

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

March 4, 2026
9:00 AM – 4:30 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/4433518308908447833>; Webinar ID 993-635-123

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 December 17, 2025 WQPP Steering Committee meeting

Agenda

- 9:00 AM** **I. Welcome and Opening Remarks**
- Call to Order, *Lawrence Glenn, DEP / Wade Lehmann, EPA*
 - Opening Remarks – DEP and EPA
 - Steering Committee Member Introductions
 - Housekeeping
 - Review and Adopt Agenda
 - *Steering Committee Vote*
 - Approve Minutes from December 17, 2025
 - *Steering Committee Vote*
- 9:30 AM** **II. Canal Restoration Progress & Local Government Efforts, Rhonda Haag, Chief Resilience Officer, Monroe County; Peter Frezza, Environmental Resources Manager, Village of Islamorada; George Garrett, City Manager, City of Marathon**
(30 min) Update on canal restoration progress and/or other local government priorities.
- (10 min) *Steering Committee Q&A/Discussion*
- 10:10 AM** **III. Project Report: Canal Restoration, Greg Corning, Assistant Vice President, WSP**
(20 min) Update on the outcomes of EPA-funded projects to update water quality summaries, evaluate the effectiveness of gravity injection well technology for canal restoration, and potential reclassification and reranking of impaired canals to include the use of new, stand-alone, combination of or partial restoration technology implementation.
- (10 min) *Steering Committee Q&A/Discussion*
- 10:40 AM** **Break (15 minutes)**

- 10:55 AM** **IV. Beach Water Quality Monitoring**
- **Florida Healthy Beaches Program**, *Dr. Mark Roby, Director of Nursing, FDOH*
 - (20 min) Overview of the Florida Healthy Beaches Program and Beach Water Quality Monitoring in Monroe County.
 - **EPA Beach Water Quality 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*
- 11:45 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*
- 12:10 PM** **WQPP and Steering Committee Photo**
(5 min) Steering Committee and other WQPP members convene for a group photo.
- 12:15 PM** **Lunch** (1 hour 20 minutes)
- 1:35 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*
- 2:05 PM** **VII. Florida Seafloor Mapping Initiative (FSMI)**, *Rick Householder, Florida Geospatial Program Director, Woolpert*
(20 min) Overview of a statewide bathymetric data collection effort and Woolpert's Region 3 (FL Keys) assignment and resource management applications.
- (10 min) *Steering Committee Q&A/Discussion*
- 2:35 PM** **Break** (15 minutes)
- 2:50 PM** **VIII. Communications Subcommittee**, *Julie Cheon, Communications Director, NOAA FKNMS / Shelly Krueger, University of Florida/IFAS Extension Monroe County*
(10 min) Update on the Communications Subcommittee efforts and progress.
- (10 min) *Steering Committee Q&A/Discussion*
- 3:10 PM** **IX. WQPP Report to Congress**, *Beth Smith, South Florida Program Coordinator, EPA / Karen Bohnsack, Associate Director, NOAA FKNMS*

(5 min) Overview of the status of the current WQPP Congressional Report and discussion regarding the next report cycle.

- (15 min) *Steering Committee Q&A/Discussion*

3:30 PM

X. Canal Restoration Subcommittee Discussion, George Garrett (City of Marathon)

(5 min) Proposal and discussion to reconvene the Canal Restoration Subcommittee to help expedite canal restoration progress.

- *Steering Committee Q&A/Discussion* (10 min)
 - *Potential Steering Committee Vote*

3:45 PM

XI. Public Comment (15 minutes)

4:00 PM

XII. Steering Committee Member Updates

(25 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.

4:25 PM

Wrap-Up and Review Action Items

4:30 PM

Adjourn