

LRWRP PDT Kickoff Meeting Summary Notes

21 January 2016

Time: 1:00 PM–2:00 PM

Location(s): Call-in & Webmeeting

Web Meeting link:

<https://www.webmeeting.att.com>

1. Introduction/Opening Remarks

1:00 – 1:05

Tim Murphy/Matt Morrison

- Matt Morrison and Howie Gonzales provided opening remarks. Significant progress has been achieved in CERP implementation. Recent SMART planning approval offers new opportunities for the LRWRP toward completion and approval of the Project Implementation Report. There is substantial information the team can rely on from previous efforts. Discussions should be based on risks determination, realizing there are items that are better to be addressed at the design phase. Team needs to ensure a plan that is supported by stakeholders is produced and is defensible.

2. Project Overview

1:05 – 1:10

Orlando Ramos-Gines

- Overview was provided by Dr Ramos-Gines. Loxahatchee watershed is an important piece of the CERP puzzle that needs to be addressed. Quick facts about the study area were discussed, including the federal interests. Problem and opportunities were discussed, such as continued loss of swamps and degradation of natural areas. Previous effort was discussed in relation to the components that remain for the new SMART planning effort and those excluded. Those excluded remain in the CERP for future studies as required.

3. Scope, Objectives, Timeline, and Budget

1:10 – 1:15

Brad Foster/Orlando Ramos-Gines

- Briefing was provided by Dr Foster. Study scope include the Loxahatchee River watershed and its estuary. Components included in the CERP for this project were hydro-restoration of natural areas, modifications to L-8 basin, and water storage components such as reservoirs and underground storage –Aquifer Storage and Recovery-. Large real estate for natural areas have been acquired and the team needs to rely on these to produce the Tentative Selected Plan. However, there may still be a need to acquire additional lands. Project objectives, constraints, and timeline for completion and approval of the Project Implementation Report were discussed. Study began today 21Jan16 and must be completed within 3 years, currently October 2018. Budget authorized for the current effort is \$\$3.62M, of which \$2,701,000 federally/Corps funded and \$919,000 is SFWMD funded.

4. Corps SMART Planning Process and CERP Requirements

1:15 – 1:20

Brad Foster/Andy LoSchiavo

- A review of the SMART Planning process and CERP requirements was provided by Dr Foster. In addition to comply with SMART planning requirements, CERP projects need to conduct the following analyses: saving clauses for water supply and flood protection, assurance for water made available for the natural system, and coordination and reviews with the Restoration Coordination and Verification (RECOVER) team.

5. Subteams and Their Roles and Responsibilities

1:20 – 1:35

Plan formulation – Brad Foster
Ecological – Andy LoSchiavo
Engineering – June Mirecki
Modeling – Jessica Vogler
Real Estate – Emmanuel Freeman

- The subteam leads provided their briefings identifying their subteam members and their subteam roles and responsibilities under the current planning efforts. Each subteam also encouraged those attending to join one or more of the subteams.

6. Project Meetings, Their Purposes and Frequencies, and Communications

1:35 – 1:40

Orlando Ramos-Gines/Beth Kacvinsky

Core Team

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Subteams
Panther Teams
PDT
Public
Others

- Dr Ramos-Gines provide the briefing. The communication matrix was shared with the team and was asked to provide comments within two weeks. To ensure effective communications and progress, the current efforts rely on different teams and forums. The Core, Subteams, PDT, Public, and Tribal Coordination, Panther –ad-hoc, and other team and meetings. The communication matrix is to ensure appropriate information is provided, discussions are documented, and stored/filed for future references as appropriate.

7. Next Steps

1:40 – 1:45

Brad Foster

- Dr Foster provided the briefing. Team is now moving into identifying the existing conditions and future without assumptions, array of alternative plans, and criteria to evaluate/compare the plants. This SMART planning phase must be completed by April 2016, when the team will have the first formal meeting with the Vertical Team from SAD and HQ offices.

8. Team Member Comments and Q&As

1:45 – 1:55

Orlando Ramos-Gines/Beth Kacvinsky

- No comments made / questions asked.

9. Public Comments

1:55 – 2:00

Orlando Ramos-Gines

- No public comments received.

10. Adjourn

2:00 PM

- Meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM