

DRAFT

Big Cypress Restoration Coordination Team

March 4, 2005

Rookery Bay-Palmetto Room

9:30-12:30

Meeting Minutes

Members:

Organization	Member	Alternate
Army Corps of Engineers	TBA	
Audubon	Jason Lauritsen	Ed Carlson
Big Cypress Basin	Clarence Tears	Ananta Nath/Tim Howard
Big Cypress Nat'l Preserve	Bob Sobczak	Damon Doumlele
CH-C RCT/ CHNEP	Lisa Beever	Catherine Corbett
City of Naples	Mike Bauer	Gary Pettit
Collier County - Nat. Res.	Bill Lorenz	Mac Hatcher
Conservancy of SW Florida	Dave Ceilley	David Addison, Ian Bartoszek, Jennifer Hecker
CREW	Ellen Lindblad	
Estero Bay - ABM	Ellen Lindblad	
Everglades National Park	Tom Schmidt	
Florida DEP - S. District	Rick Cantrell	Karen Bickford/Jennifer Nelson
Florida DEP - Estero Bay	Heather Stafford	Sherry Furnari
Florida DEP - Fakahatchee	Greg Toppin	Mike Owen
Florida Division of Forestry	Hank Graham	Sonja Durrwachter
FFWCC	Jim Beever	Joe Bozzo
FGCU	Mike Savarese	Win Everham/ Brenda Brooks-Solveson
Hendry County	Ron Zimmerly	
Lee Co Dept of Nat Res	Roland Ottolini	Tony Pellicer
Lee Co Smart Growth	Wayne Daltry	
Regional Planning Council	David Burr	
Rookery Bay NERR	Gary Lytton	Mike Shirley
SFRESTORE Task Force	Carrie Beeler	
SFWMD	Carla Palmer	Janet Starnes, Mike Duever, Liz Abbott
TTI & Panther Refuge	Lane Hamilton	Ron Popowski
UF IFAS	Ed Hanlon	Marty Main
USDA	Tony Polizos	
US EPA		
US Fish and Wildlife	Art Roybal	Daryl Thomas
USGS	Eduardo Patino	Mike Byrne

Those in bold were present at the meeting.

Invited guests: Jill Trubey (Florida Fish & Wildlife)

1. Brenda Brooks-Solveson called the meeting to order 9:36 am at which time each member introduced themselves.
2. The minutes of the November 19, 2004 and December 20, 2004 meetings were approved.
3. **Hydrologic & Rainfall Conditions Update:** Bob Sobczak
 - Cumulative rainfall amounts since May were observed to be similar to the extreme drought condition that occurred in 2000-2001, despite the two frontal storm systems that have dumped water on south Florida in the past 2 weeks.
 - The status of Lake Okeechobee was briefly reviewed. It was commented that since late November there have been 6 low-level pulses of water released to the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee River, and that lake stage is currently below the 10-year average for the start of May, and below last year's level at this time.
 - An expanded discussion was provided for the Water Conservation Area 3A hydrographic summary. Bob presented an assortment of photos and maps to illustrate the inner-workings and history of the 3A water management system, and how it relates to the Big Cypress.
 - Bob commented that in the near future the rainfall and hydrographic summaries will be made available to the group through a web site. Ed Hanlon suggested that we continue to notification emails that the graphs have been updated, with a link on the emails. Dave Ceilly commented that hydrographic summaries can provide a starting point for linking biological observations (wading birds) in the field to hydrologic controls, using 3A as a case in point.
 - Bob commented that the overall goal will be to expand hydrographic summary reporting to other areas of the Big Cypress watershed.

4. **Breaking News Update:** Brenda Brooks-Solveson

- Purchasing the Babcock Ranch is still moving forward, however, Jennifer Hecker added that talk of partnering with developers on portions of the ranch has been another option on the table. This option enables the state to invest in several projects instead of one large 90,000 acre land acquisition.

Ellen Lindblad gave an update on CREW summarizing the acquisition status over the past 15 years as well as current acquisition issues in Southern Flint Pen Strand.

- It was noted that Audubon had taken over the Panther Island Mitigation Bank and that the Airport CREW area was seeking an entity to take over its management.
- The status of Edison Farms was discussed and the Agripartners (4 sections) were not considered willing sellers. Dave Ceilley suggested that the Big Cypress RCT may consider reviewing the conveyance canal being proposed for this area by the landowners to determine if it has any restoration value as touted.

- New hiking trails and boardwalks were announced as well as the possibility of utilizing miles of old logging trams as new trails in the Shady Hollow area off of 34th Ave.
- The status of the Camp Keis was discussed and it was commented that the District was doing a study that will in part address restoration options and hydrologic conditions in the greater Camp Keis, OK Slough and Bear Slough watersheds.
- Jason Lauritsen commented on the absence of adequate water conveyance in the strand across SR846, however past efforts to rectify the situation couldn't get by legal issues associated with land ownership. Currently, just 1 bridge exists.
- FFWCC will be conducting a wildlife crossing study to assess options for decreasing wildlife mortality on the roads in eastern Collier County.
- The status of the southern CREW condemnations was discussed.
- Jason Lauritsen pointed out the location of the Woodstork Flow Ways conservation concept that Jim Beever and others have identified and advocated.
- Dave Addison noted that Joel Kooperberg, a pioneer and staunch advocate of CREW recently passed away.

5. Restoration Planning: Daryl Thomas, Mac Hatcher and Bob Sobczak

- Daryl Thomas provided a powerpoint presentation on the on-going effort by Jim and Lisa Beever and himself to spatially represent and database all restoration projects in the southwest Florida area. Daryl noted that this restoration mapping and database concept started with the Lee County Master Mitigation Plan and then was expanded by the Calusa Group and into Charlotte Harbor NEP. Daryl requested the assistance of BC RCT members to identify restoration projects for the Big Cypress watershed in upcoming meetings. Mike Savarese suggested that this is an important topic for the Big Cypress watershed and expressed interest in how the existing database in Lee County was being used by developers and if mitigation monies were used in restoration projects there.
- Mac Hatcher provided an overview on the Conservation Collier Program which began in 2002. The goal is to bond money (\$75 million) to buy environmentally sensitive land and manage. Mac used a map to showcase recent and proposed purchases. Among recent purchases included a 129 acre parcel of scrub habitat in North Collier near Bonita that cost \$34 million, however they have found that most property owners are not willing to sell at this time.
- Bob Sobczak presented a simplistic approach for posting small-scale restoration projects in the Big Cypress watershed, focusing on the Tamiami Trail Watershed, as discussed at the last meeting. Bob commented that chronic inaction on smaller-scale restoration projects is a result of (1) a lack of funding within respective land agencies, (2) lack of monitoring or knowledge base to see existing problems or the benefit of restoration actions, (3) the inability or perceived difficulty of getting a permit or doing design work, (4) a natural disposition for the status quo, and (5) lack of a central platform(s) for identifying, coordinating, and advocating small-scale projects. Bob suggested that the power of putting it out there as a web page puts it at everyone's fingertips, it can readily be improved over time, it avoids the need for linear-type long report, and it would be great tool

to click around on for the Big Cypress RCT, both at our meetings and back everyone's respective office.

- Discussion ensued on the overall concept of restoration planning, the advantages and disadvantages of the database and web-based paradigms, and where to proceed on the subject. Mike Savarese suggested a need to market a restoration plan concept to an appropriate audience. Bob suggested that if a truly usable tool is developed than it will be useful, and wouldn't necessarily need to be heavily marketed. Mike Bauer commented that there were a lot of good ideas that somehow have to all be joined together on this.

6. Inventory of Monitoring: Jill Trubey

- Jill Trubey discussed the metadata website that was established in 1997 to identify what and where scientists were doing their monitoring. Jill wanted to know how this ACCESS database could be more user-friendly and utilized by the group.
- Mike Shirley noted that this database can connect existing science to where the proposed restoration areas are and also for monitoring efforts.
- Mike Savarese suggested that FGCU be the licensed site for the software.

7. Watershed Initiative Update: Mike Bauer and Liz Abbott

- Mike Bauer gave an overview of the Naples Bay Initiative. In the fall, a ranking of 11 projects were presented to SFWMD.
- Liz Abbott provided an update on the Estero Bay, Naples Bay, and Big Cypress Basin Watershed Initiative budgets. She commented that the hydrology and restoration plan for the OK Slough, Camp Keis, and Bear Slough (and SR29 drainage) will be completed in September 05, and that the initial meeting for this study will be held in the next 2 weeks. Among other things, this study will identify restoration projects for that area.

8. Member Comments:

- Ed Hanlon provided a concept paper that addresses the use of private land to solve hydrologic conditions. Ed will give more detail at the next meeting

9. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 29, 2005 at 9:30 am. The meeting was adjourned at 12:35.

DRAFT

Big Cypress Watersheds Restoration Coordination Team

June 29, 2005

Rookery Bay-Palmetto Room

9:30-12:30

Meeting Minutes

Members:

Organization	Member	Alternate
Army Corps of Engineers	TBA	
Audubon	Jason Lauritsen	Ed Carlson
Big Cypress Basin	Clarence Tears	Ananta Nath /Tim Howard
Big Cypress Nat'l Preserve	Bob Sobczak	Damon Doumlele
CH-C RCT/ CHNEP	Lisa Beever	Catherine Corbett
City of Naples	Mike Bauer	Gary Pettit
Collier County - Nat. Res.	Bill Lorenz	Mac Hatcher
Conservancy of SW Florida	Dave Ceilley	David Addison, Ian Bartoszek , Jennifer Hecker
CREW	Ellen Lindblad	
Estero Bay - ABM	Ellen Lindblad	
Everglades National Park	Tom Schmidt	
Florida DEP - S. District	Rick Cantrell	Karen Bickford/ Jennifer Nelson
Florida DEP - Estero Bay	Heather Stafford	Sherry Furnari
Florida DEP - Fakahatchee	Greg Toppin	Mike Owen
Florida Division of Forestry	Hank Graham	Sonja Durrwachter
FFWCC	Jim Beever	Joe Bozzo
FGCU	Mike Savarese	Win Everham/ Brenda Brooks-Solveson
Hendry County	Ron Zimmerly	
Lee Co Dept of Nat Res	Roland Ottolini	Tony Pellicer
Lee Co Smart Growth	Wayne Daltry	
Regional Planning Council	David Burr	
Rookery Bay NERR	Gary Lytton	Mike Shirley, Keith Laakkonen
SFRESTORE Task Force	Carrie Beeler	
SFWMD	Carla Palmer	Janet Starnes, Mike Duever, Liz Abbott
TTI & Panther Refuge	Lane Hamilton	Ron Popowski
UF IFAS	Ed Hanlon	Marty Main
USDA	Tony Polizos	
US EPA		
US Fish and Wildlife	Art Roybal	Daryl Thomas
USGS	Eduardo Patino	Mike Byrne

Those in bold were present at the meeting.

Guest include: Melinda Schuman (Conservancy of SW FL), Michael Menelli (Conservancy of SW FL), Clint Smith (Conservancy of SW FL), Heather Pace (Conservancy of SW FL)

1. Brenda Brooks-Solveson called the meeting to order at 9:35 am at which time each member introduced themselves and what agency they represented.
2. The minutes of the March 4, 2005 meeting were approved.
3. **Mission/Goals:** Brenda Brooks-Solveson
 - The members went through the draft mission/goals/strategies for the BC RCT.
 - Mike Shirley suggested adding “monitoring and identifying” in the mission statement. Clarence Tears recommended “coordinated efforts” that better expresses the coordination among agencies. Jason Lauritsen suggested that prioritization be included. Liz Abbott raised the issue of the group being able to prioritize and advocate. After discussion among the group, it was agreed that “recommending priorities” would encompass the goals of the group.
 - Ananta Nath raised the issue of confusion over the group’s name from Big Cypress Basin to Big Cypress last year and the boundaries as they relate to Estero Bay. Mike Bauer explained that Estero Bay is included in both BC RCT and the Caloosa RCT. After further discussion, the name change to Big Cypress Watersheds was approved by the group. Bob Sobczak said that a map outlining the different watersheds on the new webpage would help to clarify the boundaries.
 - The mission/goals/strategies as suggested by the group-- **MISSION:** To foster coordinated efforts among agencies and interest groups with respect to identifying, monitoring and restoring environmental conditions in the Big Cypress watersheds and downstream estuaries. **GOALS:** 1) To provide a forum for exchange of information relevant to the Big Cypress Watersheds and downstream estuaries. 2) To provide enhanced communication and dissemination of information relevant to monitoring up-to-date environmental conditions and generating information concerning the health of the Big Cypress Watersheds and downstream estuaries 3) To provide enhanced communication and dissemination of information with respect to conservation and restoration of ecosystems of the Big Cypress Watersheds and downstream ecosystems. **STRATEGIES:** To address goals 1, 2, and 3. Hold quarterly meetings with members to share and discuss relevant information. / To address goal 2. Provide semi-weekly updates on relevant hydrologic data and media helpful for monitoring environmental conditions. / To address goals 1, 2, and 3. Develop a web-based forum that allows the group to efficiently share and discuss information during and between quarterly meetings.
4. **Sneak Preview of Webpage:** Bob Sobczak
 - Bob showed the new webpage that he has been working on with FGCU’s webpage design team and Brenda Brooks-Solveson. As Bob worked through the “Hydrologic Conditions Update” link on the webpage, he also gave a brief update

on the region's hydrologic conditions. Bob pointed that the southwest coast and Big Cypress aggregate areas were both approaching 20 inches for the month. This is the most rain that the region has seen for any wet season month for at least the past 25 years. Bob showed the user friendliness of the "Restoration Radar Screen" using the Tamiami Trail and Mullet Slough watersheds. He equated the Restoration Radar Screen to a "poor man's GIS" tool. Tools include a breakdown of each sub-watershed with more detailed tabs linking to individual projects and a summary, introduction, status, costs, current analysis and aerial views. Bob commented that it's a great way to make information available to people that was otherwise collecting "digital dust".

- The website will also offer links to "e-news", team info and other relevant links provided by members.
- Ellen Lindblad remarked that she will plan to get CREW info on the webpage with Bob's help. Jason suggested that dates be included to better clarify the time-frame and Clarence Tears said that a counter would monitor the number of webpage visitors. Eduardo Patino said he will send Brenda Brooks-Solveson two USGS links (historical data and Real-Time data) to be added to the webpage.

5. Restoration Planning: Daryl Thomas

- Daryl Thomas provided a powerpoint presentation on the on-going effort to spatially represent and database all restoration projects in the southwest Florida area. Daryl noted that this restoration mapping and database concept started with the Lee County Master Mitigation Plan and then was expanded by the Calusa Group and into Charlotte Harbor NEP. After restoration projects are identified data is collected on water quality, hydrology and biodiversity which are then indexed into the database. Progress to date includes 3 team meetings, 3 subgroup meetings, 50 projects identified and described. These projects, which equate to approximately 1/4 of the total projects to be identified and described, are currently being digitized and be available soon. The next step will be the addition of Collier County CIP projects, Florida Forever project and Hendry County.
- Jason Lauritsen asked about the possibility of including prescribed burning regimes into the database. Daryl said that some land managers include prescribed burning regimes in their project description, but that adding another check box for prescribed fires may be useful. Mike Bauer added that a check box for exotics removal may be useful too.
- Heather Stafford brought up that on the DEP website, there is a FERI (Florida Ecological Resource Inventory) link that was initially set up for contractors, but contains very useful information.

6. CREW Update: Ellen Lindblad

- Ellen Lindblad gave an update on various restoration projects at CREW beginning with an acquisition map. Ellen pointed out that Camp Keis Strand is the largest strand not acquired, but hopefully under the "willing seller" program and the Rural Stewardship Plan will eventually become part of CREW lands.

- Ellen gave a historical overview of Bird Rookery Swamp and explained that logging in the 1950's led to the build up of an extensive tram road grid. There has been concern about sheet flow in the area, but there are currently five 60 inch culverts and ten 18 inch culverts being installed in the south end. Ellen has worked closely with Jim Goodwin to get access into this area and feels that it would be a great location for hiking and biking since the outerloop of the tram grid is approximately 10 miles. Lygodium has also been found in this area and Ellen is looking into the moth (biological control) to be released in the area.
- Southern Critical Crew (Lee County) is the only part of CREW that could be acquired through imminent domain, however, the rest can only be acquired through the "willing seller" program.
- Ellen updated the members of the status of the CR 951 and that on August 2 at 5:30 there will be a meeting with Lee County Commissioners and support of the "no build" or "very westerly alignment" would be in the best interest of CREW. Also on July 12 at 5:00, the last public meeting on CR 951 will be held at Three Oaks Conference Center.
- The 100-acre area south of Lake Trafford was explained by Ellen as an area donated through a WHIP grant and that since the berms have been brought down to grade and ditches filled in, the area looks good.
- Ellen ended your PowerPoint presentation with a picture of an uncollared male panther on CREW lands!

7. Breaking News/Current Conditions/ Member Comments:

- Ian Bartoszek went over the maps provided by David Ceilley of monitoring locations in Picayune and Fakahatchee Strands. The SGGE Conservancy monitoring locations in Picayune and Fakahatchee Strands were established utilizing the location of the NRCS piezometers. Additional locations of SFWMD wells and Conservancy aquatic refugia are also represented. Sampling will be done at 41 locations and they are currently coordinating with other agencies for monitoring/reference sites.
- Mike Bauer gave a quick update on the Water Quality Park in Naples, located on 50 acres at the NE corner of Goodlette-Frank and Golden Gate. The site will include filter marshes and hiking trails. The design contract was awarded in June and Liz Abbott said that work will most likely begin in approximately 1 year.
- Liz Abbott announced that the baseline, water quality and hydrologic studies have been done for the East Collier Study and that the environmental assessment needs to be finished for the next meeting.
- Tom Schmidt brought up the current news about Florida City and its possible annexation. Tom commented that annexation would not be a positive move for CERP.
- Heather Stafford was thrilled to announce that Estero Bay Florida Forever is back on the "A" list.
- Brenda Brooks-Solveson announced to the group that the SMMS software (Spatial Metadata Management System), provided by Jill Trubey, is now available for use at FGCU. There is also a copy available at Rookery Bay.

- An update on Gary Pettit was given by those who have talked with him. We certainly missed Gary's presence at the meeting!
- 8.** The next meeting Big Cypress RCT meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 7, 2005 at 9:30 am. The meeting was adjourned at 11:46.

Big Cypress Watersheds Restoration Coordination Team Members

Organization	Member	Alternate
Army Corps of Engineers	TBA	
Audubon	Jason Lauritsen	Ed Carlson
Big Cypress Basin	Clarence Tears	Ananta Nath/ Tim Howard
Big Cypress Nat'l Preserve	Bob Sobczak	Paul Murphy
CH-C RCT/ CHNEP	Lisa Beever	Catherine Corbett
City of Naples	Mike Bauer	Katy Fuhr
Collier County - Nat. Res.	Bill Lorenz	Mac Hatcher
Conservancy of SW Florida	David Addison Jennifer Hecker	Ian Bartoszek
CREW	Ellen Lindblad	Brenda Brooks-Solveson
Estero Bay - ABM	Ellen Lindblad	
Everglades National Park	Tom Schmidt	
Florida DEP - S. District	Rick Cantrell	Karen Bickford/ Jennifer Nelson
Florida DEP - Estero Bay	Heather Stafford	Sherry Furnari
Florida DEP - Fakahatchee	Greg Toppin	Mike Owen
Florida Division of Forestry	Hank Graham	Sonya Durrwachter/ Charles Denney
FFWCC	Jim Beever	Joe Bozzo
FGCU	Mike Savarese	Sarah Davis
Hendry County	Ron Zimmerly	
Lee Co Dept of Nat Res	Roland Ottolini	Tony Pellicer
Lee Co Smart Growth	Wayne Daltry	
Regional Planning Council	David Burr	
Rookery Bay NERR	Mike Shirley	Gary Lytton
SFRESTORE Task Force	Carrie Beeler	
SFWMD	Liz Abbott	Janet Starnes, Mike Duever
TTI & Panther Refuge	Lane Hamilton	Ron Popowski
UF IFAS	Ed Hanlon	Sanjay Shukla
USDA	Tony Polizos	
US EPA		
US Fish and Wildlife	Daryl Thomas	Art Roybal / Kim Dryden
USGS	Eduardo Patino	Mike Byrne
WilsonMiller		
Individual Restoration Ecologist	David Ceilly	
	Robert Schroeder	

Guests: Dan Sorensen (Conservancy Intern)
Those in bold were present at the meeting.

1. **Welcome/Call to Order**

Sarah Davis the new executive assistant called the meeting to order at 9:37 AM, She is taking over the position of Brenda Brooks-Solveson who has joined CREW. Each member then introduced themselves and who they represented.

2. **Minutes approved**

The minutes from June 29, 2005 were approved.

3. **BCW-RCT Webpage Update and Rainfall update**

- ◆ Bob Sobszak briefed the group on the web page process. We are collaborating with the IT department at FGCU and plan to have it up and running with hydrologic data by the next meeting. The webpage will allow access to rainfall, Lake O, and WCA3A updates that Bob sends out every week; and will be expanded over time to include other information. The Restoration Radar Screen will provide a quick glance that may be useful in management decisions.
- ◆ Bob Sobczak provided a brief update on hydrologic conditions with respect to rainfall, hydroperiod duration in Big Cypress National Preserve, Lake Okeechobee, and Water Conservation Area 3A. Bob introduced the group to a way to graph hydroperiod that he thought would be helpful to group members and collaborating scientists.
- ◆ Mike Bauer recommended that we begin the process of adding hydrologic condition updates for other areas in the Big Cypress Watersheds area, including Naples Bay and Faka Union Canal. Bob indicated that the eventual goal will be to include graphics for key index stations throughout the Big Cypress Watersheds area.
- ◆ David Ceilly raised concerns about the lack of water flowing south from Lake O in comparison to discharges to the estuaries. He questioned if any discussion of flooding farms and compensation for farmers, compensation for farm owners. He indicated that harmful algal blooms are in the estuary, and that water is going where it shouldn't go, instead of moving south of the Lake. He indicated that it was his impression that the S4 farm fields were dry and not getting any water.
- ◆ The group discussed how the proliferation of telemetered stations across the watershed is revolutionizing the way we can look at the data. Telemetry brings the data to our fingertips, whereas previously we were always 30 days behind.
- ◆ Mike Schmidt asked about plotting climatic events such as hurricanes on the hydroperiod graphics.
- ◆ Mike Shirley asked about the role of using the graphics as a feedback to how the system is operated, such as in Picayune Strand when that comes on line. Mike discussed the ways that real-time data updates, combined with hydrologic performance measures, can be fed back into managing the system with more environmental benefits.

4. Mission

- ◆ The group reviewed Mission revisions from the last meeting. Bob and Brenda explained that this was the best guess and compilation of all comments. The mission will be included on the website. Several group members recommended minor changes to the mission language, including the following.
- ◆ Daryl Thomas stated that under Goal 2 “up-to-date” should be changed to current or timely, Ian Bartoszek in the mission stated we should include scientists, stakeholders
- ◆ Discussion revolved around wording of the mission to incorporate all who attend. The idea is to bring government agencies and interested groups to provide a forum for information
- ◆ The group agreed to review the mission statement yearly and update it if necessary.
- ◆ The Mission statement was approved.

5. Group photo

All BCW-RCT members present had a group photograph taken for the website.

6. Presentation Sanjay Shukla Use of Reservoirs and Ditches for water Quality and Quantity

- ◆ Sanjay provided an overview of the water quantity and quality effects of water retention using stormwater impoundments and drainage ditches. Results from a hydrologic monitoring and modeling study showed that agricultural stormwater impoundments can be used as an alternative source of water supply and provide additional water quality treatment. Results from a mesocosm study in two agricultural ditches showed that retaining water in the reservoir and ditches can reduce the nutrient loadings by more than 50%. Sanjay commented that this work did not consider the role or fate of pesticides or how soil/vegetation uptake of nutrients might vary with application of copper sulfate.

7. Presentation Ed Hanlon Recyclable Water Containment for Water Quality

- ◆ Ed emphasized that managing water starts with managing the land, and provided a conceptual overview of several means by which land may be used for water storage while improving water quality. He discussed a watershed approach to land use and conveyance structures to aid in hydrating soils and benefit from effective nutrient reduction at the same time. He discussed the economics needed to entice landowners, both urban and agricultural, to manage their land for water quantity and quality.

8. Update Hydrology USGS work Ed Patino

- ◆ Ed Patino from USGS provided an update on hydrology work that the USGS is doing in coastal areas of Florida from Florida Bay to Estero Bay.

He also gave the group an update on a short-term study that the USGS implemented in the coastal area downstream of Picayune Strand. Ed provided numerous graphics on a number of projects. He discussed ways that flows need to be filtered to remove the tidal signature.

- ◆ Websites identified in presentation:
<http://fl.water.usgs.gov/miami/hurricane/esterobaystations.html>
<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/rt>
<http://sofia.usgs.gov>

9. **Breaking News**

- ◆ Sarah will contact local newspapers in order to get permission to post stories on our webpage. This will be helpful to our team because it will give us a running log of news stories that we can reference over time, and will always have at our fingertips when needed.
- ◆ Liz Abbott expressed concerns that the news stories in the papers are not always factually correct, and in some cases are biased. Other members of the group felt that even though the stories do not always capture the full story, they do keep us up-to-date on the latest buzz, and what the public is digesting in terms of environmental and water resources issues.
- ◆ Tim Howard suggested that we include a way to get up-to-date progress reports of all the projects that are unfolding. Under current conditions, it is often difficult to get timely and accurate information on the status of things. Daryl Thomas indicated that his database would show a full list of restoration projects. Tim suggested that having an abbreviated list of the projects that are turning dirt would be a helpful subset to provide regular updates. Bob indicated that the Restoration Radar Screen discussed at the last meeting could cover that base.
- ◆ The status of the red tide prediction and status monitoring network was discussed. It was Bob's understanding that this page would provide scientists and public relevant information on the severity and geographic locality of the red tide events.
- ◆ An update was provided on the nutrient workshop: focusing on harmful algae bloom representatives, present from health department, DEP, and SFWMD. Jennifer Nelson commented on how much we still don't know about these toxins and their long term chronic effects. It is a neurotoxin and no state or federal guidelines exist for safety. Looking to the World health organization (WHO) for guidance and their standards for chronic exposure, drinking water, and swimming.
- ◆ N:P ratio, tips the scales with blue green, and a concern to reservoirs, Richard Harvey memo mentioned.
- ◆ Mike Baur shared the latest progress with Naples Bay and oyster reef restoration recently completed in collaboration with FGCU, SFWMD and City of Naples.
- ◆ Next meeting suggestion for a discussion of mapping Naples Bay, with Jeff Schmidt, Dave Addison, Kathy Whirley
- ◆ Ellen Linblad announced she is leaving CREW to become a Long Range planner for Lee County. CREW is looking for a new executive director.

10. Feasibility Study with Daryl Thomas

- ◆ Reported to group on status of FSM, project is in gear, alt. development team, Oct 20 full team meeting multiple documents, database, GIS corps FTP site, will send link to new documents out to group.
- ◆ Identify flows to coast within feasibility study, boundary, different flow areas, tributaries, canals out to coast quantify size and volume, different placements reservoirs flows to coast
- ◆ Reservoirs ameliorate flows, last resort up for comments, can access on the website.
- ◆ Phase I identify areas for acquisition and restoration.

11. Next meeting January, Friday the 13th 2006 Group proposed to hold it at IFAS site in Immokalee and make field visits to their projects in the afternoon. Confirmation of next meeting will follow.