

American Water Resources Association
2009 SUMMER SPECIALTY CONFERENCE
Adaptive Management of Water Resources II
June 29 – July 1, 2009
Snowbird, UT

Tuesday, June 30

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

SESSION 25: Panel – Adaptive Management in the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan

Panel Participants:

Moderator – Andrew LoSchiavo, Everglades Partners Joint Venture/PBS&J, Jacksonville, FL
Tom St. Clair, Everglades Partners Joint Venture, Jacksonville, FL
Elmar von Kurzbach, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville, FL

The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP or Plan) provides a framework to restore, protect and preserve the water resources of central and southern Florida, including the Everglades. Congress authorized the use of an adaptive management (AM) approach for CERP (Water Resource Development Act [WRDA], 2000) to allow the Plan to proceed in the face of complexity and incomplete scientific data (uncertainties). AM has been applied to small-scale projects in numerous ecosystem restoration programs across the country and in large-scale forestry and fishery management programs. However, a comprehensive AM program in support of a system-wide ecosystem restoration program at the size and scale of CERP has never before been successfully implemented. This presentation details the status of the CERP AM Program development and implementation. Though many components of the CERP AM Program have been developed since CERP was authorized in 2000 (e.g., creation of a monitoring and assessment plan as well as performance measures, conceptual ecological modeling, development of interim goals and targets, etc.), the documents describing the AM Program were more recently developed (CERP AM Strategy [2006] and Guidance Manual [2008])
http://www.evergladesplan.org/pm/program_docs/adaptive_mgmt.aspx.

This panel discussion will present the following CERP Program details:

1. CERP AM Program Overview (Andrew LoSchiavo) – How was the CERP AM Program developed? What are the components that make it work?
2. CERP AM Predictive Component (Dr. Tom St. Clair) – What tools are used in predicting CERP restoration performance (e.g., conceptual models, quantitative models, and performance measures)? How are they used to inform CERP planning and implementation efforts (e.g., plan evaluation and robust design)?
3. CERP Adaptive Assessment and Monitoring Component (Elmar von Kurzbach – How are scientific and monitoring efforts organized and applied to support AM (e.g., Monitoring and Assessment Plan)? How is science and monitoring data synthesized into assessments (e.g., Integrated Assessment Team)? How do assessments link science to management decision-making (e.g., system-status reports and workshops, decision-frameworks)?
4. CERP AM Implementation Challenges and Potential Solutions (Elmar von Kurzbach) – What are the key challenges faced in successfully implementing AM for CERP? What are potential solutions for addressing them within CERP and/or natural resource programs in general?