Seagrass Restoration Technology Development Initiative Technology Advisory Council Meeting

Bayview Community Center – September 2nd, 2026 9:00 AM CDT

Pensacola & Perdido Bays Estuary Program – Matt Posner & Whitney Scheffel 9:00 – 9:15

- Opening Remarks

Mote Marine Laboratory 9:15 – 9:40

- Welcome
- Logistics and Meeting Overview
- TAC Roll Call
- Co-Chair opening comments
- Florida Sunshine and Public Records Laws and FAR Notice
- Seagrass Initiative Overview
- Initiative Partners - DEP, UF, Mote
- DEP Grant Agreement and Reporting Requirements – Eve Iavarone
- Seagrass Initiative Progress Overview
- Facility Updates – Liz Longstreet
- Genetic Management Plan update – Dr. Dom Gallery

Moffatt & Nichol – Becky Prado 9:40 – 9:55

- 10-Year Seagrass Restoration Plan

Break 9:55 – 10:00

Year 2 Funded Project Presentations 10:00 – 12:15

- *Seagrass Strikes Back: A new hope for fighting Marine heatwaves (MHWs) with Thermo-Priming* – Carla Perscky, University of Central Florida
- *Testing variation in stress tolerance and restoration potential of Florida seagrass subpopulations* – Dr. Althea Moore, Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi (Year 3)
- Continued work from Dr. Laura K. Reynolds, University of Florida

- *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
- *Differential gene expression and productivity in response to ocean warming for two Halodule wrightii populations across a latitudinal cline* –Mya Wayne, University of New Orleans
- *Assisting the role of interspecific competition and sediment quality stressors on shoal grass restoration* – Dr. Jennifer Hansen, Brevard Zoo
- *Supporting Seagrass Restoration in Lake Worth Lagoon* –Joanna Walczak, Loggerhead Marinelife Center
- *Influence of biochar on seagrass growth, health, and ecological interactions* – Dr. Toufiq Reza, Florida Institute of Technology
- *The Resiliency of Halodule wrightii to Increased Temperature, Freshwater Discharge, and Light Limitation Florida* — Dr. Megan Conkling, Florida Atlantic University Harbor Branch
- *Investigating the Influence of Ocean Acidification on Seagrass Resilience to Nutrient Loading* – Dr. Robert Johnson, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Lunch (provided) 12:15-12:45

Year 3 Funded Project Presentations 12:45 – 2:15

- *Information on seagrass genetic diversity (Year 1) in Tampa Bay offers insight into restoration protocols and sets the stage for the next sets of field and mesocosm studies* – Dr. Christina Richards, Ecosphere Restoration Institute/USF
- *Developing Technology for Kilometer Scale Seagrass Restoration in Florida* – Nate L'Esperance, Ulysses Ecosystem Engineering
- *Assisting seagrass recovery in Southwest Florida: Examination of transcriptome-wide gene expression variation to identify low-light resilient Halodule wrightii genotypes* – Dr. Mallory Sea, Gulf Shellfish Institute
- *Using Long-Term Passive Acoustics to Evaluate Seagrass Restoration Efforts* – Dr. Jim Locascio, Mote
- *Continued exploration of the potential for seed-based restoration using Manatee Grass* – Treiana Zuill, Florida International University

Mote Marine Laboratory Final Topics and Discussion 2:15 – 2:45

- TAC Discussion Topics
- Public Comments – 3 minutes each or via card/email