

A white egret is captured in mid-flight, its wings fully extended, against a background of lush green grass. The bird's long neck is curved forward, and its yellow beak is pointed. The overall scene is bright and natural.

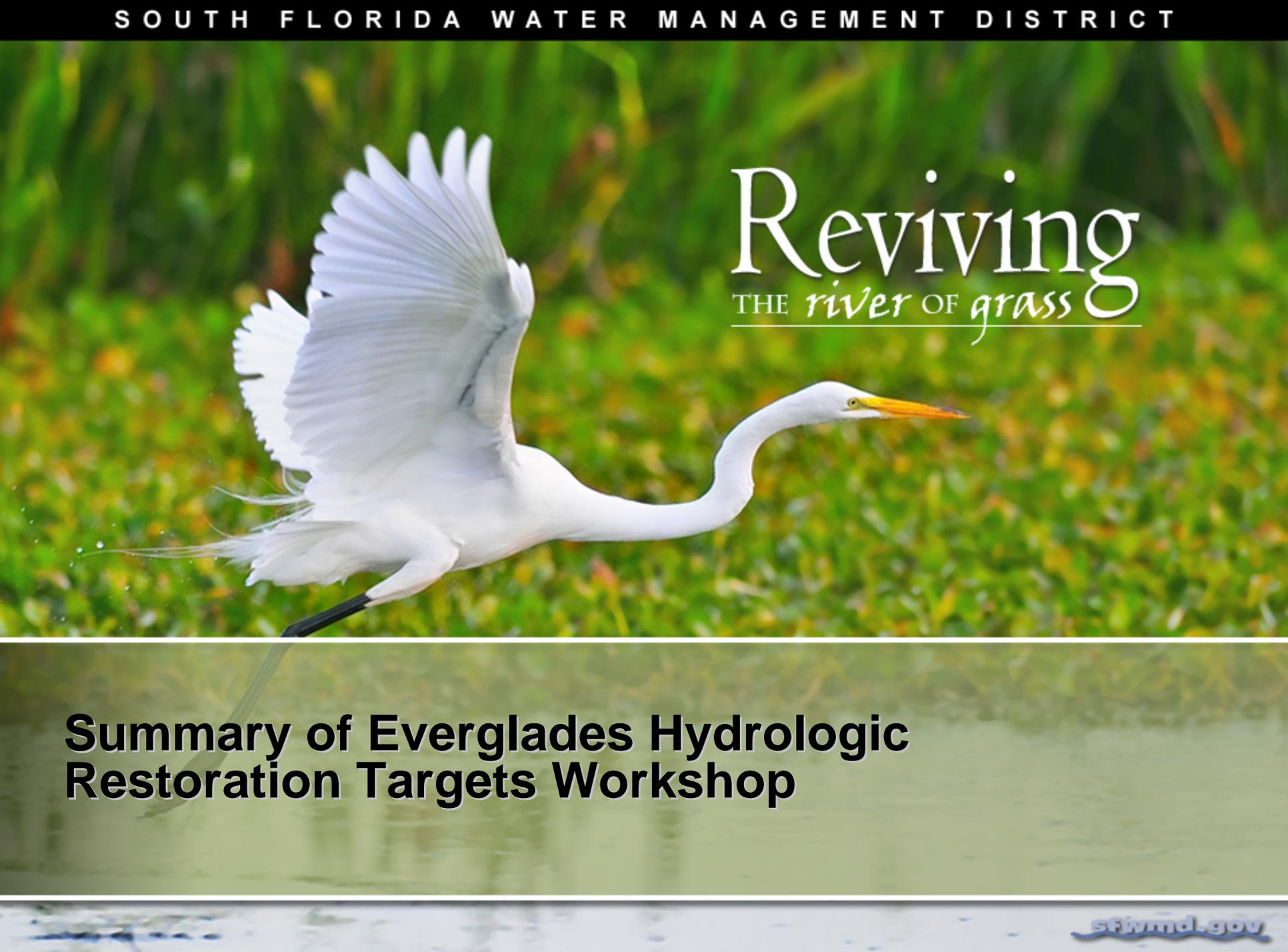
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River of Grass Phase I Planning

Water Resources Advisory Commission
February 5, 2009

River of Grass Planning – Activities to Date

- Held Everglades Hydrologic Restoration Targets Workshop
 - January 14-16
- Initiated public planning process – WRAC Issues Workshops
 - January 22 – Clewiston
 - February 3 – West Palm Beach



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Summary of Everglades Hydrologic Restoration Targets Workshop

Hydrologic Restoration Targets Workshop

- Technical workshop held on January 14-16:
 - Hosted by Florida Department of Environmental Protection and South Florida Water Management District
 - Participants included a broad range of governmental and non-governmental Everglades scientists and hydrologists
 - Targets had not been reviewed since 1992

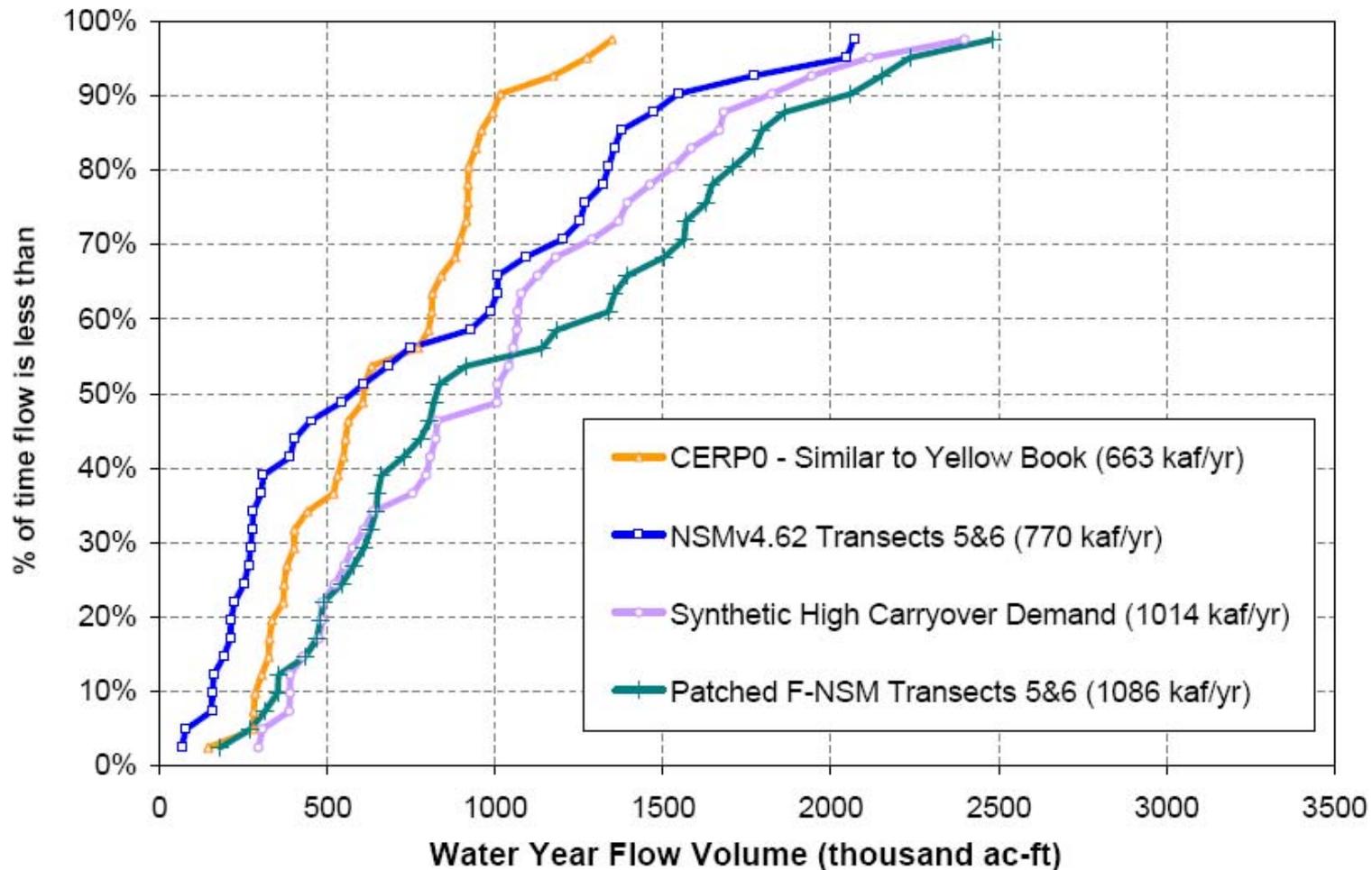
Purpose of workshop

- Review latest science associated with hydrologic stage and flow targets
- Present hydrologic and ecological data that support restoration of the greater Everglades system
- Identify a hydrologic target range for restoration of the Everglades and Florida Bay
- Provide input to the State and District to determine policy opinion/position on restoration volumes for use in the River of Grass planning process

Discussion items

- Constraints “tabled”
- Discussion of planning tool – Reservoir Sizing and Operations Screening (RESOPS) model
- Presentations by workshop participants on possible approaches
 - Natural Systems Model (NSM) versions
 - Paleo
 - Synthetic

Cumulative Frequency Distribution of Annual Everglades Flow

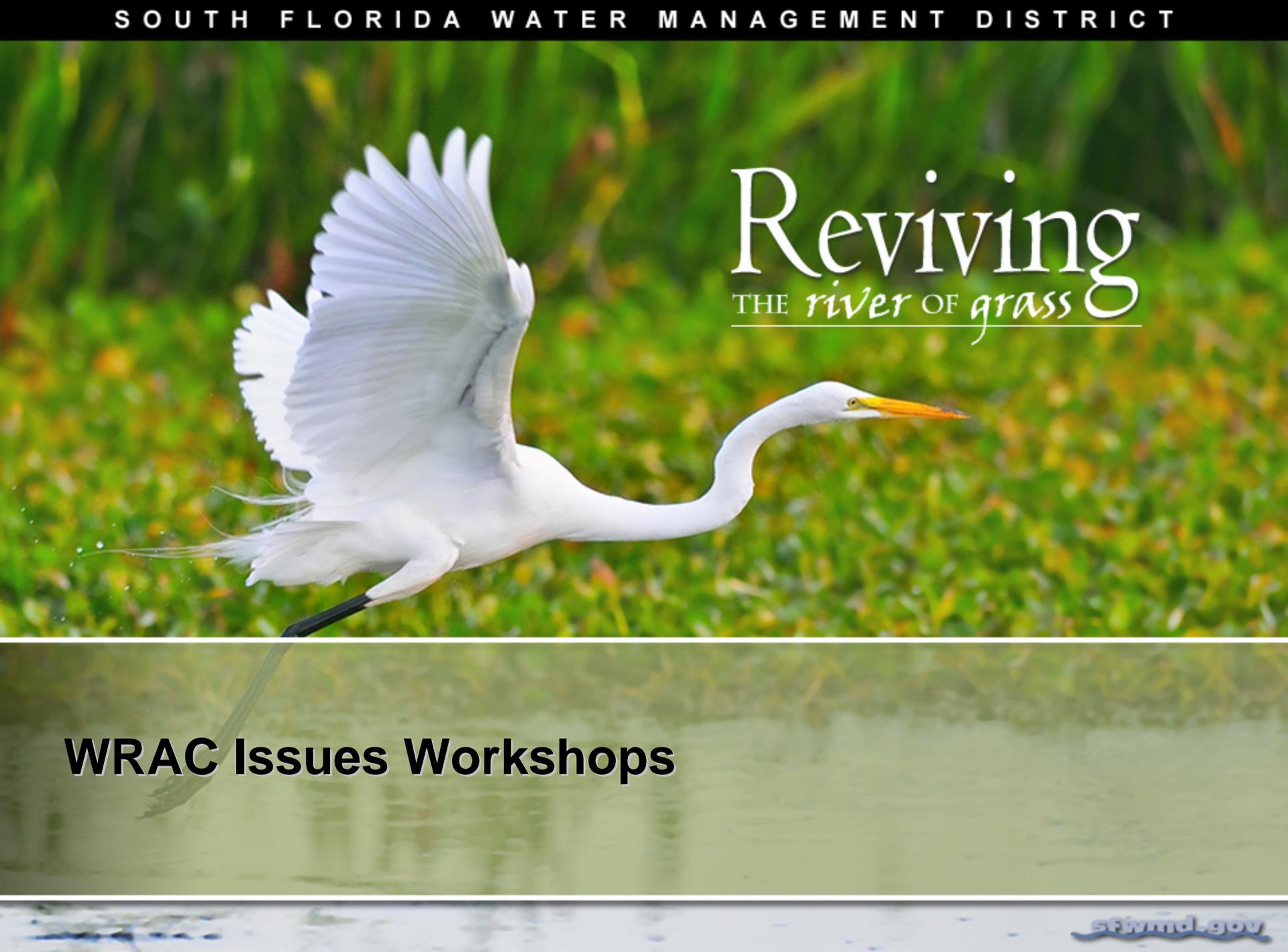


SFWMD Policy Opinion Summary

- Will use the Fennema version of NSM as upper end of planning target range pending verification
- Seasonal characteristics as estimated by NSM 4.6.2, especially in average and low rainfall periods, appear reasonable
 - Has been verified and peer reviewed

SFWMD Policy Opinion Summary (continued)

- Paleo-salinity data indicates higher flows
 - Included both ground and surface water flow
 - Relationship between NSM data and paleo-salinity needs further technical review
 - Everglades water need estimate derived from this data is very high
- Synthetic time-series approach in initial work with RESOPS appears reasonable
 - Synthetic flow volume distribution very similar to Fennema NSM in average and dry periods
 - Will help derive the storage amount that will be identified in the Phase 1 Planning Process

A white egret is captured in mid-flight, its wings fully extended, moving from left to right across the frame. The bird is positioned in the center-left area. The background is a lush, green, out-of-focus field of grass or reeds. Below the bird, a calm body of water reflects the scene. The overall image has a soft, natural feel.

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WRAC Issues Workshops

January 22 – WRAC Issues Workshop

- Meeting held in Clewiston at John Boy auditorium
- Diverse stakeholder participation
- Workshop focus:
 - River of Grass Public Planning Process
 - Due Diligence Analysis

Phase I Planning Presentation Overview



- **Land Acquisition Overview**
- **Purpose and Scope**
- **Map Overlays**
- **Environmental Needs**
- **Reservoir Sizing and Operations Screening (RESOPS)**
- **Preliminary Findings**
- **Environmental Assessments**
- **Future Meeting Topics/Next Steps**

February 3 – WRAC Issues Workshop

- Meeting held in West Palm Beach at SFWMD
- Workshop focus:
 - River of Grass Vision Statement and Scope of Phase I Planning
 - Problems/Objectives and Constraints (Group Exercise)
 - Summary of Everglades Hydrologic Restoration Targets Workshop

River of Grass - Vision Statement



- Maximize restoration opportunities for the South Florida ecosystem by acquiring strategically located lands, establishing a managed system of water storage and treatment, and restoring a historic hydrologic connection to benefit America's Everglades, Lake Okeechobee, and the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee rivers and estuaries.

River of Grass - Goals

- Increase the availability of water storage to reduce harmful freshwater discharges from Lake Okeechobee to Florida's coastal rivers and estuaries.
- Increase the availability of treatment to enhance the delivery of cleaner water to the Everglades.
- Prevent harmful phosphorus flows from entering the Everglades.
- Eliminate the need for "back-pumping" water into Lake Okeechobee.

River of Grass - Goals (continued)

- Improve the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' options for managing Lake Okeechobee within a more desirable ecological range.
- Provide additional water storage alternatives to relieve some pressures on the Herbert Hoover Dike during its rehabilitation.
- Support continued regional agriculture as well as economic diversification, where viable.

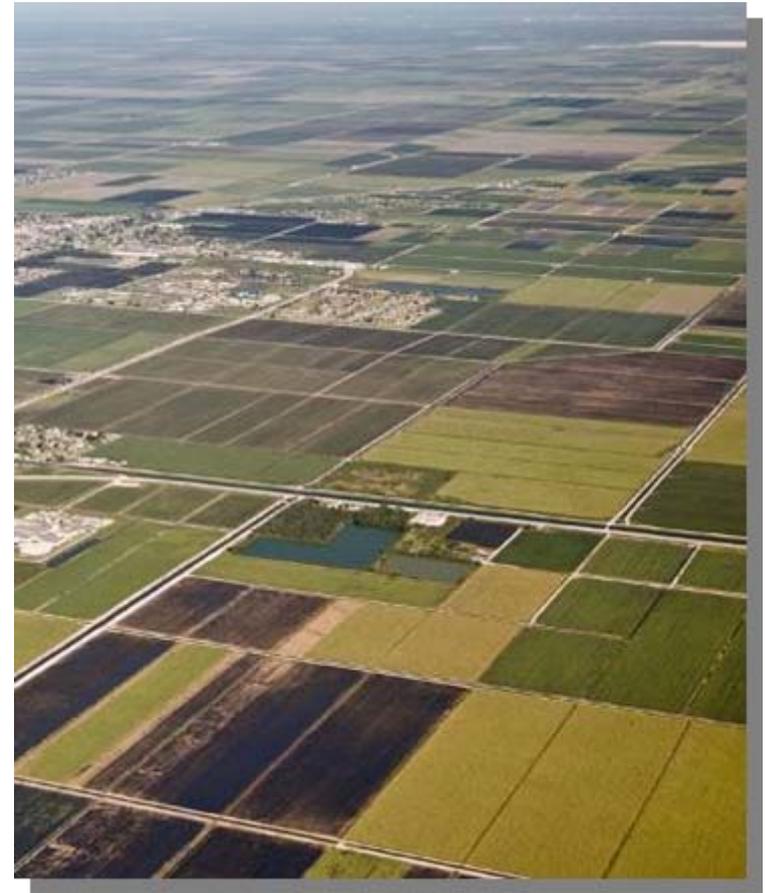
River of Grass- Planning Process



- Long-term planning effort will include multiple phases
 - Phase I-
 - January through September 2009
 - Conceptual configurations/ preliminary costs
 - Future Phases-
 - Fall 2009 and beyond
 - Detailed planning and modeling

Phase I Planning Process - Scope

- Determine the range and general location of acreage needed north of the Everglades Protection Area for storing, treating and delivering the water flows needed to restore the Everglades, while enhancing ecological conditions in Lake Okeechobee and the northern estuaries.



Phase I Planning Process - Scope

- Governing Board needs a better understanding of acreage that may be needed to store, treat, and deliver restoration water flows
- Decision on land acquisition closing by September
- Phase I Planning Process will identify viable conceptual configurations to help define the general range and location of acreage needed to store, treat, and deliver restoration water flows
- This information will support the Governing Board discussions and decision making process

Phase I Planning Process - Schedule

February	Problems, Objectives, and Constraints; Engineering Approaches to Storage and Treatment
March/April	Modeling/Assessment Tools; Configuration Scenarios-Development and Assessment
May	Identify Viable Configurations; Develop Preliminary Cost Estimates
June	Present Draft Viable Configurations and Preliminary Cost Estimates to Governing Board
July	Refine Information Based on Governing Board Input
August	Present Final Draft of Viable Configurations and Preliminary Cost Estimates to Governing Board
September	Governing Board Decision on Land Acquisition Closing

Problems/Objectives/Constraints Exercise

- Initial step in planning process is to define problems/objectives/constraints that should be considered
- Organized by four geographic regions
 - Lake Okeechobee Watershed
 - Northern Estuaries
 - Everglades Agricultural Area
 - Everglades and Florida Bay
- Break-out groups populated table information

Problems/Objectives/Constraints Exercise

- Categorized input by four areas
 - Areas that can be covered or may be covered in this initial planning effort
 - Areas that will be dealt with in future planning phases
 - Areas that may be common to other ongoing planning efforts
 - Areas that are inconsistent with the River of Grass Vision Statement and Goals
- Presented preliminary compilation back to group

A white egret is captured in mid-flight, its wings fully extended, flying over a body of water. The background is a lush, green, out-of-focus field of grass or reeds. The text 'Reviving THE river OF grass' is overlaid on the right side of the image.

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Next Meeting/Future Meeting Topics

Next Meeting- Date and Location

Next WRAC Issues Workshop

February 19, 2009
PBCC/Dolly Hand Cultural Arts Center
1977 College Dr
Belle Glade, FL
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Next Meeting- Meeting Topics

Meeting Topics

- Problems/Objectives/Constraints table
- Approaches to Achieve Goals and Objectives
 - Presentations by-
 - Forrest Michaels
 - John Marshall
 - DOI/ENP
 - SFWMD
 - Other stakeholders

Phase I Planning

Future Meetings and Topics

Future Meetings

(10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

- March 4th, SFWMD auditorium
- March 20, IFAS, LaBelle

Future Meeting Topics

- Modeling Assessment
- Presentations and topics as identified by participants
- Identification and discussion of alternative configurations
- Evaluation of alternative configurations

For More Information- River of Grass Web Site

- www.sfwmd.gov/riverofgrass

Restoration Project Planning - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by SFWMD

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Restoration Project Planning

On December 16, 2008, the South Florida Water Management District Governing Board voted to accept a contract with the United States Sugar Corporation to acquire more than 180,000 acres of agricultural land for Everglades restoration. This historic transaction provides water managers with the unprecedented opportunity to store and treat water on a scale never before envisioned for the benefit of America's Everglades, Lake Okeechobee and the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee rivers and estuaries.

With full public involvement, the first phase of *River of Grass* restoration project planning is under way. Through a series of [Water Resources Advisory Commission](#) Issues Workshops, the Phase 1 planning process will determine viable configurations for constructing a managed system of water storage and treatment to support ecosystem restoration efforts.

Information generated during this first phase will be utilized by the Governing Board to support decision making related to the land acquisition and will provide the basis for more detailed future planning phases.

UPCOMING PUBLIC WORKSHOP - [Meeting Notice](#) and [Agenda](#)
 The South Florida Water Management District invites you to participate in the first phase of planning toward a River of Grass Restoration Project.
Tuesday, February 3, 2009
West Palm Beach, Florida

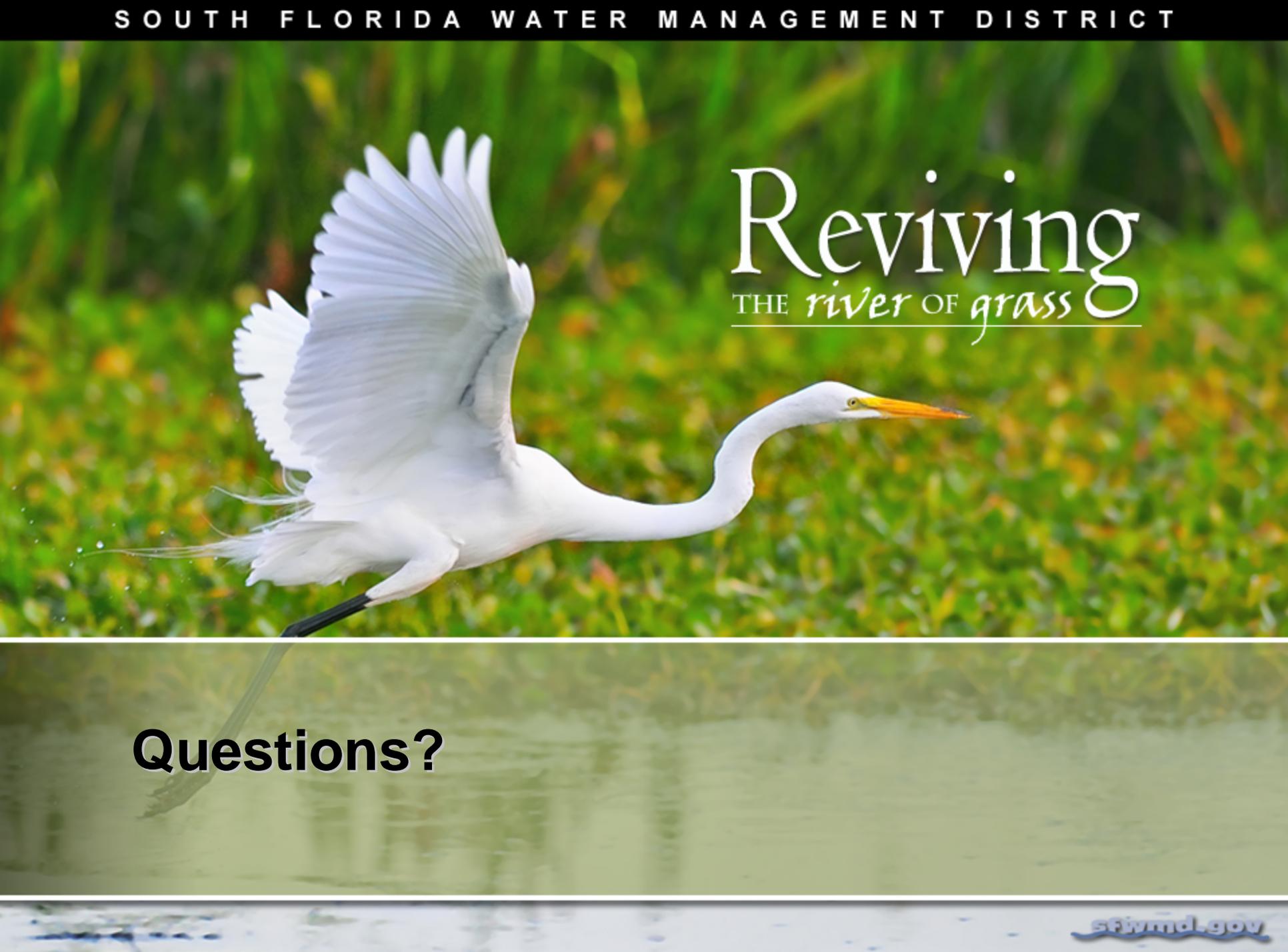
RELATED MATERIALS

- Public Workshops: [Dates, Agendas, Presentations, Minutes](#)
- [News, Fact Sheets, Public Information](#)
- [Reservoir Sizing and Operations Screening \(RESOPS\) Model](#)

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Questions?