

**FINAL
MEETING SUMMARY
Technical Oversight Committee (TOC)
Regular Quarterly Meeting
South Florida Water Management District
3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406
Tuesday, August 12, 2003**

Attendees:

Garth Redfield, TOC Chair and Agency Rep., SFWMD
Nick Aumen, TOC Agency Rep., NPS/ENP
Bill Baxter, TOC Agency Rep., USACE
Frank Nearhoof TOC Agency Rep., FDEP
Mike Waldon, TOC Agency Rep., USFWS

Tim Bechtel (SFWMD)
Peter Besrutschko (COE)
Ron Bearzotti (SFWMD)
Kirk Burns (SFWMD)
Neil Larson (SFWMD)
Bahram Charkhian (SFWMD)
Linda Davis (SFWMD)
Charles A. DeMonaco (FDEP)
Naomi Duerr (SFWMD)
Rebecca Elliott (FDACS)
James Erskine (Miccosukee Tribe)
Tony Federico (MFL)
Roslynn Ferguson (Seminole Tribe)
Gary Goforth (SFWMD)

Matt Harwell (USFWS)
Delia Ivanoff (SFWMD)
Bob Kadlec (DOI)
Thomas Kosier (SFWMD)
Paul McGinnes (SFWMD)
Philip Mancusi-Ungaro, USEPA/DOI
Juan Manzano (SFWMD)
Loren M. Mason (USACE -SAJ)
Damon Meiers (SFWMD)
Jorette Lorion-Rice (Miccosukee Tribe)
Sharon Trost (SFWMD)
Bill Walker (DOI)
Jeff Ward (SCGC)
Mike Zimmerman (NPS/ENP)

Introductory Comments: Additions or modifications to the agenda, by Garth Redfield (TOC Chair), SFWMD. Additions or modifications to the agenda were requested by Garth Redfield, Chair, Chief Environmental Scientist, South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD). He called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. and announced that it is a quarterly TOC meeting on water quality and related topics. No changes were requested to the agenda in **Attachment 1**. Introductions were made by all attendees.

1. Approval of TOC minutes from June 3 and July 24, 2003 TOC meetings. Garth Redfield, SFWMD.

1a. Discussion of Minutes. Dr. Redfield reported that representatives on the TOC had not had time to fully review the Minutes of June 3 and July 24, and approval would be deferred. The TOC members will provide their comments and/or revisions for both sets of Minutes within 10 days (due date is August 22, 2003) to Dr. Redfield via e-mail and then the Minutes will be finalized and approved.

He indicated that in the future, Minutes will only be a summary of topics and a list of major conclusions and action items. The Chair suggested that there is a videotape made of all TOC meetings and that is the *verbatim* record of the meeting available to anyone upon request.

A representative of the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians requested that their comments be included in the Minutes. It was agreed that representatives of the Miccosukee Tribe would forward their comments on the Minutes to Nick Aumen, National Park Service Representative, and those comments will be forwarded to the Chair to be included in the Minutes, if appropriate.

2. Water Quality Conditions Report to the TOC and Quality Assessment Report for Water Quality Monitoring, by Tim Bechtel, Nenad Iricanin and Juan Manzano, SFWMD.

2a. Water Quality Conditions. Dr. Bechtel, Sr. Supervising Environmental Scientist, SFWMD, presented the Settlement Agreement Report to be reviewed today with information on water quality conditions from January through March 2003. His slides mirrored the figures and tables in the Report provided as **Attachment 2**.

Table 1. The Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge Total Phosphorus Compliance Tracking

Discussion: There were several questions asked on the database, DB Hydro, and inclusion of the field notes. The total water depth was requested to be recorded for all sites. It was requested that SFWMD routinely provide field notes of the Refuge. Naomi Duerr, Department Director, Environmental Monitoring and Assessment, SFWMD, will have this material made available and report back to the TOC Committee.

Table 2 and Figure 3. The Shark River Slough Total Phosphorus Concentration Compliance Tracking

Discussion: There was a question and answer session on the specifics of data in the chart and word-smithing in the Report. TP values met the Interim Limit for September 2002 and for the six months since that date, but were within less than one microgram of the limit for these dates.

Table 3 and Figure 7. Taylor Slough Total Phosphorus Flow-weighted mean concentrations (fwmc) in inflows to Everglades National Park through Taylor Slough and the Coastal Basins.

The 12 month moving average fwmc at the end of each water year compared to the 11 ppb limit were shown. The daily flows into Everglades National Park and the relationship between daily flows at structures S33D, S174, S175, S332 and S18C were presented.

Discussion: Concerning flows, Patricia Strayer, Department Director, North/South District Restoration, Southern District Restoration, SFWMD, provided information on what the District is currently using regarding water quality sampling on inflows into the Park. An agenda item will be scheduled for the next TOC Meeting to discuss the topic of water quality sampling in the C-111 area. This will be a joint agenda item with several groups participating.

2b. Quality Assessment Report for Water Quality Monitoring. Juan Manzano, Sr. Environmental Scientist, Water Quality Analysis Division, Environmental Monitoring and Assessment, SFWMD, reported on the quality assurance data. His report is in **Attachment 3** and covers samples collected during the January to March period. Split samples from the Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow – FDEP vs. SFWMD were discussed. These data were

provided across three concentration ranges. The FDEP Round Robin results were also presented.

Discussion: Topics included input on “practicable difference” considering the visible laboratory error at low phosphorus levels, Round Robin #13 database results, modifiers in the table, FDEP results versus the SFWMD results, and the difference in results in being higher or lower than FDEP. The process of the data collection and associated errors that can occur were mentioned.

Recommendation: A summary of split sampling over a longer period of time is appropriate. The subject of error and consistency in phosphorus measurement is very significant. Additional analyses by District staff will be presented in the future.

3. STA 1E Permit Issues and COE/District Plans for Action. Tom Kosier, Chief Environmental Scientist, Environmental Operations, SFWMD.

Presentation: Dr. Kosier (SFWMD) brought the group up to date on current EFA/NPDES Permit Application to the State. His PowerPoint slides are in **Attachment 4**.

On STA 1 East, the deadline dates and a distribution list of tasks and responsibilities for the SFWMD were provided. A chart showing seven (7) responsibilities of the Corps’ was presented.

Discussion. A submerged aquatic vegetation plan was discussed.

The CORPs authority to construct Stormwater Treatment Areas and the timeframe when the STA will be turned over to the District were discussed. There were no provisions in the PCA for dealing with the turnover of STAs and that is being discussed at this time between the parties. There was discussion on modeling results that address potential limitations of L-40 canal to accept STA-1E discharges and associated effects in the Refuge interior.

The Corps’ submission of DMSTA model simulation results for STA1-E and “other” predictive water quality simulation results were discussed by several parties. At the proposed Working Group meeting these issues will also be discussed and issues clarified.

Recommendation: A staff person from the Corps will come to the TOC meeting and provide information modeling results in the STA-1 East. Information on the Corps modeling results will be posted on the web.

A Working Group with the Corps, DEP, and other groups will meet as soon as possible and report back to the TOC committee on the permit issues. The person taking the lead on this working group will be Sharon Trost, Deputy Department Director, Operations Control, SFWMD. Loren Mason (USACE) and Frank Nearhoof (FDEP) will represent their agencies on the working group.

Recess for Lunch at 12:25 p.m. Reconvene at 1:15 p.m.

4. Update on STA-1E Project with Additional Information on PSTA Demonstration Project and Planning for Field Scale PSTA Project

STA-1E Update from the USACOE.

Loren Mason (U. S. Army Corps of Engineers – USACE) presented PSTA information through a set of slides (**Attachment 5**). Dr. Jones is continuing to run his field tests and the data have not been reviewed. Peter Besrutschko of the Corps of Engineers answered the group's questions and he addressed requirements for the field scale PSTA project and the results Dr. Jones has provided to date.

Discussion: The Corps noted that a draft document is now available regarding PSTA work. The document will be given to the Chair and it will be posted to the TOC website. A "logic report" is being prepared by the Corps (internal technical report) and that will be brought to the TOC for review; and then the report will be sent to Corps Headquarters. The District already has a conceptual plan for the PSTA in STA 3/4 and asked for the comments by the Corps. The Corps was urged to join in on the planning process for the PSTAs when there is so much technical expertise available.

Tracer studies are not under consideration by the Corps at this time, but it was suggested that it would be important to do tracer studies. The Corps noted that additional studies could delay progress of the pilot studies.

Recommendation: Nick Aumen, (NPS) was asked to send an e-mail message to Loren Mason (USACOE) and ask that the Tracer Studies be done as part of the STA1 East. PSTA . Mr. Mason will send to Dr. Ron Jones to see if this is feasible.

- **Motion** was made by Mike Waldon, seconded by Nick Aumen, to recommend to the Corps that *Tracer Studies* be done as part of the STA 1 East PSTA study. Vote called and passed by 4 or 5 TOC Representatives. Loren Mason of the CORPS abstained from the vote.

5. Update on Letter to Principals on Exceedance of Interim Limits in the Refuge and Recommendations from TOC to the Principals.

Garth Redfield reviewed the Exceedance Letter (Letter) regarding and recommendations to Principals for follow-up actions. The Letter (**Attachment 6**) is posted on the TOC website and attendees were urged to print the letter and discuss it with their Principals.

Authority for the STA-1E Project: Issues related to STA-1E authority were explained by Terrance "Rock" Salt, Sr. Everglades Policy Advisor, Interior Secretary, USA. Corps representatives provided input to the discussion.

Col. Salt noted a sample list of topics for information that could be sent to the Principals.

1. Authority.
2. STA 1-East RAI
3. Completion of the Permit Application.
4. Schedule – Timetable.
5. Interagency Cooperative Agreements on the PSTA.

Sharon Trost will take the lead on the working group for STA 1-East to address these issues. Col. Rock Salt will take the lead on getting the principals together for a meeting and will handle administrative scheduling. Joan Lawrence is the contact person at DOI.

6. Response to Public Comments on the Conceptual Plan for Achieving Long-Term Water Quality Goals

Presentation: Gary Goforth, Chief Consulting Engineer, Water Resource Management, SFWMD provided the same presentation that was given to the Water Resources Advisory Commission (WRAC) on August 11, 2003 concerned comments on the Long-Term Plan. His Power Point slides are in **Attachment 7**.

There will be an STA Design Review meeting on September 25, 2003 and Dr. Goforth asked everyone to mark their calendars and attend this important meeting. He asked for comments from the TOC on or before September 20, 2003. He reviewed recommendations by the public on the Plan and associated revisions.

Discussion: There was some discussion on what, if any, revisions the TOC will be sending on the Conceptual Plan. It was suggested that twice a year an update be given to the TOC. The public needs to understand that the Plan is a document that will change.

7. Implementation of S5 Auto Sampling System and Scope of Work for Comparative Study of Sampling Efficiency

Presentation. Bahram Charkhian, Director, Water Quality Monitoring, Water Quality Management Division, SFWMD provided the Statement of Work on the S5 auto sampling system and its associated monitoring study (**Attachment 8**). He asked for the TOC and stakeholders to review and provide comments to him or the Chair via e-mail. An update of those comments will be discussed at the next meeting.

Recommendation: Agencies were asked to provide input on this important contract.

8. Additional Public Comments and Date for Next TOC meeting 10/30/03.

The Chairman opened the meeting to public comment and the representative for the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians spoke on the technical aspects of the Long-Term Plan.

A list of Action Items (**Attachment 9**) is attached to these Minutes.

Adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Action Items:

1. As TOC Chair, I request agency input on a worthwhile recommendation made by the Miccosukee Tribe and DOI at the July TOC meeting. They recommended that TOC develop working definitions of "error and extraordinary natural phenomenon." These concepts are used in the Settlement Agreement as part of the compliance review process, but are not defined in the Agreement. Clarification of these terms will greatly facilitate TOC interpretation of any future exceedances of SA limits or levels.

As a first step in arriving at definitions, I request that each signatory agency provide their definition of both terms with a brief justification (ca. 1 page) for the next TOC meeting (10/30/03). For consideration of 'error', it will be important to provide input on major types of error and their relevance to compliance interpretation. Short formal presentations from each agency would be welcome; let me know about any agenda items.

2. The District's Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Department will work with the Refuge to find ways to publish field notes on Refuge sampling and provide additional information on sampling circumstances, particularly water depth and reasons for missing samples.

3. DOI and the District will clarify the values used to arrive at total flow for Shark River Slough. Tim Bechtel will provide an update as part of his report to the TOC at the October 30 meeting.

4. The District's Southern Ecosystem Restoration and Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Departments will work with the COE to provide TOC with a status report on progress to quantify flow and concentrations for inputs to the Park from the C-111 project area.

5. The District and DEP will compile all split sample TP data and post them on the TOC site. Additional analyses of these data will be included in the Quality Assessment Report at the October TOC meeting.

6. The Corps will provide a copy of the STA-1E PSTA report to the District for posting on the TOC web site as soon as it is available. Please note that the important review of information on PSTA by Kadlec and Walker is now posted on the TOC web site and will be very helpful in planning for future scale up studies of PSTA in STA-1E and STA 3/4.

7. The Corps will provide an update on the TOC recommendation to use conservative tracers to track phosphorus sources and sinks within the PSTA test channels. Such information is vital for predicting long-term performance of PSTAs.

8. Please provide any suggested changes to the draft minutes from the June and July meetings by August 22, 2003.