

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

May 23, 2017

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

TOC Representatives:

Julianne LaRock, TOC Chair, SFWMD	Frank Powell, FDEP
John Barkett, Special Master (<i>by phone</i>)	Lori Miller, Refuge
Daniel Crawford, USACE (<i>by phone</i>)	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** – Julianne LaRock, SFWMD

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

Julianne LaRock called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees. Phone participants introduced themselves.

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

Julianne LaRock reviewed the agenda and the list of files recently posted on the TOC website. There were no requests for changes to the agenda.

1C. Approval of Meeting Summary for January 31, 2017

There were no requests for changes, and the TOC approved finalizing the January 31, 2017, meeting summary.

Associated Online Documents:

- [Final Agenda for May 23, 2017](#)
- [Draft Meeting Summary for January 31, 2017](#)

10:10 a.m. **2. Update on Appendix A Sub-team** – Stuart Van Horn, SFWMD

Stuart Van Horn gave a brief update on the Appendix A sub-team. At the last sub-team meeting on April 6, 2017, the team discussed four topics:

(1) Uncertainties associated with different flow structures and index velocity meters: There was an agreement that the Federal participants would seek information from the USGS on uncertainties associated with the index velocity meters in the L-31 M Canal (this is an issue associated with the parsing of water at S-356), and that the District would compile information on uncertainties associated with the structures S-333, S-334, and S-356. Since the meeting, the District has already received preliminary USGS spreadsheets addressing the

flow equations associated with the index velocity meters. An initial draft for S-333, S-334, and S-356 has been produced by the District and is undergoing internal review.

(2) Alternate methods to address inclusion of S-356, S-355A, and S-355B: The sub-team decided to make a few tweaks to the calculations. Jonathan Madden developed a handout (provided at today's meeting) describing the alternative methods.

(3) Continue providing calculations using alternative methods while the S-356 issue is being worked on: Sub-team representative consulted their agencies' offices of counsel, who concurred that it is acceptable to continue providing results of calculations using the alternative methods during the time the S-356 issue is being resolved. Donatto Surratt noted that his agency's counsel agreed to this on the condition that the team would be continuously progressing toward one ultimate product.

(4) Potential impact of the Taylor Slough Headwaters Project on calculations of Taylor Slough and Coastal Basins: A request was made for a presentation on the project (provided at today's meeting as agenda item 3), and a desire was expressed for future evaluations of upstream and downstream locations—it was discussed that there would be potentially new structure or inflow locations on the boundary of the Park that would need to be evaluated and monitored. It was proposed that this be done through the sub-team process and then presented to the TOC for discussion.

10:20 a.m. **3. Taylor Slough Headwaters Project** – Stuart Van Horn, SFWMD

Stuart Van Horn gave an overview of the Taylor Slough Headwaters Project, described its key features, gave the status of features recently completed or under construction, and discussed monitoring considerations (see presentation for details). The overall purpose of the project is to move more water south to Florida Bay.

Dan Crawford noted that because the features of this project will essentially change the system hydrology, assumptions related to the prior analysis that concluded that S-332D was an appropriate replacement for the old monitoring at Taylor Slough may have changed. Therefore, Dan feels it is appropriate that the Appendix A sub-team and the TOC continue to monitor the two altered inflow locations to make sure the prior conclusions are still accurate and proposed having follow-up conversation about how to track these monitoring points and to determine the appropriate forum for that.

Dan Crawford noted that S-328 completion is contingent on three plugs in the L-31W canal being completed, and Stuart Van Horn indicated that G-737 should be ready to flow within a couple of weeks, but there may not be any water to send because of dry conditions. However, if there is water, G-737 would be operated first, before S-328 would be used.

TOC Action Item #1: The Appendix A sub-team will meet prior to the next TOC meeting to look at the monitoring and how the compliance calculations associated with this project might be done.

Associated Online Documents:

- [Taylor Slough Headwaters Project Update Presentation](#)

10:19 a.m. 4. WY2016 Annual Shark River Slough Compliance – Jonathan Madden, SFWMD

Jonathan Madden presented an update to the results originally presented in December covering federal water year 2016 (12-month period ending September 2016) incorporating final approved flow data. Refuge compliance results are unchanged on a monthly basis, with geometric mean TP values for the 12-month periods ending July, August, and September 2016 below the long-term levels. Two methods were used to calculate Shark River Slough (SRS) compliance. The methods changed slightly based on recent Appendix A sub-team meetings to incorporate S-355A and B flow and data into the base calculation. Results for Shark River Slough for the 12-month periods ending July, August, and September 2016 remain below the long-term limits for each period, and the percent of sampling events greater than 10 ppb was below the guideline for the three periods. Taylor Slough and Coastal Basins flow-weighted mean TP values for the 12-month periods ending July, August, and September 2016 remain below the long-term limit for each period, and there were no sampling events greater than 10 ppb during these periods.

In previous reporting for SRS, only one inflow and one outflow to the L-29 canal were considered—outflow from S-334 was deducted from the flow coming in at S-333. Donatto Surratt asked how results of this former way of calculating compliance compare with the current results. Jonathan Madden explained that there were minor changes in final USGS data for the S-12 structures (less than 10% change from the provisional data) and the biggest impact was from a data change, not the methodology change, at S-334. There was a 19% change in the annual flows based on a flow equation implemented in June; June through September flows changed from 150 kac-ft (provisional) to 178 kac-ft (final). Because of this, the flow weighted mean concentrations that were formerly 7.5 (7.4) ppb are now 7.2 (7.2) ppb.

Associated Online Documents:

- [Draft Summary of Alternative Calculation Methods for Shark River Slough Provisional Reporting](#)
- [Final Shark River Slough TP Tracking Report, Water Year 2016](#)
- [Settlement Agreement Report, WY2016 Annual Shark River Slough Compliance Presentation](#)

11:05 a.m. 5. Fourth Quarter 2016 Settlement Agreement Report – Jonathan Madden, SFWMD

Jonathan Madden presented results for the fourth quarter of 2016 (October–December), including provisional results for Shark River Slough (SRS). Jonathan noted that there has been no flow at S-355.

Refuge geometric mean TP values for the 12-month periods ending October, November, and December 2016 were below the long-term levels. Provisional flow-weighted mean TP values for SRS for the 12-month periods ending October, November, and December 2016 were calculated using two methods. Results for both methods were below the long-term limits for each period, and the percent of sampling events greater than 10 ppb was below the guideline for the three periods. Preliminary results for the Refuge for January–April 2017 are also below the long-term level. The preliminary geometric mean TP concentration for February 2017 is 4.4 ppb, which is tied for the second lowest on record (lowest was 4.0 ppb, followed by another value of 4.4 ppb).

Taylor Slough and Coastal Basins flow-weighted mean TP values for the 12-month periods ending October, November, and December 2016 remained below the long-term limit for each period, and there were no sampling events greater than 10 ppb during these periods.

Stuart Van Horn noted that the goals for the three areas are 7 ppb for the Refuge, 8 ppb for SRS, and 6 ppb for Taylor Slough and Coastal Basins. When you compare current values to the goals it shows we are doing well. The Consent Decree discusses the goal on a long-term basis of achieving those three numbers on a consistent basis. The way we have presented this in several instances over the years has been to look at results as a 5-year average for each area and compare it with the goals. Considering the language in the Consent Decree, we are continuing to see that those goals are being attained for those numbers in those areas.

Associated Online Documents:

- [Provisional Shark River Slough TP Tracking Report, Fourth Quarter 2016](#)
- [Quality Assessment Report for Water Quality Monitoring, Fourth Quarter 2016](#)
- [Quality Assessment Report for Water Quality Monitoring, Fourth Quarter 2016 Data](#)
- [Refuge TP Compliance Table, 2007 through Fourth Quarter 2016](#)
- [Settlement Agreement Report, Fourth Quarter 2016 \(October–December 2016\)](#)
- [Settlement Agreement Report, Fourth Quarter 2016 Presentation](#)

10:23 a.m. **6. Public Comment (as requested)**

Drew Martin expressed that he thinks the values being seen are good because conditions are dry, and would be interested in seeing a comparison with times when there is more flow. Mr. Martin is concerned about Florida Bay and would like to know how much water is getting to the bay and how close we are to moving forward on some of the Mod Water projects that are supposed to move some of that water south on a more permanent basis.

Melody Naja (Everglades Foundation) asked when the TOC will choose between Method 1 and Method 2 compliance calculations for Shark River Slough. Julianne LaRock indicated that it has not been decided yet because we are waiting for the Appendix A sub-team to reach a conclusion.

11:27 a.m. **7. TOC Closing Business** – Julianne LaRock, SFWMD

FDEP will send a poll to determine the date for the next Appendix A sub-team meeting.

The next quarterly TOC meeting was confirmed for July 18. Special Master Barkett noted that he is unavailable for this date so it should be informational only, with no decision making. Mr. Barkett will have someone participate on his behalf.

Donatto Surratt asked for a follow-up to Gene Duncan's question at the last TOC meeting about the sample collection process for the number of samples collected at the Refuge. Julianne LaRock responded a sample is not collected when the water depth at a station is less than 10 cm. Julianne also noted that the autosampler at S-140 is disabled because of the work being done there, but grab sampling is still being conducted.

Julianne LaRock adjourned the meeting.