

Final Meeting Notes
Quarterly Meeting of the Technical Oversight Committee
Tuesday, May 17, 2005, 10 a.m.

South Florida Water Management District
Headquarters, B-1 Building, Auditorium
3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33416-4680

(10:10 a.m.) Modifications to the agenda.

Garth Redfield (TOC Chair), SFWMD.

The Chair reviewed the agenda (**Attachment 1**) which contains routine quarterly items and added in items received as feedback from the principals. Dr. Aumen noted that item #5 was the most important for TOC's attention.

Motion made by Dr. Waldron to delete agenda item 3D, the 50 ppb phosphorus compliance methodology for STA permits (**Attachment 2**). Frank Nearhoof spoke on this draft methodology by phone. There was a general discussion by TOC representatives on the background of this compliance methodology, its review process and the need to use it in permits in a short timeframe. After DEP described the development process and permit review process, and requested specific comments from all parties on the methodology, the item was dealt with out of order. Dr. Waldon withdrew his motion.

Paul DuBowy (USACE) reported on Bill Baxter's passing in April 2005, and that Susan Sylvester has been appointed as the TOC alternate representative for the COE. The possibility of a video-conference for the TOC meetings was requested. November 10th has been scheduled for a TOC meeting, and since this date is near the Veteran's Day weekend, Dr. DuBowy suggested that TOC may wish to change this date.

Action Item: Bob Haine (SFWMD) was contacted on video-conferencing and he indicated that we now have the capability to communicate with Jacksonville via video conferencing.

1. * Approval of TOC meeting notes from February 24, 2005 TOC meeting.

Garth Redfield, SFWMD

The meeting notes were posted to the District's web page and no comments were received regarding changes. A motion was made by Dr. DuBowy and seconded by Dr. Waldron to approve the meeting notes.

- TOC representatives unanimously approved both sets of meeting notes without recommending any changes.

**2. (10:30 a.m.) Presentation of the Settlement Agreement Report. (15 minutes),
Julianne La Rock, SFWMD**

Ms. La Rock reviewed the Settlement Agreement Report (**Attachment 3**) which was posted on the TOC website for over three weeks. There were no unusual data quality or compliance issues noted for this quarter's report.

3. Brief Updates for TOC on Relevant Activities and Projects. (50 minutes)

a. Update on Regional Water Management Decision Study,

Paul DuBoway & Susan Sylvester, COE

Ms. Sylvester provided information on COE's plans to review regulation schedules by teleconference.

Action Item: Ms. Sylvester will provide more information on how the process will work at the next quarterly TOC meeting, particularly with regard to what measures might be useable in the short term within existing regulation schedules.

b. Status of Refuge Monitoring and Modeling,

Matt Harwell & Mike Waldon, USFWS

Dr. Harwell summarized the status of the Refuge modeling and monitoring in a brief oral presentation.

c. (11:00 a.m.) Interim Report on Refuge Monitoring and Modeling,

Matt Harwell & Mike Waldon, USFWS

The 'A.R.M. Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge Enhanced Water Quality Monitoring and Modeling, Interim Report' was posted on the TOC website and the Executive Summary is **Attachment 4**. Written comments were provided as handouts by the District (**Attachment 5**) and by the FDEP (**Attachment 6**). Comments addressed needs for future annual reports recognizing the data limitations and time constraints of this Interim Report. There was a discussion of issues related to the report by Redfield, Aumen, Nearhoof (by phone), Goforth (District Consultant), and Waldon.

d. Draft 50 ppb TP achievement methodology available for review,

Frank Nearhoof, FDEP, and Gary Goforth, Consultant to SFWMD

This item was discussed as part of earlier discussion under 'Modifications to the Agenda'; the draft methodology is **Attachment 2**.

e. (11:20 a.m.) Status of the STA Enhancements and STA 3/4 Performance,

Gary Goforth, Consultant to SFWMD

Dr. Goforth presented an update on the status of enhancements to the STAs and on treatment performance of STA 3/4. There was some discussion of STA topics and Charles Lee with Audubon asked about plans for the expansion of STA 1W as a public comment.

f. (11:30 a.m.) 'Preliminary estimates of loads to the Refuge after STA 1E is in operation', Gary Goforth, Consultant to SFWMD

This report (**Attachment 7**) was provided as information to TOC, but not requested by TOC. It was developed to clarify sources of loads to the Refuge under various scenarios through time. Comments are requested and the draft can be modified or expanded to have additional scenarios considered. Long term loads to the Refuge were discussed by TOC, as were the purposes of the draft report. Technical differences of opinion exist on

various scenarios and assumptions. Dr. Aumen offered to assist in process to reach technical agreement that the numbers are correct and the document is sound. The Chair would like to see the document finalized and put in the TOC archives for everyone's information. The document is on the TOC web site and anyone is welcome to make comments.

Action Item: Comments are requested so that the document can be completed. Agreement on current scenarios is not needed: more can be added to explore other viewpoints. Comments should be sent to Dr. Goforth as soon as possible, a couple of weeks if possible.

4. (11:50 a.m.) EAA Regional Feasibility Study. (20 minutes), Shawn Waldeck, P.M. and Contractor to SFWMD

Mr. Waldeck provided an overview of the EAA Feasibility Study (**Attachment 8**) to ensure that TOC understood the elements of the scope, its products and its schedule as it addresses optimization and allocation of loads to the expanded STAs. The project is an important element of the Long-Term Plan and is of immediate interest to TOC as a means of improving overall STA performance and reducing loads to the Refuge.

5. (TOC reconvened at 1:00 p.m.) * Recommendations on water management practices and water quality compliance in the Refuge as requested by the Principals. (60 - 120 minutes)

All TOC Representatives contributed to discussion and development of recommendations to Principals based on a consensus document (**Attachment 9**) developed at the last TOC meeting. Two products were developed from this discussion: 'Recommendations to Principals for Water Management Practices and Water Quality in the Refuge' (**Attachment 10**) and 'Action Items Towards Recommendations to Principals on Water Management Practices and Water Quality in the Refuge' (**Attachment 11**). The later document provides organizational guidance on assignments to be done in preparation for the next TOC meeting on June 13, 2005. With agreement on additional recommendations to Principals at the next TOC meeting, the first document, now containing only one recommendation, will be expanded and will form the basis of a report to the Principals.

6. General Public Comment. (20 minutes or as requested)

Public comments were provided by Charles Lee of Audubon and Jeff Ward of Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative.

7. Proposed quarterly TOC meeting dates:

**Tues 8/2/05; Tues 8/16/05; Tues 8/23/05; Thur 8/25/05
Thur 11/10/05; Tues 11/22/05**

* Items for consideration and possible action by the Technical Oversight Committee.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.