

Seagrass Protection and Restoration Steering Committee Meeting #9

October 13, 2014 3:00pm – 5:00pm

Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve Office

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

Participants: Paul Julian (DEP, Office of Ecosystem Projects), Jon Meyer (Florida State Parks), Cheryl Clark (DEP, Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve), Mark Combs (Fish-Tale Marina), Chuck Listowski (West Coast Inland Navigation District), Althea Hotaling (University of Florida), Heather Stafford (DEP, Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserves), Mike Campbell (Lee County).

- Estero Bay Water Quality Summery
 - o A pdf of Paul's presentation "EsteroBayWaterQualityAssessment" is on the ftp site http://publicfiles.dep.state.fl.us/CAMA/Estero_Bay/
- Partnerships and project overlap
 - o There is overlap in monitoring and other projects due to lack of communication
 - o This group should work together to increase communication between partnering agencies
- Lee County Board of County Commissioners
 - o Chuck suggests that this group become an advisory group to for Lee BOCC
 - o Heather, Cheryl and Chuck will draft a letter to Lee BOCC asking them to support this groups top 10 priorities.
- Seagrass Enforcement
 - o Have any tickets been written for the destruction of seagrass in Aquatic Preserves under Section 253.04(3)(a)?
 - We know one warning has been issued in Estero Bay.
- Seagrass Protection and Restoration Plan
 - o We need to create a document that outlines our recommendations for protecting and restoring seagrasses is the priority areas this group has identified.
 - Althea will write plan for SW Mullock
 - Keith and Cheryl will write Coon key - WQ
 - Cheryl will start drafting a plan for areas with prop scar damage (volunteers to assist?)
- Seagrass Signs
 - o Mike and Cheryl met with Pearl Graphics and are waiting for a quote
 - o Cheryl reviewed FWC waterway marker guidelines and contacted FWC
 - Regulatory (orange circle) signs can be posted in the water with no graphics
 - Cheryl was not able to make contact with USCG Miami but will keep trying
 - o Chuck asked AP to submit funding request for Seagrass Signs (Cheryl)

Please remember to put any information you have to share with the group on the ftp site <ftp://ftp.dep.state.fl.us/pub/incoming/CAMA/EBAP/> and materials can be viewed at http://publicfiles.dep.state.fl.us/CAMA/Estero_Bay/.

Please submit a spreadsheet with metadata so we can effectively track materials being added and provide appropriate

credit. http://publicfiles.dep.state.fl.us/CAMA/Estero_Bay/EsteroBaySeagrassDatabase_BLANK.xlsx