

MEETING NOTES
Special Meeting of the
Technical Oversight Committee (TOC)

South Florida Water Management District
B-1 Auditorium
3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406
Friday, June 16, 2006, 10:00 a.m.

Attendees: A sign-in sheet was available and all attendees were requested to sign-in.

TOC Representatives Present:

Garth Redfield, TOC Chair, SFWMD
Nick Aumen, NPS/ENP
Frank Nearhoof, FDEP
Mike Waldon, USFWS
Paul DuBow, USACE

Note: This meeting was recorded by a court reporter and copies are available for purchase; contact Rufino Osorio in the District's Office of Counsel (561-682-6261). Handouts and presentations are also available on the TOC website (<http://www.sfwmd.gov/org/ema/toc/index.html>).

Items are organized in order of discussion.
Meeting began at 10:07 a.m.

Modifications to the agenda, (Attachment 1) Garth Redfield (TOC Chair), SFWMD

There were no modifications requested for the agenda, except that Item 5d, Changes in Monitoring at S5A-D, was delayed and will be rescheduled for the next quarterly meeting in August. Agenda Items 5c, e, and f, related to the Refuge have been requested to be fully presented at an upcoming special or quarterly meeting.

1. * Approval of TOC meeting notes: October 18, 2005, December 1, 2005, February 21, 2006 and May 23, 2006 meetings (Attachment 2)

Chair requested that the representatives review the Draft minutes for previous meetings so they could be finalized.

2. Operational Changes Affecting the Refuge (Attachments 3, 4, 5,) Gary Goforth (Consultant to SFWMD)

A brief paper titled '*Summary and information regarding the WCA-1 temporary deviation (TD) implemented 22 April 2005*' authored by Susan Sylvester (SFWMD) was provided as a background handout (**Attachment 3**) on the temporary deviation. Gary Goforth made a presentation (**Attachment 4**) summarizing his technical paper titled '*Five-year Summary of Operations Affecting WCA-1*' (**Attachment 5**) (10:13 a.m.) followed by numerous questions and a long discussion. There was a request to revisit the topic of landscape contours of water quality at subsequent meetings. Chair requested more details be provided regarding the contour maps at the next meeting.

Action Item: Provide additional information on the interpretation of water quality contours in the Refuge as an agenda item at a future meeting.

Action Item: At a future TOC meeting this fall, Laura Brandt can provide information on the efforts to define water quantity needs for the Refuge.

Action Item: The District and possibly USGS need to provide a status report and technical analysis of data certainty, re-surveying and any adjustments to stage data at sites in the Refuge, particularly the I-8C gauge.

3. Presentations on Compliance with State TP Rule or Settlement Agreement (Attachments 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11) (11:47 a.m.)

The FDEP provided a brief document titled '*Phosphorus Criterion Monitoring Network White Paper*' as background information on the TP monitoring network (**Attachment 6**). Also as background, the District provided copies of a memorandum from USEPA concerning their determination on the water quality standard for phosphorus in the Everglades Protection Area (**Attachment 7**). Frank Nearhoof opened the topic for discussion, followed by a presentation from Gary Goforth titled: '*Comparison of Class III Phosphorus Concentrations with the Long-term Levels for the Refuge*' (**Attachment 8**). Questions were raised about the methods used both for Goforth's (**Attachments 9 and 10**) comparison and methods used as a means of calculating the TP geomeans for compliance with the State rule. Gary Goforth was requested to post an Excel format of a previously posted document to make the data that was used available. The representatives were then requested to receive Garry Payne's initial draft document on calculation methods for the TP rule for review. The Chair reiterated that the Committee's charge was to look at which compliance system is lower, implying more protective. There was general discussion regarding the clarification of 'lower' and 'protective', and how these definitions relate to policy versus technical issues. It was suggested that TOC make a list of questions for the Principals on policy and legal issues to clarify what TOC should actually do over the next few months. The committee agreed to do this.

(12:43 p.m. the committee broke for lunch. The meeting resumed at 1:35)

The TOC then prepared a list of questions for the Principals. The Chair indicated that the final list would be posted on the website and requested review, additions or edits be submitted by Friday, June 23rd and the final would be posted (**Attachment 11**).

Action Item: FDEP will develop a summary of methods used to calculate compliance with the State's TP Rule, circulate it for review and SFWMD will then post it on the TOC website.

Action Item: SFWMD will post Excel file on Dr. Goforth's calculations comparing TP compliance levels. (posted)

Action Item; TOC representatives will provide any changes to draft questions to Principals and a final version of questions were posted on Friday, June 23, 2006.

4. Updates of Interest to TOC

a. '*Marsh Sampling Requirements in Monitoring Plan*', Delia Ivanoff, SFWMD (**Attachments 12**)

Delia Ivanoff discussed the requested language changes. This was followed by several suggestions for more clarification of the verbiage. Some changes in the language were agreed to and the final language will be placed in the monitoring plan and posted on the TOC website. (2:24 p.m.)

Action Item: Post the final monitoring plan on the TOC website.

b. '*Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule Study*', Peter Milam, COE (**Attachment 13**) (2:30 p.m.)

Peter Milam provided a presentation on the Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule Study. This was followed by a brief discussion.

5. Topics for future TOC meetings to be discussed and scheduled – Actions Recommended

- a. Loading to the Refuge and Achievement Methodology - To be presented at a future TOC meeting after updating Gary Goforth's spreadsheet prepared earlier.
- b. Extending the temporary deviation to, and revision of, the Refuge regulation schedule – Covered under Item #2 above
- c. Determining water quantity requirements for the Refuge – To be presented in the Fall by Laura Brandt USFWS, Refuge
- d. Changes in monitoring at S5A-D – To be presented with an analysis of sampling at 301 and 302 at the next quarterly meeting
- e. Update on Refuge Model and Enhanced Refuge Monitoring – To be presented in the Fall by Refuge staff
- f. Update on PSTA Demonstration projects, STA 3/4 and STA 1E – No date suggested for agenda.

6. Future TOC meeting dates:

Special Meetings, set if needed: July 14
Special Meetings set: October 3 and December 20
Next Quarterly Meeting: August 29
Future Quarterly Meeting(s): November 14

7. General Public Comment

There were no comments from the public at this time.

Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.