

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

October 8, 2025
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Marathon City Hall, 9805 Overseas Highway, Marathon, FL 33050

The meeting will also be broadcast in real time for listening only:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/643503923862481247>; Webinar ID 931-641-307

Meeting Purpose: Convene the Water Quality Protection Program (WQPP) Steering Committee to review the status of Florida Keys water quality projects and complementary efforts, and discuss timely issues and future actions related to water quality priorities.

Meeting Materials:

- Minutes from July 24, 2025 WQPP Steering Committee meeting

Agenda

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| 9:00 AM | I. Welcome and Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Call to Order, <i>Lawrence Glenn, DEP / Wade Lehmann, EPA</i>▪ Steering Committee Member Introductions▪ Opening Remarks – DEP and EPA▪ Housekeeping▪ Review and Adopt Agenda<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ <i>Steering Committee Vote</i>▪ Approve Minutes from July 24, 2025<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ <i>Steering Committee Vote</i> |
| 9:30 AM | II. Canal Restoration Progress & Local Government Efforts, <i>Greg Corning, Assistant Vice President, WSP; Peter Frezza, Environmental Resources Manager, Village of Islamorada; George Garrett, City Manager, City of Marathon</i> <p>(25 min) Update on canal restoration progress and/or other local government priorities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• (10 min) <i>Steering Committee Q&A/Discussion</i> |
| 10:05 AM | III. Project Report: Canal Restoration Gravity Injection Well Monitoring, <i>Greg Corning, Assistant Vice President, WSP</i> <p>(20 min) Update on the outcomes of an EPA-funded project to monitor water quality and evaluate the effectiveness of gravity injection well technology for canal restoration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• (10 min) <i>Steering Committee Q&A/Discussion</i> |
| 10:35 AM | Break (15 minutes) |

- 10:50 AM** **IV. Beach Water Quality Monitoring**
- **Florida Healthy Beaches Program**, *Dr. Carla Fry, Administrator/Health Officer, FDOH*
 - (20 min) Overview of the Florida Healthy Beaches Program and Beach Water Quality Monitoring in Monroe County.
 - **EPA Beach WQ Monitoring Presentation**, *Joel Hansel, EPA Region 4 BEACH Program Coordinator, EPA*
 - (20 min) Additional perspectives from the EPA Beach Water Quality Monitoring Program.
 - (10 min) *Steering Committee Q&A/Discussion*
- 11:40 AM** **V. Innovative Nature-based Media Filtration Technology for Meeting Nutrient Removal Targets**, *Vincent Seibold, Director of Operations, Sustainable Water Infrastructure Group, LLC*
(20 min) Introduction to innovative nutrient removal technology to restore and protect nutrient-impaired waters from nitrogen and phosphorus pollution.
- (5 min) *Steering Committee Q&A/Discussion*
- 12:05 PM** **Lunch** (1 hour 25 minutes)
- 1:30 PM** **VI. Florida's Coral Reef Unified Water Quality Monitoring Database: Data Aggregation and Analysis**, *Dr. David Kochan, Associate Research Scientist, FWC*
(20 min) Overview of a DEP-funded project to develop a unified water quality monitoring database and demonstration of interactive data portal.
- (10 min) *Steering Committee Q&A/Discussion*
- 2:00 PM** **VII. Florida Seafloor Mapping Initiative**, *Rick Householder, Florida Geospatial Program Director, Woolpert*
(20 min) Overview of a statewide bathymetric data collection effort and resource management applications.
- (10 min) *Steering Committee Q&A/Discussion*
- 2:30 PM** **Break** (15 minutes)
- 2:45 PM** **VIII. Communications Subcommittee**, *Scott Atwell, Communications Director, NOAA FKNMS*
(10 min) Update on the Communications Subcommittee efforts and progress.
- (10 min) *Steering Committee Q&A/Discussion*
- 3:05 PM** **IX. WQPP Report to Congress**, *Beth Smith, South Florida Program Coordinator, EPA / Karen Bohnsack, Associate Director, NOAA FKNMS*
(5 min) Overview of progress towards completing the 2025 WQPP Congressional Report and tentative timeline for future report cycles.
- (15 min) *Steering Committee Q&A/Discussion*

3:25 PM **X. Public Comment** (15 minutes)

3:40 PM **XI. Steering Committee Member Updates**

(15 min) Open forum for members of the Steering Committee to report on recent activities or emerging topics of relevance to the Water Quality Protection Program.

3:55 PM **Wrap-Up and Review Action Items**

4:00 PM **Adjourn**