

**Summary of Decisions and Action Items**  
**August 10, 2010 LATT Meeting**  
**South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Land Acquisition Task Team**  
**Tuesday, August 10, 2010**  
**12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**  
**South Florida Water Management District Headquarters (SFWMD)**  
**3301 Gun Club Road**  
**West Palm Beach, FL 33406**  
**B-1 3-A Conference Room**

**Attendees**

Theresa Woody	Task Force
Wanda Caffie-Simpson	SFWMD
Frank Razem	SFWMD
Ellen Underwood	Sonshine Communications
David Gillings	Palm Beach County
Jim Muller	Muller and Associates, Inc

**By phone**

John Outland	DEP
Sally Jue	FNAI
Marsha Bansee	Task Force
Debbie Scerno	USACE

**Welcome/Introductions**

The meeting commenced at 12:30 p.m. John Outland welcomed all participants, thanked them for their participation and asked everyone to introduce themselves. LATT Co-Chair Sylvia Pelizza (US Fish and Wildlife Service) could not participate.

**Status of Maps & Shape files for the Strategy**

Sally Jue from FNAI led this discussion. No new maps were provided for this meeting. She is integrating shape files from the counties and that processing is almost finished. Sally is waiting on shape files from Ed Wright from the Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS). She has not heard from Vicki Tauxe from Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) regarding mitigation lands. Except for the mitigation files, Sally is current on all files. Diana Waite is preparing mitigation information for St. Lucie County. No new information has been received from Charlotte or Polk Counties; no information is expected from Okeechobee County

**ACTION:** Theresa Woody will follow up this week with Lee, St. Lucie and Collier Counties regarding mitigation information.

**ACTION:** Sally Jue will follow up with Don Burgess (Broward County) regarding mitigation data.

**DECISION:** NRCS's pending Fisheating Creek project will not be on the Land Acquisition Strategy (LAS) maps this year. The project will be mentioned in the text.

### **Review Habitat & Species Lands Table (Appendix D)**

Sheryl Jones led this discussion and reported on the status of the Habitat and Species Table.

**ACTION:** Jim Muller and Sheryl Jones are to prepare a table detailing the component projects of those projects that overlap and were combined into one project for the Habitat and Species Lands Table. The format will be similar to that in the Habitat and Species Lands Table. [Subsequent to the meeting, it was decided to explain these projects in the appendix text preceding the table, rather than preparing another table.]

**ACTION:** Sheryl Jones, Jim Muller and Sally Jue will review the state parks entry acreages and see if a portion overlaps with projects listed individually in the table. There may be double-counting, particularly for projects on the inholdings and additions lists.

**ACTION:** Theresa Woody is to provide all county data to Sheryl Jones for the Habitat and Species Lands Table. Sheryl will check to make sure the numbers are not double-reported.

### **Status of Mitigation Lands Map and Table**

Jim Muller and Sally Jue led this discussion. The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) has provided their mitigation lands coverage to Sally Jue. Sally also added one FWS panther mitigation bank – Panther Passage. There are four FWS mitigation areas totaling 6,553 acres. Miami-Dade County does not have additional mitigation lands this year. No team members were aware of large mitigation land changes outside of those being reported by SFWMD.

**ACTION:** Sally Jue (FNAI) will check with Mary Peterson from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Vero Beach Office regarding additional mitigation land information for next year's LAS. Theresa Woody will check with other U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service contacts regarding mitigation lands and easement information.

**ACTION:** Sally Jue will analyze the overlap between mitigation lands and managed areas, and provide the analysis to Jim Muller.

**ACTION:** Jim Muller will revise both the summary table and full mitigation lands table for the LAS.

### **Status of Project Profile sheets, County Program Summaries, County project tables, County maps**

Theresa Woody reminded that team that project profile sheets are prepared only for those projects with a federal nexus. Project profiles have been received from SFWMD, National Park Service (NPS), NRCS, DEP and the Miccosukee Tribe. Wanda Caffie-Simpson reported that changes to the Kissimmee Restoration Project and CREW profiles are anticipated.

Jim Muller reported that project profiles are pending for Stormwater Treatment Area (STA) 1E, US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)-sponsored projects and National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) projects. Some projects with a federal nexus that were not in the project profile summary table in previous years, but were identified in the footnotes, will be included in this year's table.

The Winsberg Farms and Lakes Park Restoration projects were discussed. Debbie Scerno of the USACE said that neither project is technically a Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) project anymore; there was a federal interest in the past. The Winsberg Farms project was done by local sponsors, but not to federal standards, and without federal involvement. Wanda Caffie-Simpson said SFWMD has not received communication from USACE regarding how to treat these projects.

**DECISION:** Do not prepare project profile sheets for Winsberg Farms or Lakes Park restoration

**ACTION:** SFWMD was asked why the CERP master shows the Miccosukee project land cost estimate as \$1.7M and the Seminole Big Cypress project land cost estimate as \$7.5M when these lands will be a “donation” to be used in restoration. Wanda Caffie-Simpson will resolve how to handle these values in the CERP master and in the LAS text.

The team discussed the fact that Everglades National Park (ENP) does not have a project profile, unlike the other NPS holdings. There is a profile for the East Everglades Addition. Big Cypress has a project profile for the preserve and another profile for the addition. All of ENP is already included in the project size on the Natural Habitat and Species Land Acquisition Update table. Inclusion of a project profile for ENP will result in a large increase in Goal 2 total acres and acres acquired.

**DECISION and ACTION:** Jim Muller will work with Brian Coleman from the National Park Service’s Real Estate section to prepare an ENP project profile; the East Everglades Addition will continue to be represented by a separate project profile.

Theresa Woody reported that data has been received from all counties except St. Lucie. A couple of counties still need to provide shape files to FNAI. Theresa sent e-mails to Collier and Polk County reminding them to send those files to Sally.

### **Review Draft Project Profile Summary Table**

Jim Muller led the discussion. He reported that he is assembling the project summary table now. The table will be finalized when all project profiles are available and will be used to generate pie charts.

**ACTION:** Jim Muller will compile questions and generate a comparison of the project profiles and CERP Master for Wanda Caffie-Simpson. She will be out next week so this conversation needs to take place soon.

**DECISION:** Jim Muller will use the CERP Master as the source data for the CERP acres and will use the project profiles with adjusted costs for the CERP estimated costs on the pie charts.

### **Status of Land Acquisition Strategy Text and Edits**

Theresa Woody led this discussion. The team reviewed a third internal draft of the text which incorporated comments and suggested edits received as of July 30.

### **Status of Stand-Alone Piece/Executive Summary**

Ellen Underwood from Sonshine Communications participated in this discussion of team members’ expectations regarding the stand-alone piece/executive summary. Theresa Woody distributed the Strategic Report Executive Summary, prepared by Allyn Childress, as an example of the type of material needed. John Outland said the SFWMD’s fact sheets are very good – maybe follow their format, such as “Below the Surface” “Splash”.

**Suggestions** of the team included:

- Emphasize the national and world-wide significance of the Everglades ecosystem
- “Partnerships” is the key word – this document represents the full partnerships working to acquire land to restore the Everglades
- Mention partnerships with ranchers and the working landscapes to protect the natural systems
- This is a collaborative, coordinated effort, not by happenstance.
- Partners have been successful in leveraging funding over the years.

- Land acquisition efforts often get lost in the construction projects – don't let this happen in this document
- Include at least a couple of graphics – one for CERP, one for the Graham map (with collapsed categories)
- Mention mitigation banks/mitigation funding
- Try for about 1000 words. Tell the story in design, pictures, and headlines. Two or four pages.
- Need to review the product to make sure information is provided in the proper context, and that the accuracy of the information does not change as the information is condensed.

[After the meeting, Jim Muller suggested the title: "America's Everglades - Partnerships in Land Acquisition for Conservation and Restoration" (or for Restoration and Conservation)]

Related topic to informing the public:

**ACTION:** Soon after this edition of the LAS is posted, discuss preparation of a cross-walk between different documents related to the Restoration. The cross-walk should briefly describe each document and note the contact person and publication cycle for each document. Clarify any known recurring questions/confusion between documents. The level of detail will be decided by participating team members.

### **America's Great Outdoors Initiative**

Theresa Woody informed group about President Obama's America's Great Outdoors Initiative. This campaign is designed to get American's to discover the great parks and preserved lands in this county and go outside and recreate in these spaces. The Administration will sponsor a "Listening Session" in Kissimmee on August 26. Organizers anticipate 200-300 participants for the plenary session, with several break-outs into listening groups after the plenary. Team members discussed how to get more engagement from larger groups of stakeholders, so it's not just a federal effort. Members discussed how to make sure the LAS is addressed in this effort.

**ACTION:** John Outland/DEP will prepare written materials about the LAS/Task Team and ensure that the information makes it into the executive summary of the meeting.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment. Public comments are welcome during each of the agenda items.

### **Review Benchmarks for Strategy/Schedule for Working Group & Task Force meetings**

Theresa Woody reported that preparation of the LAS is on schedule. The SFER Working Group will review the draft at its meeting in mid-September, and the Task Force will review the LAS at its meeting at the end of October.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:00 pm