The Biscayne Bay Regional Restoration Coordination Team Update

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BBRRCT Background and Purpose

- Established from a recommendation from the Biscayne Bay Partnership Initiative
- Purpose is to integrate and coordinate restoration, enhancement, and preservation projects, plans, and activities
- Work toward maintaining a functioning ecosystem while promoting a sustainable region
- Provide a forum for public involvement, outreach and interagency coordination and communication
- Identify priority issues for action and to create teams to address those issues as needed
- Identify goals and performance measures related to key issues and to assess the achievement of goals
- Identify funding requirements
- Review elements of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan that affect Biscayne Bay.
- Serve as the principal advisory body to the Working Group in the region

Action Plan

- First step in realizing the vision for the Bay as laid out by the BBPI and the BBRRCT
- Culmination of years of effort by various diverse stakeholders who have an interest in Biscayne Bay
- A living document, to be re-examined and updated on a periodic basis, as priorities change and actions are completed
- Upon adoption of this Plan, and with concurrence of the Working Group, the BBRRCT will set to work on following the framework set forth, and supporting implementation of those actions it deems of the highest priority

Vision Statement

The Team developed and adopted their vision for the future of Biscayne Bay which is as follows:

- ***Biscayne Bay is ecologically restored. It is readily accessible to and appreciated by all members of our diverse community. It supports a variety of uses and economic activities that are environmentally sustainable. Biscayne Bay is managed to promote coordination and to resolve conflicts among competing objectives with sufficient resources to achieve this vision.***

Plan Layout

- Overarching Goals
- Focus Areas
- Initial Action Steps

Overarching Goals

- Coordination
- Funding
- Tracking and Follow-up
- Enforcement of Existing Regulations

Focus Areas

- Ecological and physical restoration
- Readily accessible and appreciated
- Supports uses and economic activities

Ecological and Physical Restoration

- Reduce Pollution and Maintain/Improve Water Quality
- Improve Fisheries Resources
- Improve Water Management
- Restore, Enhance and Preserve Habitat for Fish and Wildlife
- Protect Imperiled Species and Maintain Biodiversity

Readily Accessible and Appreciated

- Physical and Visual Access
- Education, Information and Awareness

Supports Uses and Economic Activity

- Improve Fisheries Resources
- Boating (Uses)
- Sustainable Uses
- Marine Industries (Infrastructure)

Initial Action Steps

- Recognized needed first steps to improve knowledge base of team, identify data gaps and begin process of increasing Bay awareness
- Items identified to be completed within the first two years after adoption of the Plan
- Focusing on overarching goals and focus areas
- List is a starting point, doesn't cover all possible or practical actions for the BBRRCT
- Unprioritized list

Conclusion

- Beginning of a process to target the most urgent needs to restore the Bay
- Create opportunities for responsible public engagement
- Enhance its economic vitality
- Heighten the profile and awareness of the Bay as an important environmental, economic, historical and cultural resource to the South Florida region
- Provide guidance into the future
- Improve enforcement efforts to protect the Bay
- Monitor the Bay's progress as these steps are taken

Plan Implementation

- Action plan will be further refined as plan moves through implementation
- Cooperation of a number of individuals, organizations, agencies and levels of governance
- Pursue financial and human resources for Plan implementation

Next Steps

- WG approval/acceptance
- Implementation/Expansion of BBRRCT Knowledge Base

Thank you.

Are there any questions?