

Final Meeting Notes
Quarterly Meeting of the Technical Oversight Committee
Monday, June 13, 2005, 10 a.m.

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

(10:08 a.m.) Modifications to the agenda, Garth Redfield (TOC Chair), SFWMD.

The Chair reviewed the agenda (**Attachment 1**), which contains items for this special TOC meeting and added in items received as feedback from the principals. Several participating agencies and interested parties expressed the need for more information on Judge Moreno's order and on Mr. Barkett's report. The Chair agreed that both these items would be posted on the TOC website to respond to this need. The Chair noted that the agenda had been modified in response to the interests and priorities expressed by the three federal agencies.

1. (10:12 a.m.) Approval of TOC meeting notes from May 17, 2005 TOC meeting, Garth Redfield, SFWMD

The meeting notes (**Attachment 2**) were posted to the District's web page and no comments were received. The Chair polled the TOC representatives and the meeting notes were unanimously approved without recommending any changes.

2. (10:40 a.m.) Status of recent inflows to the Refuge (20 minutes), Chip Merriam, SFWMD [Note that this item was taken out of order with Item 3 due to scheduling conflict.]

Mr. Merriam made a short presentation describing events over the past year that has had significant effects on the timing and quantity of flows entering the Refuge (**Attachment 3**). He emphasized the integrated nature of South Florida's water management system and the unique meteorological features including hurricanes of September 2004.

3. (10:20 a.m.) Condition of STA-1W, current operations and prospects for full operation (20 minutes), Chip Merriam, SFWMD and Gary Goforth, Consultant to SFWMD

Dr. Goforth presented an update on the status of STA enhancements (**Attachment 4**) highlighting the schedules and the influence of enhancement activities on STA treatment capacity. This presentation is available on the TOC website. There was discussion of several aspects of STA enhancements and it was noted that there will be detailed discussion of these and other related topics at the Long-Term Plan Technical Working Group meeting on June 23. There was also a discussion on how to expedite the recovery of STA-1W,

including a discussion on seeding submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) by transplantation.

Action Item: Dr. Goforth reminded TOC that Tom Kosier should be contacted for current information on STA operations.

4. **(11:15 a.m.) Discussion of draft 50 ppb TP achievement methodology (20 minutes)**, Frank Nearhoof, FDEP and Gary Goforth, Consultant to SFWMD
Frank Nearhoof provided an overview of this draft methodology (**Attachment 5**), as well as supporting data, which is available on the TOC website. His presentation (**Attachment 6**) is also available on this website. Comments were received from Bill Walker, Consultant to U.S. Department of Interior (DOI), on this draft methodology (**Attachment 7**).

Action Item: FDEP is soliciting comments on this methodology as part of the permitting process for STA-1E. Interested parties should contact Frank Nearhoof for additional information.

5. **(11:35 a.m.) Response to comments and revised draft of 'Preliminary Estimates of Loads to the Refuge after STA-1E is in Operation' (20 minutes)**, Gary Goforth, Consultant to the SFWMD
Dr. Goforth presented an overview of responses to comments on his draft report (**Attachment 8**). Comments were provided by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and were posted on the TOC website prior to the meeting (**Attachment 9**). At the TOC meeting, the DOI provided written comments on Dr. Goforth's report (**Attachment 10**).

Action Item: Comments continue to be welcomed on this report and a revised version will be presented at a future TOC meeting.

6. **(TOC reconvened at 1:15 p.m.) *Options 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 options and recommendations to the Principals based on a consensus document (**Attachment 11**) and a set of action items developed at the May 17, 2005 TOC meeting (**Attachment 12**). 'Recommendations to Principals for Water Management Practices and Water Quality in the Refuge' (**Attachment 13**) was also developed from this discussion.

District staff provided a report and a summary (**Attachments 14 and 15, respectively**) on the first topic in the TOC working document: more frequent outflow structure water quality sampling. There was discussion of sampling strategies for the S-10s and S-39, and TOC representatives agreed that biweekly sampling of these structures would be beneficial to provide more information on water quality.

Action Item: The TOC Chair will prepare text for consideration by the Principals on more frequent water quality sampling at the S-10s. TOC representatives also requested that water quality sampling in the vicinity of S-10E be discussed at a future TOC meeting.

Regarding the remaining three topic areas on the TOC working document **Attachment 12**, there was extensive discussion of management strategies for the S-10s, and the technical and policy issues involved in altering the way the S-10s are managed.

Action Items: The DOI will attempt to do some technical analyses related to S-10 management, and the TOC representatives will request that their Principals discuss the policy issues associated with altering the way water is managed through the S-10s at the upcoming Principals meeting.

Action Item: The Refuge TOC representative requested that the CERP North Palm Beach Project PIR be discussed at a future TOC meeting, particularly with regard to its scheduling. The project manager, Michael Voich, will be asked to make a presentation.

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

No public comments at this time. There were several comments from the public during discussion of other items on the TOC agenda.

8. Proposed TOC meeting dates:

- **Tues. 7/12/05 (special TOC meeting)**
- **Tues. 8/16/05 (quarterly meeting)**
- **Thurs. 11/10/05 or Tues. 11/22/05 (quarterly meeting)**

Please note that the DOI provided a written response to comments received on their monitoring and modeling interim report (**Attachment 16**).

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m.

* Items for consideration and possible action by the TOC.