

**FINAL  
MEETING SUMMARY  
Technical Oversight Committee (TOC)  
South Florida Water Management District, Storch Room  
3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406  
Tuesday, May 25, 2004**

**Attendees:**

Garth Redfield, TOC Chair and Agency Rep., SFWMD  
Nick Aumen, TOC Agency Rep., NPS/ENP  
Paul DuBowy TOC Agency Rep., USACE  
Frank Nearhoof, TOC Agency Rep. FDEP  
Mike Waldon, TOC Agency Rep., USFWS  
John Barkett, Special Master

Bill Baxter (COE)  
Kelly Brooks (Miccosukee Tribe)  
Rick Burgess (Gunster, et al.)  
Kirk Burns (SFWMD)  
Bahram Charkhian (SFWMD)  
Linda Davis (SFWMD)  
Henry Dean (SFWMD)  
Charles Demonaco (FDEP)  
Gene Duncan (Miccosukee Tribe)  
Stacey Efron (SFWMD)  
Tony Federico (Consultant)  
Gary Goforth (SFWMD)  
Larry Grosser (SFWMD)  
Matt Harwell (FWS)  
Delia Ivanoff (SFWMD)  
Don Kent (CWF)  
Dan Kimball (NPS)  
Zdzislaw Kolosinski (SFWMD)  
Julie LaRock (SFWMD)  
Charles Lee (Audubon)  
Linda Lindstrom (SFWMD)

Paul McGinnes (SFWMD)  
Loren Mason (USACE-SAJ)  
Chip Merriam (SFWMD)  
Cheol Mo (SFWMD)  
Brooks Moore (COE) – Via Telephone  
Paula Moree (SFWMD)  
Zaki Moustafa (SFWMD)  
Mark Musaus (FWS)  
Gabriel Nieto (Steel, Hector)  
Bernie Parrish (Everglades)  
Phil Parsons (U. S. Sugar)  
Tracey Piccone (SFWMD)  
Barb Powell (SFWMD)  
Pete Rawlik (SFWMD)  
David Struve (SFWMD)  
Stuart Van Horn (SFWMD)  
Jeff Ward (SCGC)  
Bill Walker (DOI)  
Shi Xue (SFWMD)  
Mike Zimmerman (NPS/ENP)

**10:10 a.m.**

**Introductory Comments and Modifications to Agenda.**

Garth Redfield, Chair, called the TOC meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. This is a quarterly meeting of the Technical Oversight Committee. Brooks Moore (COE) is attending this meeting via teleconference. There is a stenographer present to take *verbatim* Minutes and copies can be ordered from the District's Office of Counsel. Paula Moree (SFWMD) took notes for this abbreviated Meeting Summary. No changes were requested in the TOC agenda (**Attachment 1**).

**10:15 a.m.**

**1. Directions from the Principals on May 5, 2004 and Organization of the TOC Process.** Garth Redfield (TOC Chair) SFWMD.

The Chair briefly reviewed the TOC process in which the Principals will provide topics for the agenda in addition to the routine compliance reporting. Public comments will be taken during two periods, although specific technical input from the public can be given if requested by any TOC Representative. Updates on matters of interest to the TOC can be presented by TOC Representatives at any meeting.

There was a short discussion of several topics including:

1. Problems with downloading of the Settlement Agreement.
2. Future TOC Meetings will be added to the agenda. The next scheduled date for the quarterly TOC Meeting is Thursday, August 26, 2004 in the B1 Auditorium.
3. Update: Jayantha Obeysekera of the Office of Modeling, SFWMD, mentioned that a *Peer Review Process* will be initiated on the Everglades Landscape Model and TOC will be updated when the model is available for external review.
4. Update: Nick Aumen suggested that a future agenda item be data from the Transect Study Prescribed Fire Program in the Refuge. Mike Waldon (USFWS) is the contact and this information can be included as an update along with the status of other Refuge monitoring and modeling efforts.

**Recommendation and Follow-Up:**

District staff will follow up on Item 1 to ensure that all web information is available to all interested persons. Refuge staff will provide updates at the August TOC meeting for Item 4.

**10:30 a.m.**

**2. Approval of TOC minutes from 4/6/04 TOC meeting.** Garth Redfield, SFWMD.

The Minutes from April 6 TOC meeting (**Attachment 2**) were posted just two days prior to this meeting, so approval must await a review period. There was a requested two weeks deadline for input of June 8, 2004. Specific changes should be sent to the Chair. If no changes to the Minutes are provided, then they will be considered as approved after June 8, 2004. If substantial changes required, the Minutes will be reviewed for approval at the next TOC meeting.

**Recommendation and Follow Up:**

Revisions and/or comments to the Chair on or before deadline of June 8, 2004.

**10:35 a.m.**

**3. Presentation of the Settlement Agreement Report and Quality Assessment Report for Water Quality Monitoring.** Julianne La Rock and Delia Ivanoff, respectively, SFWMD

Julianne LaRock presented information using **Attachment 3** (Settlement Agreement for October – December 2003 Report) as an outline. She discussed the information on the *Monthly Total Phosphorus Geometric Mean Concentrations and Compliance Tracking* for the A.R.M. Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, Shark River Slough, and Taylor Slough and the Coastal Basins.

**Recommendations and Follow Up:**

- 1.. Send out an email stating the report is posted on the SFWMD web page.

**10:40 a.m.**

**4. \* Factors in the Timing of Settlement Agreement Reports and TOC Consensus on Publication Process and Timing.** Julianne La Rock, SFWMD

Julianne LaRock explained the publication process involving sample collection, laboratory analysis and quality assurance (**Attachment 4**). Water quality data takes 3 to 6 weeks; flow/state data about 75 days; and report preparation is about 2 weeks. Total Report production is estimated at 3 months. A process will be developed to allow for posting of data in a shorter timeframe in table format. This rapid version of the data will be accompanied by notes on the website that the data are provisional and will be finalized through the quarterly TOC meetings.

**Recommendations and Follow-up:**

1. A two-phase reporting process will be instituted by the District. A shorter term reporting process will be done on a monthly basis (even with some blanks) noting that the data are "provisional". There will be another web page where staff can continue to publish the Settlement Agreement reports in final form for quarterly TOC meetings.

**11:10 a.m.**

**Continuation of Agenda Item 3: Quality Assessment Report for Water Quality Monitoring.** Delia Ivanoff, SFWMD.

Delia Ivanoff used the report (**Attachment 5**) as an outline for her presentation on the results of data quality assessment for TP. Some discussion followed on the fact that the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) lab appears to generate TP values slightly above those of the District's lab. This important issue will be addressed in a report at the next TOC meeting co-authored with DEP. John Barkett, Special Master, asked for information on the significance of any laboratory difference. He wanted to know if any difference could influence the compliance levels.

**11:45 a.m.**

**Recommendation and Follow Up:**

1. A report/presentation to TOC on differences in TP data generated by the two labs will be developed in cooperation with DEP and will be part of the Agenda at the next quarterly meeting.

**11:50 a.m.**

**Announcement:** The Chair noted the information systems downloading issue has been researched by District staff. The system appears to be working fine.

**Recommendation and Follow-up:**

1. Continue to research any problems with retrieving and reviewing attachments on the SFWMD website regarding TOC. Report back to the Representatives at the next quarterly meeting as needed.

**11:55 a.m.**

**5. Public Comment: Items 1 through 4**

A. Charles Lee (Audubon) spoke on exceedances of the long-term limits in the Refuge. Data from January 02 to December 03 in the Settlement Agreement Report show that there were several exceedances of the long-term limit. What is the approach

by the TOC in seeking a remedy to these apparent excesses? Each TOC meeting should include an agenda item to report on implementation progress.

**11:50 a.m. - Adjourn Meeting for lunch ----- 12:40 p.m. – Reconvene Meeting**

**12:40 p.m.**

**6. Phosphorus Load Reduction Methodology: Consistency with an Operational Design Envelope for the STAs.** Gary Goforth, SFWMD.

Read-ahead paper (**Attachment 6**) titled “The Operational Design Envelope for the STAs” was provided on the TOC website and summarized in Gary Goforth’s presentation to TOC (**Attachment 7**). Information was presented on how to best operate the STAs within the design envelope by providing operational staff information on the annual cumulative flows and TP loads. Analysis yielded the cumulative flows and loads and quantified minimum, average, and maximum values for each month. This can provide operational guidance to help keep the STAs from being overloaded with inflow volumes and nutrients.

Discussion topics included the linkage to lake releases, STA bypasses, results of new modeling on operational guidance, overloading of the STAs, linkage to hydrological events and water supply releases and enhancements in the Long-Term Plan..Over the next year, the methodology will be revised and updates will be provided to TOC as requested.

**1:30 p.m.**

**Recommendations and Follow-up:**

For the next TOC meeting, additional information will be provided on load reduction measurement methodology and steps needed to revise the approved methods.

**Discussion of Existing Methodology for Measuring Compliance with Load Reduction**

Nick Aumen spoke on the load reduction measurement methodology and said that obtaining the information should be a fairly simple thing to do. He asked Bill Walker to answer the questions posed by TOC Representatives and interested parties on the approved load reduction measurement methodology. Dr. Walker used his 1996 paper as a primary reference in answering questions on flows included and excluded, bypasses, annual variability, and other topics in the 1996 paper. Transcripts of this discussion are available from Office of Counsel.

**2:05 p.m.**

**7. Grab Versus Autosampler Data: An Approach to Analyze Comparability.**

Nick Aumen, NPS with Julianne La Rock, Cheol Mo and Bill Walker.

There are some data indicating higher TP values for autosamplers. Technicians have tried to find a reason why this occurs, and sometimes they can find a reason, but in several instances no cause can be identified. The Principals asked for continued investigation of this matter because it can influence concentration and loading estimates under the Consent Decree.

Nick Aumen mentioned that funding may be available for relevant water quality studies in the Park. Some of the funding will be used for “grab versus autosampler data” issue. Garth Redfield noted that grab vs. auto issue needs to be solved. Several staff members need to get together and look at what has been generated and discuss what the scope and next steps should be. The District contacts will be Cheol Mo, Julie LaRock and Nenad Iricanin.

**Recommendation and Follow-up:**

The Principals asked for further information on this matter and continuing investigation will be presented at future TOC meetings.

**2:20 p.m.**

**8. Public Comment: Items 5 & 6 and General comments (20 minutes or as requested).**

- a) Charles Lee, Audubon, spoke on the report by Dr. Goforth. His concerns relate back to the effect of STA 1E on the situation in STA 1W. He also had questions regarding Table 2. Mr. Lee said there is concern on the best management practices (BMPs) and he asked this be on an upcoming agenda.
  
- b) Phillip Parsons, Florida Sugar Cane Growers Coop, responded to Mr. Lee’s comments. Flows and loads were taken into account for the STAs and BMPs have been done since the late 1980s. All farms are permitted and regulated in the same way.

Representative DuBowy indicated that he would like to have *Public Comment* following each agenda item instead of re-visiting the issue at the end of the meeting. The Chair indicated that the Principals are going to give additional guidance on how to proceed during meetings, and how Public Comment should be handled.

**Recommendation and Follow-up:**

- 1. Ask for input from the Principals on format of agenda; specifically, the Public Comment section following each agenda item.

**Dates for Future TOC Meetings:**

August 26, 2004: Quarterly meeting in the B1 Auditorium. Topics to be placed on the future agenda should be sent to Dr. Redfield.

**Adjournment: 2:40 p.m.**