

**Final MEETING SUMMARY**  
**Technical Oversight Committee (TOC)**  
**South Florida Water Management District**  
**3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406**  
**Tuesday, November 30, 2004**

Attendees:

Garth Redfield, TOC Chair and Agency Rep., SFWMD  
Nick Aumen, TOC Agency Rep., NPS/ENP  
Frank Nearhoof, TOC Agency Rep., FDEP  
Mike Waldon, TOC Agency Rep., USFWS  
Paul J. DuBowy, TOC Agency Rep., COE

John Barkett, Special Master

W. Abtew (SFWMD)  
Danna Acker-White (LWDD)  
Luis Alejandro (USACE)  
Bill Baxter (USACE)  
Kelly Brooks (Miccosukee Tribe)  
Kirk Burns (SFWMD)  
Bahram Charkhian (SFWMD)  
David Crowley (FDEP)  
Linda Davis (SFWMD)  
Charles DeMonaco (FDEP)  
Michelle Diffenderfer (LLW)  
Gene Duncan (Miccosukee Tribe)  
Rebecca Elliott (FDACS)  
James Erskine (Miccosukee Tribe)  
Gary Goforth (SFWMD)  
Matt Harwell (USFWS)  
Delia Ivanoff (SFWMD)  
Bob Kadlec (DOI)  
Don Kent (LWF)

Julianne La Rock (SFWMD)  
Kristin Larson (SFWMD)  
Charles Lee (Audubon)  
Linda Lindstrom (SFWMD)  
Cheol Mo (SFWMD)  
Paula Moree (SFWMD)  
Jana Newman (SFWMD)  
Gabriel Nieto (SHD)  
Barbara Ross (SFWMD)  
Jamie Serrino (SFWMD)  
Pam Sievers (SFWMD)  
Keith Smith (SFWMD)  
David Struve (SFWMD)  
Stuart Van Horn (SFWMD)  
Bill Walker (DOI)  
Jeff Ward (SCGC)  
Shi Kui Xue (SFWMD)  
Mike Zimmerman (NPS/ENP)

Introductory Comments: Garth Redfield, Chair, Technical Oversight Committee (TOC), called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. The Chair reviewed the agenda (**Attachment 1**) and no changes were requested.

**1. Approval of TOC minutes from August 26, 2004 TOC meeting.** Garth Redfield, SFWMD.

The draft Minutes were posted to the District's web page (**Attachment 2**) and no comments were received.

➤ Motion by Dr. DuBowy and seconded by Dr. Aumen to approve the Minutes. Vote called. Motion approved.

10:15 a.m.

**2. Presentation (Attachment 3) of the Settlement Agreement Report (Attachment 4),**  
Julianne La Rock, SFWMD.

The Report was presented and no compliance issues were found in either the Refuge or the Park. In addition, stage data were provided due to the temporary loss of one stage site in the Refuge (**Attachment 5**).

Follow-Up:

The Chair noted that the suggestion was made at the last quarterly TOC meeting to not give an oral presentation on phosphorus QA report at each quarterly meeting. The QA report will be posted prior to quarterly TOC meetings and if the TOC representatives want any matter discussed at the meeting these should be e-mailed to the Chair and he will put them on the next TOC agenda.

10:30 a.m.

**3. Brief Updates for TOC on Relevant Activities and Projects**

**a. STA-1W Recovery Plan**, by Jana Newman, SFWMD

Dr. Newman gave a presentation (**Attachment 6**) on the Draft STA-1W Recovery Plan (**Attachment 7**).

Follow-Up:

After discussion of the plan and other performance issues on the STAs, Chip Merriam, SFWMD, indicated that an "After Action Report" should be done on the hurricanes and used as a tool for the future. The Recovery Plan can go forward as a separate product.

11:15 a.m.

**b. STA Performance Summary**, by Gary Goforth, SFWMD.

Dr. Goforth provided an overview on the STA loads and performance for Water Year 2005 including preliminary data through October, 2004 (**Attachment 8**).

Follow-up:

The Tribe was invited to submit any data they have analyzed on Everglades phosphorus levels and loads to staff and the data will be posted on the TOC website for future TOC consideration.

11:30 a.m.

**c. Update on STA-1E**, Paul DuBow, Corps of Engineers (COE).

Dr. DuBow presented information on the cumulative affects of the hurricanes on STA-1E and provided detailed information on the status of the STA-1E project as a whole (**Attachment 9**).

Recommendations and Follow-Up:

The Operating Procedures need to be reviewed carefully for STA-1E and STA-1W. A brainstorming session was suggested to hash out the differences expressed by agencies on STA-1E loading to the Refuge. The USCOE indicated that a meeting is scheduled to be held in January 2005 to discuss further STA-1E issues. There is interest in detailed discussion of loading to the Refuge, the compliance methodology and operational protocols for STA-1E.

11:55 a.m.

**d. Refuge Monitoring and Modeling**, by Matt Harwell, Fish & Wildlife

Dr. Harwell presented information on the implementation of the program: see **Attachment 10** for the report and **Attachment 11** for the presentation.

12:00 p.m.

**Public Comment:**

Charles Lee, representing the Audubon Society, Florida, spoke on the phosphorus levels in STA-1W and the design of the STAs. Real long-term remedies phosphorus levels need to be addressed to solve the overall overloading problem.

[Break for Lunch at 12:10 p.m. and reconvene 12:50 p.m.]

**4. Follow-up compliance discussion regarding relationship between the current water management practices and water quality compliance and recommendations regarding same.**

The Chair briefly reviewed information regarding a letter dated November 9, 2004 to “Representatives of the Technical Oversight Committee”, from the “Principals of the Consent Decree” noting that the Principals expected TOC to discuss water management and water quality in the Refuge and make recommendations on future activities.

Dr. DuBow, USCOE, introduced the subject of water deliveries as the mechanism to change water quality and water quantity. Luis Alejandro, COE in Jacksonville, was introduced as the presenter on the subject of changing the Regulation Schedule for the Refuge. Mr. Alejandro presented information on temporary deviations, water control plans and regulation schedules (**Attachment 12**).

Follow-up:

Dr. DuBow will report back to the group on what – any or all – deviations from the schedule require the NEPA process. Recommendations on management options for consideration by the TOC were requested by the Chair.

The Chair will find out if there is flexibility in the way water supply deliveries can be managed within the existing Regulation Schedule. Dr. DuBow will provide information on the flexibility in the timetable for responding to a “change in stage”. It was noted that Refuge staff

provided three recommendations earlier for TOC consideration. Responding to the Principals will be done as soon as the information is available.

1:40 p.m.

**5. Discussion of additional measures to reduce phosphorus loads and possible recommendations to Principals.**

**a. Measures in the updated Long Term Plan (LTP).**

The Chair indicated that summary information organized in the conceptual framework presented to TOC earlier by Dr. Walker is posted on the web (**Attachment 13**). Gary Goforth was available to answer questions on timelines and modifications to the LTP.

**b. Measures in Acceler8 by Chip Merriam, SFWMD.**

Chip Merriam, SFWMD, presented information on the new Acceler8 projects relevant to phosphorus inputs to the Refuge.

**c. Role of water management in Refuge water quality compliance.**

No separate report was provided.

**d. Developing a report to Principals on progress to date with recommendations based on April 2, 2004 agreement – for completion at the February 24, 2005 TOC meeting.**

Chair provided information from the posted November 9, 2004 letter from the Principals, and asked for recommendations on how to get a progress report together. Chair offered to compile and format a draft report and put out on the TOC website for review by the TOC members. If this process does not work out, then a January meeting will have to be scheduled to work on the Progress Report. Tentative date for the special meeting would be January 25, 2005, if needed.

**6. Planning a TOC Project to Follow Impacts of the 2004 Hurricane Season and Recovery Plans for the STAs. Target date May 2005 TOC meeting.**

**a. Everglades Hydrological Update.** Fred Sklar, SFWMD.

Dr. Sklar presented information on the ecological status of the Everglades during May to October, 2004 (**Attachment 14**). He summarized information on hydrologic performance measures for various sub-regions in the Everglades, noting temporal trends and periods of stress to wildlife and tree islands.

2:20 p.m.

**7. Planning for Continuing Refinement of Phosphorus Load Compliance Methodology.**

Julianne La Rock summarized current data on phosphorus load reductions. She provided annual values for phosphorus going to the WCAs as a whole and for the Refuge specifically (**Attachment 15**).

Gary Goforth then presented an update on potential refinements to the load reduction methodology (**Attachment 16**). His summary included background of the issues, notes on

“low-flow water supply deliveries” to the WCAs, concepts on how to account for extreme hydrological events, and a consideration of flows within the design range.

Follow-up:

Information on the proposed methodology should be reviewed by the TOC members and suggestions should be forwarded to Dr. Goforth. All suggestions will be discussed at future TOC meetings.

**8. General Public Comment. None was offered.**

**9. Next quarterly TOC meeting dates (B-1 Auditorium): Thursday. Feb. 24, 2005**

Proposed quarterly TOC meeting dates (B-1 Auditorium)

Tuesday, 5/17/05; Tues 5/24/05; Thursday, 5/26/05; Tuesday, 5/31/05

Tuesday, 8/2/05; Tuesday, 8/16/05; Tuesday, 8/23/05; Thursday, 8/25/05

Thursday, 11/10/05; Tuesday, 11/22/05

**Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m.**