

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

October 21, 2014

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

TOC Representatives:

Juli LaRock, TOC Chair, SFWMD	Frank Powell, FDEP
John Barkett, Special Master (<i>by phone</i>)	Sean Smith, USACE
Melissa Martin, Refuge	Donatto Surratt, ENP

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 available on the TOC website (www.sfwmd.gov/toc). A video of the meeting is available online at <http://sfwmd.ig2.com/Citizens/Media.aspx>.*

10:00 a.m. 1. TOC Opening Business – Juli LaRock, SFWMD

1A. Welcome, Announcements, and Identification of Phone Participants

Juli LaRock called the meeting to order, welcomed attendees, and asked phone participants to introduce themselves. Juli reminded all meeting attendees about the new WebEx web meeting option and welcomed members of the public on the phone to comment after each agenda item without first filling out a public comment card.

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

Juli LaRock reviewed the agenda and the list of recently posted files available on the TOC website, noting that files associated with agenda item 2 were not available on the website but had been emailed to the group and would be posted to the site by the next day. Juli also called for any last-minute changes to the agenda. Agenda changes were not requested.

1C. Approval of Meeting Summary for July 29, 2014

Juli LaRock asked if the TOC members had any changes to the notes from the previous TOC meeting. Donatto Surratt proposed a slight change to the text associated with agenda item 9. The TOC approved making this change and finalizing the draft meeting summary.

→ **Action Item #1:** District staff will revise and finalize the draft meeting notes with the statement proposed by Donatto.

Associated online documents:

- [Agenda for October 21, 2014 meeting](#)
- [Draft Notes from July 29, 2014 meeting](#)

10:15 a.m. 3. Second Quarter 2014 Settlement Agreement Report – Stuart Van Horn, SFWMD

Stuart Van Horn presented results for the second quarter of 2014 (April–June), noting that the SRS results are not yet final because they are based on provisional data, and that the final results would be available in the next report (covering the third quarter of 2014 and

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annual compliance for SRS Water Year 2014) when the final QA'd flow data are available. Stuart explained that staff were unable to sample at Refuge monitoring sites LOX 3 and LOX 10 in April, at sites LOX 3, LOX 4, LOX 5, LOX 9, and LOX 10 from April through May, at sites LOX 3 through LOX 10 in June, and at sites LOX 3 and LOX 10 in July, because the water depth was less than 0.1 meters.

For the Refuge, all monthly geomean total phosphorus (TP) values for the quarter were below the long-term level. For SRS, using provisional data for the S-12 sites, all 12-month TP flow-weighted mean concentrations (FWMC) for the quarter were below the long-term limit and guidelines. For inflows to ENP through SRS, provisional data show a rising trend in TP FWMC during the quarter. These values were associated with relatively low flow events (approximately 50 cfs). TP values for Taylor Creek and Coastal Basins for the quarter were below the long-term limit and guidelines.

Associated online documents:

- [Settlement Agreement Report, Second Quarter 2014 \(April–June 2014\)](#)
- [Settlement Agreement Report, Second Quarter 2014 Presentation](#)
- [Quality Assessment Report for Water Quality Monitoring, Second Quarter 2014](#)

10:35 a.m. 2. USGS Approach for Handling Missing Data – Mark Dickman, USGS

Mark Dickman gave an overview of USGS sites in the Refuge and described the 15-minute continuous stage recorders that remotely transmit data every hour via GOES telemetry and how gaps due to telemetry issues are handled. Mark also discussed common problems encountered with the remote equipment, typical solutions, and possible solutions that could be used to safeguard against data gaps. Potential solutions include simply using the estimated data calculated by USGS's EDEN project using linear regression, installing backup sensors at the sites, replacing encoders with self-logging encoders, and loading EDEN data estimates into the NWIS database so that it is available to DBHYDRO.

Sean Smith asked how long it typically takes to fill a gap once it has been discovered and Mark explained that if it is due to an equipment problem it may take a few days (after a site visit by staff), and if it is due to GOES issues it may take up to several months.

Stuart Van Horn suggested that District and USGS staff determine which approach would be the most effective. The District would need to work through process issues to incorporate a selected option into its standard operating procedures (for QA of hydrologic data). Both agencies can work together on options and report at the next meeting with a proposal for how best to deal with the issue. Melissa Martin asked whether data were available at site 1-9 for October 22, 2103, and Stuart confirmed that the data did become available, but did not make much of a difference in the calculations.

→ **Action Item #2:** District and USGS staff will work together to determine the best approach to deal with data gaps and will report at the next TOC meeting with a recommendation.

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Associated online documents:

- [USGS Monitoring in WCA 1](#)

11:00 a.m. **4. S-5A Refurbishment Status** – Pete Rawlik, SFWMD

Pete Rawlik gave an update on the S-5A refurbishment status, noting that renovation began about 18 months ago. In another two to four weeks, after floor painting is completed, the autosampler will return to flow-proportional mode. Everything should be up and running by the next meeting.

11:05 a.m. **5. Update of the Appendix A Subteam** – Stuart Van Horn, SFWMD

Stuart Van Horn provided a brief update on the Appendix A subteam. There were two major meetings of the sub-team this year.

At the first major meeting, state parties presented an alternative methodology, which generated a lot of discussion. From that discussion, the federal parties provided feedback, including a number of good ideas and points. Since then the team has been considering the feedback and looking at all the details of working through the process. District modeling staff are also assisting with the process.

The second major meeting concerned S-356 and the upcoming incremental operations test. A proposed test methodology for tracking water quality during the incremental operations was presented at the sub-team meeting and to the PDT water quality sub-team. Many state staff are diligently working on this and another meeting is tentatively planned for December.

11:10 p.m. **6. Public Comment (as requested)**

There were no further requests for public comment.

11:10 p.m. **7. TOC Closing Business** – Juli LaRock, SFWMD

It was confirmed that no special meetings are needed for the rest of the year. The next two quarterly meetings were scheduled for February 4 and April 28, 2015.

Juli LaRock adjourned the meeting.