**Stakeholder Involvement** 

**Challenges to Large-Scale Ecosystem Restoration Programs** 

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Jacksonville District

**August 4, 2011 National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration** 







## Importance of Stakeholder Engagement for CERP

- Build better understanding of issues and science
- Promote relationships, communication and trust
- Provides forums to promptly identify and address issues
- Maintenance of stakeholder support critical for CERP success



## Stakeholder Engagement for CERP

#### FACA

- Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972
- FACA and Everglades Restoration

#### Public Information

- Evergladesplan.org
- CERPZone.org

#### Meetings

- Meetings with public access
- Public Workshops
- Document Review



## What is FACA?

#### Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972

- Regulates the formation of federal advisory committees, established or used to obtain advice or recommendations for the President or the Federal government
- Created to enhance public accountability and reduce wasteful expenditures
- Establishes procedural requirements for creation and operation of committees
- The law has special emphasis on open meetings, chartering, public involvement and reporting



### **CERP Teams**

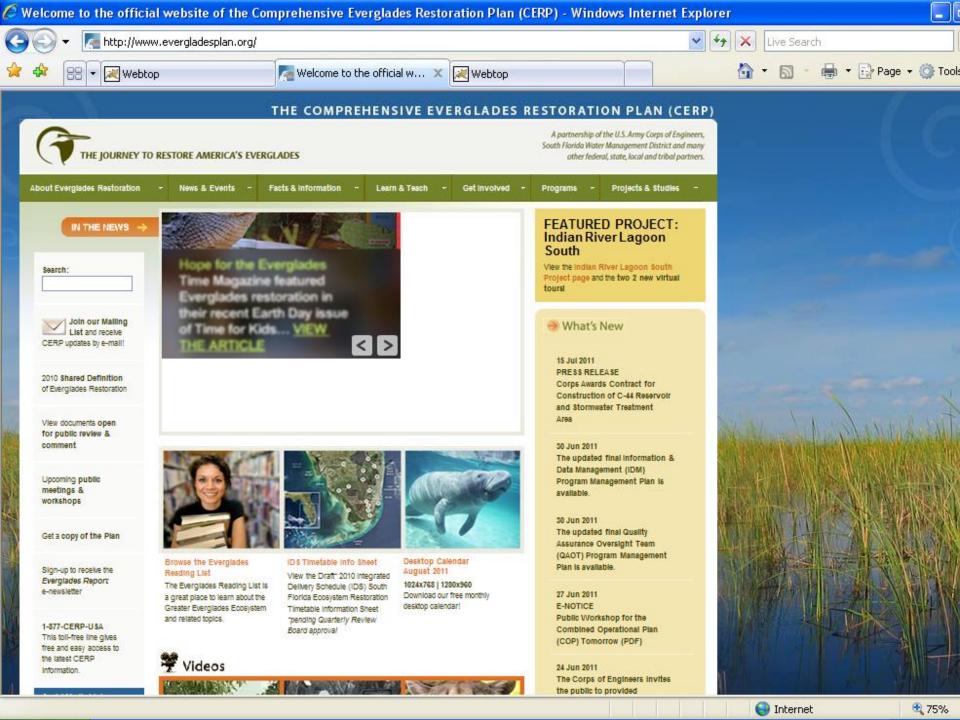
- Interagency CERP Teams are not and do not function as FACA advisory committees (i.e., are not advisory or decision-making bodies)
- CERP Teams support the implementing agencies by performing technical functions (information gathering, technical analysis, etc.) that support decision making
- Examples of CERP Teams include: Project Delivery Teams (PDTs) and RECOVER Teams
- The USACE Jacksonville District established guidance governing the conduct of CERP meetings



## Evergladesplan.org

- Public information webpage for activities related to CERP
- Access to all publicly available CERP Documents
- Access to the CERP public meeting calendar





### **CERPZone**

- Web portal maintained by CERP Information Data Management
- Accessible to anyone with a CERPZone ID and password (1000+ users)
- 28 Federal, State, Local, and Tribal agencies
- IDs available to all Stakeholder agency/tribal personnel and contractors
- Collaborative working area for CERP
- Includes areas for data, documents, applications, tools, etc.





## **Meeting Types**

#### Meetings with Public Access

- Primary purpose is exchange of technical information, not to obtain stakeholder input
- Examples: PDT meetings, RECOVER meetings, etc.

#### Public Workshops

- Primary purpose is to obtain stakeholder input
- No distinct comment periods, open for public input at any point
- Noticed via CERP listserv to over 2,000 interested parties
- Example: Scientific Knowledge Gained workshops

# Conducting Meetings with Public Access

- Post meeting information on Evergladesplan.org calendar
- Keep attendance sheets that reflect agency representation
- Meetings are amongst Federal, state, local, and Tribal representatives
- Hold public comment periods at specifically designated times with upfront announcements
- Document meeting minutes, including public comment



## **Preparation for Public Workshops**

- Find location central to attendees with conference phone and internet access
- Publicly announce meetings/teleconferences involving 3 or more agencies on the CERP Web Calendar
  - Submit meeting details (e.g., subject, description, date, time, location, call-in number, web meeting address, and point of contact) 2 weeks in advance
  - Provide agenda and read-aheads 2 weeks in advance
  - Open for public input at any time



## **CERP Web Calendar**



◀ Back to CERP Calendar Overview

◆ July | September ▶

#### August 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	8	RECOVER     Independent     Scientific Review of     Extreme     Hydrological Events     Workshop - DAY 1      DECOMP Staff     Huddle	RECOVER Independent Scientific Review of Extreme Hydrological Events Workshop - DAY 2	11  Decomp PIR 1 PDT  Meeting	12	13
4	Decomp PIR 1 Eco/WQ Sub Team Meeting - DAY 1	■ Decomp PIR 1 Eco/WQ Sub Team Meeting - DAY 2	17	18	19	20
1	22	23  DECOMP Staff Huddle	24	25	26	27
8	29	30	31			

http://www.evergladesplan.org/Calendar/



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#### Monitoring Optimization - Lake Okeechobee Regional Workshop













М	onitoring Op	timizatio	on - L	ake Ok	eechobee	Regi	onal	Worl	csho	p
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This workshop will optimize monitoring in the Lake Okeechobee Region.

Okeechobee Region.					
Date:	Monday, 11 Jul 2011				
Time:	8:00 AM-5:00 PM (ET)				
Location:	South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Okeechobee Service Center Fisheating Bay Conference Room 205 N. Parrott Avenue Okeechobee, FL 34972				
Meeting Documents:	Agenda (36 KB, .PDF)  Read Ahead: Map & Directions - Okeechobee (30 KB, PDF)  Homework Spreadsheet (18 KB, .PDF)  Monitoring Optim. Process (26 KB, .PDF)  Monitoring Information Matrix (19 KB, .PDF)				
Contacts:	Gretchen Ehlinger, 904-232-1682 gretchen.s.ehlinger@usace.army.mil  Eliza Hines, 904-232-2011 eliza.b.hines@usace.army.mil  Patti Gorman (pgorman@sfwmd.gov) - 561-682-2432				
Leader:	Gretchen Ehlinger				



and receive CERP updates by e-mail!



Sign up for the CERP Meeting Calendar RSS Feed



CERP calendar of upcoming events



## Southern Coastal Systems Salinity Target Setting Meeting

- Limited participation to 1-2 representatives from 14 Federal, State, Local agencies and Native American Tribes
- Reach agreement on:
  - Tools used to set targets
  - Goal of target
  - Path forward for Regional Coordinators
- Meeting posted to Evergladesplan.org and SCS Regional Team informed via email
- All read-aheads and agenda posted linked to calendar entry on Evergladesplan.org
- All working documents posted in a team room on the CERPZone
- All final meeting documents and presentations posted to the public area on the CERPZone
- Meeting topic was potentially controversial
  - Utilized facilitator
  - Detailed meeting notes
  - Task list for RCs
- Continued updates on task status



## **Venues for Dialogue with Stakeholders**

- Public workshops
- One-on-one meetings with stakeholder groups
- Local sponsor input based on stakeholder dialogue
- South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task
   Force input based on stakeholder dialogue



## **Document Preparation & Review**

- Develop draft document
- Conduct internal review and comment period
- Post document for 30-day public review and comment period
- Develop comment-response matrix that documents all comments and how they were addressed
- Examples of recent documents: MAP 2009, SSR 2009, AMIG



# **Effective Stakeholder Engagement**

- Articulate limitations to stakeholders to promote understanding
- Build an atmosphere of trust and mutual respect
- Announce opportunities for stakeholder input
- Create opportunities within imposed limits



