Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting on February 4th, 2009

Present
Peter K. Swart (UM & Chair)
Richard Dodge (NOVA)
Sarah Bellmund (NPS)
Frank Mazotti (UF)
Jeremy Lorenz (Audubon)
Bill Perry (NPS)
Robert Renken (USGS)

A management committee meeting was held starting at 13:30 in the rare book room at the University of Miami Rosenstiel’s campus. The purpose of the meeting was to hear the presentation of the University of South Florida and the Everglades Foundation to join the South Florida and Caribbean Cooperative Ecosystem Unit.

The first presentation was by USF given by Dr. Travis Doering with assistance from Dr. Lori Collins.

A second presentation was given by the Everglades Foundation. The presentations was given by Dr. Rosanna Rivero with assistance from Dr. Tom van Lent and Dr. Melodie Naja.

After presentations questions were asked of the presenters by the management committee.

Summary of Discussion

University of South Florida

Merits
- USF is situated in a geographic portion of the state from which there are no representatives on the SFC CESU
- USF has an already close connection with the USGS, and this connection will facilitate closer cooperation with the CESU
- USF has strengths in the social sciences which would compliment other non-federal partners

Cons
- USF other areas of expertise overlaps with other non-federal partners
Everglades Foundation

Merits
- The Everglades foundation is an organization which principally supports research rather than takes money from the federal agencies. Hence they would likely add research funds to the CESU.

Cons
- Some concern was raised regarding their role in advocacy.

After a lively discussion the management committee voted in to proceed with the admission of these two organizations. The vote for USF was 6 for and 1 abstention. The vote for EF was 6 for with 1 abstention.

Dr. Peter K. Swart will now instruct the national office to begin the process of modifying the MOU to include the University of South Florida and the Everglades Foundation.

The meeting concluded at 15:30.