

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

November 29, 2023

8:45 AM – 1:00 PM

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7003237493089485402>

Webinar ID: 155-008-283

Meeting Purpose: Convene the Water Quality Protection Program (WQPP) Steering Committee to review ongoing efforts associated with Florida Keys' water quality and marine resources and discuss timely issues and activities relevant to the WQPP.

Objectives:

- Provide a forum for discussion on recent activities and emerging topics of relevance to the Water Quality Protection Program.
- Explore Florida Keys' roadway improvement planning and resilience efforts, and consider opportunities to incorporate water quality improvements.
- Consider a strategy to comprehensively manage submerged habitat information associated with beach and shoreline projects.
- Review the science associated with the impact of shallow wastewater injection on surface waters of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and understand alternative methods for disposal.
- Discuss the draft Water Quality Protection Program Report to Congress.

Meeting Materials:

- Notes from the March 9, 2023 WQPP Steering Committee Meeting
- Water Quality and Roadways Resolution (passed by WQPP Steering Committee on March 9, 2023)
- Updated Draft WQPP Report to Congress
- Project Progress Report: Impact of Shallow Wastewater Injection.

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**
(15 min) Sound check with Steering Committee members and presenters attending via GoToWebinar.
- 9:00 AM** **I. Welcome and Opening Remarks**
- Call to Order (*Wade Lehmann, US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), WQPP Chair*)
 - Roll Call and Housekeeping
 - Opening Remarks (*Wade Lehmann, EPA / Kim Shugar, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)*)
 - Review and Adopt Agenda
 - *Steering Committee Vote*
 - Approve Minutes from March 9, 2023
 - *Steering Committee Vote*
- 9:15 AM** **II. WQPP Administrative Business** (*Wade Lehmann, EPA*)
(5 min) Welcome the new representative to the Sanctuary Advisory Council seat on the WQPP Steering Committee.
- 9:20 AM** **III. Florida Keys Roadway Improvements and Coastal Resilience Efforts**
- **Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Five-Year Work Program**, *Michael Lucero, FDOT*
 - (15 min) Overview of the FDOT Five-Year Work Program process, including timeline, project selection criteria, and implementation.
 - *Steering Committee Q&A* (5 min)
 - **Florida Keys Coastal Storm Risk Management Project**, *Manny Vianzon Jr., USACE*
 - (15 min) Overview of the \$2.6B coastal storm and sea-level rise infrastructure resiliency project in the Florida Keys, and initial appropriation for U.S. 1 stabilization projects.
 - *Steering Committee Q&A* (5 min)
 - **Monroe County Road Elevation Project Update**, *Rhonda Haag, Monroe County*
 - (5 min) Update on application and funding status for Florida Keys roadway elevation projects.
 - *Steering Committee Q&A* (5 min)
- 10:10 AM** **IV. WQPP Roadways and Water Quality Resolution Follow-up**
(5 min) Review context for and content of the Roadways and Water Quality resolution; invite discussion on next steps and distribution strategy.
 - *Steering Committee Q&A/Discussion* (15 min)
- 10:30 AM** **V. Coastal Projects Submerged Habitat Database**, *Sandy Walters, RES*
(15 min) Introduction to the concept of a comprehensive statewide database to manage submerged habitat information associated with beach and shoreline projects; invite discussion about this concept.
 - *Steering Committee Q&A/Discussion* (10 minutes)

- 10:55 AM** **Break (15 minutes)**
- 11:10 AM** **VI. Use of Shallow Injection Wells for Wastewater Disposal**
- **Impact of Shallow Wastewater Injection in the Florida Keys**, *Lee Kump and Miquela Ingalls, Pennsylvania State University*
 - (20 min) Presentation on the results from an EPA funded special study to investigate the impact of shallow injection wells on surface waters of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.
 - *Steering Committee Q&A* (20 min)
 - **City of Marathon Wastewater Updates**, *George Garrett, City of Marathon*
 - (10 min) Update on the City of Marathon’s investigation into alternative methods for wastewater disposal.
 - *Steering Committee Q&A* (5 min)
- 12:05 PM** **VII. WQPP Congressional Report Update**, *Karen Bohnsack, FKNMS*
(10 min) Update on the Water Quality Protection Program Congressional Report: latest status and next steps.
 - *Steering Committee Q&A/Discussion* (10 minutes)
- 12:25 PM** **VIII. Public Comment** (15 minutes)
- 12:40 PM** **IX. 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.
- 12:55 PM** **Wrap-Up and Review Action Items**
- 1:00 PM** **Adjourn**