

SUMMARY OF TECHNICAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING

November 12, 1998

South Florida Water Management District Headquarters

TOC Members Present:

Garth Redfield (SFWMD) Chair
Bob Barron (COE)
Dave Ferrell (USFWS)
Mike Zimmerman (ENP)

Others Present:

Tim Bechtel (SFWMD)
Ron Bearzotti (SFWMD)
Maxine Cheesman (SFWMD)
Barbara DeMeo (Seminole Tribe of Florida)
Tony Federico (MacVicar, Federico and Lamb, Inc.)
Gary Goforth (SFWMD)
Steve Hill (SFWMD)
Shawn Komlos (NAS)
Cheol Mo (SFWMD)
Sherry Scott (SFWMD)
Craig Tepper (Seminole Tribe of Florida)
Nancy Urban (SFWMD)
Steve Walker

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

1. August meeting summary.

Mike Zimmerman said he was not clear on some aspects of items 4 and 6 from the draft summary of the August meeting and asked for changes if anyone had any. The subject of STA-6 dry out (#4) and its effect on TP export will be covered at the next TOC meeting, along with a discussion of mercury outflow concentrations and mercury retention by STA-6. Unless specific comments are received by Mike prior to the next TOC meeting, the minutes will be considered final.

2. Changes to water quality monitoring program at ACME sites.

Maxine Cheesman had three specific items up for discussion concerning monitoring:

a) Requested permission to discontinue monitoring stations L40-1 and L40-2 and continue at stations ACME1Ds and G94D. Sherry Scott and Steve Hill presented data and background information in support of this request. The period of record for sampling at L40-1 and L40-2 is from 78-80 and 89 – present. Sampling has occurred at ACME1Ds and G94D since February 1997. Statistical comparison of data using 14 parameters indicate no significant difference between results for the stations. Photographs of site locations and their proximity to each other and statistical results

were presented. Mike Zimmerman requested tabling the decision to drop the two stations until the next meeting. Bob Barron had no objection to the request based on the presentation but also requested to hold the decision until the next meeting so his staff could review the data.

b) Requested permission to stop triplicate sampling at 14 stations in the interior of the Loxahatchee refuge. (These are non-mandated.) Cheesman asked if Bill Walker could review the data. Zimmerman said he will have Bill Walker review the data and present it at the next meeting. Cheesman said that in the interim, and in agreement with Bill Walker, she will sample in triplicate if stages are low and will not sample in triplicate if stages are not.

c) Requests for quarterly sampling for trace metals and Hg for CAMB. Maxine Cheesman also gave a "heads-up" that there will be changes in the sampling technique for trace metals and Hg. Changes in analytical technique are allowing lower detection levels for Hg levels and clean hands/dirty hands sampling technique is being implemented. Maxine will present the details of sampling changes at a future TOC meeting, probably after February.

3. Discussion of pollution prevention plan for STA 1 West.

Gary Goforth led a discussion on water sources and flow, trade-offs between the Refuge and estuaries and the capacity of the C-51.

Mike Zimmerman asked: What are the physical limitations of the C-51? If STA 1W is to capacity, where does the water go? To the refuge?

Goforth described the conceptual design of STA 1W and STA 1E. 31,000 AF/yr from the S5 Basin will be diverted to STA 1E when it is on line. In the interim:

<u>Sources</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>To</u>
S-5A	31,000	STA 1E
C-51W	11,500	STA 1W
<u>L-8</u>	<u>50,700</u>	<u>WPB Catchment to Lox River</u>
Interim NET	18,500	
	9,200	

Scenarios for treating water under high flow conditions:

1. Treat all at 65 ppb by running the STA at deep water levels
2. Treat 50 ppb and bypass untreated water at 150ppb

Bypass means route to the Refuge without STA treatment.

Goforth said there has been no guidance from the Technical Advisory Group on the interim period (= 3 year period between establishment of STA 1W and establishment of STA 1E).

Dave Ferrell asked if there is going to be a problem if water in STA 1W is held high during the interim period. Will there be biological damage to the system, thus decreasing the function? (He also stated that the Refuge wants no more loads.)

Gary Goforth responded that there is no indication from the ENR that this would happen.

In reference to the question posed by Ferrell, Bob Baron asked what the regulation schedule on protecting plants in STA 1W? Baron also expressed concern that damage may be done to STA 1W by overloading it and the biological constraints of the system.

Gary Goforth will provide load calculations on two scenarios to the Refuge to be distributed.

Garth Redfield said that a review of the ENR data at high water levels and high water management of STAs and their operation as they apply to STA 1W will be presented at the next meeting by Mike Chimney or another staff member associated with the ENR project.

Goforth said the status of the STA 1W permit is unknown and they are waiting for comments from the EPA.

4. Review of STA 6 reference the recent dry out and recovery.

This item will be discussed at the next meeting. Although the TP load associated with the dry out appears to have been very small, District staff will present an analysis of the load.

5. Discussion of "Total Phosphorus Load Calculations for Sites Stipulated in the SFWMD/Seminole Tribe Agreement"

This report provides a data summary for the TP loads stipulated in an agreement with the Seminole Indian Tribe of Florida. Tim Bechtel provided a summary of the report to everyone present at the meeting. The purpose of the report is to determine the source and fate of TP relative to the Seminole lands. The correlation between grab and auto samplers was discussed and Barbara DeMeo made the point that the two southern Seminole sites do not appear to be well correlated. She also indicated that the reason may be that the USGS calculates the south water flows while the District calculates the north flows. These two approaches may not be identical. Eventually these data will be used to determine a long-term mass budget for TP and give some indication of sources and sinks of phosphorus. The Tribe is also concerned that laboratory analyses are being conducted by three different labs (the District, FIU and USGS) and the flows are being calculated by two different agencies to arrive at this mass budget.

6. Review of the Monthly Monitoring Program

Tim Bechtel gave a brief summary on the "Water Quality Conditions Quarterly Report – October 1998," and the second quarterly report to the TOC. These reports were available as handouts. Maxine said that the QA/QC report that had been provided to the TOC in support of these reports is being revised and shortened to a 1 to 2 page summary. TOC members agreed that a brief QA summary would be sufficient.

7. Update on recent ruling on the Everglades Forever Act.

Perla Sole-Calas from the Office of Counsel explained the administrative process and circuit court process in reference to the Davis opinion. The Davis opinion was available as a handout.

8. Future Agenda Items

- Decision to discontinue monitoring at stations L40-1 and L40-2,
- Presentation by Bill Walker on water quality analysis of CAMB samples in the interior of the Refuge and decision to stop triplicate sampling,
- Presentation of data and information concerning the effects of high water levels on STA,
- Discussion of TP and mercury retention by STA-6 and its dry out
- QA/QC reporting format, and
- Mike Zimmerman asked about monitoring for two new structures providing water to the Park.

9. Date for next TOC meeting is January 19, 1999, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. at SFWMD Headquarters, B-1 Conference Room 2A West