

Seagrass Protection and Restoration Steering Committee Meeting #4

March 10, 2014 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve Office

700-1 Fisherman's Wharf, Fort Myers Beach, Florida 33931

Participants: Eric Milbrandt (SCCF), Keith Laakkonen (FMB), Thea Holting (UF), Robert Brooks (SP), James Douglass (FGCU), Cheryl Clark (EBAP)

1. Review February meeting minutes
2. Update on Task assignments
 - a. Eric explained shoebox method
 - b. Robert has a parcel list (20 Parcels) for the watershed
 - c. Keith is working with the FMB public works to get Laguna Shores seagrass area remarked in accordance with their permit.
 - d. Karen sent info for aerial photograph and is working on creating WQ database for EB
3. Protection & Restoration Plan
 - a. Look at formats for other plans
 - i. Fonseca seagrass manual
 - ii. TNC oyster restoration plan
 - b. Look at funding opportunities through NOAA CZM for person to write plan and do field work
 - c. Add creation of Seagrass Protection and Restoration Plan to EBAP management plan.
4. Create a priority list/GIS layer of areas that may need protection and/or restoration within Estero Bay based on available data
 - a. Selection criteria (Altheas research was used to determine areas)
 - i. Areas with light above 25%
 - ii. Boat traffic/prop scars
 - iii. Enforcement
 - iv. Sign placement
 - v. Boaters ability to distinguish education zones from enforced zones
 - b. Two sites were identified for seagrass signage study.
 - i. Mosquito Lagoon has data for projects like this one.
 - ii. Look for Graduate student to map grasses annually.
 - c. James has outline for NICMZ monitoring
 - i. No control
 - ii. Funding from WCIND will be pursued with monitoring being conducted before and after implementation of zones.
 - iii. Use 30m² area for monitoring
 - iv. Include boating and education
 - v. Randomize sampling points
 1. Enforcement
 2. Caution

3. No signs

5. Review data gaps and needs

- a. Bathymetry is from 2006 (WMD)
- b. Flow data
- c. Data compiled on ftp site is extensive

6. Tasks for next meeting

- James – write proposal
- Althea – map for proposal
- Cheryl – Schedule May meeting, minutes, keep ftp site up (I will be away all April)
- Eric – Put Fonsica document on ftp site
- Keith – Put TNC restoration documents on ftp site