

Reference List of Committees Involved in Regional Water Quality Related Decision Making, Management, or Research

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South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force (SFERTF)

Purpose:

- Exchange information regarding programs, projects and activities of the agencies and entities represented on the Task Force to promote ecosystem restoration and maintenance;
- Facilitate the resolution of interagency and intergovernmental conflicts associated with the restoration of the South Florida ecosystem among the Task Force agencies and entities;
- Coordinate research associated with the restoration of the South Florida ecosystem;
- Provide assistance and support to agencies and entities represented on the Task Force in their restoration activities.

Membership: The Task Force consists of 14 representatives from federal, state and local governments and tribal entities. These include the U.S. Department of Interior (Chair), Florida Department of Environmental Protection (Vice Chair), South Florida Water Management District, U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of the Army, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Transportation, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Miami-Dade County, City of Sanibel, Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, and Seminole Tribe of Florida.

Points of Contact:

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Additional Information: <https://evergladesrestoration.gov/tf/>

SFERTF Working Group (WG)

Purpose: The duties of the SFERTF Working Group are to assist the Task Force in its efforts to coordinate the development of consistent policies, strategies, plans, programs, projects, activities, and priorities addressing the restoration, preservation, and protection of the South Florida ecosystem, and respond to specific priority activities assigned by the Task Force.

Membership: The Working Group consists of 25 Florida-based members representing tribal, local, state and federal agencies.

Points of Contact: See South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force POCs.

Additional Information: <https://evergladesrestoration.gov/wg/>

SFERTF Science Coordination Group (SCG)

Purpose: The Science Coordination Group (SCG) supports the Task Force in its efforts to coordinate the scientific aspects of restoration of the South Florida ecosystem. The SCG is primarily tasked with continually documenting and supporting the programmatic-level science and other research through updates and implementation of the Task Force's Plan for Coordinating Science.

Membership: To enhance the integration of science and management, the SCG includes both senior managers and scientists from academia and tribal, local, state and federal agencies appointed by the Task Force.

Points of Contact:

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 - (954) 377-5967; Adam_gelber@ios.doi.gov
- Carrie Beeler
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 - (305) 224-4258; Carrie_beeler@evergladesrestoration.gov

Additional Information: <https://evergladesrestoration.gov/scg/>

Biscayne Bay Regional Restoration Coordination Team (BRRCT)

Purpose: The Biscayne Bay Regional Restoration Coordination Team (BRRCT) was formed to develop and implement an Action Plan to protect and restore Biscayne Bay. The intent of the Action Plan is to coordinate restoration, enhancement, preservation projects, plans, and activities to help maintain a functioning Biscayne Bay ecosystem. The team provides science-based advice to the SFERTF Working Group concerning construction, operation, and monitoring projects of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) that relate to Biscayne Bay's freshwater supply. Maintaining adequate volume and appropriate timing and distribution of freshwater flow to Biscayne Bay is of paramount importance to the BRRCT with respect to CERP's ongoing redesign of south Florida's water management system.

Membership: The Team consists of 23 members with 12 governmental entities and 11 nongovernmental entities, an undetermined number of ex officio, nonvoting members.

Points of Contact:

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Additional Information: <https://evergladesrestoration.gov/brrct/>

South Florida Regional Planning Council (SFRPC)

Purpose: Regional Planning Councils in Florida exist as a response to area wide or regional circumstances and needs. They represent Florida's only multi-purpose regional entity that is in a position to plan for and coordinate intergovernmental solutions to growth-related problems on greater-than-local issues, provide technical assistance to local governments, and meet other needs of the communities in each region.

The mission of the South Florida Regional Planning Council (SFRPC) is to provide state and local policymakers with the information they need to build a better future for South Floridians. The general purpose of the SFRPC is to identify the long-term challenges and opportunities facing Southeast Florida and assist the Region's leaders in developing and implementing creative strategies that result in more prosperous and equitable communities, a healthier and cleaner environment, and a more vibrant economy. SFRPC programs include: economic development, emergency preparedness, coastal resilience, transportation and alternative fuels, regional planning, and environmental planning. Specific rights, duties and powers of the RPCs are defined in the Florida Statutes. The SFRPC geographic area of responsibility includes Broward County, Miami-Dade County, Monroe County, and all municipalities within those counties.

Membership: Council membership includes elected officials from Broward, Miami-Dade and Monroe counties, elected officials from municipal governments within those counties, appointees by the Governor of the State of Florida, and non-voting members from the Department of Transportation, Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic Development, and South Florida Water Management District. Unlike elected positions, members of the South Florida Regional Council are limited to an advisory capacity rather than in a directed or regulatory capacity.

Points of Contact:

- Isabel Cosio Carballo
 - Executive Director, South Florida Regional Planning Council
 - (954) 924-3653; isabelc@sfrpc.com
- Kathe Ann Lerch (POC added to WQPP listserv)
 - Office Administrator, South Florida Regional Planning Council
 - (954) 924-3653; klerch@sfrpc.com

Additional Information: <https://sfrpc.org/>

Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council (TCRPC)

Purpose: The Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council (TCRPC) is a forum for elected and appointed leaders to discuss complex regional issues, develop strategic regional responses for resolving them, and build consensus for setting and accomplishing regional goals.

The mission of the TCRPC is to encourage and enable local units of government and citizenry to assemble and cooperate with one another and with representatives of major economic interests, to promote health, safety, and general welfare of the citizenry, and to plan for future development of the Region that will keep it competitive and afford a high quality of life. The TCRPC operates several

programs, including but not limited to: comprehensive planning, economic development, emergency preparedness, transportation planning, natural resources, and energy planning. Regarding natural resources, the Council assists in identifying Natural Resources of Regional Significance and provides assistance to local governments in developing and revising policies to enhance the protection of natural resources. The TCRPC geographic area of responsibility includes Indian River County, St. Lucie County, Martin County, and Palm Beach County, and the 52 municipalities within those counties.

Membership: The TCRPC is made up of nineteen elected officials and nine gubernatorial appointees.

Points of Contact:

- Thomas Lanahan
 - Executive Director, Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council
 - (772) 221-4060; tlanahan@tcrpc.org
- Stephanie Heidt (POC for Natural Resources)
 - Economic Development and Intergovernmental Programs Director, Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council
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Additional Information: <https://tcrpc.org/>

SFRPC/TCRPC Florida Reef Tract Work Group

Purpose: The SFRPC and TCRPC created the Florida Reef Tract Work Group to address the critical coral reef issue. Active discussions are ongoing with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, county and city elected officials, business leaders, scientists, and conservation groups to develop ways to protect the coral reef through research, legislation and funding.

Membership: This working group includes Councilmembers and staff from both regional planning councils, the region's counties, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and The Nature Conservancy.

Points of Contact:

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Additional Information: <http://www.flregionalcouncils.org/south-florida-and-treasure-coast-regional-planning-councils-partner-to-protect-the-reef/>

Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact

Purpose: The Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact (the Compact) is a partnership between Broward, Miami-Dade, Monroe, and Palm Beach Counties to work collaboratively to reduce regional greenhouse gas emissions, implement adaptation strategies, and build climate resilience across the Southeast Florida region. The Compact's efforts have three overarching objectives:

- Share regional tools and knowledge. The Compact serves to create regional tools and standards, and transfer knowledge to build the local government capacity needed to implement regional climate solutions and avoid duplicative efforts.
- Increase public support and political will. Through a unified voice, the Compact provides the nonpartisan credibility, legitimacy, and continuity necessary for meaningful government action to address projected climate impacts.
- Coordinate action. The Compact catalyzes and supports the region's coordinated actions to accelerate the pace and impact of efforts that will increase the region's climate resilience.

The Compact developed a Regional Climate Action Plan (RCAP) that is the guiding tool for coordinated climate action in south Florida. The RCAP provides a set of recommendations, guidelines for implementation, and shared best practices for local entities to act in-line with the regional agenda. The RCAP has a water goal to: advance the water management strategies and infrastructure improvements needed, in parallel with existing water conservation efforts, to mitigate the potential adverse impacts of climate change and sea level rise on water supplies, water and wastewater infrastructure, and water management systems, inclusive of regional canal networks, pumps, control structures, and operations. A number of recommendations have been made relevant to this water goal.

Membership: The Institute for Sustainable Communities is the secretariat for the Compact and provides implementation support for its activities. The Compact Leadership Committee engages closely with several key regional stakeholders to advance its efforts, including a city from each of the four counties, the South Florida Water Management District, the South Florida Regional Planning Council, the Nature Conservancy, and Florida International University's Sea Level Solutions Center. The Compact is also supported by the Florida Climate Institute, a FCI is a multi-disciplinary network of national and international research and public organizations, scientists, and individuals concerned with achieving a better understanding of climate variability and change.

Points of Contact:

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Additional Information: <https://southeastfloridaclimatecompact.org/>;
<https://southeastfloridaclimatecompact.org/recommendation-category/ws/>

Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative (SEFCRI)

Purpose: SEFCRI, or the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative, is a local action strategy for collaborative action among government and non-governmental partners to identify and implement priority actions needed to reduce key threats to coral reef resources in southeast Florida, which includes Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach and Martin counties. SEFCRI's mission is to develop an effective strategy to preserve and protect southeast Florida's coral reefs and associated reef resources, emphasizing the balance between resource use and protection, in cooperation with all interested parties. SEFCRI has five focus areas for immediate local action to address coral reef threats. These include: Land Based Sources of Pollution; Fishing, Diving and Other Uses; Maritime Industries and Coastal Construction Impacts; Awareness and Appreciation; and Reef Resilience.

Membership: SEFCRI is a collaborative effort of many government agencies, non-governmental organizations, universities and private partners and is coordinated by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Coral Reef Conservation Program (FDEP CRCP).

Points of Contact:

- Jamie Monty
 - Southeast Regional Administrator, Florida Department of Environmental Protection office of Resilience and Coastal Protection
 - (305) 795-1208/(786) 295-5357; Jamie.Monty@FloridaDEP.gov

Additional Information: <https://southeastfloridareefs.net/>

SEFCRI Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

Purpose: The SEFCRI Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was established to provide technical and scientific expertise to all SEFCRI Focus Areas. The TAC is comprised of leading research scientists in the fields of coral reef ecology, water quality, oceanography, geology, fisheries, socioeconomics, resource management, chemistry and biology.

Membership: Members of the TAC include representatives from academia, federal, state and local agencies, and nongovernmental organizations.

Points of Contact:

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Additional Information: <https://southeastfloridareefs.net/technical-advisory-committee/>