

**Quarterly Meeting of the
Technical Oversight Committee (TOC)
Tuesday, May 18, 2010**

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

TOC Representatives:

Julianne LaRock, Acting TOC Chair, SFWMD
Nick Aumen, NPS/ENP
Sean Smith, USACE (by phone)

Matt Harwell, USFWS/Refuge
Stacey Feken, FDEP (by phone)
John Barkett, Special Master (by phone)

Note: This meeting was recorded by a court reporter and copies are available for purchase; contact Florida Court Reporting (561-689-0999). Handouts and presentations are also available on the TOC website (www.sfwmd.gov/toc).

10:05 a.m. **TOC Meeting Called to Order by TOC Chair**

10:05 a.m. **Modifications to the Agenda and Announcement of Documents Available on the TOC Website** – Julianne LaRock, SFWMD

No changes to the agenda were requested.

Agenda Item #1, Approval of March 2, 2010, and April 20, 2010, TOC meeting notes
– Julianne LaRock, SFWMD

Nick Aumen, NPS/ENP requested revisions to Agenda Item #2 on the March 2, 2010, meeting notes. Once the changes are made, the notes will be redistributed by email for approval. The April 20, 2010, notes were approved.

➔ **Action Item #1:** Nick Aumen will submit proposed text to address his concerns.

10:10 a.m. **Agenda Item #2. Presentation of the Settlement Agreement Report** – Stuart Van Horn, SFWMD

Stuart Van Horn, SFWMD, presented the Settlement Agreement Report for the First Quarter of 2010. Following the presentation, John Barkett, Special Master, expressed his concerns regarding the flow-weighted mean TP concentration being at or over the long-term limit for several months in a row. Nick Aumen shares those concerns and has mentioned them at previous TOC meetings. Bill Walker, DOI, recommends further examining data from WCA-3A to better understand how the system is responding relative to long-term levels.

➔ **Action Item #2:** Julianne LaRock and Nick Aumen will put together an interagency team to look further into the TP concentrations in water entering Shark River Slough once personnel are available.

10:25 a.m. **Agenda Item #3A. Status Update on Future Water Quality Strategies for the Refuge**
– Temperince Morgan, SFWMD

Temperince Morgan, SFWMD, updated the TOC on the efforts by State and Federal partners and other interested parties to examine additional ways to achieve water quality requirements. The scope of the planning efforts has been expanded to all STAs in response to recent legal rulings.

10:45 a.m. **Agenda Item #3B. Update on STAs and Related Projects** – Lou Toth and John Mitnik, SFWMD

Lou Toth and John Mitnik, SFWMD, updated the TOC on the status of the STAs and related projects.

➔ **Action Item #3:** John Mitnik will provide Matt Harwell, USFWS, with data or studies related to any contaminants present in the levee that is being degraded as part of the L-6 Canal Modification.

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- 11:10 a.m. **Agenda Items #3C and 3D. Construction and Maintenance Impacts on Monitoring –**
Pete Rawlik, SFWMD
- Pete Rawlik, SFWMD, gave a presentation detailing how monitoring is being adjusted while construction and maintenance activities are ongoing at S39, along the Tamiami Trail Bridge, and at S150.
- 11:15 a.m. **Agenda Item 3E. Update on Refuge Monitoring and Modeling –** Matt Harwell, USFWS
- Matt Harwell, USFWS, updated the TOC on efforts to better understand the Refuge's water needs. The scientists involved are currently examining stage reversals in the Refuge.
- **Action Item #4:** Matt Harwell will provide updated Refuge monitoring data from the Refuge's enhanced water quality monitoring program for posting on the TOC website.
- 11:20 a.m. **Agenda Item #4. Public Comment**
- Charles Lee, Audubon of Florida, expressed his concerns about the amount of TP entering the STAs, especially STA-1E and STA-1W. He urges the SFWMD to review and strengthen BMPs to reduce the TP load entering the STAs.
- Joette Lorion, Miccosukee Tribe of Indians, asked for further information on the mediation group that Temperince Morgan mentioned in her presentation (Agenda Item #3A). Nick Aumen was able to provide some information, but Juli LaRock will get someone to contact Joette with more details.
- **Action Item #5:** Juli LaRock will contact Joette and provide more details.
- 11:25 a.m. **Agenda Item #5. Future Meeting Dates:** The next quarterly meeting is 8/31/10. Special meetings, if needed before the next quarterly meeting, may occur on 6/22/10 or 7/20/10.
- 11:30 a.m. **Meeting Recess.** Meeting adjourned for those not staying for Agenda Item #6 (Workshop).
- 12:30 p.m. **Agenda Item #6. Discussion of Using Marsh Stage Gauges to Minimize Monitoring During Low Water Periods –** Pete Rawlik, SFWMD
- Workshop attendees discussed a proposal to suspend marsh monitoring due to low stages. This proposal was introduced in a previous TOC meeting. TOC members expressed concern that this procedure may cause samples to be missed and potentially bias the data collected. An SOP for the suspending sampling is being developed and will aim to be as conservative as possible to avoid missing data collection.
- **Action Item #5:** Pete Rawlik will present the SOP for this procedure at a future (most likely November or later) TOC meeting.
- **Action Item #6:** Matt Harwell and Pete Rawlik will work together to contact staff of EDEN (Everglades Depth Estimation Network) to explore ways to get additional stage data for S7 and other areas of concern.