

FLORIDA KEYS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
Water Quality Protection Program Steering Committee Meeting

March 7, 2022
8:45 AM – 1:15 PM

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7962614151193073164>

Webinar ID: 512-216-707

Meeting Purpose: Convene the Water Quality Protection Program (WQPP) Steering Committee to review the status of Florida Keys water quality projects and funding opportunities, consult on the draft WQPP Report to Congress, and discuss timely issues and activities related to water quality priorities.

Objectives:

- Learn about the status of ongoing Water Quality Protection Program-relevant planning and projects.
- Understand the status of EPA South Florida Geographic Initiative funding, including priorities funded in 2021 and Management Committee recommended priority topics for 2022 funding.
- Explore additional funding allocations for water quality improvements in the Florida Keys and south Florida.
- Review the status and framework for an updated Water Quality Protection Program Report to Congress; provide feedback on key messages and content.
- Provide an open forum for discussion on recent activities and emerging topics of relevance to the Water Quality Protection Program.

Meeting Materials:

- Minutes from November 15, 2021 WQPP Steering Committee meeting
- Resilience Action Plan for Florida's Coral Reef: 2021-2026
- Draft list of Management Committee priority topics recommended for 2022 EPA funding
- Draft WQPP Biennial Report to Congress and questions for WQPP discussion
- Updated WQPP Steering Committee membership list
- Updated WQPP Steering Committee Bylaws (as approved 11.15.2021)

Participation Guidelines: This meeting will be held virtually via the GoToWebinar platform. All members of the WQPP Steering Committee, Management Committee and Technical Advisory Committee will have the ability to unmute their own microphones to speak, with Steering Committee members provided the first opportunity. Prior to speaking, WQPP members are asked to use the 'raise hand' feature in the GoToMeeting platform to be recognized by the Chair. All other attendees will be muted by the meeting organizer and can indicate a desire to speak by using the 'raise hand' feature or typing into the question box. Input from non-WQPP members will be allowed at the discretion of the meeting Chair. There will be an opportunity for public comment.

Agenda

- 8:45 AM** **WQPP Log-In and Technology Check**
- 9:00 AM** **I. Welcome and Opening Remarks**
- Call to Order (*Jon Iglehart, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), WQPP Chair*)
 - Roll Call and Housekeeping
 - Opening Remarks (*Jon Iglehart, DEP/ Wade Lehmann, US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)*)
 - Review and Adopt Agenda
 - *Steering Committee Vote*
 - Approve Minutes from November 15, 2021
 - *Steering Committee Vote*
- 9:20 AM** **II. Resilience Action Plan for Florida's Coral Reef** (*Chris Bergh, The Nature Conservancy*)
(20 min) *Overview of the Florida Reef Resilience Program's newly released Resilience Action Plan for Florida's Coral Reef, including the water quality initiatives for reef managers, policy makers and stakeholders.*
- *Steering Committee Q&A/Discussion (5 minutes)*
- 9:45 AM** **III. Water Watch Sponge Restoration Aquaculture** (*Shelly Krueger, Florida Sea Grant*)
(10 min) *Update on objectives and outcomes from the EPA-funded Water Watch Sponge Restoration Aquaculture project and a summary of future work.*
- *Steering Committee Q&A/Discussion (5 min)*
- 10:00 AM** **IV. Monroe County Marina Pumpout and Mooring Field Development Initiatives**
(*Michael Roberts, Monroe County*)
(10 min) *Overview of Monroe County's progress and next steps for the Marina Pumpout Outfitting Program (MPOOP) and mooring field development.*
- *Steering Committee Q&A/Discussion (5 minutes)*
- 10:15 AM** **V. Canal Restoration Project Updates** (*Rhonda Haag, Monroe County; Peter Frezza, Village of Islamorada; George Garrett, City of Marathon*)
(25 min) *Update from Monroe County, the Village of Islamorada, and the City of Marathon about ongoing canal restoration progress and priorities.*
- *Steering Committee Q&A/Discussion (15 minutes)*
- 10:55 AM** **Break (15 minutes)**
- 11:10 AM** **VI. EPA South Florida Geographic Initiative Funding** (*Steve Blackburn, EPA*)
(10 min) *Overview of the special study topics that received EPA South Florida Geographic Initiative funds in 2021; overview of draft Management Committee priority topics recommended for 2022 funding.*

- *Steering Committee Feedback and Discussion (10 min)*
- *Potential Steering Committee Action Item*

- 11:30 AM** **VII. Florida Keys Water Quality Improvement Program** (*Shelley Trulock, US Army Corps of Engineers*)
(10 min) Update on the Florida Keys Water Quality Improvement Program, including status of funding and reimbursements to date.
- *Steering Committee Q&A/Discussion (5 min)*
- 11:45 AM** **VIII. DEP Water Quality Protection and Restoration Funding** (*Joanna Walczak, DEP*)
(5 min) Overview of water quality improvement efforts in Biscayne Bay and potential new legislative funding for the Keys.
- *Steering Committee Q&A/Discussion (5 min)*
- 11:55 AM** **IX. Water Quality Protection Program Report to Congress: 2022 Update** (*Maria Guardado, New College of Florida*)
(10 min) Information sharing and discussion on the updated Water Quality Protection Program Report to Congress.
- *Steering Committee Feedback and Discussion (20 min)*
- 12:25 PM** **IX. Public Comment** (*15 minutes*)
- 12:40 PM** **X. Management Committee Updates** (*Karen Bohnsack, FKNMS*)
(5 min) Status report and feedback on WQPP planning and organization.
- *Steering Committee Feedback and Discussion (10 min)*
- 12:55 PM** **X. Steering Committee Member Updates** (*All*)
(15 min) Members of the Steering Committee provide updates on recent activities or emerging topics of relevance to the Water Quality Protection Program.
- 1:10 PM** **Wrap-Up and Review Action Items**
- 1:15 PM** **Adjourn**