

## **Proposed Responsibilities of the RECOVER Teams and the RECOVER Branch/Section**

### **General Description of Team Purposes and Objectives**

Each team within RECOVER forms part of a mutually supportive and integrated effort. The purpose here is to identify areas of primary responsibility for each of the component teams in RECOVER. However, it is recognized implicitly that each team is obligated to provide support and assistance to the others in completing tasks that include aspects from multiple teams. The tasks and responsibilities laid out below are performed in support of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP).

The RECOVER Branch of the Corps and the RECOVER Section of the SFWMD (B/S), while separate from the interagency RECOVER group, can provide resources for the RECOVER technical teams. RECOVER can also provide technical and scientific support to the RECOVER B/S during the development of agency documents.

### **RECOVER Leadership Group (RLG)**

The RECOVER Leadership Group (RLG) is constituted in the § 385.20(d)(2) to “assist the program managers [assigned by the Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District] in coordinating and managing the activities of RECOVER, including the establishment of sub-teams and other entities, and in reporting the activities of RECOVER.” The RLG is composed of 12 agency representatives, as specified in the Programmatic Regulations. The RLG is responsible for coordination, management, and reporting.

### **Planning Team**

The Planning Team is primarily responsible for developing recommendations to improve Plan performance and integrating RECOVER with appropriate planning and operations activities at the Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District.

### **Evaluation Team**

The Evaluation Team is primarily responsible for forecasting the performance of plans and the designs relative to desired objectives by using predictive modeling and other tools.

### **Assessment Team**

The Assessment Team is primarily responsible for measuring the actual performance of implemented projects and interpreting that performance based on the analysis of information obtained from research, monitoring, modeling, or other relevant resources.

### **RECOVER Chairs**

The Council of Chairs is an informal group composed of all Technical Team Chairs and is responsible for coordinating activities across the three RECOVER Technical Teams, including RECOVER’s role in Adaptive Management.

## **Responsibilities of RECOVER Teams**

### **RECOVER Leadership Group**

1. Provides links with stakeholders, agencies and tribal governments
2. Establishes and periodically reviews RECOVER Teams including chairs and membership
3. Provides leadership, management and coordination for the activities of RECOVER teams
4. Prioritizes and sets standards for all RECOVER tasks and products
5. Ensures appropriate public, agency and peer review of work products
6. Develops policies and procedures for RECOVER team guidance
7. Reviews and approves work products of RECOVER Technical Teams as needed
8. Provides coordination between RECOVER and the RPDTs
9. Addresses and resolves technical issues that cannot be resolved at the team level
10. Addresses policy issues relevant to RECOVER
11. Participate in Adaptive Management (Box 3)
12. Secures resources from participating and sponsoring agencies/governments

### **Assessment Team**

- 1) Develops proposed assessment performance measures for assessing progress towards the goals and purposes of the Plan [§385.20(e)(1)(i)];
  - a) Develops assessment hydrology, ecology/biology, and water quality performance measures, for assessing progress towards all goals and purposes of the CERP
- 2) Develops and conducts a monitoring plan to support the adaptive management program;
  - a) Designs and refines a system-wide monitoring plan
  - b) Designs integrative assessment strategies including experimental design, statistical evaluation, and data quality objectives for the detection and measurement of system
  - c) Ensures consistency with the CERP QASR
- 3) Conducts assessment activities as part of the Adaptive Management Program to assess the actual performance of the Plan;
  - a) Implements the integrative assessment strategies including experimental design, statistical evaluation, and data quality objectives for the detection and measurement of system responses
  - b) Develops tools for future assessment protocols
  - c) Reviews project monitoring plans for consistency with the system wide monitoring plan

- d) Conducts region-wide assessments and integrates information of region-wide assessments into a unified system-wide assessment report, including considering the effects of activities and projects that are not part of the Plan, but which could affect the ability of the Plan to achieve its goals and purposes
- 4) Integrates new science into the Adaptive Management Program by developing and refining conceptual and predictive models and tools [§385.20(e)(3)(i)];
  - a) Develops and refines conceptual ecological models and recommends research needs to reflect new information and improved CERP hypotheses
- 5) Develops recommendations and assess progress towards achieving interim goals and interim targets;
  - a) Develops recommendations for interim goals in accordance with § 385.38 [§385.20(e)(1)(iv)]
  - b) Assesses progress towards achieving the interim goals established pursuant to § 385.38 [§385.20(e)(1)(v)]
  - c) Develops recommendations for interim targets in accordance with § 385.39[§385.20(e)(1)(vi)]
  - d) Assesses progress towards achieving the interim targets established pursuant to § 385.39 [§385.20(e)(1)(vii)]
- 6) Cooperates with the independent scientific review panel and external peer review in accordance with § 385.22 [§385.20(e)(1)(viii)].
- 7) Reviews and synthesizes new science related information and practices that could have an effect on the Plan;
- 8) Participate in development the Adaptive Management Strategy and incorporate AM into Assessment activities (Box 2).
- 9) The liaison functions of the Assessment Team include:
  - a) Provide scientific and technical support to Project Teams related to Assessment Team expertise and responsibilities.
  - b) Reviews the project monitoring plan for consistency with the system-wide Monitoring and Assessment Plan

### **Evaluation Team**

- 1) Develops proposed evaluation performance measures for evaluating alternative plans developed for the Project Implementation Report [§385.20(e)(2)(i)];
  - a) Develops evaluation performance measures, including water quality performance measures for evaluating alternative plans developed for project implementation reports and system-wide planning activities
  - b) Reviews project-level goals and objectives and performance measures for consistency with the regional performance measures
  - c) Coordinates with Project Teams to schedule performance measure reviews for consistency with system-wide performance measures.

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- 2) Conducts evaluations of alternative plans developed for Project Implementation Reports, System-wide Planning Documents, and Comprehensive Plan Modification Reports;
  - a) Conducts evaluations of alternative plans developed for Project Implementation Reports, System-wide Planning Activities and Comprehensive Plan Modification Reports
  - b) Coordinates with Project Teams to schedule alternative plan evaluations.
  - c) Communicates results of evaluations to Project Teams
  - d) Based on predictive tools, identifies issues where the system-wide or regional performance needs to be addressed and plan refinement sought
  - e) Integrates information from region-wide evaluations and produce a unified system-wide evaluation report
  - f) In carrying out the functions described in this section, RECOVER (the Evaluation Team) shall consider the effects of activities and projects that are not part of the Plan, but which could affect the ability of the Plan to achieve its goals and purposes [§385.20(f)]
- 3) Supports the development and refinement of predictive models and tools used in the evaluation of alternate plans developed by the Project Delivery Teams [§385.20(e)(2)(iii)];
  - a) Ensures the development and refinement of predictive models and tools capable of conducting regional and system-wide evaluations
  - b) Coordinates with the Interagency Modeling Center on modeling issues to accomplish system-wide evaluations.
- 4) Develops and implements a consistent process for quantifying project-level and system-wide benefits methodology consistent with system-wide objectives and performance measures.
- 5) Participate in development the Adaptive Management Strategy and incorporate AM into Evaluation activities (Box 1).
- 6) The liaison functions of the Evaluation Team include:
  - a) Provide scientific and technical support to Project Teams related to Evaluation Team expertise and responsibilities.
  - b) Coordinates with project teams to schedule RECOVER reviews of project team work products as necessary.
  - c) RECOVER will provide assistance to develop the analysis describing a project's contribution toward achievement of Interim Goals and Interim Targets for inclusion in their PIR.

### **Planning Team**

- 1) Reviews and synthesizes new information that could have an effect on the Plan [§385.20(e)(3)(ii)];
- 2) Develops proposed refinements and improvements in the design or operation of the Plan during all phases of implementation in support of meeting the goals and objectives of the plan and management actions to change the Plan;
  - a) Maintains current documentation of the Comprehensive Plan

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- b) Maintains current documentation of the existing and future without project planning conditions
  - c) Provides scientific advice to Project Teams for the development of Project Implementation Report operating manuals
  - d) Identifies and describes shortfalls of the Plan that should be considered in the Comprehensive Plan updates and/or modifications
  - e) Integrates regional, project-level, and system-wide information to assess and identify opportunities for operational and contingency modifications to improve the system-wide performance of the plan (optimize the success of the CERP)
  - f) Supports development of a system-wide operating manual that integrates all individual project components
  - g) Provides support for a system-wide plan formulation team for addressing shortfalls in performance of the CERP
- 3) Prepares and consolidates technical information developed by RECOVER to be used in the development of the periodic reports to Congress prepared pursuant to § 385.40 [§385.20(e)(3)(iv)].
  - 4) Coordinates analysis of proposed revisions to the Master Implementation Sequencing Plan on system-wide performance.
  - 5) Conducts other system-wide planning activities such as contingency planning and sensitivity to other planning scenarios as appropriate (e.g. ASR contingency planning and sensitivity to sea-level rise).
  - 6) Supports system-wide planning activities such as Comprehensive Plan Modification Reports.
  - 7) Participates in development the Adaptive Management Strategy and incorporates AM into Planning activities (Box 1 and Box 3).
  - 8) Liaison functions of the Planning Team include:
    - a) Communicates with Project Teams on the goals, objectives, opportunities for improvement, and performance of the individual projects in the context of the Plan and provides bas conditions to the projects.
    - b) Prepare the analysis for inclusion in the PIR describing the project's contributions toward achieving the goals and purposes of the Plan, including, where appropriate, suggestions for improving the performance of the alternative plans.
    - c) Determines if the project plan contained in the Yellow Book is still the appropriate project plan to meet CERP goals and objectives, and, if appropriate, any additional restoration opportunities.
    - d) Provide input to project operating manuals to ensure modeling assumptions are reasonable and are converted to operations appropriately.

### **RECOVER Chairs**

- 1) Coordinates RECOVER's role in the Adaptive Management Strategy.
- 2) Coordinates activities and resources across RECOVER Teams

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- 3) Develops appropriate technical and scientific processes, procedures, and quality controls for RECOVER activities and products
- 4) Participate in development the Adaptive Management Strategy
- 5) Maintains and improves RECOVER/PDT interaction website.
- 6) Maintains overall coordination of liaison tasks assigned to the technical teams.
- 7) Coordinates communication among the RECOVER technical teams and Project Teams.