



US Army Corps
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DRAFT MEETING NOTES
Port Everglades Navigation Improvement Project (PENIP)
IWG Update Teleconference
October 19, 2017

Purpose of the Meeting: IWG update on the status of various aspects of the PENIP

Welcome: Lacy and Erik

Attendees (Bolded) – Marie

<p>Kelly Logan - NMFS Pace Wilber – NMFS Jocelyn Karaszia - NMFS Kurtis Gregg – ERT Inc./ NMFS (contractor) Mark Lamb - NMFS Gina Ralph - USACE Lacy Pfaff – USACE Jason Spinning – USACE Terri Jordan-Sellers – USACE Terry Stratton – USACE Steve Conger - USACE Aaron Lassiter - USACE Debby Scerno - USACE Matt Miller – USACE Steve Bratos - USACE</p>	<p>Laura DiGruttolo - FWC Marissa Krueger – FWC Fritz Wettstein - FWC Jennifer Peterson – DEP Lainie Edwards - DEP Vladimir Kosmynin- DEP Brendan Biggs – DEP Alex Reed – DEP Francisco Pagan - DEP Ken Banks – Broward County Jeff Howe - FWS</p>	<p>Matt Harold – Port Everglades Erik Neugaard – Port Everglades David Anderton – Port Everglades Martha Robbart – DCA/PE Wade Lehmann – EPA Jennifer Derby – EPA Molly Martin – EPA Mel Parsons – EPA Jamie Higgins -EPA Ron Miedema – EPA Chris Militscher - EPA.</p>
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Agenda overview - Marie

Topics:

- Hurricane Irma and impact to the project – Turbidity issues (email dated Sept 26th to IWG) – Erik and Martha. **Question: Can folks see some of the turbidity reports provided by DCA? Ans. Yes, they will be shared with the group (Erik and Martha)**
 - **Significant turbidity; ocean almost completely white in color; different from what was being discharged into the waterbody.**
 - **Collected turbidity samples and drone video. Left SONDS in place during the storm and preliminary data from that is available.**
 - **Turbidity offshore to nearshore: nearshore ones turbidity background up to 98 NTUs and offshore up to 200 NTUs during the storm.**
 - **Did get a dive in on Sept 18 ; macroalgae is gone, sponges decapitated but recovering.**

- Some artificial reefs in Broward County were significantly damaged; some moved many feet.
- Jocelyn: How long have turbidity instruments been deployed before the storm and can that data be made available to the IWG? Ans. Deployed 2 units at 15 and 40 feet for a month and then the instruments are picked up and data downloaded. Initially deployed June 2016
- Reconnaissance Survey Status – Erik and Martha
 - 78% complete; DCA is looking for opportunities to continue the survey.
 - Videos recon uploaded to YouTube site; manpower to get to website currently unavailable.
 - Terri will send out links to the videos. Videos available now. The following was added after the meeting -

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- ESA Survey Status – Erik and Martha. Video and data available and will be posted to the website as Port resources allow. Added after the meeting - See above for immediate access.
 - “Total acres of hardbottom habitat that were directly surveyed by this protocol” – ESA protocol, p. 3.
 - Concerns from NMFS and how it is being addressed
 - Port is uploading ESA photos and field data sheets to a FTP site – see above.
 - Once DCA completes their review of the 20 sites, the Corps and the Port will contact NMFS and other interested IWG members to discuss the outcome of the DCA review and next steps.
 - All data completed and being uploaded.
 - 163 surveys 143 sites recorded line intercept data; Remaining 20 do not have sand intercept data. Still reviewing information; in most cases transects are located in deeper sites. Final report will differentiate between the 143 sites that contain line intercept data and the 20 that did not.
 - ESA Report is due to Port end of November.

- Other Items:
 - **Kelly:** Previously it was stated that the line intercept data was not collected so what happened? Erik –Initially he thought that since the ESA Survey protocol method did not specifically state that each sand line intercept had to be collected that the data was not available. In double checking with DCA he found that the information was available for 143 of the sites but not the remaining 20 sites.
 - **Kelly:** Email from Gina that on those 20 survey sites there was some video...but are there pictures? Erik- Video was only collected for the Recon Survey, but there are pictures available for the ESA sites and they will be uploaded. (Done – sent to IWG via email and location of information mentioned above)
 - **Jocelyn:** what meter interval were you recording habitat data? Martha - At least a meter.
 - **Mark:** NMFS will be waiting to see how the 20 sites pictures can be used. If they can't be used is there any contingency for obtaining the sand line intercept information? Erik: First he wants to see what they can get from the photos that may support a decision on intercept information. Is there a time frame on a decision on the 20 sites? Erik – Currently the focus is on dives needed to complete the Recon Survey so there is no DCA staff available to do the analyses, and DCA is encouraged to dive whenever they can.
 - **Mark –** Consider the contingencies if information cannot be provided based on photographs. NMFS wants the Port to go back out and gather the data to provide “Total acres of hardbottom habitat that were directly surveyed by this protocol”.
 - Erik will send a link for the ESA photos to Lacy who will send out to group.(Done)
- **Revised Walker Maps-Background information paper for IWG – Erik and Martha:** Methods and data collection from the equipment has been provided to the Corps. DCA plans to have the paper final by the end of October.
- **CESU Contractor –** Who was selected and their role – Jason/Gina: **The Proposal chosen was out of FIT based on past experience with dredging and hard bottom communities. They will be interacting with the IWG to assist with development of Monitoring & Adaptive Management Plans, writing specifications prior to any construction in addition to other items needed for environmental QA/QC. They will be going to IWG meetings and placing cameras on the bottom pre, during and post construction. The lead scientist is Dr. Gary Zarillo. Jennifer – Will they also assist with a strawman mitigation plan? Gina - Technical assistance is available from this contract throughout the project. Jocelyn requested a copy of the latest CV. Gina will provide. (Attached)**

- Sediment Transport Model – Issues and Next Steps
 - Information from IWG STM Purpose Survey - Marie
 - Use as one piece of information that may be given considerable weight, but it is not the only piece of information to address the following points: **Note: Confirmation was requested that this represented a consensus of the Agency members of the IWG group. No one voiced any disagreement.**
 - As a starting point for establishing and refining action areas expected to be impacted by the project, and patterns of severity of sediment deposition within the affected area.
 - To identify BMPs required of the project to avoid or minimize impacts to listed species and essential fish habitats based on modeled plumes
 - To inform us on which dredging practices are best and use best professional judgement to determine which dredging practices make the most sense for the project
 - Inform determinations regarding mitigation
 - Inform the area of critical habitat (and coral reef and hard bottom habitats designated as Essential Fish Habitat) expected to be impacted by sediment deposition.
 - Update of actions on the STM-Lacy: **Taylor Engineering is wrapping up their model runs now. The Modeling group from the Corps has also been involved with looking at this model. After receiving interim runs from Taylor Eng., the Corps will be taking the model runs in-house to provide some additional calibration and to add in more hydraulic conditions. Taylor had 4 hydraulic conditions which were considered worse case scenarios. Having the model in-house will allow additional hydraulic conditions to be run if needed.**
 - **Additional Calibration/Hydraulic States—Drew Condon (Corps Lead Modeler). Drew – He anticipates deploying a few more instruments to collect data for a longer duration than that presently available in the Taylor scope of work. This will give more flexibility in using the model; doing a better job of answering questions. Drew will write-up a schedule on when initial results will be available to the IWG.**
 - **Coordination with USGS - Jocelyn shared the calibration report on the STM provided by the Corps with USGS who has been working with the Coral Reef Task Force. A follow-up meeting with the Corps, Port, USGS and NMFS has been set up to discuss possible assistance from the USGS.**
 - Modeler to Modeler Discussions needed? – Marie/All.

- Yes, the agencies would like to have their modelers talk with the Corps modelers on the STM.
 - The Corps agreed but would like to have the meeting when there are some initial results to share to make the meeting meaningful.
 - The question was asked if the Corps folks were working with Dr. Paul Schroeder from ERDC. Matt M. – yes. He was the one who did the report and the analysis on the sedimentation shared with the IWG.
 - Jennifer – with the more recent discussion about relatively nearshore deep water placement areas for the pipeline.....will models take into account that scenario? Matt- yes, pursuing that.
 - May require a combination of a few different models to get those results. Follow-up question from Matt to group: What type of surveys will we need to get regulatory approvals for that area? Multi-beam survey? There is no apparent hard bottom at the sites being reviewed. What type of information will you need to approve that site for use? Vladimir – He provided comments on that earlier and direction of speed of currents. Cannot provide comments now. DEP will need to see on maps that there are no nearby hardbottoms. EPA – don't know what sites are being considered. The overall process is akin to doing an ODMDS for EPA. Jennifer (EPA) – The sooner the agency knows about the sites the more information they can provide. She believes not addressing the issue of a nearshore site is likened to “kicking the can down the road”. The sooner they can get into a detailed discussion about deep water placement sites the more efficient it will be in the long term.
- CESU Unsolicited Proposal- Jason/Gina:
 - The CESU Contractor selected by the Corps as part of their contract were provided with all documents associated with this project. After reviewing the documents they provided an unsolicited revised Scope of Work which provided insights and additional activities they believe would improve the STM plus triggers and thresholds for an Adaptive Management Plan. Their proposal cannot be shared at this time without going through the contractual process. The bottom line was how to get more data to enhance modeling capabilities. The Corps felt it was prudent to bring them into modeler-to-modeler discussions. Under their existing scope they can make contributions to the STM but their proposal would entail additional contributions not covered under the existing contract. Currently the STM is being taken in-house to be administered by the Engineering Division.
 - The CESU Contractor selected was the Florida Institute of Technology (FIT), Dr. Gary Zarillo.
- December Face-to-Face Meeting – Status –Marie:

- **The December 12-13 meeting was envisioned to be a Face-to-face meeting to discuss the results of the Recon and ESA surveys, the STM and other pieces of information important to formulation of a Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan. Given that the DEP staff cannot attend, the facilitator will look at the week before (Note: Invitation sent for December 1, 2017 from 2-4 pm).**
- **H. Irma and subsequent turbulence in the Caribbean have made diving conditions untenable. Therefore, All Recon data is not expected to be available in time for IWG members to review prior to a December face-to-face meeting.**
- **Preliminary data may be available for initial review along with information from initial runs of the STM. At this time, the proposal is to have a teleconference instead, potentially the week before, to accommodate the DEP IWG members.**
- **A draft agenda will be prepared and a request was made to IWG members to submit any agenda topics.**
- **Other questions:**
 - **Jocelyn: Can a more recent CV from Dr. Zarillo be shared with the group? The one on the FIT website appears to be out-of-date. Gina: Yes, the Corps will obtain a more recent CV and provide to the IWG. (Attached)**
 - **Jenny: It would be helpful to receive a project timeline based on reports etc. Lacy will prepare the updated timeline.**



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