

May 22nd 2012 Subaqueous Soils Committee

Co-Chairs – Tom Weber, NRCS and Rex Ellis, University of Florida

Rex earlier in the program gave a presentation about subaqueous projects that he has been leading in the state of Florida including; Cedar Key Clam aquaculture mapping, sea grass ecosystem restoration in the Florida Keys, and shoreline restoration in Cedar Key, Fort Pierce, and Saint Augustine (in collaboration with Jessica Veenstra – Flagler College). Ellis, Osborne, and Veenstra exploring carbon sequestration in terrestrial and drowned subaqueous Spodosols.

Florida – Tom Weber power point slide show illustrating current efforts to map the northern portion of the everglades contained within the Water Conservation Areas, which are managed for storm water discharge and drinking water supply for the Miami Dade - Palm Beach corridor (5.5 million people).

Ecological Site Description development for SAS – there are not any current activities being offered for ESD for SAS. NRCS does not have the plant ID specialists or ecologists needed and will rely on expertise that resides with DOI US Park Service. Efforts are underway to formulate a multi-year cooperative agreement to begin this work.

Soil Taxonomy updates and requirements – A new DRAFT subaqueous soil series has been prepared (Hitchiti), along with a DRAFT proposal (Lithic SubGroup for Wassists) to Soil Taxonomy.

Soil Interpretations – ESD's with appropriate tropical and sub-tropical vegetation state and transition models in fresh water ecosystems; shoreline restoration and shellfish production in brackish saline water ecosystems.

Research needs identified include carbon studies on the coastal plain and subaqueous soil systems (critical for sequestration and carbon cycle balance), shoreline restoration and management validations (climate change adaptation strategies).

Recommend that this issue be elevated to the National level and the National Committees either a task force or in conference committees. Also the SAS issue should be passed along to the Federal Land Advisory Group (FLAG). The National Hydric Soil Technical Committee should be aware via review and collaboration with the SAS efforts.