

**Florida Oceans and Coastal Council**  
**Meeting Summary**  
**March 11, 2010**  
**9:00 a.m. – 4:00p.m.**  
**Cabinet Room, Lower Level, Capitol Building**

	11-Mar
<b>Council Member</b>	
Dr. Karl Havens	X
Dr. John Ogden	X
Dr. Lisa Robbins	
Dr. Thomas Waite*	
Dr. Peter Ortner	X
Dr. James Cato	
Dr. Billy Causey	
Holly Greening	X
Dr. Jerome Lorenz*	
Dr. Shirley Pomponi	
Jane Davis	
Dr. Ernie Estevez	X
Jerry Sansom	X
Mark Carter	
Richard Pruitt	X
<b>Ex Officio Members</b>	
DACS Director Sherman Wilhelm	X
DEP Deputy Secretary Robert Ballard	X
FWC FWRI Director Gil McRae	X
<b>Staff</b>	
Lee Edmiston	X
Stephanie Culp	X
Becky Prado	X

\*Attempted to participate by phone, however phones were not available at location.

**Public:** Danny Clayton, DEP; Jonathan Watson, DEP; Paul Johnson, Reef Relief

**Legislative update – Ex-Officio members**

Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC): Director McRae reported that the budget process is moving fast this year. FWC cuts have been proposed for vacant positions. There are no expectations for deep programmatic cuts.

Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP): Deputy Secretary Bob Ballard reported that DEP has been able to secure a full time position for Ms. Prado and part of her position duties include support for the Council. The agency budget included funding for the Council however; this funding was not included in the Governor's budget. Florida Forever has \$50M included as part of the Governor's budget. Currently, 70 vacancies are proposed for cutting within the agency which includes 6 positions in the Office of Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas (CAMA). There is a bill which currently proposes to combine Department of Management Services with State Lands.

Dr. Ogden reported that the Florida Keys monitoring stations that they have maintained for the last 15-20 years will lose its funding in November.

Lee Edmiston introduced CAMA's new assistant director, Stephanie Culp. She was previously Assistant Director of Legislative Affairs and Director of Cabinet Affairs.

**Report out on Oceans Day 2010: Florida Ocean Alliance's (FOA) Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) workshop and Coastal and Marine Resources Assessment System (CAMRA) demonstration**

Dr. John Ogden reported the turnout was good, and Mr. Elher gave a wonderful presentation. The panel was excellent and had some good comments. The Resource Assessment, CAMRA, that the Council is developing is the background for marine spatial planning and the next steps in Florida. FOA does not have the funding that they had previously, so there will be a report but it will be modest. The report will explain in more detail MSP and hopefully calm fears of some entities. Ms. Greening was interested in Mr. Elher's comment that the GOMA wasn't the appropriate venue for implementing MSP. Specifically, GOMA didn't have the resources and authority to implement MSP. Dr. Ortner mentioned that there were similar limitations in the ocean observing community.

Mr. McRae brought up the framework in which the Council was working on both CAMRA and the Resource Review during his Oceans Day presentation (Attachment A). He mentioned that successful MSP required political will and resources which have not been clearly identified in Florida. Another key element is quality information. The Council decided a spatial interactive mode was the best way to deliver the information which resulted in the CAMRA demo. Mr. McRae wanted to make sure everyone understood the Council was trying to build the foundation with resources under the Council's purview.

Mr. Ballard mentioned that DEP's Secretary had a meeting with FWC's Director to discuss MSP efforts. They decided to combine information available within DEP and FWC to begin state efforts towards further developing our existing foundation. The Secretary gave a tentative September deadline to complete the task.

Perception of MSP seems to be a big issue that was discussed at the FOA board meeting. Dr. Havens mentioned that the Council could coordinate with Sea Grant on defining MSP. He

envisions developing a document that could help the general population's understanding by defining MSP for extension agents and others communicating with the public. The report from FOA will also work to address the perception issue.

A general discussion on MSP ensued.

### **Coastal Management Program Presentation**

Danny Clayton, DEP Program Administrator, gave a presentation on the DEP's Coastal Management Program (Attachment B).

### **Climate Change Report Updated Sections**

Ms. Prado reminded the Council of their timeline to have draft sections finalized in May and presented the existing outline which included known contributing authors (Attachment C). Dr. Estevez mentioned that there have been a lot of sea level rise (SLR) meetings recently. His impressions from these meetings are that different parts of Florida respond differently to sea level. The sense of urgency is greatest in SE Florida and the Everglades, and the St. Johns River area is beginning to discuss the challenges of SLR. Tampa Bay is launching a climate ready estuary program. There seems to be a standardization of how the science is being presented and used. Ice addition publications which are being interpreted differently are being added to the IPCC report. The SLR modeling efforts are projecting shorter timeframes. There seems to be a question of what we should be studying and why? Dr. Ortner reported that the second IPCC report is halfway complete at this point.

Ms. Greening pointed out that the original version had research priorities in the back and not as part of the individual sections which is shown in the outline. She wanted to know where these priorities would be incorporated. Dr. Estevez recommended that we add them onto the bottom of the updates to keep the format the same.

Dr. Estevez reported that for his section on wetlands and coastal forests, he has a commitment from four people for contributions (included in the outline). After the meeting, he intends to lay out a plan for the contributors for an updated draft and will follow up with a conference call. Dr. Ortner suggested that mud banks be added to this section or where appropriate.

### **Public Comment**

Public comment was invited. No comments were received.

For public comment guidelines, see the Council website at [www.FloridaOceansCouncil.org](http://www.FloridaOceansCouncil.org).

### **Climate Change Report Updated Sections, Continued**

Ms. Greening asked if mangroves would be covered in his section. Dr. Estevez said yes, but he suggested that the report may reorganized based on what is included in each section.

Dr. Ortner suggested that mud banks be added to the barrier island, beaches and inlets section which is being authored by Dr. Robbins.

Ms. Greening presented references that she has found for her section on bays, estuaries, and tidal rivers. She has reviewed the abstracts and would like feedback from Council members if they are already familiar with these publications. She has not yet contacted contributing authors for this section. Dr. Ortner offered to provide some potential contributors (Nick Smith from Harbor Branch and Tom Lee retired from UM). Ms. Prado offered to post the potential reference papers on an ftp site for Council consideration and comments.

**Lunch** (not provided)

### **Climate Change Report Updated Sections, Continued**

Dr. Havens reported on his updates for the coastal communities section. His section was created to consider SLR on the built community such as on water supply, storm water, beach erosion, etc. He needs to add navigation and ports. He has identified his contributing authors (included in the outline). Dr. Havens said he would have a draft ready by the end of April.

Ms. Prado asked everyone if May 15<sup>th</sup> would be a good deadline for section drafts. Dr. Havens, Ms. Greening, Dr. Ortner and Dr. Estevez agreed this date would work.

Dr. Estevez felt that the updates needed to reference the entire report since these updates are only a part of it. The reference could be at the top or end of the updated sections.

Ms. Greening mentioned that the effects reported are influenced by the changes captured in the SLR driver section. She asked if it would be possible to get these updates prior to the May deadline. Dr. Ortner agreed to write preliminary updates to be distributed to the Council for consideration. He said he could get this done within the next week or so.

Dr. Causey's updates for ocean acidification were presented (Attachment D). Dr. Causey was not in attendance to present his changes. Dr. Estevez commented that the updates were on a global scale and felt that this draft should be further developed to a final draft for discussion.

Ms. Greening asked if the co-authors would be identified in each section. Dr. Estevez said yes.

Ms. Prado asked if we needed a face to face meeting to finalize the document. Dr. Ogden said that the on-line meetings seemed to work well for editing so no face to face was needed.

### **Key Strategies & Action Items for 2009/2010 – Review and Update**

Ms. Prado reviewed the Council's latest key strategies and actions for the year (Attachment E). The CAMRA application was targeted for a road show, and Ms. Prado asked if the Council wished to continue to develop this. Dr. Ogden felt that we didn't have the resources to take

CAMRA on the road. He suggested that it be shared electronically (an e-mail blast). Mr. McRae suggested that the Council could do a public release similar to what was done for the last two reports. Dr. Havens suggested Facebook or Twitter. Dr. Ortner suggested that a user's manual be developed to prevent frustration when using the application. Mr. McRae said FWC was doing that and could also develop an instructional video. The Council and GAME have interested parties list that could be used for distribution. The one pager may be modified to de-focus from MSP, the focus of Oceans Day, and more on audience needs.

Goals to add:

1. CAMRA user's manual and instructional video will be developed and distributed to interested parties list (Council, GAME and other lists).
2. Review the FOA MSP report.
3. Work with Sea Grant on the MSP explanation handout.

### **Public comment**

Public comment was invited. No comments were received.

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### **Open Discussion**

Mr. Wilhelm brought up concerns on the expected coastal nutrient criteria. He said Council members that have relevant information should collect it. Mr. Edmiston said the information was being collected for the CAMA sites to share within the DEP. Ms. Prado reminded the Council that Ken Weaver presented DEP's efforts and asked for information to be submitted to him. Dr. Ortner mentioned that the DEP workshop within his region went very well, although the Environmental Protection Agency did not participate.

Mr. McRae asked for an update on the regional alliances at future meetings.

### **Adjourn**

Follow up:

1. **Ask Mr. Elher for example of turbines and port expansion in Netherlands.**
2. **Climate report updates will be finalized by May 15<sup>th</sup>.**
3. **Dr. Ortner will write preliminary SLR updates to be distributed to the Council for consideration.**
4. **Ms. Prado will continue to collect the contributing authors for each section of the climate report.**

5. **CAMRA user's manual and instructional video will be developed by FWC and distributed to interested parties list (Council, GAME and other lists).**
6. **The Council will review the FOA MSP report when a draft is available.**