

ORGANIZATIONAL STATEMENT
of the
TECHNICAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

1. Definitions.

The Parties: the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge), and the Everglades National Park (ENP).

Technical Oversight Committee (TOC) Membership: The members of the TOC consists of representatives from the Parties. Both a primary and alternate representative shall be appointed.

TOC Charge: As defined in the Settlement Agreement the TOC will plan, review and recommend all research, monitoring and compliance conducted pursuant to the agreement.

TOC Mission: The primary mission of the TOC is to act according the TOC Charge and to foster agreement and resolve disputes among the Parties on water quality issues.

Consensus: Agreement by at least~~4~~ four of the five Parties with all Parties being represented. Any impasse will be reported back to the Parties for mediation.

2. Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson shall be selected from the TOC membership, representing two Parties. Both the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson's term shall be for one year. The Vice-Chairperson shall replace the Chairperson at the end of the Chairperson's term. Any term can be ended at any time by consensus agreement or by resignation.

The Chairperson (or Vice-Chairperson in absence of the Chairperson) shall: preside over meetings; coordinate date, time, place, supporting staff, and agenda; ensure action items identified during meetings are assigned; ensure orderly discussions, with Robert's Rules of Order in mind, especially when consensus is required on any item; facilitate non-TOC member involvement while ensuring proper execution of the meeting agenda.

The Vice-Chairperson shall assist the Chairperson when needed and proper, and fulfill the above duties in the event of the Chairperson's absence.

3. Timing and Location of TOC Meetings. The date and location of meetings will be set by consensus. Facilities made available by the SFWMD shall be used, for the most part, due to availability of recording equipment, supporting staff, and the centralized location. Meetings can be held at any site at the discretion of the TOC members.

4. Typical TOC Tasks. To support the Charge and Mission of the TOC, the following tasks are examples, not a complete listing, of the TOC activities.

- Plan, review and recommend research, monitoring and compliance.
- Foster agreement on water quality issues.
- Promote coordinated efforts between water quality researchers.
- Identify important water quality issues.
- Facilitate open discussions of water quality issues.
- Evaluate the adequacy of water quality research activities.
- Utilize sub-committees to resolved/clarify technical issues.

5. Guidelines for Discussions. Discussions of TOC policy will normally be limited to TOC members.

Discussions should promote awareness of the various aspects of issues as well as foster understanding and agreement. The opportunity for non-TOC members to participate in discussions of issues is anticipated and will be facilitated by the Chairperson.

6. Agenda Items. Basic agenda items will include the following items.

- Approval of the minutes from the prior meeting.
- Periodic updates in the following four categories:
 - Implementation of The Everglades Program
 - Nutrient Threshold Research
 - Water Quality Monitoring
 - Compliance including alternative technologies and best management practices
- Discussion of old business items including action items.
- Discussion/presentation of scheduled agenda items.
- Discussion of new business items.
- Discussion of future meeting time, place, and agendas.

Items added or removed from the TOC agenda shall be done with TOC consensus. Potential agenda items not anticipated at previous meetings, that require special preparation for discussion, must have sufficient notification time and phone-call coordination prior to placement on the next agenda.

Informational items not on the agenda can be raised during consideration of new business. At that time, the item can be discussed or placed on a future agenda if appropriate. An effort shall be made to set tentative agenda items for two to three months in advance.