

# Biscayne Bay Watershed Management Advisory Board

## Board Packet

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## AGENDA

BISCAYNE BAY WATERSHED MANAGEMENT  
ADVISORY BOARD (BBWMAB) MEETING

December 5, 2025 – 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

LOCATION – Stephen P. Clark Government Center, Commission Chambers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
111 NW First Street, Miami, FL 33128

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1. **Roll Call**  
BBWMAB Chair, Commissioner Micky Steinberg
2. **Reasonable Opportunity to be Heard**  
BBWMAB Chair, Commissioner Micky Steinberg
3. **Welcome New Board Members**
  - Sarah Hopson, Biscayne National Park
4. **Approval of Agenda – Actionable Item**
5. **Approval of Minutes for October 3, 2025 – Actionable Item**
6. **Everglades Restoration** (Requested by Mayor Daniella Levine Cava)  
Pamela Sweeney, Chief, Water Resources Coordination Division, DERM
7. **DERM Update** (Requested by Commissioner Steinberg)  
Loren Parra, Director, Department of Environmental Resources Management  
Rashid Istambouli, Deputy Director, Department of Environmental Resources Management
8. **DERM Program Update**  
Laura Eldredge, Restoration and Enhancement Section Manager, DERM
  - Coastal Restoration, Seagrass Surveys, Water Quality MonitoringJohn Ricisak, Program Manager, Restoration and Enhancement, DERM
  - Derelict Vessel program changes and outcomes 2025

**9. Biscayne Bay Watershed Plan working session**

Pamela Sweeney, Chief, Water Resources Coordination Division, DERM  
Nancy Jackson, Director Resilience Programs, DERM

**10. Future Agenda Items**

**11. Adjournment**

# Biscayne Bay Watershed Management Advisory Board

Stephen P. Clark Government Center  
 Commission Chambers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
 111 NW First Street  
 Miami, FL 33128

MINUTES October 3, 2025, 9:00 am

MEETING CALLED BY	Roll call was taken and quorum established. Members Absent: Mayor Tim Meerbott, Mayor Rachel Streitfeld, Jannek Cederberg, Kevin Cunniff, Julissa Kepner, Jerry Menendez												
MEMBER ATTENDEES	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Chair – Commissioner Micky Steinberg</td> <td>Dave Doebler</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vice Chair – Mayor Vince Lago</td> <td>Gerald McGinley, Jr.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Commissioner Natalie Milian Orbis</td> <td>James Murley</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Commissioner Alex J. Fernandez</td> <td>Jed Redwine</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sam Accursio</td> <td>John Stieglitz</td> </tr> <tr> <td>T. Spencer Crowley, II, Esq.</td> <td>Roberto Torres</td> </tr> </table>	Chair – Commissioner Micky Steinberg	Dave Doebler	Vice Chair – Mayor Vince Lago	Gerald McGinley, Jr.	Commissioner Natalie Milian Orbis	James Murley	Commissioner Alex J. Fernandez	Jed Redwine	Sam Accursio	John Stieglitz	T. Spencer Crowley, II, Esq.	Roberto Torres
	Chair – Commissioner Micky Steinberg	Dave Doebler											
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Commissioner Natalie Milian Orbis	James Murley												
Commissioner Alex J. Fernandez	Jed Redwine												
Sam Accursio	John Stieglitz												
T. Spencer Crowley, II, Esq.	Roberto Torres												
	Staff support for Biscayne Bay Watershed Management Advisory Board in attendance: Pamela Sweeney (DERM); Nancy Jackson (DERM); Larissa Aploks (RER); Kathleen Oswald (DERM).												

**REASONABLE OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD**

Commissioner Micky Steinberg - Chair

PUBLIC COMMENT	<p>Mariana Aziz, Miami Waterkeeper: There is deep concern about proposed changes to Chapter 24 that would remove permitting authority from DERM. Historically, the DERM Director held independent authority and served as an important counterbalance to development interests. The proposed changes would shift this authority to the RER director, but little information has been provided about how this transition will occur or which director will ultimately hold permit-issuing power.</p> <p>Jessica Ganim, Miami Waterkeeper: The August public notice did not mention DERM or RER, and although it framed the change as a reorganization to improve permitting efficiency, no restructuring plan was released for public review. Without open discussion of key questions—such as where enforcement will be housed, whether enforcement and permitting will be separated, and which director will have authority over consent decrees—the process undermines public trust and puts Biscayne Bay at risk.</p> <p>Adriana Gonzalez Fernandez, Miami Waterkeeper: The proposed changes strip DERM of core authority without clarifying which department or director will manage critical air and water oversight, rulemaking, and interagency cooperation, raising concerns that DERM is being sidelined rather than empowered and underscoring the need for detailed analysis so the public can assess whether the changes truly protect resources rather than favor developers.</p> <p>Samantha Barquin, Miami Waterkeeper: The DERM restructuring raises unresolved questions about permitting authority, staff involvement, objections, enforcement, and overall capacity, and the public deserves clear answers about which department will ultimately be responsible for environmental protection.</p> <p>Rachel Silverstein, Miami Waterkeeper: There is deep concern that the lack of clarity around DERM’s role will create an imbalance in community needs, and without transparent metrics—such as violations resolved, habitat loss, inspections, grants, and tree permits—the public cannot judge whether the restructuring is working, so the administration must define and report clear measures of environmental performance within six months.</p>
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	<p>Silvio Frank Pupo: Recommend piloting a unified marine-drone system for debris removal and water surveillance to complement existing crews, expand coverage, and provide a transparent, shared view of water quality and ecosystem health that enhances pollution reduction, public safety, and coordination.</p>
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**WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

Commissioner Micky Steinberg - Chair

	<p>Chair Steinberg welcomed new members:          Miami-Dade County District 6 Commissioner Natalie Milian Orbis          Dr. Jed Redwine, FIU, Institute of Environment          Dr. John Stieglitz, UM, Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science</p>
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**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Micky Steinberg - Chair

BOARD ACTION	<p>A motion was made to adopt the Agenda by Commissioner Alex Fernandez and seconded by Commissioner Natalie Milian Orbis; motion passed unanimously.</p>
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**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

Commissioner Micky Steinberg - Chair

BOARD ACTION	<p>A motion was made to approve the Minutes from June 6, 2025, by Commissioner Alex Fernandez and seconded by Mayor Vince Lago; motion passed unanimously.</p>
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**BISCAYNE BAY WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROJECT UPDATES**

Pamela Sweeney, Chief, Water Resources Coordination Division, DERM

PRESENTATION	<p>Pamela reported that more than \$50 million in state DEP funding has supported Biscayne Bay restoration efforts over the past four years. Major seagrass die-offs, algal blooms, and findings from the Grand Jury Report, which happened over the last decade underscored the need for stronger nutrient management, improved water quality, and coordinated regional governance, ultimately leading to the creation of the Biscayne Bay Watershed Management Advisory Board. Staff described priority projects focused on reducing nutrient loads, expanding habitat restoration, converting septic systems to sewer in vulnerable areas, improving public education, upgrading stormwater systems, and deploying innovative technologies such as smart ponds, filtration devices, and sensors that have already prevented an estimated 150 sanitary sewer overflows. Several stormwater and restoration pilot projects are underway, with early indicators showing reduced flooding and enhanced treatment performance.</p> <p><b>Board Comments:</b>          Board members raised several concerns and questions during the discussion, each emphasizing different priorities. <b>Spencer Crowley</b> asked about the status and release timeline of the Living Shoreline Guidelines which was funded under the state grant. He asked whether the forthcoming guidance would require changes to County code. <b>Pamela Sweeney</b> responded that the guidance document is undergoing final edits and will be shared with the Board once it is presented to the BCC. She also stated that the document provides guidance to homeowners on the range of options available to them from full green to grey-green solutions and doesn't require a code change. <b>Crowley</b> stressed that living shorelines—commonly implemented in other Florida communities such as Palm Beach County and Lake Worth—are effectively impossible to build in Miami-Dade due to existing regulatory barriers. He noted that successful examples, like the mangrove shoreline near Monty's, already exist locally and should be replicated, but current rules discourage them. He also highlighted the value of ongoing water-quality</p>
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	<p>research by FIU and Miami Waterkeeper, emphasizing that strong investment in water quality produces significant long-term returns for canal-front communities.</p> <p><b>Mayor Vince Lago</b> focused on municipal coordination and the need for improved stormwater practices, noting legislation he passed to ensure catch basins are protected and properly maintained. He pointed out that his city uses signage on catch basins and is contributing substantially to resilience planning through a sea-level-rise fund expected to reach \$100 million within a few years. Lago requested a presentation for his municipal staff to better align efforts and understand where additional improvements may be needed.</p> <p><b>Dave Doebler</b> thanked staff for progress on stormwater initiatives but raised concerns about how DERM will participate in permitting oversight moving forward, including impervious surface reviews. He asked about the County’s long-term plan for connecting the roughly 11,000 remaining vulnerable septic systems and whether sufficient funding will be available. Doebler also questioned why the County must conduct its own pilot projects when third-party testing and proven national technologies already exist, suggesting that relying on existing data could speed implementation. <b>Pamela Sweeney</b> clarified that the state required local testing to evaluate pilot project performance under Miami-Dade’s unique conditions—such as low elevation and high urban density—and to provide pre- and post-sampling data. She also noted progress on septic-to-sewer conversions, explaining that the number of highly vulnerable properties has decreased and that state funding is now helping connect private properties. The County expects to complete these conversions over a 5- to 15-year period and continues to work with municipalities on simple, effective improvements—such as increased street sweeping—to reduce pollution and improve water quality.</p>
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Pamela Sweeney, Chief, Water Resources  
 Coordination Division, DERM and Mike  
 Wessel, Sr. Environmental Scientist, ESA  
 Associates (via Zoom)

**REASONABLE ASSURANCE PLAN - DASHBOARD**

PRESENTATION	<p>Pamela Sweeney explained that the Reasonable Assurance Plan (RAP) is a strategic alternative to a state-imposed cleanup plan, pursued because 70–80% of Biscayne Bay is officially impaired and no longer meets Class III recreational water standards. This condition threatens not only public access and ecological health but also Miami-Dade County’s \$64 billion economic contribution tied to real estate, tourism, and development. By opting into a RAP, the County can take local control under the Clean Water Act, provided it demonstrates to the state that it can meet water-quality targets through a long-term, milestone-driven approach that will take one to two decades. Developing the RAP requires modeling nutrient loads, integrating groundwater and surface water systems—since they are interconnected locally—and collaborating closely with municipalities, tribes, and regional partners. Sweeney emphasized that the RAP must show a realistic path to meeting standards, which will require significant investment and shared responsibility across the community.</p> <p>Pamela introduced <b>Mike Wessel</b> of ESA Associates to share information on modeling and the RAP Dashboard. Mike Wessel explained that the Plan of Study outlines a detailed scope of work, to be approved by DEP, aimed at achieving cleaner water faster by developing a pollutant loading model, and identifying a healthy reference period for Biscayne Bay. By determining what constitutes a healthy condition, the team can set pollutant load targets, identify sources of pollution, and implement reductions, while simultaneously tracking key ecological indicators such as water quality, seagrasses, sponges, hard-bottom communities, and fish.</p> <p>Wessel described a collaborative, internal-use dashboard that integrates data on seagrass cover, rainfall, flows, individual monitoring stations, and reference-period water quality. This tool allows staff and DEP to interact with spatial and temporal data, review trends, drill down to specific stations, and calculate pollutant loads efficiently, improving transparency and communication. County staff also collect extensive field data across 100 stations annually, covering seagrass species, coral, and sponges. Next steps include finalizing the healthy reference period approach, associating pollutant loads with that period, and maintaining regular engagement with DEP to ensure alignment on analytical methods and milestones.</p>
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	<p><b>Board Comments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair Steinberg praised the dashboard as a valuable resource for stakeholders.</li> <li>• Jim Murley emphasized that the “Cleaner Water Faster” messaging should be communicated to the public in a science-based, fact-driven way to capture attention and drive action.</li> <li>• Commissioner Alex Fernandez asked about more frequent data collection to evaluate interventions like UV street-surface sanitization. Pamela clarified that water quality data have been collected largely monthly for the past 20 years, which allows the dashboard to integrate historical and state-formatted datasets.</li> <li>• Roberto Torres inquired about baseline datasets for Bay health. Mike Wessel explained that the team is using a “healthy reference period” approach, looking back to 2009, as a practical method for RAP development, though other stress-response approaches exist.</li> <li>• Jed Redwine highlighted the importance of integrating historical data into models to understand causal patterns, rainfall impacts, and predictive outcomes.</li> <li>• Pamela noted that focusing on the “worst 20%” of problem sources helps direct state-supported efforts efficiently. Wessel added that biostatistical methods, including jackknifing and predictive modeling, are being used to estimate needed improvements.</li> <li>• Dave Doebler praised the dashboard for making the data understandable to non-scientists but expressed concern that actual water quality improvements, particularly for seagrass recovery, have been slow. He questioned the focus on nitrogen, phosphorus, and chlorophyll alone, suggesting monitoring additional pollutants like herbicides, bacteria, and trash. Pamela explained that seagrass die-offs may result from nutrient overloads affecting root oxygenation, and while the RAP focuses on N and P due to state criteria, other factors like bacteria and phytoplankton growth are being considered. She also explained the regulatory context of numeric criteria established by the state and EPA. Doebler emphasized the importance of broader metrics even if they are not state requirements, and noted the upcoming Biscayne Bay Health Summit in May 2026 as an opportunity for stakeholder input.</li> <li>• Pamela confirmed the RAP timeline: draft submission to DEP in 2026, review by fall 2026, and final draft by winter 2026.</li> <li>• Chair Steinberg requested another update in six months to ensure the project remains on schedule and suggested including additional metrics.</li> <li>• Redwine highlighted the need to understand natural system loads and rainfall patterns to inform benchmarks and ensure durable criteria.</li> <li>• Steinberg recommended engaging new board members for feedback.</li> <li>• Pamela concluded by noting that the RAP will allow reassessment of loading thresholds with the state, accounting for areas where current limits may no longer be adequate.</li> </ul>
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**2026 FLORIDA LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Jess McCarty, Executive Assistant County Attorney, Miami-Dade County Attorney’s Office

PRESENTATION	<p><b>Jess McCarty</b> reported that the timing of the upcoming legislative session is critical, noting that the County Legislative Priorities for this session was released the previous night and he is heading directly to Tallahassee to attend the first of six committee weeks. The 2026 session begins March 13th and will run 60 days, shorter than the 105-day 2025 session, but it coincides with the final year for the governor, House speaker, and Senate president. Key anticipated issues include property taxes, with proposals expected from the House in November, and broader state revenue and expenditure reductions, which could affect funding for local projects such as stormwater, septic-to-sewer, and Biscayne Bay initiatives. Jess also highlighted that the legislative package being reviewed includes water-related projects and opposition to a preemption bill to counter a proposed plastics preemption measure.</p> <p><b>Board Comments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jim Murley opened by raising awareness of Senate Bill 180, noting that it started as a post-disaster bill but appears to be very burdensome on local governments and asked for input on its implications. McCarty explained that addressing SB 180 is a key focus in the 2026 legislative package. He noted the bill started as a fairly benign emergency management measure but recent amendments have made it more complex. Litigation is ongoing among</li> </ul>
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	<p>cities and counties, though the County is not involved, and a broad coalition is addressing the bill.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dave Doebler emphasized that SB 180 has already impacted Miami-Dade County, preventing progress on the impervious surface ordinance. He expressed concern about reductions in state expenditures, noting that the County should budget locally for initiatives like EEL funding rather than relying on minimal state support. He also highlighted frustration with last-minute budget amendments, such as the removal of DERM permitting authority, and advocated for more transparent local budgeting.</li> <li>• Commissioner Alex Fernandez suggested tracking which percent of property taxes from the 34 municipalities directly support the health of Biscayne Bay and the impact of sewer rehabilitation projects funded through those taxes.</li> <li>• Chair Steinberg thanked participants and moved the discussion toward recommendations from the board.</li> </ul>
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**BBWMAB RECOMMENDATIONS UPDATE**

Nancy Jackson, Resilience Program  
Director, DERM

DOCUMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nancy Jackson provided updates on two items: the mobile pump-out vessel initiative, referencing a County resolution and models from Monroe County and Martin County, highlighting benefits of direct operation rather than contracting out; and the Marine Debris Plan, emphasizing collaboration with stakeholders and the need for actionable implementation.</li> <li>• Spencer Crowley reinforced the mobile pump-out vessel initiative, citing Martin County as a replicable model for hot spots around the Bay and highlighting its benefits for community access and environmental protection.</li> <li>• Dave Doebler supported the mobile pump-out program and stressed the importance of making boat waste management easy, referencing the downtime of existing pump-out stations at County parks. He expressed enthusiasm for the Marine Debris Plan as well.</li> </ul>
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Commissioner Micky Steinberg - Chair

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair Steinberg recommended the watershed plan, everglades restoration and derelict vessel program update from DERM’s John Ricisak be included in the December meeting agenda.</li> <li>• Jim Murley recommended bringing in SFWMD for everglades restoration to discuss their role in stormwater management and property tax allocation.</li> <li>• Commissioner Alex Fernandez recommended inviting the Sheriff’s department to address marine safety concerns, including illegal jet skis and enforcement needs in Biscayne Bay. Commissioner Steinberg mentioned the Mayor’s Boater Safety and Bay Education Task Force. Nancy Jackson added the next Boater Safety Task Force meeting would discuss law enforcement and since it’s such a big topic the goal is to keep those discussions at the Task Force.</li> <li>• Steinberg recommended someone from the Task Force providing an update to the board.</li> <li>• Roberto Torres suggested including updates on projects impacting Biscayne Bay.</li> <li>• Jed Redwine emphasized the need for written responses on administrative procedures and how the restructured processes would support RAP outcomes.</li> <li>• Dave Doebler raised concerns about DERM’s involvement in permitting, particularly dredging and seagrass protection, and the need for proactive oversight. He advocated for more frequent meetings to provide input on projects affecting Biscayne Bay.</li> <li>• Spencer Crowley highlighted his dual role as a FIND Commissioner and grant provider for waterfront projects, noting recent grants totaling \$7.7 million across cities and law enforcement, including marine patrol and infrastructure projects.</li> <li>• Dave Doebler also shared outcomes from the International Coastal Cleanup Day, noting 26,000 pounds of debris removed and the educational value for volunteers, while recognizing ongoing challenges.</li> </ul>
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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Commissioner Alex Fernandez added that cleanup efforts inform policymaking, referencing Miami Beach's ordinance limiting plastic and metallic decorations in marinas and on beaches, showing the connection between community action and policy development.</li></ul> |
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**ADJOURN**

Commissioner Micky Steinberg - Chair

DISCUSSION	The Chair thanked the BBWMAB and staff for their work. The meeting was adjourned.
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Construction at the EAA Reservoir Project.

# CERP Construction and Planning Projects

## Progress Report

South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Projects including the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) are authorized when a planning study is approved by Congress as part of a Water Resource Development Act (WRDA). Responsibility for design and construction of CERP and other restoration projects is shared between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), based on coordination between the two agencies, the Integrated Delivery Schedule (IDS), and the Project Partnership Agreement for each project. This document reports on the USACE's progress on CERP efforts for the restoration of the Greater Everglades as directed by Governor DeSantis in Executive Order 23-06, as well as the SFWMD's continued efforts to expedite Everglades restoration projects and improve water quality and quantity.

On July 18, 2025, the State of Florida and the U.S. Department of the Army reached a new agreement to accelerate the restoration of America's Everglades. This progress report may break out expedited components to describe implementation of the project.

### Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands – Cutler Wetlands Component

**Lead Agency:** SFWMD

**Anticipated Completion Year:** 2025

**Project Description:** The Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Project – Cutler Wetlands Component will improve the health of Biscayne Bay, aid in wetland rehydration, build coastal resiliency and improve water quality. This is the final component of the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Project.

**Status:** Construction.

- Contract 6A – Pump Station S-701: Construction of the pump station is complete. Final testing and commissioning is currently underway.
- Contract 6B – Concrete lined conveyance channel and all major earthwork activities are complete. Construction of recreation features are underway. Anticipate construction completion this month.

### Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands – L-31 East Flowway

**Lead Agency:** USACE

**Anticipated Completion Year:** 2025

**Project Description:** The project restores freshwater flows to southern Biscayne Bay and Biscayne National Park while improving salinity distribution near the shore. It also restores historical freshwater wetland habitat adjacent to the Bay, which acts like a sponge, soaking up water in the wet season and slowly releasing it in a more natural pattern.

**Status:** Construction.

- Contract 4 – Pump Station S-709: Construction was completed in May 2023 and this feature is currently in an Operational Testing and Monitoring Period.
- Contract 5A – Pump Station S-705: Construction was completed in September 2023 and this feature is currently in an Operational Testing and Monitoring Period.
- Contract 5B – Pump Station S-703, Spreader Canal, Recreation Features: Construction was completed in December 2024 and this feature is currently in an Operational Testing and Monitoring Period.
- Contract 5C – Pump Stations S-710 and S-711, Seepage Canal C-711W: Construction of both pump stations is complete and the testing and commissioning phase is underway. Anticipate contract completion this month.

### Biscayne Bay and Southeastern Everglades Ecosystem Restoration (BBSEER)

**Lead Agency:** USACE

**Anticipated Completion Year:** TBD

**Project Description:** The BBSEER Project aims to restore natural areas in southeastern Miami-Dade County, including the Model Lands, Southern Glades, nearshore estuarine habitats of Biscayne Bay, and the associated coastal and freshwater wetlands.

**Status:** Planning; The acting Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works granted approval (\$5M federal budget; \$3.8M in FY2025 and \$1.2M in FY2026 in federal funding) to advance the planning study toward the Tentatively Selected Plan milestone.

The team presented the evaluations of the Final Array of Alternatives and Tentatively Selected Plan recommendation to the Project Delivery Team in April 2025 at a public meeting in Cutler Bay. The recommendation is the ALT32 plan. Modeling and ecological benefit analysis for the Tentatively Selected Plan are scheduled to be complete in this month. The next milestone is the Tentatively Selected Plan in June 2026.

### Broward County Water Preserve Areas

**Lead Agency:** USACE

**Anticipated Completion Year:** 2035

**Project Description:** This project will reduce water loss from the Central Everglades. It is designed to perform two primary functions: reduce seepage loss from Water Conservation Area (WCA) 3A and 3B to the C-11 and C-9 Basins; and capture, store and distribute surface water runoff from the western C-11 Basin that has been discharged into WCA 3A and 3B.

**Status:** Design and Construction.

- Contract 2.1 – Initial land clearing and grubbing contract awarded in September 2024.
- Contract 2.0 – C-11 Impoundment Embankment: Contract advertisement began in March 2025, proposals are currently being accepted and evaluated, and a contract award is expected by Q2 FY2026.
- Contract 3 – C-11 Impoundment S-503 Pump Station: Construction award is pending available funding and available pre-award design/engineering work.
- Contract 4 – WCA3A Seepage Management Area: Schedule being evaluated.
- Contract 5 – C-9 Impoundment: Schedule being evaluated.

## Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Reservoir

**Lead Agency:** USACE

**Anticipated Completion Year:** 2029

**Project Description:** CEPP includes four phases of projects that help restore the natural flow of water south from Lake Okeechobee to Central & Southern Everglades. The CEPP EAA Phase will store, treat and send new water to the Everglades.

The EAA Reservoir reduces damaging discharges from Lake Okeechobee to the Northern Estuaries. The 10,000-acre reservoir component includes 240,000 acre-feet of storage and delivers water to the 6,500-acre A-2 STA for water quality treatment. The project provides an additional average annual 370,000 acre-feet of clean water sent to the Everglades.

**Status:** Design and Construction.

- Contract 10A – Seepage Inflow/Outflow Canal: Construction is complete. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on September 23, 2025 to celebrate the completion of Contract 10A for the CEPP EAA phase.
- Contract 11A – Foundation Preparation and Cutoff Wall: Construction continues to complete rock preparation foundation and cutoff wall sections. Once sections are finalized, they are turned over to Contract 11B for embankment construction.
- Contract 11B – Embankment, outlet structures and spillway: Construction contract awarded in September 2024, and Notice to Proceed was issued in December 2024. This is the largest contract in USACE Jacksonville District's history and was the largest USACE Civil Works stand-alone contract in 2024. The scope of work includes clearing, excavation, and processing of materials to construct a 17.75-mile embankment dam up to 38 feet high, as well as four gated outlet structures, one un-gated overflow spillway, one multi-bay gated inline spillway, rock foundation preparation, and installation of a seepage cutoff wall. Clearing and grubbing of borrow areas continues as does blasting of material borrow areas.

## Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Reservoir Pump Stations

**Lead Agency:** SFWMD

**Anticipated Completion Year:** 2029

**Project Description:** The S-623 Reservoir Inflow Pump Station is a 4,600 cfs pump station that moves water from the inflow canal into the reservoir. This project also includes the microwave tower that facilitates the remote operations of the pump station and other reservoir control structures. The S-636 Seepage Pump Station is a 250 cfs pump station that controls water levels north of the Reservoir.

**Status:** Design.

- Contract 11C – S-636 Seepage Pump Station design began in March 2023 by the USACE, and the project is being transferred to the SFWMD for design completion and construction using federal funds. SFWMD is starting the final design phase in November 2025 and is expected to be complete in Q4 FY2026. Construction is expected to commence in Q4 FY2026.
- Contract 12 – S-623 Reservoir Inflow Pump Station: The construction contract was awarded at the October 2025 Governing Board Meeting and a groundbreaking ceremony was held on November 6, 2025.

## Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Canal Conveyance Improvements

**Lead Agency:** SFWMD

**Anticipated Completion Year:** 2029

**Project Description:** The North New River Canal Conveyance increases canal capacity by 200 cfs. The Miami Canal Conveyance Improvements increase canal capacity by 1,000 cfs.

**Status:** Design and Construction.

- Contract 9A – EAA North New River Canal Improvements: Construction Notice to Proceed issued in June 2024. Dredge Material Management Area is constructed. Mechanical excavation and hydraulic dredging are underway. Anticipate completion of construction in FY2026.
- Contract 9A – EAA Miami River Canal Improvements Phase I: Construction Notice to Proceed issued in August 2025. Contractor has started initial surveys and submittals.
- Contract 9A – EAA Miami River Canal Improvements Phase 2: Design is on-going and is to be completed in December 2025. Construction award is forecasted for Q2 FY2026.

## Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) North Phase

**Lead Agency:** SFWMD

**Anticipated Completion Year:** 2032

**Project Description:** CEPP North will restore water levels in the northern portion of the Central Everglades and improve our water resource resiliency in South Florida.

The CEPP North features include the backfilling of approximately 13 miles of the Miami Canal, modifications to the S-8 pump station complex, the construction of seven new structures and one new canal as well as improving approximately 18 miles of existing canal.

**Status:** Design and Construction.

- Contract 7A – L-6 Diversion: Construction on S-620 is nearly complete. Anticipate completion of construction in December 2025. The S-622 construction Notice to Proceed issued in August 2025. Contractor is currently mobilizing to the site and has installed the construction trailer. Construction is estimated to be complete by FY2027.
- Contract 7A – L-4 Canal Improvements and Distribution Features and S-630 Gated Culverts are in design.
- Contract 7B – S-8 Pump Station Modifications Phase 1 construction will be complete in December 2025. S-8 Pump Station Modifications Phase 2 construction Notice to Proceed was issued in September 2025.
- Contract 8A – L-5 Canal improvements will be constructed in two construction contracts and design is complete. The L-5 Remnant Canal improvements Notice to Proceed was issued in July 2025. The Contractor has mobilized to the site and installed the construction trailer and erosion and sediment control features. The Contractor is currently constructing the dredged material management area berms and fusing the hydraulic dredge pipe. Construction is estimated to be complete by FY2029. Construction of the western portion of the L-5 Canal improvements, from Palmer's Crossing to S-8 Pump Station will be combined with Contract 8B once its design is complete.
- Contract 8B – Miami Canal Backfill and Vegetated Hammocks survey is complete and design is underway.

## Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) South Phase

**Lead Agency:** USACE

**Anticipated Completion Year:** 2033

**Project Description:** CEPP South removes water flow barriers to allow natural flow of water south into Everglades National Park.

Components include the construction of a pump station, the installation of culverts and spillways and the removal of a roadway and levees that will help increase the flow of clean water south from WCA 3A to Everglades National Park.

**Status:** Design and Construction.

- Contract 1AR – L-67A Culverts: Work continues at the S-631, S-632, and S-633 sites. Work is progressing with all three culverts under construction. Anticipate completion of construction in Q2 of FY2027.
- Contract 2A – Pump Station S-356E and S-334E Gated Spillway: Design is complete and real estate matters are resolved. The award schedule is being reviewed to identify potential efficiencies and optimize sequencing for CEPP.

## Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) South Phase – Blue Shanty Flowway

**Lead Agency:** SFWMD

**Anticipated Completion Year:** 2029

**Project Description:** The Blue Shanty Flowway is a constructed wetland flowway to deliver high volumes of water underneath the bridges on Tamiami Trail. The flow south is currently blocked by levees. Construction has begun for the first component of the Blue Shanty Flowway, the S-355W gated spillway structure. The S-355W is a gated spillway structure which will allow water to flow from Conservation Area 3A into Everglades National Park.

**Status:** Design and Construction.

- Contract 3B – S-355W Gated Spillway in L-29 Canal: Construction Notice to Proceed was issued by SFWMD in August 2025. Contractor started preliminary work. The work includes site laydown, staging areas and bypass channel.
- Contract 5 – Blue Shanty Flowway: The project was transferred to the SFWMD for design completion and construction with federal funds.
- Contract 6 – L-29 Levee Removal and L-67 Extension Backfill: The project is being transferred to the SFWMD for design completion and construction with federal funds.



*Future site of the S-355W Gated Spillway Structure.*

## Indian River Lagoon South – C-23 Estuary Discharge Diversion Canal

**Lead Agency:** SFWMD

**Anticipated Completion Year:** 2026

**Project Description:** This interconnect canal project will divert harmful discharges from the C-23 Canal and send it south to the C-44 Reservoir. It improves water quality in the St. Lucie Estuary and helps bring flows to the Estuary closer to its natural pattern.

**Status:** Construction; Installation of electrical equipment at S-457 Pump Station is complete. Canal excavation and sodding in Segment 1 and Segment 2 is 98% complete, Segment 3 excavation and sodding are complete and the box culvert under Coca-Cola Road is complete. Installation of S-458 Box Culvert under State Road 714/Martin Highway continues, forming and reinforcement of the south headwall is ongoing, and backfill is in process. The reconstruction of State Road 714 over the box culvert will commence by the end of this month.

## Indian River Lagoon South – C-23/24 North Reservoir

**Lead Agency:** USACE

**Anticipated Completion Year:** 2031

**Project Description:** The C-23/24 North Reservoir is a component of the Indian River Lagoon South Project, encompassing more than 2,000 acres. Once completed, it will store approximately 32,000 acre-feet of water.

**Status:** Design and Construction.

- Contract 4A – S-426 Pump Station, S-425 Culvert, PC-37 Canal and Structure: The borrow area was completed ahead of schedule. Construction continues on the haul and access road and clearing and grubbing work. Anticipate completion of construction in May 2028.
- Contract 4B – S-425 Sag Culvert, S-426 Afterbay and Reservoir Embankment Construction: Contract award is projected FY2027, pending funding.

## Indian River Lagoon South – C-23/24 South Reservoir

**Lead Agency:** SFWMD

**Anticipated Completion Year:** 2032

**Project Description:** The C-23/24 South Reservoir is a component of the Indian River Lagoon South Project, encompassing more than 3,500 acres.

Once completed it will store approximately 57,000 acre-feet of water.

**Status:** Design.

- Package 1 – Canal and structure construction contract was approved at the April 2024 Governing Board Meeting. Construction is ongoing. Anticipate completion of construction in FY2026.
- Package 2 – Reservoir construction contract is out for bids and is scheduled for award in 2026.

## Indian River Lagoon South – C-23/24 STA

**Lead Agency:** USACE

**Anticipated Completion Year:** 2026

**Project Description:** The 2,700-acre C23/24 STA is designed to treat water from the C-23 and C-24 Basins.

Its purpose is to reduce the sediment, phosphorus, and nitrogen going to the St. Lucie River Estuary and the southern portion of the Indian River Lagoon.

**Status:** Construction; Construction activities continue on all 17 water control structures, while embankment work on Cell 4 is finalizing the cell construction. Permanent power work by the contractor and FPL is expected to finish in November. Anticipate final completion of construction in May 2026. A temporary pump station is planned to allow for hydration of the STA while construction continues on the North Reservoir.

## Indian River Lagoon South C-25 Reservoir and STA

**Lead Agency:** SFWMD

**Anticipated Completion Year:** TBD

**Project Description:** The C-25 Reservoir and STA will capture, store and treat local stormwater runoff from the C-25 Canal.

The project reduces the rate of harmful flows to downstream estuaries and improves water quality in the estuary and lagoon. Project features include an 803-acre reservoir with 5,176 acre-feet of storage, a 532-acre STA, and a 250 cfs pump station.

**Status:** Design and Construction.

- Package 1 – Site Preparation, contract was awarded in August 2024 and is in construction.
- Package 2 – Design is on hold, contract award is targeted for FY2029, subject to future appropriations.

## Indian River Lagoon South Natural Water Quality Storage Areas and Muck Removal

**Lead Agency:** SFWMD

**Anticipated Completion Year:** TBD

**Project Description:** This project is part of Indian River Lagoon South Phase II and will work together with other Indian River Lagoon South components to protect and restore the lagoon and estuary.

It will create natural storage by preserving and restoring lands in the contributing basins of the north and south forks of the St. Lucie River and the estuary.

**Status:** Planning; Acquiring Lands.

## Lake Okeechobee Component A Reservoir (LOCAR)

**Lead Agency:** SFWMD

**Anticipated Completion Year:** 2035

**Project Description:** The LOCAR, or Component A Reservoir in the Yellow Book, was authorized by Congress in WRDA 2024 as a part of CERP. LOCAR is a 200,000 acre-feet above ground reservoir located north of Lake Okeechobee. The project benefits Lake Okeechobee by storing water in the wet season to reduce high lake levels and returning water in the dry season to improve low lake levels, helping to keep the lake within the ecological envelope and providing reliability to all water users. In addition, storage north of Lake Okeechobee reduces discharges to the Northern Estuaries and improves the downstream estuary ecosystems.

**Status:** Design.

- In FY2026, issuing Limited Notice to Proceed for Geotech, Survey and Technical Memos for Preliminary Design.

## Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project (LOWRP)

**Lead Agency:** USACE/SFWMD

**Anticipated Completion Year:** TBD

**Project Description:** LOWRP is an Everglades restoration planning effort that will improve water levels in Lake Okeechobee, improve the quantity and timing of discharges to the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee estuaries, restore degraded habitat for fish and wildlife throughout the study area, and increase the spatial extent and functionality of wetlands.

**Status:** Design and Construction.

- The USACE issued a memorandum directing initiation of study termination procedures.
- The SFWMD is implementing the Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) component of LOWRP. Several test wells have been installed and the intermediate design for the 10 million gallons per day demonstration treatment facility at C-38 is ongoing. The District is currently following the Science Plan to pursue nine well cluster sites.

## Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project

**Lead Agency:** SFWMD

**Anticipated Completion Year:** 2032

**Project Description:** The Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project will restore and sustain the overall quantity, quality, timing and distribution of fresh water to the federally designated "National Wild and Scenic" Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River for current and future generations. This project also seeks to restore, sustain and reconnect the wetlands and watersheds that form the historic headwaters for the river.

**Status:** Design.

- Flowway 1: Anticipated to execute design contract in FY2026.
- Flowway 2 and 3: In design, survey and geotechnical work underway.

## Picayune Strand Restoration Project

**Lead Agency:** USACE

**Anticipated Completion Year:** 2025

**Project Description:** This project restores the natural water flow across 85 square miles in western Collier County that were drained in the early 1960s in anticipation of extensive residential development.

The restoration involves plugging 48 miles of canals, removing 260 miles of crumbling roads, and constructing three major pump stations, all of which will restore more than 55,000 acres of natural habitat. Further, the project includes conveyance features to convey restoration water south and southeast through US-41 and CR-92 culverts and a 7-mile protection levee southwest of the project.

**Status:** Construction. All three pump stations, Miller Tram and road removal, conveyance features, and canal plugging are complete.

- Southwest Protection Feature Levee: The embankment and bench work is complete, and three culverts have been installed. Stilling well platforms and SCADA installation at the three culverts are underway. Anticipate construction completion by the end of December 2025.

## Southern Everglades

**Lead Agency:** USACE/SFWMD

**Anticipated Completion Year:** TBD

**Project Description:** The objectives and scope will be determined during the scoping period at the beginning of the study.

**Status:** Planning; The study is scheduled to begin the planning phase in early 2026.

## Western Everglades Restoration Project (WERP)

**Lead Agency:** SFWMD

**Anticipated Completion Year:** TBD

**Project Description:** The Western Everglades Restoration Project aims to improve the quantity, quality, timing, and distribution of water in the western Everglades. Construction of the North Feeder Stormwater Treatment Area within the C-139 Annex will direct treated water from the North Feeder Canal sub basin to northwest Water Conservation Area (WCA) 3A via the L-3 Canal.

Rerouting water from the West Feeder Canal sub basin south into the forested wetlands of the study area will facilitate hydropattern restoration.

Backfilling portions of the L-28 Interceptor Canal and the L-28 north Canal, in combination with degrading portions of the associated levees, will re-establish a flowing system in areas adjacent to Mullet Slough.

Full backfill and degrade of the L-28 Tieback Canal with full backfill of the L-28 south Canal south of structure 344, in combination with the construction of three adjustable control structures and a plug in the Tamiami Trail Canal, will reconnect portions of WCA 3A to Big Cypress National Preserve. Southern portions of Big Cypress National Preserve, including New River and Sweetwater Strands will receive increased flows.

**Status:** Design and Construction.

- Region 4 Design and Construction – L-28 Culverts are under construction and construction is scheduled for completion in FY2027. Design is ongoing for the 11-Mile Road, US-41 and Loop Road conveyance features.
- Region 2 Design – Refined modeling is ongoing.
- Region 1 Design – North Feeder STA and Panther Crossing on County Road 835 to start design in FY2026.



Groundbreaking for the Blue Shanty Flowway in September 2025.



Groundbreaking for the EAA Reservoir Project Inflow Pump Station in November 2025.

### PROJECTS WITH CONSTRUCTION COMPLETED SINCE 2019

- ▶ Caloosahatchee (C-43) Reservoir
- ▶ CEPP South S-333N Gated Spillway
- ▶ CEPP New Water Seepage Barrier Wall
- ▶ C-44 Reservoir and STA
- ▶ CEPP South Old Tamiami Trail Removal
- ▶ EAA A-2 Stormwater Treatment Area



# **BISCAYNE BAY AQUATIC PRESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN ACQUISITION AND RESTORATION COUNCIL MEETING**

**Griffin Alexander**

Aquatic Preserve Manager

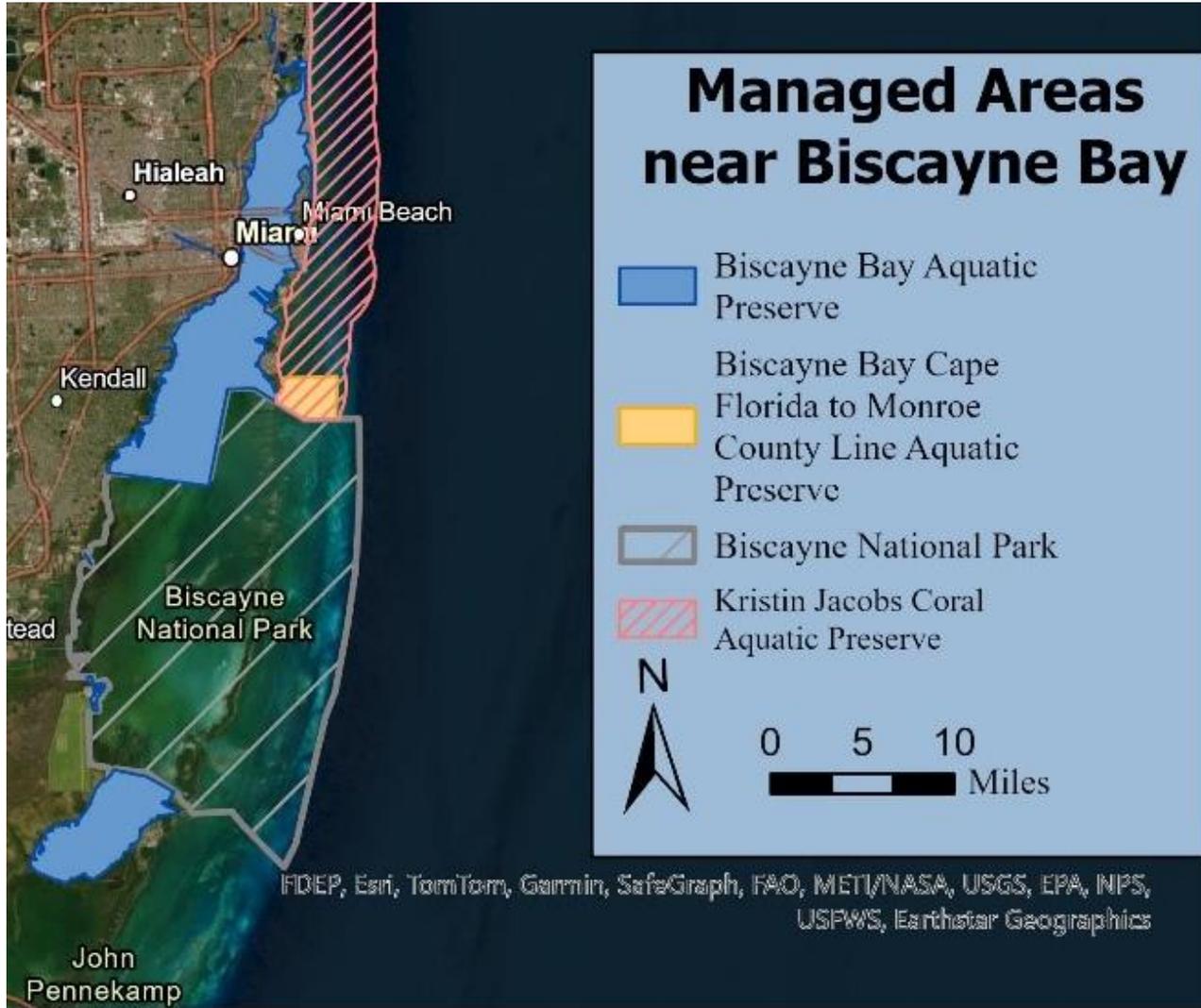
Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection

Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Acquisition and Restoration Council | Oct. 10, 2025



# BISCAYNE BAY AQUATIC PRESERVE (BBAP)



- Biscayne Bay is a historical estuary.
- Serves the most populous county in Florida — 2.7 million residents.
- 35 miles (56km) long.
- 64,000 acres.
- Spans 14 municipalities and two counties.
- The largest estuary in Florida.
- The only large subtropical protected bay within the continental United States.



# TIMELINE OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN PROCESS

Initial management plan update draft received from University of Miami, based on the 2012 BBAP Management Plan, developed under contract with guidance from the previous BBAP Manager

Draft Management Plan submitted to Advisory Committee for review and posted online for the public

Deadline for comments from AC meeting attendees

Plan posted for public review, advertised and shared with partners

Deadline to receive public comments

Plan submitted to ARC for October agenda

June 8, 2021

December 13, 2024

January 27, 2025

April 21, 2025

June 2, 2025

July 2, 2025



Fall 2022 to Fall 2024

January 13, 2025

February to April 2025

May 22, 2025

June 5 - July 2, 2025

New BBAP Manager and Southeast Regional Aquatic Preserves Manager hired  
BBAP staff worked internally on the draft management plan

Advisory Council Meeting at FIU Biscayne Bay Campus with virtual attendance option

Staff incorporate comments received  
Public Meeting scheduled on March 25th postponed to incorporate additional comments received after January 27th deadline.

Public Meeting at FIU Biscayne Bay Campus

Public comments incorporated into new draft



# BBAP MANAGEMENT PLAN (THE PLAN) STRUCTURE



## Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve Management Plan



Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection  
2600 Blair Stone Road, MS #235  
Tallahassee, FL 32399  
[www.floridacoasts.org](http://www.floridacoasts.org)

### The Plan Consists of:

- Chapter One: Introduction.
- Chapter Two: The Florida Department of Environmental Protection.
- Chapter Three: The Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve.
- Chapter Four: The Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve Management Program and Issues.
- Chapter Five: Administrative Plan.
- Chapter Six: Facilities Plan.



# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION



### Chapter One Consists of:

- Management Plan Purpose and Scope.
- Public Involvement.



# CHAPTER TWO

## FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION'S OFFICE OF RESILIENCE AND COSTAL PROTECTION



### Chapter Two Consists of:

- Introduction.
- Management Authority.
- Statutory Authority.
- Administrative Rules.



# CHAPTER THREE

## THE BISCAYNE BAY AQUATIC PRESERVE



### Chapter Three Consists of:

- Historical Background.
- General Description.
- Resource Description.
- Economic Values.
- Citizen Support Organizations.
- Adjacent Public Lands and Designated Resources.
- Surrounding Land Use.



# CHAPTER FOUR

## THE BBAP MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS AND ISSUES



### Chapter Four Consists of:

- Five Issues
- Divided into goals, objectives, strategies and performance measures

Chapter 4 / The Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve Management Programs and Issues



# CHAPTER FOUR

## ISSUE ONE: WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY



### Issue One: Water Quality & Quantity

- **Goal 1:** Maintain and improve water quality within and entering the preserve.
- **Goal 2:** Increase public and industry awareness about water quality issues in BBAP and what actions can be taken to improve water quality.



# CHAPTER FOUR

## ISSUE TWO: NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION



### Issue Two: Natural & Cultural Resource Protection

- **Goal 1:** Document and preserve the natural resources within Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve.
- **Goal 2:** Educate the public on the importance of BBAP's natural, historical and cultural resources.



# CHAPTER FOUR

## ISSUE THREE: HABITAT LOSS



### Issue Three: Habitat Loss

- **Goal 1:** Protect Biscayne Bay from impacts related to land use changes that disrupt the ecological functions of natural resources within ORCP's purview.
- **Goal 2:** Monitor, restore and protect BBAP's habitats.



# CHAPTER FOUR

## ISSUE FOUR: PUBLIC AWARENESS, ACCESS AND USE



### Issue Four: Public Awareness, Access and Use

- **Goal 1:** Promote sustainable recreational opportunities, while increasing access to the bay.
- **Goal 2:** Educate users of the bay to increase awareness, protect users, and preserve sensitive resources.



# CHAPTER FOUR

## ISSUE FIVE: SUSTAINABLE USE



### Issue Five: Sustainable Use

- **Goal 1:** Maintain a safe environment for Biscayne Bay's wildlife, habitats and user groups.
- **Goal 2:** Ensure that monitoring, research and management actions of BBAP are conducted sustainably and efficiently, using best practices that minimize negative impacts to Biscayne Bay and optimize overall effectiveness.



# CHAPTER FIVE

## ADMINISTRATIVE PLAN



### Chapter Five Consists of:

- Regional Office.
- Public Involvement.
- Staffing Needs.



# CHAPTER SIX

## FACILITIES PLAN



### Chapter Six Consists of:

- Buildings and Infrastructure.
- Vehicles and Vessels.



# PUBLIC COMMENTS

## HOW THEY WERE ADDRESSED



### Public Comments Focused On:

- The Budget Table.
- Management of Biscayne Bay-Cape Florida To Monroe County Aquatic Preserve.
- Transparency of strategies completed from the 2012 Management Plan.
- Protections for Arch Creek.
- Law Enforcement in Biscayne Bay.
- Multilingual outreach.



# PUBLIC COMMENTS

## Budget Table

Goals, Objectives & Integrated Strategies	Time frame	25-26	26-27	27-28	28-29	29-30	30-31	31-32	32-33	33-34	34-35	10 year total
<b>Annual Totals</b>		\$546,492	\$546,492	\$546,492	\$546,492	\$546,492	\$546,492	\$546,492	\$546,492	\$546,492	\$546,492	\$5,464,920
<b>Issue 1: Water Quality and Quantity</b>												
<b>Goal 1: Maintain and improve water quality within and entering the preserve.</b>												
Objective 1: Support local, state, and federal efforts to continue and optimize monitoring and research programs, produce analyses of data, define gaps in watershed water quality restoration, identify management strategies, and enact policies to address those gaps in Biscayne Bay.	Ongoing	\$35,360	\$35,360	\$35,360	\$35,360	\$35,360	\$35,360	\$35,360	\$35,360	\$35,360	\$35,360	\$353,600
Objective 2: Reduce impacts on water quality from surface and ground water from source and non-point sources caused by storm events within the watershed.	Ongoing	\$16,640	\$16,640	\$16,640	\$16,640	\$16,640	\$16,640	\$16,640	\$16,640	\$16,640	\$16,640	\$166,400
Objective 3: Reduce impacts on water quality to surface and ground water caused by septic system sources within the watershed.	Ongoing	\$16,640	\$16,640	\$16,640	\$16,640	\$16,640	\$16,640	\$16,640	\$16,640	\$16,640	\$16,640	\$166,400
Objective 4: Work with city, county, and municipal agencies to preserve and restore natural shorelines and enhance armored shorelines adjacent to the aquatic preserve.	Ongoing	\$35,360	\$35,360	\$35,360	\$35,360	\$35,360	\$35,360	\$35,360	\$35,360	\$35,360	\$35,360	\$353,600
<b>Goal 2: Increase public and industry awareness about water quality issues in BBAP and what actions can be taken to improve water quality.</b>												
Objective 1: Inform the public and partners about water quality conditions within BBAP.	Ongoing	\$31,200	\$31,200	\$31,200	\$31,200	\$31,200	\$31,200	\$31,200	\$31,200	\$31,200	\$31,200	\$312,000
Objective 2: Understand and ensure adaptability and responsiveness of Biscayne Bay to the changing environmental patterns and ensure upland freshwater delivery systems into Biscayne Bay to maintain appropriate environmental conditions.	Ongoing	\$8,320	\$8,320	\$8,320	\$8,320	\$8,320	\$8,320	\$8,320	\$8,320	\$8,320	\$8,320	\$83,200
<b>Issue Two: Natural and Cultural Resource Protection</b>												
<b>Goal 1: Document and preserve the natural resources within Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve.</b>												
Objective 1: Establish a baseline and/or add to the knowledge base of the current location, composition and abundance of the various habitat types and associated fauna, with specific focus on seagrass habitats.	Ongoing	\$33,280	\$33,280	\$33,280	\$33,280	\$33,280	\$33,280	\$33,280	\$33,280	\$33,280	\$33,280	\$332,800
Objective 2: Maintain a comprehensive monitoring program in Biscayne Bay, with particular focus on the northern bay, to include monitoring of existing sites and include additional sites as needed.	Ongoing	\$55,600	\$55,600	\$55,600	\$55,600	\$55,600	\$55,600	\$55,600	\$55,600	\$55,600	\$55,600	\$556,000
Objective 3: Work with local, state, and federal governments and nonprofits to create a comprehensive marine debris prevention, reduction, and removal program within BBAP.	Ongoing	\$18,640	\$18,640	\$18,640	\$18,640	\$18,640	\$18,640	\$18,640	\$18,640	\$18,640	\$18,640	\$186,400
Objective 4: Assist with management and monitoring of existing archaeological and historical resources.	Ongoing	\$8,320	\$8,320	\$8,320	\$8,320	\$8,320	\$8,320	\$8,320	\$8,320	\$8,320	\$8,320	\$83,200
<b>Goal 2: Educate the public on the importance of BBAP's natural, historical and cultural resources.</b>												
Objective 1: Partner with other agencies and/or non-governmental organizations to promote greater understanding and interpretation of cultural and natural resources including threats to those resources that	Ongoing	\$18,640	\$18,640	\$18,640	\$18,640	\$18,640	\$18,640	\$18,640	\$18,640	\$18,640	\$18,640	\$186,400

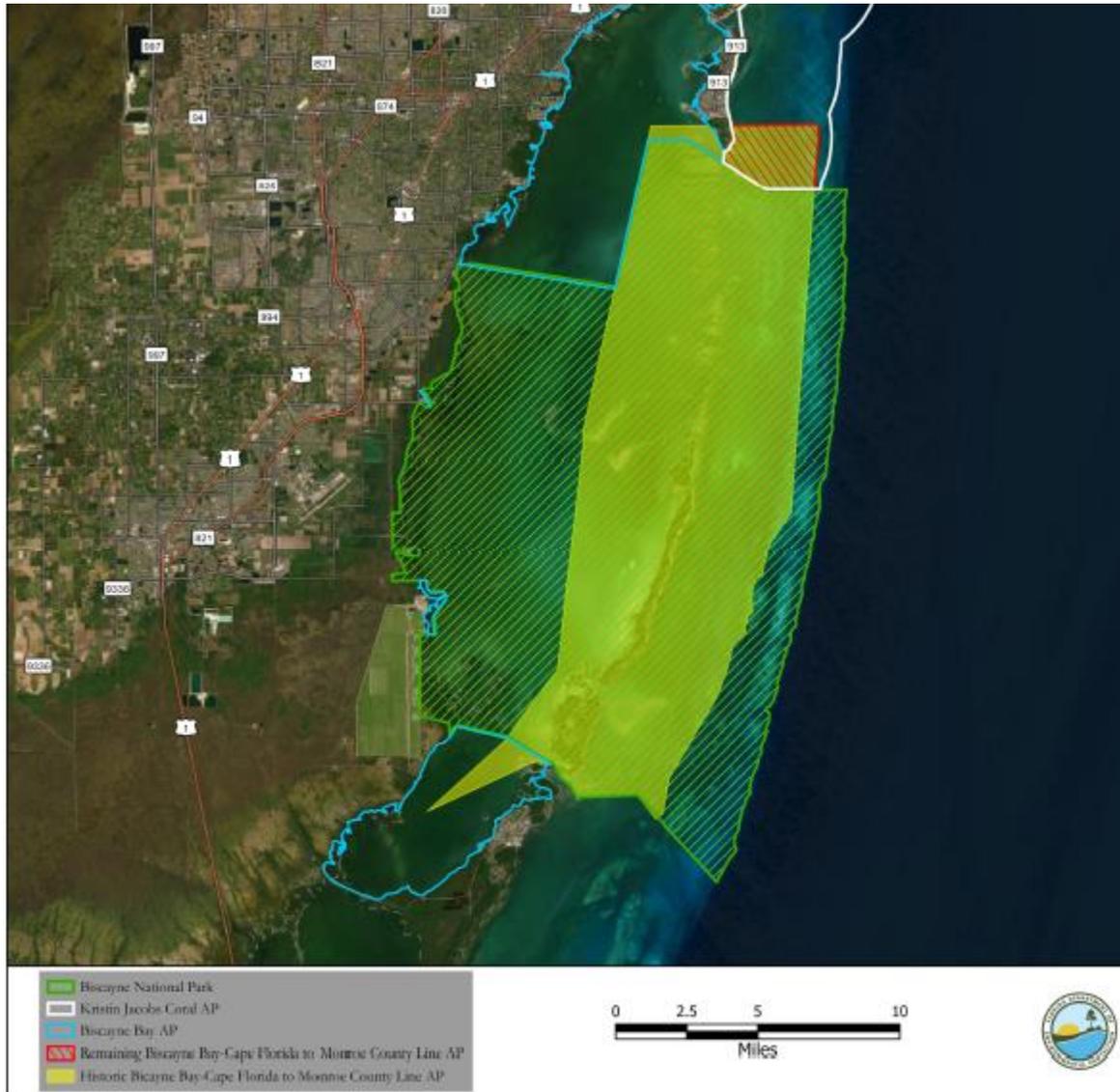
## The Budget Table Consists of:

- Includes the estimated cost for every objective in the plan.
- Actual budget decided is determined by State Legislature and Governor.
- Created by a process of looking at current salaries, costs and supplies then extrapolating into the future with equal or greater resources.
- As noted in the plan, it does not account for inflation.



# PUBLIC COMMENTS

## BOUNDARIES OF BISCAYNE BAY-CAPE FLORIDA TO MONROE COUNTY LINE AQUATIC PRESERVE



- Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve (BBAP).
  - Managed under 18-18 F.A.C.
  - Boundaries specified in 18-18.002 F.A.C. and 258.397 F.S. including Card Sound (blue boxes).
- Biscayne Bay - Cape Florida to Monroe County Line Aquatic Preserve (Cape Florida AP).
  - Historically stretched offshore from Cape Florida to John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park (yellow solid box) but most was incorporated into Biscayne National Park (green hash box).
  - Managed under 18-20 F.A.C. with the boundaries specified in 258.39(11) F.S. along with 32 other aquatic preserves (red hash box) as confirmed by the Division of State Lands.
  - Management will be assumed by the overlapping Kristen Jacobs Coral Aquatic Preserve (management plan in progress; white box).
- Both are designated Outstanding Florida Waters under 62-302.700 F.A.C.
- This plan is only for management of BBAP.



# PUBLIC COMMENTS

## TRANSPARENCY OF STRATEGIES COMPLETED FROM THE 2012 MANAGEMENT PLAN

Sustainable Economic Use and Viability		
Goal 1: Promote sustainable economic use and viability of Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserves resources.		
Obj1: Increase the number of local boatyards, marinas and local citizens who become members of DEP's Clean Boatyard, Clean Marina, or Clean Boater program, respectively.		
Str1: Encourage vessel owners and/or operators to use pumpouts at marinas that offer services and overall to frequent marinas that are designed Clean Marinas.	Completed	
Str2: Work more closely with DEP's Clean Marina, Boatyard, and Boater programs to advertise location of pumpout facilities, existence of Clean programs and access to guidelines.	Completed	
Str3: In coordination with DEP Clean Marina program staff, Sea Grant, and industry representatives, encourage boatyards, marinas and boaters, especially those in the Miami River, to join DEP's Clean programs.	Completed	
Str4: Work with agencies, Sea Grant, universities, and local non-governmental organizations to develop a volunteer monitoring program.	Completed	
Obj2: Coordinate with other resource agencies, law enforcement agencies, and institutions to evaluate what current commercial fisheries practices operate in Biscayne Bay today and what ecological impacts might be.		
Str1: In coordination with FWC, compile historical and present data to determine number and type of commercial fishing operations including target species, incidence of bycatch, and type and location of gear set in Biscayne Bay or areas where wing nets or other gear is used.	Not complete	Local fishing practices have decreased and are not the main factor threatening BBAP.
Str2: Coordinate with local, state, and federal resource managers and law enforcement, namely FWC, to ensure that commercial fishing vessels' equipment is functioning properly to ensure protection of the benthic habitat and water quality.	Completed	
Str3: Partner with local, state, and federal agencies to encourage area colleges and universities to revisit past commercial fishing studies as well as other resource-related studies, now antiquated, that can be reproduced to determine species presence and abundance over time.	Completed	
Obj3: Coordinate with other resource agencies, law enforcement agencies, and institutions to evaluate what current recreational fishing practices operate in Biscayne Bay today and what ecological impacts might be.		

### Appendix D.3, Major Accomplishments Since the Approval of the Previous Plan

- Provides a narrative of accomplishments in BBAP since 2012.
- Provides a table detailing every strategy from the 2021 management plan and if it was completed.
- If not completed, the table provides a brief explanation on why.



# PUBLIC COMMENTS

## CONCERNS ABOUT PROTECTIONS FOR ARCH CREEK AND ARCH CREEK PARK



### Arch Creek

- Historic tributary with a portion protected under BBAP.
- Arch Creek Park is a Miami-Dade County Park outside of BBAP that protects the area around the historic Arch Creek natural limestone bridge.



# PUBLIC COMMENTS

## ENFORCEMENT IN BISCAYNE BAY

### Enforcement In Biscayne Bay

- Specific strategies in issue two, four, and five address working with various law enforcement agencies to protect the bay.
- BBAP works closely with DEP's Southeast District Compliance Division to enforce applicable statutes and rules, particularly F.A.C 18-18 and F.A.C 18-21.





# PUBLIC COMMENTS

## MULTILINGUAL OUTREACH



### Inclusion of English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole,

- Issue four, goal one, objective one, performance measure seven, states: "Where possible produce BBAP written materials in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole"



# THANK YOU

**Griffin Alexander**

Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve Manager  
Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection  
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

**Contact Information:**

786-798-4511

[Griffin.N.Alexander@FloridaDEP.gov](mailto:Griffin.N.Alexander@FloridaDEP.gov)

# MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(11)

---

**TO:** Honorable Chairman Anthony Rodriguez  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

**DATE:** October 9, 2025

**FROM:** Geri Bonzon-Keenan  
County Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Resolution supporting the coral reef restoration goals of the United States Coral Reef Task Force and the State of Florida's Coral Reef Restoration and Recovery Initiative and urging the United States Congress and the Florida Legislature to appropriate funding in support of those goals

---

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Eileen Higgins.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Geri Bonzon-Keenan  
County Attorney

GBK/jp

MDC001



**MEMORANDUM**  
(Revised)

**TO:** Honorable Chairman Anthony Rodriguez  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

**DATE:** October 9, 2025

**FROM:**   
Gen Bonzon-Keenan  
County Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item No. 11(A)(11)

Please note any items checked.

- "3-Day Rule" for committees applicable if raised
- 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing
- 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing
- Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget
- Budget required
- Statement of fiscal impact required
- Statement of social equity required
- Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Mayor's report for public hearing
- No committee review
- Applicable legislation requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3's present \_\_\_\_, 2/3 membership \_\_\_\_, 3/5's \_\_\_\_, unanimous \_\_\_\_, majority plus one \_\_\_\_, CDMP 7 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3)(h) or (4)(c) \_\_\_\_, CDMP 2/3 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3) (h) or (4)(c) \_\_\_\_, CDMP 9 vote requirement per 2-116.1(4)(c) (2) \_\_\_\_) to approve
- Current information regarding funding source, index code and available balance, and available capacity (if debt is contemplated) required

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Mayor  
Veto \_\_\_\_\_  
Override \_\_\_\_\_

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(11)  
10-9-25

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CORAL REEF RESTORATION GOALS OF THE UNITED STATES CORAL REEF TASK FORCE AND THE STATE OF FLORIDA'S CORAL REEF RESTORATION AND RECOVERY INITIATIVE AND URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS AND THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO APPROPRIATE FUNDING IN SUPPORT OF THOSE GOALS

**WHEREAS**, Florida's coral reefs are essential to the ecological, economic, and coastal resilience of Miami-Dade County, providing habitat for marine biodiversity and supporting fisheries and tourism; and

**WHEREAS**, coral reefs act as natural barriers against storm surge and erosion, providing a value of \$675 million annually in Florida and reducing the risk of a 100-year flood by 20 percent for nearby properties; and

**WHEREAS**, coral reefs provide important habitat for recreational and commercial fisheries and are essential to a vibrant coastal tourism industry, providing Florida approximately \$1.1 billion in tourism value annually; and

**WHEREAS**, Florida's Coral Reef, which stretches almost 350 miles from the Dry Tortugas to the St. Lucie Inlet, has experienced a significant decline in healthy coral cover, with some estimates around 80-90 percent, due to warming oceans, ocean acidification, disease outbreaks, and water pollution over the past several decades, necessitating immediate and sustained restoration efforts; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Coral Reef Task Force was established in 1998 by Presidential Executive Order No. 13089, and codified by the United States Congress in 2022, with the goal of leading U.S. efforts to preserve, restore, and protect coral reef ecosystems; and

**WHEREAS**, the task force’s membership is comprised of representatives of: 15 federal agencies; seven states, territories, and commonwealths, including the State of Florida; three freely associated states; and four fishery management councils; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Coral Reef Task Force makes recommendations for policy initiatives in furtherance of coral reef restoration; for example, it recently called on all task force member jurisdictions to recognize corals as natural infrastructure, which could help facilitate future federal funding of coral reef restoration projects; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 10, 2023, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order 23-06, which, among other things, established Florida’s Coral Reef Restoration and Recovery (FCR3) Initiative “to increase the State’s coral propagation and deployment capacity to restore the natural infrastructure that will enhance coastal flood and storm surge protections”; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the FCR3 Initiative “aims to develop the infrastructure, technology, skilled workforce, and logistics necessary by 2050 to support the long-term recovery of no less than 25% of Florida’s Coral Reef”; and

**WHEREAS**, Miami-Dade County has a significant interest in supporting federal and state policies and actions that advance coral reef restoration,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,** that this Board:

**Section 1.** Supports the coral reef restoration goals of the United States Coral Reef Task Force and the State of Florida’s Coral Reef Restoration and Recovery Initiative and urges the United States Congress and the Florida Legislature to appropriate funding in support of those goals.

**Section 2.** Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit certified copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the members of the Florida Congressional Delegation, the Governor, the Senate President, the House Speaker, the Chair and remaining members of the Miami-Dade State Legislative Delegation, the United States Coral Reef Task Force, and the Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

**Section 3.** Directs the County’s federal and state lobbyists to advocate for the actions set forth in section 1 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2025 Federal Legislative Package to include this item, to include this item in the 2026 Federal Legislative Package when it is presented to the Board, and to include this item in the 2026 State Legislative Package when it is presented to the Board.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Eileen Higgins. It was offered by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Anthony Rodriguez, Chairman	
Kionne L. McGhee, Vice Chairman	
Marleine Bastien	Juan Carlos Bermudez
Sen. René García	Oliver G. Gilbert, III
Roberto J. Gonzalez	Keon Hardemon
Danielle Cohen Higgins	Eileen Higgins
Natalie Milian Orbis	Raquel A. Regalado
Micky Steinberg	

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 9<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2025. This resolution shall become effective upon the earlier of (1) 10 days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the County Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board, or (2) approval by the County Mayor of this resolution and the filing of this approval with the Clerk of the Board.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
BY ITS BOARD OF  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JUAN FERNANDEZ-BARQUIN, CLERK

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as  
to form and legal sufficiency.

CJW

Christopher J. Wahl