

Scope of Work: WQPP Canal Restoration Subcommittee

June 2026

Purpose

Oversee implementation of strategies to improve water quality in residential canals.

Objectives

- Evaluate current and new technologies to determine effectiveness for restoring canal water quality and protecting nearshore water quality.
- Coordinate with permitting agencies on upcoming projects to streamline permit processing.
- Strategize funding opportunities and cost efficiencies.
- Enhance community engagement on canal water quality.

Membership

- Chair: Elizabeth Smith, EPA
- Co-Chair: Peter Frezza, Islamorada
- Subcommittee participants:
 - EPA - Elizabeth Smith
 - NOAA - Stacey Weinstock
 - DEP - Genevieve Schave
 - FWC - Kristene Parsons/Cassidy Manzonelli
 - Florida Commerce: Yazmin Valdez
 - Monroe County: Rhonda Haag/Lisa Tennyson/Mike Roberts
 - Village of Islamorada: Peter Frezza
 - City of Marathon: Brian Shea
 - WSP: Greg Corning
 - Citizen representative: George Garrett
 - Other engineering or scientific expertise:
 - Henry Briceno, FIU
- WQPP staff support:
 - Karen Bohnsack, FKNMS

Tasks

- Review emerging canal restoration technologies and techniques. Recommend project design and monitoring components to assess the scientific integrity of the proposed methods.
- Collate and evaluate available monitoring data from pilot projects implementing novel technologies or techniques.

- Assess the effectiveness of current and new technologies/techniques and address gaps or additional information needs.
- Make recommendations toward maintaining a current Canal Management Master Plan.
- Engage permitting agencies on permit processes and timelines.
- Identify funding opportunities and strategize best practical use of the available funds.
- Engage public / private partnerships to maximize available funding for restoration projects
- Provide a forum for members of the community to share ideas and information related to canal restoration efforts.
- Identify opportunities for community engagement (canal clean ups, monthly reporting of water quality, marine sightings, etc.) to protect water quality in restored canals and provide additional information, including seasonal changes, in restored canals.

Deliverables

- Addenda to the Canal Restoration Demonstration Projects Final Report, to include consensus recommendations regarding the use of current and new technologies or restoration strategies.
 - *Refer to the previous Guidance Document as a possible template for sharing lessons learned and permitting considerations for various restoration technologies.*
- Develop a permitting guidance document, including opportunities to streamline permit processing.
- Spreadsheet of potential funding sources and their distribution schedule, allocations across entities, and recommended priorities based on cost effectiveness.
- Organize occasional publicly-noticed meetings (e.g., one/year) to encourage input from the community.
- Support the County and municipalities on meeting the Florida Commerce Canal Work Program Comprehensive Reporting Requirements.

Coordination and Logistics

The following will be discussed and agreed upon by the Subcommittee. The Steering Committee will be informed about these recommendations and updated with any deviations.

- Meeting frequency and format:
 - Recommend two to three meetings per year with additional meetings added as necessary. This will be discussed and confirmed with the committee when convened.
 - Meetings can be a mix of public and working meetings.
- Platform for sharing documents and other information (TBD)
- Timeline for review or sunseting (TBD)