
   - Where do recommendations go? To working group?
   - Action plan will be submitted to Working Group
   - Recommendations made to entities that might be able to address them where gaps exist?
   - Working group has representatives from each entity, working group goes to individual agencies
   - This team does not go directly to agencies
   - Coordination function would use working group for formal approaches to agencies
   - Any recommendations of team have to go back to working group?
   - Do not know what real assignment of working group is..
   - Working group has representative on this team and they are updated on progress of the team and have approved work being done
   - It seems that work is going to working group before it has been fully vetted by the Team
   - Rewording suggestion made: "Based upon the coordination activities assigned to the BBRRCT, make recommendations to the Working Group to address……."

NOTE by Facilitator: This group of comments and concerns led to a discussion about the need to have a decision making representative from the Working Group address the Team at the next

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meeting to respond to some of these questions. The Team felt that until its interaction with the Working Group once the Action Plan is finalized and the ultimate use of the Action Plan is clarified, it would be difficult to approve an Action Plan.

"CLEARINGHOUSE" area: (with suggestions tracked in red)
10. ~~Upon completion of the Action Plan and ongoing, T~~the BBRRCT will become a clearinghouse where agencies/organizations involved in or affecting Biscayne Bay come to hear about what each other are doing in order to identify gaps, duplications and conflicts.
    - <u>Change to</u> "BBRRCT or its successor"
    - Not sure forum of the current meetings is realistic to accomplish this
    - Not sure about "or its successor"
    - This is the heart of the matter, meeting on substantive projects, not process
    - Check tenses on all <u>portions of the Plan to keep consistent</u>
    - Define "clearing house"
    - Thoughts on clearing house:
        i. Using Action Plan as a master list of items to be done etc. we discussed it
        ii. what needs to be known, what is already known?
        iii. in original language, was a bulletin board to post notices
        iv. master list of projects that follow substantive goal groups-projects, issues questions
        v. pert chart
        vi. need to use website to transfer information
        vii. original word was "accessible"

~~11.~~11.~~Upon completion of the Action Plan and ongoing,~~ the BBRRCT will serve as a clearinghouse of information and activities in or affecting Biscayne Bay.
    - Take "upon completion of Action…." Out of all
    - Other things going on that are beyond the scope of the individual members

~~12.~~11.   ~~Upon completion of the Action Plan and ongoing~~, the BBRRCT will use clearinghouse information to educate public and policy makers about Biscayne Bay and related activities.

12. ~~Upon completion of the Action Plan and ongoing,~~ the BBRRCT will provide a forum for stakeholder views and opinions to be expressed regarding Biscayne Bay.
    - forum: through public comment process (ideas that follow to describe the "public comment process and what it would look like)
        o through invited speakers or requests
        o topical workshop on some subject
        o Focus groups and surveys
        o note: evening and weekend meetings
        o word "opportunites" may be better than "forum"
        o possible public hearing before Action Plan finalized
            Clarify if Action Plan can go to public, how to do that
            Not enough public access to meetings, for many reasons
        o how do we get on the radar screen? On the map? How do we get to a place that has anything to do with a forum?
        o How do we become a meaningful part of the process?
        o We need to demonstrate a value of what this is
        o Need to have politicians involved to gain support
        o Can use public workshop env't to introduce <u>Action Plan</u> when completed

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At the end of this brainstorming session, members referred to the first draft of the Action Plan and commented regarding "enforcement":

    1. 3rd bullet on pg. 7 of first draft of the Action Plan (under the "coordination" heading, needs to be included under "Coordination" objectives; "Improve regulation and enforcement coordination among agencies".

    2. Enforcement coordination is a subset of what was described in general objective #10, the first one under "clearinghouse"

    3. Enforcement must be included somewhere-if not an objective, then an Action Step

PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments were made.

The Team took a break to get lunch.

TEAM DISCUSSION-FUNDING

The Team had never discussed funding at any prior meeting; however, the first draft of the Action Plan contained some suggestions for objectives on pages 7 & 8 of that document. Ms. Fleischer suggested that members provide their comments and suggestions regarding the overarching theme of funding. The following comments were made:

1. We need to ensure continued state funding for Biscayne Bay
2. Essence of this effort are the needs of Biscayne Bay because historically it hasn't received resources
3. We should have a master list of funding sources for Bay related projects
4. People need to look beyond SFWMD going to legislature for money; we should not be looking at the legislature as only source of funding
5. See Susan Markley's list of funding sources created in the early days of this Team
    a. put eventual list on website
6. Identify need for a consistent recurring long term source of funds
7. Match action needed and the "who" to the funding
8. Remember a Biscayne Bay license tag was once suggested
9. Exploration of federal funding through EPA, NOAA (NERR), NEP(EPA), as well as additional state funding other than SFWMD
10. Use bonds
11. Matching grant and other money sources with need
12. Don't forget that Biscayne National Park (BNP) is a major player
    a. BNP Trust Group, coordinate with them
13. Someone maintains/updates the list mentioned in #3 above
14. Land bank-groups who can buy land now or easements in Biscayne Bay coastal area that can be held in trust to help with Biscayne Bay projects
15. Identify areas where no request for funds in necessary-they are already funded-this would maximize the funding
16. Internal & external coordination is needed
17. Be proactive in seeking the matching funds-don't be passive
18. Corporate/volunteer funding
    a. Ex: "adopt a mile"

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19. Look at private organizations & foundations
20. Incorporate funding objectives on pgs 7 & 8 from first draft of Action Plan

TEAM DISCUSSION- EVALUATION AND MONITORING

"Evaluation and monitoring" had been suggested as a possible separate theme in the Overarching category. On the first draft of the Action Plan (page 8) this area was designated but left blank to hold the space. Ms. Fleischer asked the Team to consider first, do these items need their own separate category or are they part of Coordination and Funding, or do evaluation and monitoring relate to several areas including the substantive goals of access, economics and restoration thereby requiring a separate set of objectives?

To begin the discussion, Team member, Keith Revell, reminded members that he had created the outline for the Overarching Themes and offered to explain what he meant when he suggested evaluation and monitoring. Mr. Revell said he anticipated answering the following questions under the "evaluation and monitoring" theme:

> Tracking of projects, funding, etc.
> What did we learn?
> What is happening?
> Who needs to know?
> What next?
> Having regular updates.

Other Team members then made the following supporting suggestions:

1. We need to generate a list of coordinating questions
2. This is more intimate, connected and active than the "clearinghouse" function
3. If we are to use a "problem solving" model-this would be the recycle phase
4. This will follow from doing a good job as a clearing house
5. This is the heart of what we do but some ideas may be beyond our capabilities
6. Monitoring & Evaluation (changed from "evaluation and monitoring") should be part of the Biscayne Bay "Report Card" we talked about earlier
7. Let's use different words than "Monitoring & Evaluation"; they have a specific meaning in science that may not be desired here
8. Need more feedback on projects and funding
9. Need more articulated targets- what is expectation by which to assess progress
10. "Tracking" very important, as separate objective from "clearing house"
11. Build a mechanism for showing how a project helps work of BBRRCT –what feedback/needs
12. Revisiting things that are funded is "tracking"- otherwise strike M&E and put all this within "Coordination"
13. New title suggestion "Tracking and Follow-up"

At the conclusion of this session, the following general comments and observations were made by Team members:

> 1. Heard that: the focus in the legislature this year is on water projects related to flood control/mitigation

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-please include information on this at next meeting or at the meeting with presentation on funding

2. We would like an update on Governor's announcement of CERP accelerated projects-coastal wetlands in Biscayne Bay?

Evan will request presentation with information.

3. Florida Wildlife Conservation Commission is funding non-traditional species; sources for funding "Florida Wildlife Legacy Initiative"

PUBLIC COMMENT

Prior to adjourning the meeting, public comment was called.

Former Team member, Daniel Apt, and SFWMD staff, Trisha Stone, commented.

Note: Public comment is not recorded. If anyone from the public desires to have his/her comments appear in the Report of Proceedings, they can submit their comments in writing on the comment cards provided at each meeting or email the Facilitator, Janice Fleischer (jfleischer@mediate.com) within the first week following the meeting.

MEMBER FORUM

Several upcoming meetings of possible interest to the Team were announced. Ms. Fleischer offered to distribute announcements regarding these meetings via email if the details are sent to her electronically.

Team member, Lloyd Miller was thanked for sponsoring coffee and donuts in the morning. He offered to sponsor them again at the next meeting.

EVALUATIONS/ADJOURN

Members were asked to complete their Evaluation forms and the meeting was adjourned.

MEMBER COMMENT CARDS

"Regarding our discussion concerning "assessing" the Bay (i.e. the report card) our objective should be to have appropriate entities come and report to us impacts of our goal areas (environment, economy, access). The info needs to come to us so that we can take a holistic view and then issue a report on the "state" of the bay that i8ncorporates all the goal areas."
-anonymous

"I would appreciate reports from other Florida bay's aggregate groups, including any that report to the Working Group aside from Biscayne Bay Regional Restoration Coordination Team. The reports should include what their Action Plans, meetings, and other activites are, as well as their membership. We are developing in a vacuum!"
-Marsha Colber, Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve

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