



NCECER 2018

National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration

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August 26-30, 2018 | New Orleans, Louisiana, USA | www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/ncer2018

Plenary Session 3: Gulf of Mexico

Panel 3: INTEGRATING RESTORATION SCIENCE AND DECISION-MAKING

GOAL: Understand the challenges associated with integrating restoration science and decision making, and what can we as scientists, planners and agency leaders do to overcome them?

Moderator: Fred Sklar, SFWMD

PANEL:

- 1. Denise Reed, UNO*
- 2. Toby Baker, TCEQ*
- 3. Holy Greening, Tampa Bay Estuary Program*

Session Approach

- a. Introduce the panel member.
- b. Each panelist will give a brief overview of the challenges associated with integrating science and policy.
- c. Ask a specific question of each panelist
- d. If there is time: Ask some general questions.
- e. Q & A

But First – A quick poll of the Audience

INTEGRATING RESTORATION SCIENCE AND DECISION-MAKING: Panel Introduction



Denise Reed is on this Panel as a representative of the “Restoration-Science-Community.” As a Distinguished Research Professor at the University of New Orleans and as a Chief Scientist at the Water Institute of the Gulf, she has studied the details associated with the how’s and why’s of human modifications of coastal systems around the world. Dr. Reed remains focused in issues of restorations and sustainability.

INTEGRATING RESTORATION SCIENCE AND DECISION-MAKING: Panel Introduction



Toby Baker is on this Panel as a representative of the “Decision-Making-Community.” As one of three Commissioners appointed by Governor Rick Perry to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ); He has the difficult job of making final determinations on contested policy and enforcement issues. Mr. Baker has a distinguished career as a Liaison between the legislature, Parks & Wildlife, and the Dept. of Agriculture. He is currently, also an appointee to the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council.

INTEGRATING RESTORATION SCIENCE AND DECISION-MAKING: Panel Introduction

Holly Greening is on this Panel as a representative of the “Environmental-Advocacy-Community.”

Dr. Greening recently retired as Executive Director of the Tampa Bay Estuary Program and is co-founder of CoastWise Partners (which provides volunteers for coastal restoration programs nationwide); Just two of her many environmental efforts that has garnered her many well-deserved regional and national awards

INTEGRATING RESTORATION SCIENCE AND DECISION-MAKING

Question for Denise Reed:

Academic institutions tend to focus on what we often call basic science. There is the strong push to publish and little incentive to focus attention on designing and implementing an environmental restoration plan. Is there something that Gov't Agencies or academic institutions could implement (e.g., tenure requirements) that would better meet the needs of Decision Makers and tenure-track professors?

INTEGRATING RESTORATION SCIENCE AND DECISION-MAKING

Question for Toby Baker:

Where do you go to get scientific information to assist with decision making? Do you get this information on a regular basis or do you get it mostly during a brush fire? Would you prefer a different approach?

INTEGRATING RESTORATION SCIENCE AND DECISION-MAKING

Question for Holly Greening:

NGO's tend to ask for full restoration. They see Gov't agencies using cost benefit analysis that placate full restoration. Gov't agencies, on-the-other-hand, are trying to be strong fiscal managers and have to manage complex trade-off issues. How have you been able to bring these two opposing views into an implementable restoration plan? Can you give us an example of when you could not bring stake-holders and Managers together? What were the lessons learned?

INTEGRATING RESTORATION SCIENCE AND DECISION-MAKING

General Questions for all panelists:

- 1) Within the context of this panel goal (understanding the challenges associated with integrating science and policy):

What do you think the word “integration” means?

INTEGRATING RESTORATION SCIENCE AND DECISION-MAKING

General Questions for all panelists:

2) We have a Timescale Paradox: The more Decision Makers need science the less time they have to make a decision. Scientists require years of study to reach a conclusion. Managers sometimes have only months to make decisions. How do you think we should be managing this paradox? Are we doing a good job incorporating scientific data and knowledge when managing for an emergency? How do you think we should integrate restoration science into decision making during emergency operations



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