

**Notes from the Quarterly Meeting of the
Everglades Technical Oversight Committee (TOC)**

December 18, 2012

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

TOC Representatives:

Garth Redfield, TOC Chair, SFWMD
Stacey Feken, FDEP
Sean Smith, USACE (by phone)

Melissa Martin, Refuge
Nick Aumen, NPS/ENP
John Barkett, Special Master (by phone)

Note: This meeting was recorded by a court reporter and copies are available for purchase; for more information, contact Florida Court Reporting (561-689-0999). Handouts and presentations are also available on the TOC website (www.sfwmd.gov/toc). A digital video recording of the meeting is available from <http://sfwmd.iqm2.com/Citizens/Media.aspx>.

10:00 a.m. **Meeting Called to Order by TOC Chair**

Agenda Item 1. TOC Opening Business – Garth Redfield, SFWMD

Agenda Item 1A. Welcome and Identification of Attendees on the Phone

Garth Redfield welcomed attendees and asked those on the phone to introduce themselves.

Agenda Item 1B. Agenda Modifications and Announcement of Documents Available on the TOC Website

Garth Redfield asked if any changes to the agenda (**Document 1**) were required. None were requested.

Agenda Item 1C. Approval of August 21, 2012, Draft Meeting Notes and Review of Action Items

Garth Redfield asked if the TOC members had any changes to the notes from the previous TOC meeting (**Document 2**). None were requested.

Associated online documents

1. [Agenda for December 18, 2012, TOC Meeting](#)
2. [TOC Meeting Notes from August 21, 2012](#)

10:05 a.m. **Agenda Item 2. Impact of Tropical Storm Isaac on Stormwater Treatment Areas** – Larry Gerry and Dave Unsell, SFWMD

Larry Gerry and Dave Unsell presented an overview of Tropical Storm Isaac and its effects on STA-1E, STA-1W, STA-2, and STA-3/4 (**Document 3**). Hydraulic loads, phosphorus loads, and water depths for each STA were shown. They also reviewed the hydraulic and phosphorus loads to the Refuge through structures G-300 and G-301 due to stormwater diversions. The STAs were highly effective in removing phosphorus, possibly because of STA management based on lessons learned from previous weather events and there was little wind damage associated with the storm. There were also questions on the affects of significant rain directly on the STAs versus flow into the areas through structures, where water quality samples are collected.

- **Action Item #1:** The SFWMD will post animations associated with the presentation on the TOC web site since they were not accessible by people who called into the meeting.
- **Action Item #2:** The SFWMD will examine ways to document and brief the TOC on flows and loads entering the Refuge after diversions from the STAs.

Associated online documents

3. [Impact of Tropical Storm Isaac on Stormwater Treatment Areas](#)
[also available: [Impact of Tropical Storm Isaac on Stormwater Treatment Areas \(with animated slides\)](#)]

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10:55 a.m. **Agenda Item 3. Impact of Tropical Storm Isaac and Resulting Phosphorus Impacts on the Northern Refuge Marsh** – Donatto Surratt, National Park Service

Donatto Surratt presented an analysis of the impacts of the STA diversions related to Tropical Storm Isaac on the northern parts of the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge (**Document 4**). The information presented included hydraulic and phosphorus loads to the Refuge due to the storm and estimated canal water intrusion based on conductivity measurements. Garth Redfield, SFWMD, stated that in addition to the conductivity estimated using the 350 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ isopleths, he would also like to see conductivity data by distance from the canal in future presentations to aid in interpreting penetration events.

- **Action Item #3:** The SFWMD will provide additional information about why flow through G-300 was so much greater than G-301. (Susan Sylvester, SFWMD, was able to respond to this action item later during the meeting and explained how canal hydraulics are very different for the two structures and are consistent with the flow differences observed.)

Associated online documents

4. [Tropical Storm Isaac and Resulting Phosphorus Impacts on the Northern Refuge Marsh](#)

11:25 a.m. **Agenda Item 4. Presentation of the Settlement Agreement Report** – Stuart VanHorn, SFWMD

Stuart Van Horn presented the Settlement Agreement Report for July–September 2012 (**Documents 5 and 6**). All presented results were in compliance and this report showed Taylor Slough and the Coastal Basins were in compliance for the federal water year that ended September 30, 2012. Flow data for Shark River Slough were not available, so compliance for this area could not be determined. The report will be revised and distributed after the data are available. Nick Aumen, NPS, requested that consistent methods be used when filling any data gaps needed to assess compliance. Shark River Slough total phosphorus concentrations will be discussed in detail at a future TOC meeting.

Associated online documents

5. [Settlement Agreement Report, July-September 2012](#)
6. [Settlement Agreement Report Presentation, July-September 2012](#)

11:45 a.m. **Agenda Item 5. Water Conservation Area 1 Annual Total Phosphorus Criteria Compliance** – Stacey Feken, FDEP

Stacey Feken presented the annual total phosphorus criteria compliance for Water Conservation Area 1 (WCA-1). Unimpacted areas passed and impacted areas failed each of the four parts of the rule. Dan Scheidt, USEPA, asked about how the concentrations at X1 and Z1 compare to recent years. Paul Julian, FDEP, responded that trend data are found in Chapter 3A of the South Florida Environmental Report (www.sfwmd.gov/sfer).

Associated online documents

7. [Water Conservation Area 1: Annual Total Phosphorus Criteria Compliance Assessment - WY2012](#)

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11:55 a.m. **Agenda Item 6. Water Quality Monitoring and the Settlement Agreement: December 2012** – Pete Rawlik, SFWMD

Pete Rawlik presented a series of requests for monitoring changes to improve sampling staff safety and account for changes to permits and discharge structures. Concerns were expressed over differences in results between autosamplers and grab samples. A possible option is to temporarily install an autosampler when events are expected to collect samples in case sampling staff cannot reach a site. Several TOC members also requested an overview of recently approved and requested changes to Settlement Agreement compliance sampling before deciding on the requests. As a result, the requested changes were tabled until after such a review can be performed by a working group. Garth Redfield, SFWMD, recommended that changes associated with research initiated under the Science Plan be kept separate from that associated with long-term STA monitoring.

- **Action Item #4:** Pete Rawlik, SFWMD, will provide the new STA Operational Monitoring Strategy document to Nick Aumen, NPS.
- **Action Item #5:** A TOC working group will be formed to analyze recent and proposed changes to the monitoring network related to the TOC's responsibilities. This work may include a technical analysis comparing data from grab samples, autosamples, and surrogate sites related to the changes requested for the new STA permit and operational monitoring program.

Associated online documents

[8. Water Quality Monitoring & The Settlement Agreement: December 2012](#)

1:00 p.m. **Agenda Item 7. Public Comment**

James Erskine, Miccosukee Tribe of Florida, would like the TOC to look at how diversion structures for all STAs (3, 4, and 5/6) are monitored.

Melodie Naja, Everglades Foundation, expressed her support for the working group to analyze changes to the monitoring network and corrected her earlier statement regarding monitoring at S5AW and S5AE.

1:10 p.m. **Agenda Item 8. TOC Closing Business**

TOC meeting dates

The next quarterly meetings will be held on **February 19, 2013**, and **May 14, 2013**.

Additional supporting documents available online:

[Refuge's Enhanced Water Quality Program Monthly Sampling, July-September 2012](#)

[Quality Assessment Report for Water Quality Monitoring, July-September 2012](#)