

**Quarterly Meeting of the
Technical Oversight Committee (TOC)
Thursday, January 29, 2009**

**South Florida Water Management District
3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406**

TOC Representatives:

Garth Redfield, TOC Chair, SFWMD
Nick Aumen, NPS/ENP
Sean Smith, USACE

Mike Waldon, USFWS/Refuge
Ken Weaver, FDEP (by phone)

Note: This meeting was filmed and copies are available on DVD. Contact Linda Davis in the SFWMD's Environmental Resource Assessment Department (561-682-6205). Handouts and presentations are also available on the TOC website (<http://www.sfwmd.gov/toc>).

1:00 p.m. **TOC Meeting called to order by TOC Chair**

Modifications to the agenda and announcement of documents available on the TOC website – Garth Redfield, SFWMD

The agenda (**Attachment 1**) was modified to allow presentation of monitoring changes for TOC review and approval (Agenda Item 4) prior to the water quality resampling guidelines (Agenda Item 3).

1:05 p.m. **Agenda Item #1A. Approval of TOC meeting notes from May 20, 2008 meeting** – Garth Redfield, SFWMD.

The minutes from the May 20, 2008 meeting (**Attachment 2**) have been posted on the TOC website and no comments were received prior to the January 29 meeting. Minutes from the May 20 meeting were approved.

- **Action Item #1:** Garth Redfield will post the final minutes from the May 20, 2008 quarterly TOC meeting on the TOC website in February 2009.
- **Action Item #2:** Garth Redfield will post the draft minutes from the January 29, 2009 quarterly TOC meeting on the TOC website by the end of February 2009.
- **Action Item #3:** TOC representatives will review and approve the January 29, 2009 meeting minutes electronically by the March 24, 2009 quarterly meeting.

1:10 p.m. **Agenda Item #1B. Review of action items listed on the May 20, 2008 TOC draft meeting notes** – Garth Redfield, SFWMD

Nick Aumen identified Phos-Chek as the fire retardant used in Everglades National Park. The material is composed of 80 percent water and 14 percent fertilizer salts (most likely including phosphorus).

Garth Redfield has received no recent comments on the resampling documents posted on the TOC website.

Mike Waldon is working on examining the October excursion.

Public notices for scheduled and cancelled meetings were posted.

Planned TOC meeting dates for 2009 are March 24, June 30, September 15, and December 15 (**Agenda Item #7**).

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1:20 p.m. **Agenda Item #2. Presentation of the Settlement Agreement Report** – Pamela Lehr, SFWMD

Pam Lehr presented the Third Quarter 2008 Settlement Agreement report. Copies of the report (**Attachment 3**) and presentation (**Attachment 4**) were distributed.

The TOC discussion focused on the September 3, 2008 data for Shark River Slough and TP detected in a field-cleaned equipment blank (FCEB).

- ➔ **Action Item #4:** Garth Redfield will discuss making communication regarding data questions more efficient for Department of Interior and SFWMD technical experts.
- ➔ **Action Item #5:** Gary Goforth and Bill Walker will discuss what can be studied to better understand why TP concentrations have not been reduced in Shark River Slough.

Questions were also asked about the connectivity of cells around the C-111 Project facilities. There are uncertainties about which cells are connected and whether the current monitoring is tracking all of the water that may be entering the ENP.

- ➔ **Action Item #6:** Nick Aumen will organize a field trip for interested parties to examine which parts of C-111 are connected.

In addition, a question was raised concerning small differences between TP measurements by the District and FDEP. The District offered to have Dave Struve make a presentation, but TOC members declined.

Mike Waldon would like to look at data for October and November for the Refuge, when data indicate an excursion or near-excursion. A possible agenda item for a later meeting is a study of patterns of other analytes in the Refuge and how they relate to TP concentrations.

2:50 p.m. Break

3:00 p.m. **Agenda Item #4. Monitoring Changes for TOC Review and Approval** – Peter Rawlik, SFWMD

Peter Rawlik made a presentation regarding proposed monitoring changes at several stations. Copies of the presentation (**Attachment 5**) were distributed. The first change is one that has already occurred due to outside forces. Samples from TAMBR105 that were collected by Miami-Dade DERM are now collected by Big Cypress National Preserve. Laboratory analysis is still done by SFWMD.

S38D is a complicated station. It is really NSID1 and is sampled at the outlet when there is flow, which is seldom. The desire is to move the sampling to the NSID1 pesticide sampling location and collect samples biweekly if there is flow. With this change, contractors who visit this station biweekly for autosampler maintenance can collect the sample when flow is occurring. The change was **approved** by the TOC.

The District proposes changes to the parameters measured for S5A and S38B. These are the only two sites where Cd, Cu, Zn, color, NO₂ and hardness are monitored for the Settlement Agreement. The change was **conditionally approved**. Copper and hardness will be kept for S5A and Peter will bring heavy metals data for S38B. If the TOC sees no problems with the S38B data, the parameters may be dropped.

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→ **Action Item #7:** Peter Rawlik will present heavy metals data for S38B to the TOC.

Site CA215 is close to another sampling site (U3) and is a candidate for elimination. The differences between the two sites may be due to differences in methods between the two stations. The combination of CA215 and U3 was **approved** by the TOC.

→ **Action Item #8:** Peter Rawlik will include a view of the big picture of other requested changes to show the locations of all stations involved in a future presentation to TOC.

The District would like to change sampling in WCA-2A (18 sites) and WCA-3A (24 sites) from biweekly to monthly sampling. Previous data suggests that there would be no loss from going to a monthly schedule. This would save \$40,000 to \$50,000 a year and reduce risk by reducing helicopter use. The TOC **approved** this change.

4:05 p.m. **Agenda Item #3. Water Quality Resampling Guidelines; Review and Approval – Peter Rawlik, SFWMD**

Peter Rawlik made a presentation (**Attachment 6**) to clarify when sites should be resampled in response to comments from previous meetings. Resampling is a rare occurrence, but specific guidance is needed for sampling teams. TOC discussion led to a request that the entire suite of samples and analysis be performed when resampling from structures. The TOC **approved** the resampling guidelines.

4:30 p.m. **Agenda Item #5A. Update on STAs and Related Projects.** Tracey Piccone and Joe Albers (in the place of Jeff Kivett), SFWMD

Tracey Piccone and Joe Albers presented an update on the STAs and related projects. Copies of their presentations (**Attachments 7 and 8**) were distributed. Included in the presentations was an announcement for the upcoming sixth annual public meeting for the Long-Term Plan.

4:45 p.m. **Agenda Item #5B. Update on Refuge Monitoring and Modeling.** Mike Waldon and Matt Harwell, USFWS

Mike Waldon gave a summary to update the status of modeling efforts being pursued by the USFWS. Two models are being produced: simple and complex. The simple Refuge screening model (SRSM) is close to being ready for release. The complex model is also close to release; it will model stage and flow using DMSTA kinetics.

Matt Harwell summarized monitoring in the Refuge. First, second and third quarters are being updated and the fourth quarter should be available soon. The monthly results were presented to the GEER conference.

4:55 p.m. **Agenda Item #6. Public Comment**

Gene Duncan of the Miccosukee Tribe announced the restoration of 9,000 acres with a Memorandum of Agreement with the District. The design is 30 percent complete and construction is planned to be complete by August. He thanked the agencies for their help in returning this land to the Everglades.

No further public comments

5:00 p.m. **Meeting adjourned**