



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

**Port Everglades Navigation Improvement Project
IWG Meeting:
August 29, 2018: 1:00 – 5:00 pm
Final Meeting Notes**

Location:

Broward County Government Center 115 South Andrews Avenue, Commission chambers - room 422 Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301	Webinar: Join Skype Meeting Trouble joining: Try Skype Web App Join by phone: (954) 453-1630 Conference ID: 3177827
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Meeting Goals:

- Update to the IWG on the current project schedule.
- Understanding of the Seagrass Survey protocol based on IWG questions and a path forward to adopt the 2016 Seagrass Survey.
- Overview of the Benthic Habitat Map revisions and path forward to adoption of the Map for use by the IWG.
- Understanding of the recently released minimization efforts to reduce project impacts and results of the Corps’ Industry Day scheduled for August 21st.
- Scheduling webinars to address recently released Particle Tracking Model Results and Mangrove impacts/Environmentally Friendly Bulkhead.

Attendees:

Jennifer Derby - EPA Gregg, Lisa - FWC Jason Spinning - USACE Jennifer Peterson - DEP Lacy Pfaff – USACE Ann Lazar - DEP Wade Lehman - EPA Mark Lamb – NMFS (Virtual) Matt Harold – Port Vladimir Kosmyrin - DEP Laura Eldredge – DEP (Virtual) Greg Garis – DEP (Virtual) Bill Precht – DCA (Virtual) Jamie Higgins – EPA (Virtual)	Molly Martin - EPA Erin McDevitt - FWC Jocelyn Karazsia - NMFS Fritz Wettstein- FWC (Virtual) Lainie Edwards - DEP (Virtual) Christine Raininger - FWC Shelby Wedelich – DEP Francisco Pagan - DEP Xaymara Serrano - USACE Lew Gramer – NMFS Erik Neugaard – Port Beth ??? Sean Green – DEP (Virtual) Kristian Rogers - DCA
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Meeting Taskers:

- Lacy to resend schedule to the group
- Look into a central SharePoint site/Data Manager for IWG (Burns/Harold)
- Seagrass Survey
 - Jenny to put her concerns in an email.
 - Port/DCA will provide Raw Data, field photos and data from sites outside the project footprint.
 - Correct Seagrass Information Sheet (Marie). There is seagrass mitigation in West Lake Park; question is sufficiency of mitigation
- Mangroves – EFB
 - Forward information on EFB alignment to IWG (Loaded to the FTP site and IWG notified by email Thu 8/30/2018 2:30 PM.)
- Benthic Habitat Map
 - DCA (Kristian/Terri) to make changes to make Benthic Habitat Map changes and changes to the tables.
- Minimization Measures
 - Lacy to resend the Corps internal Memorandum to the IWG explaining the decision making on the minimization efforts.
 - Questions from the IWG to the Corps by September 14th.
 - Corps response to the questions by September 25th.
 - First Monthly Meeting Topic – September 25th
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- Particle Tracking Model Subgroup
 - Check with EN and other modelers – are there unresolved points of contention; is there agreement on how the model would be used? The questions that can be answered?

A. Introductions, Review of Agenda and Meeting goals: Corps/Port/Marie

B. Overview of current schedule: Lacy Pfaff (USACE)

- Schedule previously distributed to IWG via email from Lacy.
- Current schedule as a permit application submittal time frame of November 2018
- NEPA is scheduled for next January as a Draft
- Lacy to resend schedule to the group.
 - Question on where is the Monitoring Plan on the schedule?
 - Concern over the lack of one central place for data to be stored
- Look into a central SharePoint site/Data Manager for IWG (Burns/Harold)

C. Brief Summary of Artificial/Mitigation Reef Workshop – Erik Neugaard (Port)

- Boulders not always desirable
- Look at other options such as platform structures

- Opportunity to do innovative mitigation strategies, new emerging research activities to incorporate; expand to include those activities
- How do DEP and the Corps etc. come up with functional value with experimental activities?
- Other research opportunities to help with disease concerns – out of kind mitigation should be explored if it improves overall habitat
- Keep in mind even with minimization measures there may still be an increase in environmental impacts to area.
- A lot of innovative techniques but mitigation will still be held to success criteria; how to address potential lower success rates with higher risk mitigation options.
- Keep in mind that whatever mitigation is decided upon it has to equate with lift.
- DEP is open to new approaches for artificial reef construction but it should not have such a high risk that is not doable; risk is already inherent in the state regulatory process.
- Must have **documented** functional gain, be measurable; monitor and demonstrate that there is a positive impact on the system. Willing to look at out of kind but must offset the same functions being lost – especially if in-kind is not possible.

D. Seagrass Survey – Questions from IWG Addressed: Jason Spinning (USACE), Kristian Rogers (DCA), Bill Precht (DCA) and Mike (DCA) - (Presentation Attached)

- Attached presentation made by DCA (Bill Precht)
- Numerous questions still not answered for DEP:
 - Jenny to put her concerns in an email.
 - Port/DCA will provide Raw Data, field photos and data from sites outside the project footprint.
 - Correct Seagrass Information Sheet (Marie). There is seagrass mitigation in West Lake Park; question is sufficiency of mitigation.
- Continues to be concern over knowing the current condition of the seagrasses.

E. Benthic Habitat Map – Review of latest changes:

- Label the footprint of the channel
- Assessment included down to 90 feet. The new table showing benthic community impacts needs to be corrected since it shows impacts that go below project channel depths.
- Includes downslope areas.
 - DCA (Kristian/Terri) to make changes to make Benthic Habitat Map changes and changes to the tables.

F. Minimization Efforts – Presentation by Lacy Pfaff and Jason Spinning (USACE)

- Minimization measures provided to the IWG in an email dated Thu 8/9/2018 12:59 PM
- Why the main turning notch is excluded from the minimization measures? Note Lacy addressed in an email dated Tue 8/21/2018 8:49 AM and discussed at the meeting: “After looking back at my notes, I noticed that the widener was not part of our cost and schedule analysis when we looked at the dredging techniques. But looking at the proximity it certainly should be considered. When we reconvene the team after the Industry Day, we can evaluate.”
- Confusion and questions on how the decisions were made on the minimization measures. IWG members would like to understand how the Corps reached their decisions.
- Minimization measures are still considered draft; there can be “tweaks” and changes to the 4 proposed in the August 9th email.
- Numerous questions on the 4 measures.
- Must final minimization measures prior to completing the Benthic Habitat Map – final decision on the extent of the Benthic Habitat Map.
- Lacy to resend the Corps internal Memorandum to the IWG explaining the decision making on the minimization efforts.
- There was a discussion of potential contracting requirements. Question on can there be incentives for minimization measures? Look at the fines threshold exceedances requirements used at Key West.

[Side Discussion: Turbidity Data: How to have confidence in the deployment of the sondes? What is the QA/QC of the turbidity data?]

G. Scheduling of monthly IWG meetings (suggested last Tuesday of the Month – 10-12) and webinars on the PTM and Environmentally Friendly Bulkhead (Which weeks to Doodle Poll?)

- Agreement by the group to hold monthly meetings the last Tuesday of the month from 10-12. To make the meetings effective:
 - Meeting agendas should be decided as far in advance as possible
 - Information for the meeting should go out at least two weeks in advance to allow sufficient time for IWG to review. The longer the lead time the better.
- As part of this discussion the following list of was presented to the IWG to prompt a discussion of group priorities and a strategy on how to address.
 1. Minimization Measures:
 - a. Questions from the IWG to the Corps by September 14th.
 - b. Corps response to the questions by September 25th.
 - c. First Monthly Meeting Topic – September 25th
 2. Benthic Habitat Map
 - a. Corrections from DCA in 2 weeks – September 12th.

- b. Forward to the IWG for comments
 - c. Topic at September 25th Monthly meeting.
3. Mangrove Impacts – Environmentally Friendly Bulkhead
 - a. Forward information on EFB alignment to IWG (Loaded to the FTP site and IWG notified by email Thu 8/30/2018 2:30 PM.)
 - b. Schedule Webinar
4. Seagrass Survey –
 - a. Questions from DEP to the Corps
 - b. Response – Webinar?
5. Monitoring Plan Subgroup
 - a. Led by Xaymara
 - b. Will work with the subgroup on how to address
6. Particle Tracking Model Subgroup
 - a. Check with EN and other modelers – are there unresolved points of contention; is there agreement on how the model would be used? The questions that can be answered?
7. Impact Assessment
8. Mitigation
9. ESA and Recon Reports – information or review by IWG members; no final decision by the group on how to prioritize; concern by one member that if the Corps is using the reports to make decisions there should be agreement on its contents.

H. Pluses and minuses of the day: There were a few comments made during the meeting that would fall under this category:

- No data management
- Insufficient time to discuss the agenda topics

I. Taskers and Close