Priorities and Outcomes from the Fall 2020 WQPP and SAC Joint Meeting

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WQPP/SAC Meeting Purpose

- Review and identify priorities for the Water Quality Protection Program
- Enhance collaboration and information-sharing between the WQPP and SAC on water quality issues within FKNMS.
WQPP/SAC Meeting Attendance

~90 Total Attendees

- SAC: 51%
- SAC/WQPP SC: 17%
- WQPP SC: 9%
- Other WQPP: 16%
- Public: 8%
The November 2019 Steering Committee Motion Directed:

• A subgroup of the Management Committee and Technical Advisory Committee to develop a preliminary prioritized list of WQPP strategies, and bring a proposed shortened list of WQPP priorities back to the Steering Committee for their consideration.

• The Steering Committee will then develop a facilitated strategic planning process for the updated priorities.
Working Group Process

1. Identify Working Group Members
2. Review WQPP Purpose, Activities and Strengths
3. Identify Top FKNMS Water Quality Issues
4. Refine Existing List of WQPP Strategies
5. Identify a Shortened List of WQPP Priorities

Key Considerations in Selecting Priorities:

- Top Issues
- Water Quality Benefit
- WQPP Influence
- Level of Completion
- Expert Opinion
Recommended Priorities

External Water Quality Influences
• South Florida Regional Influences
• Tidal Flooding and Climate

Local Water Quality Issues
• Stormwater
• Wastewater
• Canal Restoration
• Sargassum and Organic Debris
• Marinas and Liveaboards
• Emerging Pollutants of Concern

WQPP Core Responsibilities
• WQPP Administration
• Data Collection, Analysis and Reporting
• Education and Outreach

View the full document at:
https://ocean.floridamarine.org/FK_NMS_WQPP/steering.htm
South Florida Regional Influences

Engage with Everglades Restoration

Improve Mainland Wastewater Infrastructure
Tidal Flooding and Climate

1 Priority Action:
Adapt Infrastructure for Climate Change
Wastewater

6 Priority Actions:

Implement Wastewater Master Plan, including remote area connections

Ensure infrastructure functionality:

• Collection systems
• Compatibility with non-municipal sources
• Shallow injection wells
Stormwater

2 Priority Actions:

Update Stormwater Master Plan

Implement Effective Stormwater Projects
Canal Restoration Sargassum & Organic Debris

Implement Canal Management Master Plan

Develop Sargassum Best Management Practices
Marinas & Liveaboards

1 Priority Action:

Ensure Vessel Pumpout Facilities and Services
Emerging Pollutants of Concern

2 Priority Actions:

Research Emerging Pollutants of Concern

Incorporate Emerging Pollutants into Monitoring Programs

Photo: USGS
WQPP Core Responsibilities

- WQPP Administration
- Data Collection, Analysis and Reporting
- Education and Outreach
Meeting Outcomes

• Approval of recommended priorities.

• Resolution to develop a joint South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Subcommittee.

• Recognized importance of coordinated education and outreach on water quality.

• Enthusiasm for continued collaboration between the WQPP and SAC via annual joint meetings.
Next Steps

• Planning for the next WQPP Steering Committee Meeting (winter 2021).

• Continue progress to further develop and implement priority actions.
  - Identify key decision makers and specific roles for WQPP members
  - Advance science and develop consistent messaging

• Establish the South Florida Ecosystem Subcommittee:
  - Determine objectives, membership, operating structure
  - Determine strategies for communicating up and down

• Plan strategies to continue and improve upon engagement across the WQPP, SAC and the community on water quality issues.
Questions?

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Photo: Shawn Verne