Minutes
Management Committee Meeting
November 29th, 2006

South Florida Caribbean Cooperative Ecosystem Unit

Present

Peter K. Swart (UM)
Carol Daniels (NPS)
Ronnie Best (USGS)
Frank Mazotti (UF)
Jim Fourqurean (FIU)
Sarah Bellmund (NPS)
Steve Traxler (USFWS)
William Perry (NPS)

Regrets
Richard Dodge (NOVA), Jerry Lorenz (AofF)

The meeting was initiated at 10:30 am in the Rare Book Room of the RSMAS Library. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the possible entrance of Florida Institute of Technology and the Institute for Regional Conservation (IRC) into the SFC CESU. A previous application by CATIE had been withdrawn.

Jim Fourqurean noted that he had been physically present at the previous meeting on March 6th, 2006. A correction will be made to the minutes.

Prior to the first presentation, discussion was held by the group as to the criteria for entrance into the SFC CESU. The first presentation by FIT was held at 10:45. The presentation was given by Dr. Gary Zarillo. Also in attendance were Dr. Tom Belanger and Dr. Bob Merrill. Following a period of questions, the second presentation was given by Dr. Keith Bradley of IRC at 11:15.

After both presentations the management committee discussed the merits of the candidates and whether each organization added new capabilities to the CESU. Although there were some limited misgivings expressed about both new members, it was agreed to proceed towards the next step. This will be to discuss the implications of the membership of these organizations with the home institutions. Dr. Swart agreed to canvas opinions from the members and forwards copies of the presentations to all the partners. The next management committee meeting will be held in conjunction with the SFC CESU science meeting in February at FIU.

The committee were reminded about the upcoming science meeting in February at FIU.

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 pm.