

**Master Recreation Plan
Recreation Planning Team Kickoff Meeting
Meeting Summary**

18 September 2002

9:30 AM – 3:30 PM

To: Attendees

From: Everglades Partners Joint Venture (EPJV)

Subject: Master Recreation Planning Team Kickoff Meeting Summary

Attendees: See Attendance Sheets

Handouts: Agenda
Contact Information / Web Page
Draft Program Management Plan Table of Contents
Example – Draft CERP Recreation Master Plan Table of Contents
Draft MRP Stakeholder List

The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) Master Recreation Planning Team (RPT) kickoff meeting was held September 18, 2002 at the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) office in West Palm Beach, Florida.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Tambour Eller, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Project Manager, welcomed the RPT members and attendees and asked everyone to state his/her name and agency represented. The EPJV members stated they would be providing support for this meeting.

FACA

Teri Shoemaker, EPJV, explained the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) to the attendees. Following is a list of main points with respect to the FACA as provided by the Jacksonville District Corps Office of Council. The suggestions from the guidance document are as follows:

- Team members / decision makers include only the federal officials and elected officers of State, Local and tribal governments (or their designated authority) acting in their official capacities;
- The team members should be physically distinct from the public attendants by seating, nametags or other measures;
- Any voting or consensus should reflect only the views of the members;
- Comments from non-members should be accepted in a forum that makes clear the comment is public input and not part of the interagency discussion or decision making;

- Comment periods should be at specifically designated times, prefaced with an explanation that the group is entertaining public comment; and Comment periods should not occur with great frequency during the meeting.

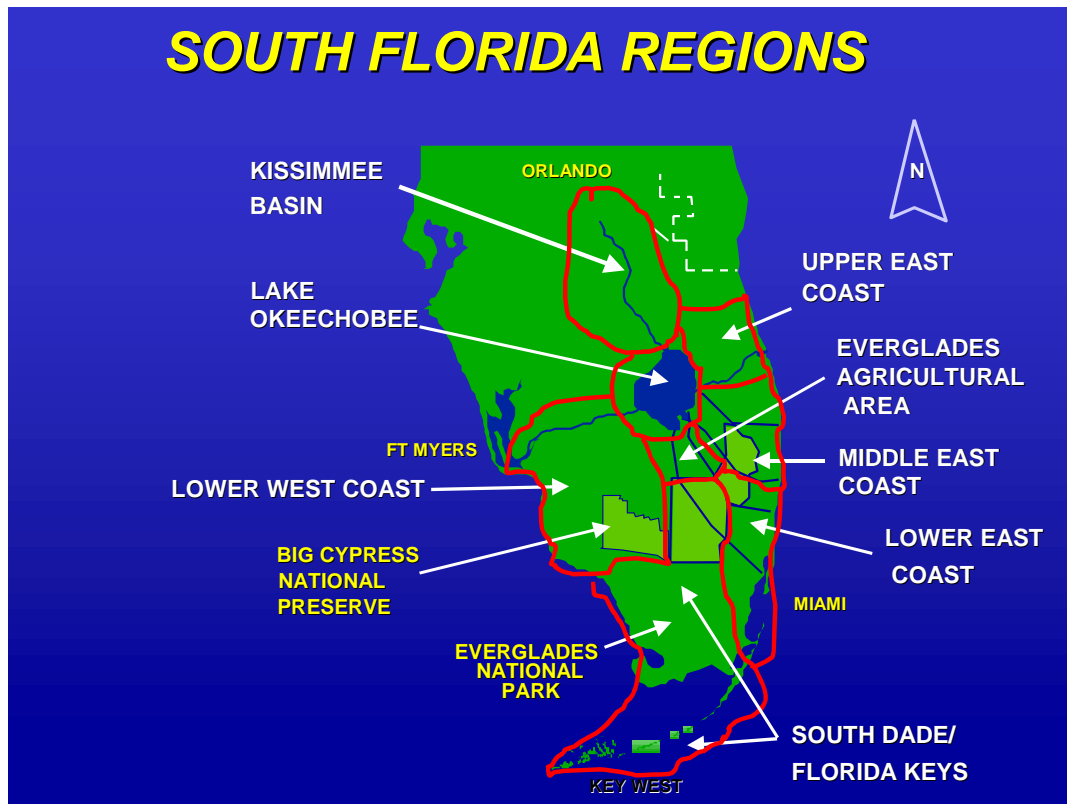
Purpose of Meeting

Tambour explained the purpose of the meeting is to organize the RPT and identify team members and agencies represented. Initial tasks will also be developed at the meeting.

CERP 101 – T. Eller

(See PowerPoint Presentation for further detail)

Tambour gave an overview of the CERP, beginning with the signing of the Water Resource Development Act (WRDA) of 2000. She explained the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Project purpose and components, as well as problems facing the South Florida ecosystem. The Comprehensive Review Study (Restudy) reexamined the C&SF Project to restore the South Florida ecosystem, enhance water supplies, and maintain flood control. The CERP is a series of environmental and other improvements over 30 plus years with an estimated cost of \$7.8 billion. The main goal of CERP is to “Get the Water Right” by focusing on Quantity, Quality, Timing and Distribution (QQTd) of the water. The Master Recreation Plan (MRP) will encompass all regions of South Florida included in the CERP, as shown on the slide below:



The MRP will look at the 50 projects included in CERP and evaluate each project's negative and positive impacts on recreation and public land use.

TEAM DIRECTIVES – P. Warner
(See PowerPoint Presentation for further detail)

Paul Warner, South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) project manager, thanked Dennis Duke (Corps), the CERP Program Manager, for listening to the public and agency concern in regard to recreation and developing the Master Recreation Planning Team. Paul emphasized that the Master Recreation Plan will not solve all problems associated with recreation. The Corps and SFWMD do not have an unlimited supply of financial resources; therefore, any plans developed must be compatible with CERP projects and affordable.

The Goals of the MRP are as follows:

- Identify, evaluate and address the impacts of CERP implementation on existing recreation and public use
- Identify and evaluate new recreation, public use and education opportunities
 - To compensate for those that may be lost as a result of CERP
 - To expand recreation and public use opportunities within certain regions
- Document the CERP system-wide plan for public use and recreation from conceptual design through implementation

Recreation and Public Use Features Implemented under CERP:

- Must be compatible with project purpose, goals and objectives
- Must be affordable within project cost limitations
- Must be compatible with surrounding environment
- Primary emphasis will be on features that are cost-sharable under Corps policy

The role of the Recreation Planning Team encompasses the following:

- Provide technical input to management plan and final products
- Provide expertise and agency perspectives to ensure that Plan addresses all applicable concerns
- Provide agency resources and information, where possible, to complete activities or tasks
- Help facilitate communication between the RPT and stakeholders

MASTER RECREATION PLAN - P. Stevenson
(See PowerPoint Presentation for further detail)

Paul Stevenson, Corps, presented an overview of the Corps' authority to develop the MRP, typical outline of a master recreation plan, and the planning process. Paul presented the standards and documentation of authority for the CERP MRP.

Description – Typical Outline of Master Recreation Plan (see handout)

Paul referred the attendees to the handout of a typical master recreation plan table of contents. A master recreation plan generally includes: introduction, project location, goals & objectives, analysis, public involvement, land use, summary, and recommendations. Paul envisions regional appendices to document the existing recreation in each region of CERP. The footprints of each CERP project will be included and used to identify the recreational opportunities. A master recreation plan is a living document and will include supplements and updates. The first draft of the CERP MRP should be completed in two or three years.

Paul Warner commented that the RPT should use the example table of contents to help determine work activities for the Work Breakdown Structure and those work items that may need to be completed early. One early work item would be developing a map summarizing existing recreation and public use facilities, and another showing potential impacts from CERP projects and potential new recreation/public use opportunities under CERP. These could be used to communicate with Project Delivery Teams (PDTs).

Planning Process

Paul explained that the Corps planning process is iterative, resulting in a recommended plan. The following are the project planning steps:

- Identify Problems and Opportunities
- Inventory and Forecasting Conditions
- Formulate Alternative Plans
- Evaluate Alternative Plans
- Compare Alternative Plans
- Select a Recommended Plan

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joel Marco - Airboat Association of Florida

Joel Marco, Airboat Association of Florida, understands that the Master Recreation Plan should be done right the first time and the long-term plans are necessary. However, the timeframe of two or three years for a completed draft plan concerns him. He feels that projects will be impacting recreation in the near future. He stated that boat access has been impacted by projects already being constructed. Some problems he sees are levees too high and locked security gates. This loss of access is not fair to taxpayers. He stressed that Modified Water Deliveries is a project that is already impeding the boaters' access and the project has left unacceptable conditions, specifically the boat ramp at the S334. [editor's note: Modified Water Deliveries is not a CERP project] He explained that the post-CERP boat ramps do not have to be elaborate and expensive, and the SFWMD and Corps should just leave simple boat ramps that require minimal maintenance.

Response to Public Comment

Jon Fury, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), will investigate the status of the boat ramp at S334 that has reportedly been impacted by the Modified Water Deliveries project and provide an update to the RPT and Mr. Marco.

Paul Warner noted that this is a good example of why the Master Recreation Plan should be implemented. We're trying to get PDTs to look ahead and design public access and recreation features as part of the Project Implementation Report (PIR) because it is much more difficult and expensive to retrofit projects after they are constructed.

Chris Farrell – Audubon

Chris Farrell, Audubon, stressed to the RPT that, if the Master Recreation Plan is not complete for two or three years, the RPT should develop an outline (planning document) as soon as possible, especially for public outreach. The RPT needs to have regional meetings at night and on weekends to reach working people and those living south of Ft. Lauderdale. There is important information in the Program Management Plan that needs to be shared, and there are a lot of people interested. The two or three year timeframe may be too late for some CERP projects that will be in design; therefore this early planning document is essential to incorporating the Master Recreation Plan into those projects. Water Preserve Areas (WPA) is one of the main projects for which to consider recreational aspects.

Response to Public Comment

Paul Warner explained that the meeting today is an organizational meeting, and the RPT is planning on holding several public workshops in various locations. There will be a CERP Guidance Memorandum (CGM) and other early work products to help guide the PDTs.

Newton Cook - United Waterfowlers

Newton Cook, United Waterfowlers – Florida, stated that duck hunters spend hundreds of millions of dollars to preserve marsh and waterfowl. He and his constituents are glad to see CERP and the Master Recreation Plan. Access is the main concern, and boat ramps need to be accessible to more than just airboats. Removing canals and levees could be bad for access because these deeper channels provide access for duck hunters' boats. Duck hunters only hunt 60 days per year, and the rest of the year is spent preparing for duck hunting. He realizes there is not enough money associated with duck hunting compared to bass fishing and groups like the South Florida Anglers For Everglades Restoration (SAFER). That industry generates enough money to significantly impact the local economy. If boaters are denied access in the Everglades, they will go to Lake Okeechobee, which will become too crowded with Florida's soaring population.

Newton emphasized the importance of "edges" for waterfowl and deer. Instead of knocking down dikes completely, which would eliminate edges (rock banks), the Corps should consider spreading the dikes. Some deep-water canals should be left intact to be the "roadway" for boats. If the "roadway" were removed, the boats continually crossing the Everglades would destroy the swamp habitat. The deep-water canals are good for the environment and recreation. He sees the

WPA as a “cattail desert.” It is his opinion that cattail is the biggest problem in the Everglades because it makes boat navigation very difficult. He understands that \$400,000 was spent to backfill L-67. Knocking down the dike, not backfilling, would have saved money and left some edges. He believes not backfilling the canals will solve the sheet flow problems. Not all water will go to the deep-water canal, but the water in the canal would move more slowly than the shallow water.

Al Ovies – SAFER

Al Ovies, SAFER, has seen National Parks across the country excluding recreation from public lands. He wants this movement stopped, and the Everglades should set a precedent of restoration with recreation. Everything will be accomplished if we work together. He stated that SAFER will address the revised programmatic regulations. He wants the FWC and US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) to save the fishery and encouraged agency representatives to get out of the office and go in the canal to fish (see what is worth saving).

In regard to boat ramps, there will not be an issue if canals are not backfilled and if access is maintained. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) boat ramps along I-75 (Alligator Alley) are “top-notch.” As a contrast, the access to the L-67 in Dade County is awful, as it is difficult for trucks with boat trailers to drive down the dirt road to the boat ramp. As just a part of the \$8 billion program, \$100,000 - \$200,000 would be great for new boat facilities.

Al commented that it took him two hours from Miami to get to today’s meeting, and meetings should be held closer to Miami. He suggests the International Game and Fish Association (IGFA) in Ft. Lauderdale.

Response to Public Comment

Each RPT meeting will be held in a different region, and the public workshops will cover all regions.

Joel Marco - Airboat Association of Florida

Joel Marco, Airboat Association of Florida, understands that the Miami Canal and almost all canals will be backfilled. Joel says that four miles of L-67 is already backfilled, and a better compromise is needed for boat access and to save “human habitat.”

Al Ovies - SAFER

Al Ovies, SAFER, is concerned that the Decentralization and Sheet Flow Project is one of the first projects to be completed, and that project will trigger canal filling throughout CERP.

Newton Cook - United Waterfowlers

Newton Cook, United Waterfowlers, stated that he has seen the difference between open access and the alternative with mud buggies in the J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area (unlimited access) and the Dupuis Wildlife and Environmental Area (limited access). Those wildlife management areas are “trashed” and “pristine”, respectively, because the at the Corbett Area mud buggies are allowed to travel anywhere and at DuPuis they are limited to certain paths. He believes that no one studied the science behind backfilling L-67, and it was very expensive to backfill L-67.

Response to Public Comment

Joe Walsh, FWC, explained that the FWC is studying ways to use the fill besides using it as backfill in the canals. Uses such as tree islands are being considered.

Al Ovies - SAFER

Al Ovies, SAFER, stated that SAFER also represents bank fisherman. The L-29 Canal is a great place for bank fisherman. The L-67 extension was in the Everglades National Park (ENP) so there was not much anyone could do about it being backfilled. However, it was a favorite of bank fisherman.

Chris Farrell - Audubon

Chris Farrell, Audubon, stressed the importance of public outreach to educate the people on the new opportunities included in the CERP, including 100 miles of new canals. The more we can show the public, the better.

Al Ovies - SAFER

Al Ovies, SAFER, stated that he is not interested in “trading tit for tat.” The focus should be on saving the great fishing canals of the Water Conservation Area (WCA) 3.

John Rude - Broward Urban River Trails (BURT)

John Rude, Broward Urban River Trails (BURT), is looking ten years into the future, and his area of concern is east of the flood control structures in Broward County. Currently, there is an increased demand for using the canals and trails on levees. His organization wants to work with the SFWMD to provide areas to portage kayaks and canoes around flood control structures in order to gain access the Everglades. Historically, it made sense for the structures to be off-limits, but now the population is bigger and pressing against the border of the Everglades. BURT wants to educate the people about the Everglades and the SFWMD. There are two new canoe/kayak launches in the urban areas, which will help the waterway clean-up initiative. The trails and canals help to “tell the story” and increase awareness of the “connectivity” of the population and the Everglades – tying the urban and natural environments together long-term.

PUBLIC OUTREACH & INVOLVEMENT - T. Eller **(See PowerPoint Presentation for further detail)**

Tambour Eller gave a presentation on public outreach as it relates to the MRP. She also encouraged the RPT to review the draft stakeholders list and provide any additions or corrections to the list.

Public outreach includes developing a custom plan and implementing public information and involvement. Public information includes public meetings, publications and presentations, and media relations (newspaper, magazines, etc.). Public involvement includes identifying target audiences, identifying/addressing existing and new issues, holding meetings, and building community relations.

Tambour presented the address of the website for the MRP, and explained the new Web-based comment form for those with Internet access. The form can be used to register as a stakeholder and/or make comments. Comments submitted go directly to the Project Managers for the Corps and SFWMD and to the Corps Planning Technical Leader.

The RPT has already heard public comment, including the following concerns:

- Loss of access points due to Stormwater Treatment Areas (STAs)
- Effects of canal backfilling on fishing, boating & bank fishing
- Equestrian Access to levees
- Hunting opportunities on public lands
- Plan effects on frogging, airboating, hunting, camping & off-road vehicle use
- Demonstrate need to remove levees & canals (the science behind removal)

An Outreach Sub Team will develop a strategy and work on the details associated with public outreach. The strategy will include when and where the public workshops should be held and the best way to gather information from the public. The following RPT members volunteered for the Sub Team: Jon Fury (FWC), Joe Walsh (FWC), Tambour Eller (Corps), and Amanda Ellison (Corps).

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joel Marco, Airboat Association of Florida, encouraged the RPT (and all PDTs) to not end meetings early and to stay in the meeting facility until the time indicated on the agenda for public comment. Some public attendees try to attend the public comment period of the meeting and are frustrated when all team members leave early.

LUNCH BREAK

**GUIDANCE MEMORANDUM - RECREATION AND PUBLIC USE PLANNING –
P. Warner (See PowerPoint Presentation for further detail)**

Paul Warner explained the CERP Guidance Memorandum (CGM) the RPT is developing for the MRP. The CGM will provide guidance to the PDTs for:

- Evaluating impacts of alternative designs on existing recreation and public use, and
- Evaluating new public use and recreation opportunities for potential inclusion in project designs.

The CGM will include a statement that, where possible, Project Delivery Teams should attempt to minimize negative impacts on existing public use and recreation and attempt to provide new public use and recreation opportunities. The CGM will summarize guidance from Corps ER-1105-2-100 and include a checklist of cost-sharable recreation/public use features. Minimum design considerations, general and for specific recreational activities, will be included in the CGM. Evaluation of project impacts and interaction between teams will also be addressed in the CGM. The primary application of the CGM will be during the plan formulation phase but it may also be applicable during detailed design.

The schedule for development of the CGM is as follows:

- Draft guidance memo for Regional Planning Team review in October,
- Draft guidance memo for Corps and SFWMD internal review in November, and
- Final guidance memo for CERP Program Manager approval in December.

The RPT will focus on system-wide evaluations of recreation, while each PDT will focus on project specific evaluations. Also, the Regional Evaluation Team (RET) of Restoration, Coordination, and Verification (RECOVER) has a Recreation Sub Team, which includes members of this RPT (Joe Walsh, John Fury, and Paul Stevenson). The role of the RET is still being defined, but the RET Sub Team is planning on addressing recreational issues long-term.

Tim Granowitz, Palm Beach County Parks, feels that the usual focus seems to be on the negative impacts of CERP recreation and wants to make sure the positive impacts of CERP on recreation are emphasized. He noted that it is expensive to buy separate land for recreation, so these projects should have multiple functions. It is the intent of the RPT to weigh positive and negative impacts. Each PDT is required through the Corps planning process to develop a Socio-Economics Sub Team, which evaluates recreation.

Serena Rinker, USFWS and Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge (LNWR), stated that many of the agencies have master recreation plans for their own facilities. The SFWMD was compiling a brochure that was supposed to include all existing recreational activities in South Florida. The information was gathered, but it is uncertain if there was a final product. The RPT should use this existing information. The RPT should also consider agency guidelines, including design specifications, when dealing with land owned by specific entities. Joe Walsh, FWC, added that these guidelines should be considered along with cost-sharing opportunities. Paul Warner, SFWMD, and Fred Davis, SFWMD will look into the Public Use Facility Map that had previously been under development by SFWMD and provide available information to the RPT.

Specific Recreation Uses

A listing of some possible recreational uses was presented, and the following additional uses were suggested: Remote Control Planes and Boats, Astronomy Groups, Sculling/Crew, Fishing (in addition to “bank fishing” on the list), and Boating (in addition to “boat ramps” and “airboating” on the list). Cultural Site Visitation (mounds, etc.) was also suggested, although it could be included under “Nature/Interpretive Trails.”

Serena Rinker, USFWS/LNWR, suggested additions to the Stakeholders list discussed previously during the Public Outreach presentation by Tambour Eller. She suggested the RPT think in terms of non-consumptive users, such as the “Friends of _____” groups, which work toward protecting the ecosystem. Also, the local Audubon groups should be contacted (not just Audubon of Florida). Hiking/Trail users, photography groups, and art groups should also be considered. Serena will provide the RPT a copy of the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge’s Comprehensive Conservation Plan and a list of additional stakeholders that were involved in developing the plan.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joel Marco - Airboat Association of Florida

Joel Marco, Airboat Association of Florida, believes that “Friends of _____” groups always means exclusion of someone. The RPT should focus on everyone using the land – bikes, hunting, star gazing, etc. If the RPT wants support, the team should not use words that exclude. He has experienced exclusion of airboats for manatees, and he does not believe that people’s rights should be infringed upon.

Response to Public Comment

The RPT will listen to all groups.

John Rude – Broward Urban River Trails (BURT)

John Rude, Broward Urban River Trails (BURT), stated that if the transition area between the urbanized area of Broward County and the Everglades is used for recreation (such as soccer fields), pest management and fertilizer should be eco-friendly.

Barbara Jean Powell – Everglades Coordinating Council

Barbara Jean Powell, Everglades Coordinating Council, stated that Off-Road Vehicles (ORV) does encompass airboats, but it is confusing for most people, so airboats should be listed separately. She explained that most of the recreational uses of the Everglades are related to cultural diversity – traditional to a region or part of cultural heritage (fishing, hunting, frogging). She stressed the importance of considering traditional recreation to a region versus traditional recreation to an agency (boardwalks in a national park, etc). There is a movement to cater toward tourist recreation, which is not compatible and not considered traditional. She also noted that “Fishing – Bank (Canal/Interior)” should be on the list of specific recreational uses previously discussed by the RPT.

FWC RECREATION PLAN

Joe Walsh, FWC, distributed a limited number of copies of the FWC Recreation Plan developed in the mid-1970's. Tim Regan, FWC, worked on the Plan and pointed out a few highlights to the RPT. The main projects are listed on page 166, and most were completed. Tree islands were built, and although some have since burned in muck fires, it has been helpful to study the positive and negative aspects of the tree islands. Most of the recreational lands on page 167 have been bought. In regard to the mucked spoil banks on the Miami Canal described on page 171, the trees and shrubs responded well. The FWC received funding for six spots to study impacts of airboats / mud buggies to native vegetation over 20 years.

If the PDTs or RPT find the FWC Recreation Plan useful, Joe Walsh can make arrangements to reproduce additional copies. The document could be useful if the project is in the footprint of an area described in the Plan. The RPT may value it as a historical document.

PMP OVERVIEW – PRELIMINARY DRAFT – T. Eller (See PowerPoint Presentation for further detail)

Tambour Eller explained the content of the Program Management Plan (PMP) and its purpose. The Program Management Plan is not a design document, but rather it is a management document and a method for measuring success. The Management Plan is the first step in every project or program-level activity, and it is a “living” document that records changes. The Program Management Plan components include:

- Program Information
- Program Scope
- Summary of Agency Responsibilities
- Program Changes
- Financial Management
- Functional Area Plans
- Unique Factors
- Appendices
 - Recreation Plan Team Members
 - Program Area Map
 - Work Breakdown Structure
 - Schedule
 - Cost Estimate
 - Functional Area Plans
 - Contracting Acquisition Plan
 - Quality Control Plan
 - Public Involvement Plan
 - Reference Documents
 - PMP Updates & Revisions

The slide below presents the schedule for completion of the major milestones associated with the Master Recreation Program Management Plan:

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Completion</u>
Master Plan Team Kick-Off Mtg	Sep-02
Complete draft PMP	Nov-02
Post draft PMP on web for review	Dec-02
Public Workshop	Jan-03
Approval of PMP	Feb-03
Start Master Recreation Plan	Mar-03

PUBLIC COMMENT

Barbara Jean Powell - Everglades Coordinating Council

Barbara Jean Powell, Everglades Coordinating Council, explained that she represents an umbrella organization of sportsman groups (chapters of international, national, state, and local sportsman). The Council is involved in Everglades restoration and the ethical use of public lands. She thinks the schedule outlined by the RPT may be optimistic with the Holidays, but she offered to help in any way possible.

BRAINSTORMING - Eller/Warner

Tambour Eller led a brainstorming session, focusing on agency resources. The RPT members generated the following ideas:

- FWC - Conduct a Web-based Survey
- FWC - fisheries information for WCA and Lake Okeechobee (with dollars) and a wildlife management study with types of use (bird watchers, hunters) and dollars associated with each type.
- USFWS - Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Loxahatchee
- USFWS - GIS database for federally listed species
- FDEP Division of Parks and Recreation - Recreation database (20 years) with all private/public recreation facilities. (The facilities would need to be mapped with CERP boundaries.)
- FWC is locating/quantifying access points and boat ramps (now for WCA 1, 2, 3) with information such as what type of ramp, if parking is available, etc. GPS is being used to quantify exact locations of ramps, etc.
- Corps - C&SF Master Recreation Plan (1986)
- Corps – Operations and Maintenance Business Information Link (OMBIL) for Lake Okeechobee waterways
- Corps – Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail (LOST) Master Plan
- FWC – GIS and database on strategic habitat; and conservation needs for Florida’s Rare and Imperiled Species
- FWC - Multi-Species Recovery Plan (MSRP)
- FWC – Hunter use information

FUTURE COMMUNICATIONS & MEETINGS - Eller/Warner

Tambour Eller asked the RPT members their preference for meeting frequency and communication. The RPT agreed that tasks, such as development of the Work Breakdown Structure, could be completed via e-mail, which would reduce the meetings and travel requirements for the members. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 16, 2002. Tambour will try to reserve the IGFA Museum, and she will notify members and stakeholders when confirmed.

Joe Walsh, FWC, emphasized that public workshops should be maximized, and the RPT should plan on weekend and/or evening workshops. Regional workshops could be held on Saturdays, and County workshops could be held on weekday nights (later to allow driving time). The Public Outreach Sub Team will discuss the details.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Barbara Jean Powell – Everglades Coordinating Council

Barbara Jean Powell, Everglades Coordination Council, stated that before the water regime ruined tree islands and deer populations, there was a greater participation in Everglades recreation. If a survey is conducted now, the RPT should consider the reduced participation. In addition to hunting, there has been an adverse effect on all wildlife dependent recreation (bird watching, etc.)

Joel Marco – Airboat Association of Florida

Joel Marco, Airboat Association of Florida, stated that although he is representing airboats, he supports all recreation groups. He wants no exclusion that infringes on rights of American citizens. He believes the park service should reconsider wildlife management when trying to keep an area “pristine.” He believes that areas where hunting is allowed sometimes have more wildlife than those “pristine” areas.

Joel asked the RPT how the PDTs would receive information from the RPT.

Response to Public Comment

Paul Warner explained that the CGM would be the first step for sharing information with the PDTs. The second step is distributing some of the early products from the MRP effort such as the inventory of existing recreation and public uses and some recommendations for areas to target additional recreation and public use features, after approval by Corps and SFWMD Senior Management. Once it is approved, the PDTs will be strongly encouraged to implement the recommendations included in the MRP. The PDTs will have to be accountable for the recommendations; therefore they would have to provide answers if they are unable to implement recreation recommendations. Currently, most PDTs are required by the Corps planning process to include recreation in the Socio-Economics Appendix of the PIR. This requirement is based on the CERP Goal: *Enhance Economic Values and Social Well Being*, and the CERP Sub-Goal: *Provide recreational and navigation opportunities*.

Barbara Jean Powell – Everglades Coordinating Council

Barbara Jean Powell, Everglades Coordinating Council, wants to ensure that the recommendations will not be “killed” by one person that supports wilderness over recreation.

Response to Public Comment

The RPT, along with the Corps and SFWMD Senior Management, will emphasize the importance of recreation. RECOVER and all the agencies also have responsibility to ensure that recreation is maintained/enhanced throughout CERP.

Joel Marco – Airboat Association of Florida

Joel Marco, Airboat Association of Florida, requested clarification regarding the public’s chance for input if recommendations are dismissed. Is there a compromise? Can the public provide more input?

Joel also requested clarification on the distribution of the CGM.

Response to Public Comment

Yes, the public needs to speak on all recreation issues and should follow up with the PDTs, the agencies, and their elected officials.

Regarding the CGM, it will be distributed to all project managers and will become a part of the planning process followed by every PDT.

INITIAL ASSIGNMENTS/TASKINGS/ACTION ITEMS - Eller/Warner

1. **Jon Fury, FWC**, will investigate the status of the boat ramp at S334 that has reportedly been impacted by the Mod Waters project and provide an update to the RPT and Joel Marco of the Airboaters Association.
2. **The Corps/EPJV** will provide available maps for the CERP projects showing the Regions and known project footprints for the next RPT meeting. An implementation schedule of the projects will also be presented.
3. **Paul Warner, SFWMD, and Fred Davis, SFWMD**, are to look into the Public Use Facility Map that had previously been under development by SFWMD and provide available information to the RPT.
4. **Tambour Eller, Corps**, will look into getting the International Game and Fish Association conference room for the next planning team meeting, tentatively scheduled for October 16, 2002. Tambour will notify all members and stakeholders of the location and time of the next meeting.

5. **Serena Rinker, USFWS/LNWR**, will provide the RPT a copy of the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge's Comprehensive Conservation Plan. Along with a copy of the plan, Serena will also provide a list of additional stakeholders that were involved in developing the plan (i.e....Florida Audubon, Florida Trails Association, art groups and photography groups).

ADJOURN