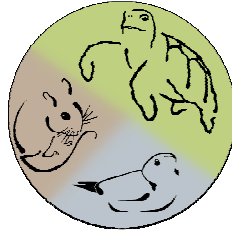


Beaches Habitat Conservation Plan



Florida Beaches HCP Exploratory Meeting
Bloxham Building, Tallahassee, FL
January 29, 2009

Attendees	
Kat Deirson	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Tim Brault	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Kipp Frolich	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Perran Ross	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Robbin Trindell	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Mike Burnett	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Jackie Larson	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
West Gregory	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Trish Adams	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Lorna Patrick	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Connie Cassler	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Alan Niedoroda	URS Corporation
Lyle Hatchett	URS Corporation

Beth Alvi	URS Corporation
Klayton Stiversa	URS Corporation
Bob Ernest	Ecological Associates Inc.
Gary Appleson	Caribbean Conservation Corporation
Thomas Ruppert	University of Florida (School of Law)
Kelly Mandello	Entrix
Jason Dickey	Entrix
Julie Wraithmell	Audobon

Meeting Minutes:

Coastal Construction Control Line and the Florida Beaches HCP

PowerPoint presentation given by Klayton Stivers can be found on the Florida Beaches HCP website.

<http://flbeacheshcp.com/Documents.aspx>

- Tim Breault asked if the CCCL Program considered species other than marine turtles.
- The answer to this question is, “marine turtles are the only species that the CCCL program has the statutory authority to regulate,” and this led to a few questions that were decided should be tackled by the future steering committee. The issues brought up included:
 1. Boundaries of the HCP – Will the HCP be confined to the boundaries set by the CCCL Program?
 2. Consideration of species other than marine turtles?
 3. Do counties or cities have authority over the CCCL?

Endangered Species Act

PowerPoint presentation given by Beth Alvi can be found on the Florida Beaches HCP website. <http://flbeacheshcp.com/Documents.aspx>

- Robbin Trindell clarified that, for this project, funding from the Section 6 grant is distributed to FWC, and then dispersed to FDEP.
- Kat Diersen clarified that the two presentations given were two of five briefing documents which were developed to inform the steering

- committee. They are also intended for the other subcommittees and interested parties to gain common understanding.
- Clarification of “take” in an HCP: Can refer to a number of individuals and/or amount of habitat lost.
 - “Overarching umbrella of protection” that could be used to protect non-federally listed species.

Steering Committee Composition, Role and Responsibilities

Kat Diersen went over information on steering committees as it is outlined in the Habit Conservation Planning and Incidental Take Permit Processing Handbook (handout).

- The job of the steering committee is to guide and govern the HCP process. This includes:
 1. Determining priorities
 2. Directing research
 3. Acting as a public face for the project
- It will be up to the steering committee to define its mission statement.
- The steering committee must be a diverse body, with representatives from all interest groups.

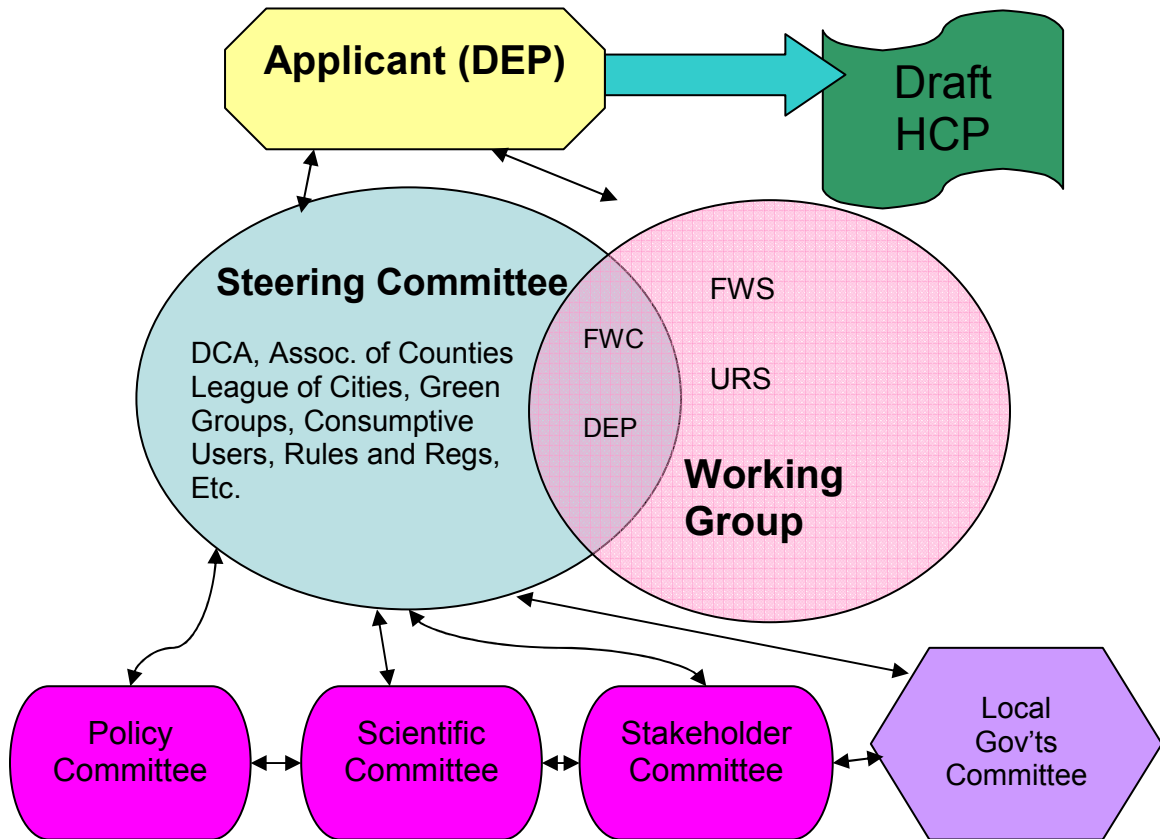
Discussion

- Bob Ernest suggested the need for a coastal engineer on the steering committee.
- Perran Ross explained that the steering committee should be a core group that will not only keep everyone informed, but will be able to move the HCP forward.
- Tim Breault proposed that a basic proposal outlining the role and positions (e.g. key functions and key roles) of the steering committee and also “Rules of Engagement” for the steering committee be vetted through Mike Sole prior to deciding on an actual committee.
- Several times throughout the discussion concerns/suggestions were raised that were fairly specific issues that should be left to the steering committee to address.

HCP Flow Chart

- A flow chart of the HCP committees and groups was constructed. The working group consists of representatives from FWC, FWS,

FDEP, and URS. The tentative subcommittees (science, local government, policy and regulation, and stakeholders) will provide input to the steering committee and to the working group. The steering committee will be a liaison between the subcommittees and the HCP applicant, FDEP. The steering committee and the working group will remain transparent and work together as well.



Functions and Principles

- **Steering committee v. working group**
 1. Working group prepares clear proposals, “straw men” and technical summaries.
 2. Steering committee deliberates (see functions below)
 3. Functions and principles of the steering committee were brainstormed.
 4. Adjudicate priority tasks and issues to be addressed
 5. Provide a public face for the HCP planning process
 6. Work towards a deep understanding of the many issues that will influence the outcome of the HCP

7. Make consensus-based decisions regarding the ultimate content of the HCP, with an eye towards conflict resolution
8. Assess the feasibility (economic, biological, etc.) of recommendations for HCP content
9. Recommend and strive to facilitate needed policy changes at the state and local government level

- **Principles of the steering committee:**

1. Members should have sufficient authority within their agency or interest to make representative decisions
2. Members should possess time and resources to commit to participation over the long term. There should be continuity in group membership
3. Members should be representative of all interests that will impact the HCP
4. Members should be willing to act as representatives of a larger constituency
5. Members should be willing to act within the constraints of the Sunshine Law
6. Steering committee should be a deliberative body, with an emphasis on consensus building

Discussion on Groups and Interests

- A list of groups or interests that should be represented in the steering committee was formed and further discussed. The list included: HCP applicant; state agencies; local jurisdiction; conservation interests; regulated community; science; rules, regulations and statutes; at large
- “Regulated community” refers to coastal engineers, for example, or a person who regularly obtains CCCL permits.
- Recreational beach users were brought up as a potential group to be represented in the steering committee, however it was decided that such a group includes too many interests, and therefore would be better represented in the stakeholders subcommittee.
- The hotel and tourism industry was also addressed as a possible group to be represented in the steering committee, as it is a huge stakeholder.
- Tim Breault explained the benefits of narrowing the steering committee to about 9-12 members, as opposed to having a larger group.

Recommendation of potential steering committee members

- Bob Ernest proposed the option of selecting four or five steering committee members, and tasking those people with electing the remaining members.
- The option of having alternate committee members was also discussed and agreed upon. Voting rights of these members will need further deliberation.
- A list of groups to be represented in the steering committee was compiled, and recommendations for those representatives were made.
 1. DEP- Mike Barnett
 2. FWC- Tim Breault
 3. DCA (Planner)- Richard Deadman; Emergency Planning representative
 4. Local Jurisdiction (county/city)- Diana Ferguson; Scott Dudley (as alternate)
 5. Conservation Interests- Gary Appleson; Julie Wraithmell
 6. Regulated Community- ? see below
 7. Rules, Regulations and Statutes- Mike Walther; Thomas Ruppert
 8. Science- Robbin Trindell; Blair Witherington; Jeff Gore
 9. Tourism/Hotels- ?
- For the Regulated Community representative, it was suggested that someone from a consulting firm be considered, as these firms frequently assist in obtaining CCCL permits. Another option for this seat would be a person from the coastal armoring industry, with a developer as the alternate, or vice versa.
- In selecting steering committee members, it will be important to ensure that there are no conflicts of interest.

Tasks

- Working group will need to further define the role of alternates and the need for representatives with differing areas of expertise.
- Kat Diersen will draft a 1-2 page steering committee proposal to be presented to Mike Sole by 02/11/09.