

Seagrass Protection and Restoration Steering Committee Meeting #10

November 13, 2014 11:00am – 1:00pm

Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve Office

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

Participants: Paul Julian (DEP, Office of Ecosystem Projects), Cheryl Clark (DEP, Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve), Chuck Listowski (West Coast Inland Navigation District), Althea Hagen (University of Florida), Keith Laakkonen (Town of Fort Myers Beach), Eric Milbrandt (Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation), Lt Mike Andriano (Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission).

- Restoration Plans for Priority Areas
 - o Eric indicated permitting could be a hurdle if projects are applied for separately.
 - o Grasses can be harvested from wrack line and grown for sod to reduce or eliminate the need for donor beds to reduce impacts to other areas.
 - o Chuck indicated he has a nursery that does grow seagrasses so we can work through him.
 - o If Dredging is permitted and there are grasses in the footprint they should be utilized to plant priority areas.
 - o Proposal for SW of Mullock
 - Ruppia and Halodule should be used because of fresh water flows from the tributaries.
 - This area is approximately 197 acres and could be broken into 20 acres sections to create a 5 year restoration plan.
 - Althea will update the plan she drafted for this area to include the items discussed at the meeting.
 - Eric and Cheryl will visit the site December 10th to look at sediments and plant test sods donated by SCCF to see if the project would be successful.
 - WCIND funding may be available.
 - o Coon Key
 - Water quality/ clarity were indicated as a concern in this area by Althea's work; flow and salinity are good here.
 - Eric suggested creating oyster habitat in the area to improve water quality and then work on seagrass restoration if needed.
 - Keith is going to look at projects at the Town of Fort Myers Beach that may provide additional water quality treatment for this area in addition to all the programs the Town is already implementing.
 - o Priority Areas with Prop Scars
 - Althea will create a draft for the committee to review (thank you!)
- Enforcement of 253.04(3)(a) F.S.
 - o Five Warning and one citation have been written in the state since 2010.
- Seagrass Signs
 - o Cheryl worked with FWC to create a sign that would meet the uniform waterways criteria.
 - o Sign language should be reconsidered to ensure the public can understand it – Cheryl will work with Joy and FWC on this.
 - o Suggested language for signs:
 - Seagrass protected by Law
 - Seagrass Disturbance prohibited
 - o Chuck suggested something more original that will get the public's attention.

- Lee County Board of County Commissioners Letter
 - o A letter asking the Lee BOCC to support this committees top ten priorities as established at the original stakeholder workshop was reviewed and approved by members present.
 - Cheryl was asked to sign the letter on behalf of the committee – Cheryl will send the letter for approval and send to Lee BOCC once approved.

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