Seagrass Restoration Technology Development Initiative Technology Advisory Council Meeting

Reefhouse Resort & Marina, Key Largo, FL – October 1, 2025

1. **Welcome to Reefhouse Resort and Mote's Key Largo Coral Nursery**
2. **Logistics and Meeting Overview**
3. **TAC Roll Call**
4. **Co-Chair opening comments**
5. **Florida Sunshine and Public Records Laws and FAR Notice**
6. **Seagrass Initiative Overview**
7. **Initiative Partners - DEP, UF, Mote**
8. **Seagrass Initiative Progress Overview – Eve Iavarone**
9. **Facility Updates – Liz Longstreet**
10. **Genetic Management Plan update – Dr. Dom Gallery**
11. **DEP Grant Agreement and Reporting Requirements**
12. **10-Year Seagrass Restoration Plan – Becky Prado, Moffatt & Nichol**
    a. TAC Comments
13. **BREAK - snack and coffee refresh**
14. **Funded Partner's Project Overview – Year 1 Projects Final Update Presentations**
    a. Dr. Laura K. Reynolds, University of Florida
    b. *A new approach to seagrass restoration in Florida: exploring the potential for seed-based restoration* – Dr. Jim Forqurean, Florida International University
    c. *Developing Technology for Kilometer Scale Seagrass Restoration in Florida* – Akhil Voorakkara, Ulysses Ecosystem Engineering Inc
    d. *Assisting seagrass recovery in Southwest Florida: Evaluation of hard clam (Mercenaria campechiensis) facilitation and identification of resilient Halodule wrightii phenotypes* – Dr. Stephen Hesterberg, Gulf Shellfish Institute
    e. *Assessment of Population Genomic Variability Associated to Stress Resistance in Florida Seagrasses* – Dr. Iris Segura Garcia, Florida Atlantic University Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution
    f. *Investigating Potential Effects of Caulerpa prolifera on Shoal Grass Restoration in Florida* – Dr. Jennifer Hansen, Brevard Zoo

g. *Addressing uncertainties to facilitate restoration success of Halodule wrightii beds: Does seagrass genetic variation and genotypic identity enhance primary productivity and confer resilience to stressors?* – Dr. Traci Erin Cox, University of New Orleans
h. *Genetic Diversity of Targeted Seagrass Assemblages in Florida* – Thomas Ries, Ecosphere Restoration Institute
i. *Testing variation in stress tolerance and restoration potential of Florida seagrass subpopulations* – Dr. Althea Moore, University of Georgia

15. Announcement of Year 2 Projects (no presentations)

a. Continued work from Dr. Laura K. Reynolds, University of Florida
b. *Comprehensive assessment of the genomic variability in Syrangodium filiforme populations in relation to environmental and stressor heterogeneity across Florida* – Dr. Iris Segura Garcia, Florida Atlantic University Harbor Branch
c. *The Resiliency of Halodule wrightii to Increased Temperature, Freshwater Discharge, and Light Limitation Florida* — Dr. Megan Conkling, Florida Atlantic University Harbor Branch
d. *Assisting the role of interspecific competition and sediment quality stressors on shoal grass restoration* – Dr. Jennifer Hansen, Brevard Zoo
e. *Differential gene expression and productivity in response to ocean warming for two Halodule wrightii populations across a latitudinal cline* –Dr. Erin Cox, University of New Orleans-
f. *Seagrass Strikes Back: A new hope for fighting Marine heatwaves (MHWs) with Thermo-Priming* – Dr. Linda Walters, University of Central Florida
g. *Influence of biochar on seagrass growth, health, and ecological interactions* – Dr. Toufiq Reza, Florida Institute of Technology
h. *Investigating the Influence of Ocean Acidification on Seagrass Resilience to Nutrient Loading* – Dr. Robert Johnson, University of Wisconsin-Madison

16. RFP Update and Announcement of Year 3 Funded Projects

17. TAC Discussion Topics

18. Public Comments – 3 minutes each or via card/email