

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

July 15, 2026
8:45 AM – 12:20 PM

This meeting will be held virtually via GoToWebinar. To register and join:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7471365584702662486>

Webinar ID: 272-756-843

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

Objectives:

- Understand regional activities underway with the Biscayne Bay Commission and Government Cut Watershed Management Plan.
- Review the status of ongoing tidal restoration efforts in the Florida Keys.
- Learn about the NOAA Ocean Guardian School program and watershed stewardship efforts.
- Assess the current status and advise on next steps for the WQPP Canal Restoration Subcommittee, Communications Subcommittee, and Report to Congress.
- Provide an open forum for information sharing and discussion on complementary efforts and emerging topics of relevance to the Water Quality Protection Program.

Meeting Materials:

- March 4-5, 2026 WQPP Steering Committee meeting notes
- Canal Restoration Subcommittee Scope of Work
- (TBD) WQPP Report to Congress and/or Outline and Proposed Metrics for Future Reports.

Agenda

8:45 AM **WQPP Log-In and Technology Check, *WQPP Steering Committee Members and Presenters Only***
(15 min) GoToWebinar sound check with Steering Committee members and presenters.

9:00 AM **I. Welcome and Opening Remarks**

- Call to Order and Opening Remarks, *Wade Lehmann, EPA/ Lawrence Glenn, DEP*
- Steering Committee Roll Call and Housekeeping
- New Member Introductions
- Review and Adopt Agenda
 - *Steering Committee Vote*
- Approve Minutes from March 4-5, 2026
 - *Steering Committee Vote*

9:20 AM **II. Biscayne Bay Commission Update, Bethany Tober, Florida Sea Grant in support of DEP**
(5 min) Update on the status and activities of the Biscayne Bay Commission.

- *Steering Committee Q&A/Discussion (5 min)*

- 9:30 AM** **III. Government Cut Inlet Watershed Management Plan, Lara Bracci, DEP**
(15 min) Overview of the Government Cut inlet Watershed Management Plan, including identified projects, connection to the Keys, and funding mechanisms.
- *Steering Committee Q&A/Discussion (5 min)*
- 9:50 AM** **IV. Curry Hammock and Village of Islamorada Tidal Restoration Projects, Dr. Nicholas Parr, DEP / Peter Frezza, Village of Islamorada**
(20 min) Update on the Curry Hammock and Village of Islamorada tidal restoration projects, including current progress and future efforts.
- *Steering Committee Q&A/Discussion (5 min)*
- 10:15 AM** **V. NOAA Ocean Guardian School District Project, Donna Tedesco, Monroe County School District / Marlies Tumolo, FKNMS**
(15 min) Overview of NOAA's Ocean Guardian School program and watershed stewardship efforts with Monroe County School District.
- *Steering Committee Q&A/Discussion (5 min)*
- 10:35 AM** **Break (15 minutes)**
- 10:50 AM** **VI. WQPP Canal Restoration Subcommittee, Beth Smith, EPA / Peter Frezza, Village of Islamorada**
(5 min) Overview of the membership, objectives, tasks and deliverables proposed for the reestablished Canal Restoration Subcommittee.
- *Steering Committee Q&A/Discussion (10 min)*
- 11:05 AM** **VII. WQPP Communications Subcommittee, Julie Cheon, FKNMS / Shelly Krueger, Florida Sea Grant**
(5 min) Update on the Communications Subcommittee status and next steps, including discussion on whether to sunset or continue the group.
- *Steering Committee Q&A and Discussion (10 min)*
 - *Potential Steering Committee Vote*
- 11:20 AM** **VIII. WQPP Congressional Report, Beth Smith, EPA / Karen Bohnsack, FKNMS**
(10 min) Review the 2026 WQPP Congressional Report and/or discuss metrics and topics for future reporting.
- *Steering Committee Q&A/Discussion (15 min)*
- 11:45 AM** **IX. Public Comment (10 minutes)**
- 11:55 AM** **X. Steering Committee Member Updates**
(20 min) Opportunity for Steering Committee members and/or their invited staff provide updates on recent activities or emerging topics of relevance to the Water Quality Protection Program.
- 12:15 PM** **Wrap-Up and Review Action Items**
- 12:20 PM** **Adjourn**