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## South Florida Water Management District

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### GOVERNING BOARD WORKSHOP MINUTES

August 11, 2021

1:00 PM

District Headquarters - B-1 Auditorium  
West Palm Beach, FL 33406

*This workshop will provide the Governing Board, public, and stakeholders with an understanding of the CERP planning process, level of effort, who is involved, why it takes time and the planning document. Once the planning process for a CERP component is completed, authorized and funding is approved, the engineering design phase is implemented. The various tasks and timeframes for completing a design, which result in the set of construction drawings and specifications used for bidding, will be presented and discussed. The Workshop is informative in nature and no final decisions will be made by the Governing Board.*

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Chauncey Goss	Chairman	Present
Ben Butler		Present
Ron Bergeron		Remote
Charlie Martinez		Absent
Cheryl Meads		Remote
Charlette Roman		Present
Jay Steinle		Remote
Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch		Present
Scott Wagner	Vice-Chairman	Remote

1. Call to Order - Chauncey Goss, Chairman, Governing Board  
Chairman Goss called the workshop to order at approximately 1:00 PM.
2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Goss led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. CERP Planning 101 - Jennifer Leeds, Bureau Chief, Ecosystem Restoration Planning and Kelly Keefe, PhD, Plan Formulation Branch, USACE

Mr. Bartlett provided an overview of the Central Everglades Restoration Project (CERP) planning process and thanked the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for participating in workshop discussion.

Ms. Leeds provided an overview of the CERP planning and design process. Items discussed included the CERP Yellow Book; interagency project delivery team partnerships; and, current project planning considerations, design, and permitting process.

Ms. Leeds introduced Eric Summa, USACE Chief Planning and Environmental Policy who presented in place of Kelly Keefe.

Mr. Summa provided an overview of the CERP planning process purpose. Items discussed included the USACE civil works process and activities; flood risk management and navigation; ecosystem restoration planning; the Science, Mathematics and Research for Transformation (SMART) planning process; Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) 2014 Section 1001; programmatic regulations; CERP governance structure and policy issues; and, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) integration with the Project Implementation Report (PIR).

### **Board Comment**

In response to Chairman Goss' questions regarding the CERP Yellow Book, Mr. Summa explained authorizations from the CERP Yellow Book authorized by Congress in 2000 were considered large watershed scale authorizations and each project component under the CERP Yellow Book umbrella required additional specific authorization. Chairman Goss and Mr. Summa then discussed combining the remaining sixty-eight project components of the CERP.

In response to Ms. Thurlow-Lippisch's questions on slide 16, Mr. Summa explained the Indian River Lagoon (IRL) South Section 902 cost-limit authorizations and the USACE's internal process with project validation reports presented to Congress.

Responding to Chairman Goss' question regarding whether Section 902 was a funding cap or a number, Mr. Summa stated authorizations were a number and each component was formulated.

Ms. Reynolds elaborated on the USACE's change in safety requirements for dams and levees after Hurricane Katrina and increased project costs for authorized components of CERP with water storage reservoir features.

Ms. Thurlow-Lippisch, Mr. Summa, and Ms. Reynolds discussed the contents on slide 20 regarding interagency efforts with the National Academy of Sciences (NAS). Ms. Thurlow-Lippisch stressed the importance of further discussion with the NAS Committee on Independent Scientific Review of Everglades Restoration Progress (CISRERP).

In response to Ms. Thurlow-Lippisch's question on slide 21 regarding CERP 35%-40% design levels, Mr. Summa referred to slide 7 and elaborated on the Civil Works process with planning and progressing CERP project authorizations.

Ms. Roman and Mr. Summa discussed the SMART planning and three-by-three process in relation to CERP; project exemptions, complexity, and average study; and, risks and consequences with streamlining projects.

Mr. Butler and Mr. Summa discussed project design perimeters and planning process once authorized by Congress; the USACE's authority and discretion upon authorization of the Chief's Report; and, requirements of a Post Authorization Change Report (PACR).

In response to Mr. Bergeron's question, Mr. Summa explained the Everglades Task Force governance structure and the purpose for the development of the Integrated Delivery Schedule (IDS).

At the request of Ms. Thurlow-Lippisch, Ms. Roman shared the success of the Picayune Strand Project. Additionally, Ms. Roman suggested staff explore linear project opportunities during the planning or study process to advance projects.

Chairman Goss, Mr. Summa, and Mr. Bartlett discussed the status of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) 2022.

Ms. Roman, Mr. Summa, and staff discussed the Western Everglades Restoration Project (WERP); concurrent interagency efforts; the project's Tentative Selected Plan (TSP) and authorization process and Pre-Partnership Credit Agreement (PPCA); project delays; and, Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) technology data collection.

Ms. Thurlow-Lippisch, Mr. Summa, and staff discussed project features of the Biscayne Bay Southeastern Everglades Ecosystem Restoration (BBSEER); freshwater and saltwater interface; and, water availability to Biscayne Bay.

Ms. Leeds provided an overview of the CERP planning to implementation process.

4. CERP Design and Permitting Process 101 - Lucine Dadrian, Section Administrator, Engineering & Construction

Ms. Dadrian provided an overview of the design and planning phases of a project and permitting process. Items discussed included the Feasibility/Conceptual Design, Design Documentation Report (DDR), and Project Implementation Report (PIR); Pre-construction Engineering and Design (PED); preliminary studies and preliminary, intermediate, final, and corrected final designs; design review; permitting requirements during project design and operations; and, CERP projects currently in the design phase.

**Board Comment**

In response to Chairman Goss' question regarding lead agency project coordination, Ms. Dadrian elaborated on interagency project concurrence between the District and USACE.

The Board and staff discussed CERP project preliminary studies, design phases, review process, and permitting; CERP projects in the design phase; and, project timeline efficiency and strategic planning.

**5. Public Comment**

**Virtual:**

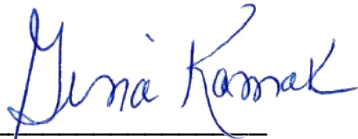
Mike Efenbein  
Ernie Barnett  
Newton Cook  
Drew Martin  
Nyla Pipes

**In Person:**

Courtney Arena

**6. Adjourn**

Chairman Goss adjourned the workshop at approximately 3:45 PM.



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Gina Kamak  
Deputy District Clerk  
South Florida Water Management District