MEMORANDUM

To: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commissioners

From: Dr. Thomas Eason, Director, Habitat and Species Conservation

Date: November 18, 2015

Subject: Consent Item: Appointing a Biological Review Group for the Miami tiger beetle listing evaluation

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Purpose:
The purpose of this item is to request that the Commission approve a biological review group to assess the status of the Miami tiger beetle for listing as a state-designated Threatened species.

Summary:
On June 29, 2015, FWC received a request to evaluate the status of the Miami tiger beetle for listing as a state-designated Threatened species from the Center for Biological Diversity, and three individuals, Al Sunshine, Sandy Koi, and Chris Wirth. The evaluation request met the requirements for completeness as described in 68A-27.0012(2)(b) Florida Administrative Code (FAC). Following requirements of the rule, staff reviewed the information included in the request, and determined that the biological score was greater than 27. Biological scores greater than 27 are further evaluated using the state listing criteria found in 68A-27.001(3) FAC. The evaluations for state listing require that the Commission designate a biological review group of 3, 5, or 7 members. Three experts in tiger beetle biology have been identified to serve on the biological review group for the Miami tiger beetle: David Almquist, an invertebrate zoologist with the Florida Natural Areas Inventory; Dr. Tom Schultz, a professor of biology at Denison University in Ohio; and Jonathan Mays, an assistant research scientist in the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute. Staff will present the group's findings in a biological status report for peer review before making a recommendation on listing to the Commission.

Staff Recommendation:
Approval of the appointing David Almquist, Jonathan Mays, and Dr. Tom Schultz as the Biological Review Group members for the Miami tiger beetle.

Staff Contact and/or Presenter:
Melissa Tucker, Division of Habitat and Species Conservation