

Agenda Item:

Update on Regional Water Management Decision Study

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Project: Review of Regional Water Management Decisions Affecting STA Operations and Performance

“There is a plan in place to review and revise the Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule that will include an evaluation of the effects on water conservation areas of changes to that schedule.”

Issue Raised

- I have raised the issue of the need to revise both the WCA-1 and WCA-2A schedules to the corps and other involved federal and state agencies.
- To date, all parties I have discussed the matter with are in agreement that the effort is needed for WCA-1 (I am working with FWCC on WCA-2A issues and concerns).
- The difficulty is how to get this effort moving forward given budget and schedule issues in all project areas.

Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule Study (LORS)

- The Corps project manager for the Lake Okeechobee Regulation schedule study (LORS), Mr. Richard Dasher, has prepared a schedule and budget for this project.
- The Corps and SFWMD have met via videoconference (Thursday, 10 Feb) to discuss the project.
- From that meeting each party developed a set of questions to discuss with their principles. The Corps group met with Mr. Dennis Duke (Monday, 14 Feb).
- One of the issues raised to Mr. Duke was the need to revise the WCA-1 and WCA-2A regulation schedules.
- Mr. Duke recommended that the team assess the relative cost and schedule implications of rolling these two regulation schedule efforts into the LORS to take advantage of the modeling and trade-off analysis that will be an integral part of the LORS effort.
- Mr. Andrew Geller is the EN-HW lead on the LORS.

Temporary Deviation to WCA-1

- In the mean time, Corps Engineering (EN-HW) has been working with LNWR, SFWMD and LWDD to develop a proposal for a temporary deviation to the current WCA-1 regulation schedule.
- This team has developed a proposal that is ready to be incorporated into an Environmental Assessment.
- Planning is now working with the FWS and will be finalizing the assessment.
- The Corps' South Atlantic Division is aware of the request and will need to review before approval to implement. This effort is being expedited.
- Mr. Luis Alejandro is the EN-HW lead for this effort.

Refinements to WSE that have occurred to date:

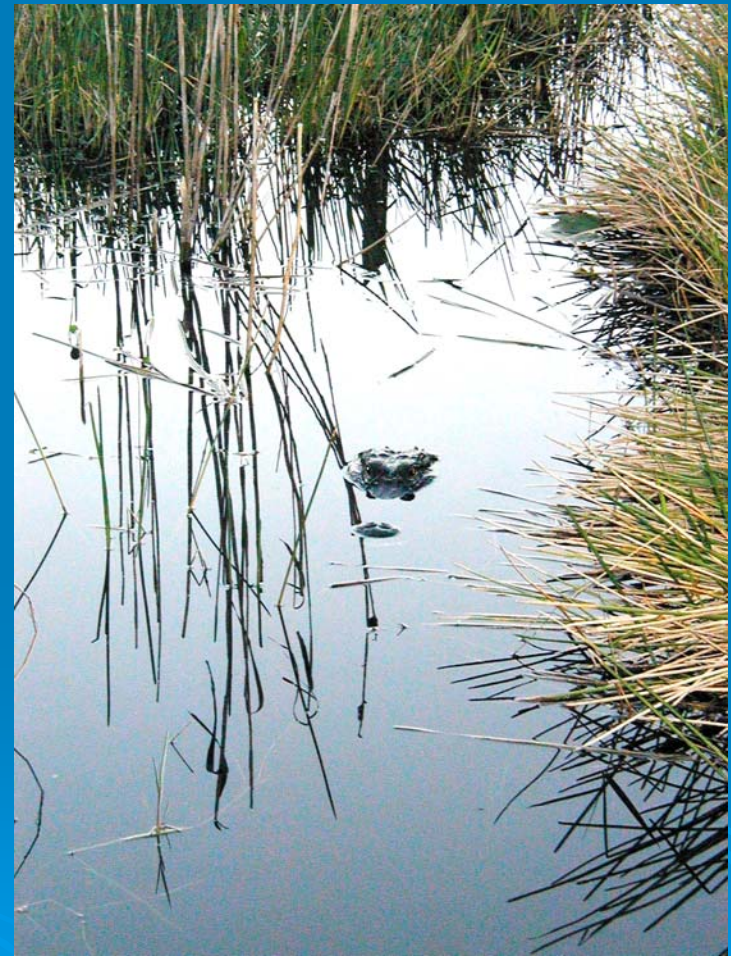
- Phase 1 - Short Term Refinements to WSE – Climate Forecasting Tools were Updated 2003
- Phase 2 – “Up to Level 1” - Pulse Release Temporary Deviation (2004 & 2005)
- Phase 3 – “Increased Flexibility” Temporary Deviation – Class Limit Adjustment, EA prepared and signed Jan 2005, awaiting approval from SAD

Phase 4 – Long- Term Refinements to WSE

- Initiate: Early 2005
- Implementation period - longer than one year
- Review Lake operations as CERP projects add storage
- Additional modeling
 - Changes to existing regulation schedule and decision indicators
- NEPA coordination required
 - Likely an EIS to rewrite schedule
 - ESA and FWS issues
 - Formal public review process

Thank You

I or Paul will be happy to provide updates to the TOC as the status changes.



1 Feb 2005, Royal Palm, Everglades