

# SUMMARY OF TECHNICAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING

January 19, 1999

South Florida Water Management District Headquarters

## TOC Members Present:

Garth Redfield (SFWMD) Chair  
Bob Barron (COE) via telephone  
Laura Brandt (USFWS)  
Mike Zimmerman (ENP)

## Others Present:

Tim Bechtel (SFWMD)  
Barbara DeMeo (Seminole Tribe of Florida)  
Tony Federico (MacVicar, Federico and Lamb, Inc.)  
Larry Fink (SFWMD)  
Gary Goforth (SFWMD)  
Shawn Komlos (NAS)  
Sherry Scott (SFWMD)  
Nancy Urban (SFWMD)  
Bill Walker

Garth Redfield called the meeting to order at 1:00p.m. Nancy Urban took notes.

Garth asked the group, "What is the role of the TOC?" He wants the committee to consider its role for discussion at the next meeting. Mike Zimmerman said he would look for a copy of the operational charter of the TOC.

### **1. Decision to Discontinue Monitoring at Stations L40-1 and L40-2**

Sherry Scott summarized the reasons to request discontinuing water quality monitoring at stations L40-1 and L40-2. Bob Barron said he had no objection to dropping the stations as long as they are not involved in a DEP permit. Sherry indicated they are not involved in a DEP permit. The TOC approved discontinuation of the monitoring.

Bob Barron asked if flows were being measured at the stations. Bill Walker asked about the pump schedule and flow measurements. Sherry said she would look into it.

The issue of triplicate sampling in the Refuge was brought up. Bill Walker stated that he has the District's data and is waiting for FIU data to do a comparison. Bill asked how replicates from QA should be handled. Mike Zimmerman will work with Bill Walker on this issue and will talk to Ron Jones about getting the data from FIU analyses.

### **2. STA 1 West Interim Operations – Follow-up on Issues from December Meeting**

Gary Goforth presented a briefing paper to the committee which summarized STA 1 West Interim Operations. He stated that once the permit is received for STA-1W, discharging would start as soon as 4 weeks of net improvement in phosphorus levels is

documented. Gary said it makes sense to send as much water to 1W as possible in an effort to reduce the overall loading to the Refuge. The stabilization period for STA 1W will end only when STA 1E is operational.

Bill Walker pointed out that Table 3 does not capture the flow variability aspect. After discussion it was agreed that Tables 3 and 4 are reasonable for comparing among the "Bypass" and "Treat all" options. Bob Barron (commenting on page 6) said that ENR performance as a function of depth was still a matter of concern, as is the biological integrity of the system when stressed by high water levels. Bill Walker said that higher water levels settling rates are higher and that there is a positive correlation between load and settling rate.

Ed Brown (ACOE) expressed concern about the ENR settling rates and said 18.5 seemed to be high. Brown indicated that high rates might incline people to want smaller areas be designed. For the purposes of this briefing paper, a range of settling rates were used to demonstrate the sensitivity of phosphorus removal to the settling rate coefficient. Table 3 presented results of calculations that used 10.2 m/yr while Table 4 used 18.5 m/yr, which is the 4-yr cumulative value observed in the ENR project. Garth Redfield said that the STAs are primarily microbial systems and the effluent is fairly resilient to changes in hydraulic loading.

Bill Walker expressed concern that there was no internal monitoring of STA 1W. There is no information on inter-cell transfer and we need to know the performance of individual cells. Tim Bechtel said the permit requires only inflow and outflow monitoring. Barbara DeMeo said she has filed a request for internal monitoring of STA 6. Tony Federico asked if there has been any monitoring of ENR that is not cost-effective?

Bill Walker said he will post information on cell mass balances on the ENR project on his website (<http://www2.shore.net/~wwwalker/>).

### **3. Presentation of ENR Data and Function during High Water Levels.**

(covered under item 2)

### **4. Review of STA 6 Phosphorus Release**

Tim Bechtel gave a brief presentation on what happened to STA-6 after the dry-out last summer when there was no discharge from April 10, 1998 to July 15, 1998. Included in his presentation were handouts on TP load, flow and TP concentration at G600 and G606. Tim indicated that loads are driven primarily by hydrology. The data document no significant P load contributed to the ecosystem as a function of STA 6 dryout.

### **5. Review of STA 6 Mercury Release**

Larry Fink presented a summary on mercury releases from STA 6. He stated that outflow (G607) surface water unfiltered THg and MeHg exceeded inflow (G600) on occasion. Measurements for Hg in fish samples followed the same pattern. Larry noted

that G607 was sampled by mistake instead of G606. This was due to errors made by the staff taking the samples. Larry suspects that staff was collecting actual canal water and not STA 6 discharge. TOC will get an update on mercury in STA 6 after additional data is available.

Larry will track down information about Susan Gray's sampling.

Technical Publication WRE #362, "Hydrologic Performance of an Everglades Stormwater Treatment Area - STA6: A Constructed Wetland", will be distributed to TOC members.

#### **6. Other Business**

Garth Redfield asked the TOC to critique the QC Report and to send their comments to Paul McGinnes at [pmcginn@sfwmd.gov](mailto:pmcginn@sfwmd.gov).

#### **7. Future Agenda Items**

- What is the charge of the TOC? Should TOC meet with ETAC? - discussion to be led by Garth Redfield
- Water quality analysis of triplicate samples in the interior of the Refuge - Bill Walker
- Quality Control Report - July 1997 - June 1998 - Paul McGinnes
- Discussion of third quarter report on water quality
- Update on Consolidated Everglades Report - Garth Redfield
- Internal Sampling of ENR and other STAs

**8. Date for next TOC meeting is March 16, 1999, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. at SFWMD Headquarters, B-1 Conference Room 2A West**