

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

February 19, 2013

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

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## TOC Representatives:

Garth Redfield, TOC Chair, SFWMD

Nick Aumen, NPS/ENP

John Barkett, Special Master (*by phone*)

Stacey Feken, FDEP (*by phone*)

Melissa Martin, Refuge

Sean Smith, USACE

**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](http://www.sfwmd.gov/toc)). A video of the meeting is available online at <http://sfwmd.iqm2.com/Citizens/Media.aspx>.

10:00 a.m. **Agenda Item 1. TOC Opening Business** – Garth Redfield, SFWMD

### **Agenda Item 1A. Welcome and Identification of Those on Phone**

Garth Redfield called the meeting to order, welcomed attendees, and asked those on the phone to introduce themselves. Nick Aumen introduced Kyle Douglas-Mankin, who is Mike Waldon's successor and the alternate representative for the Refuge.

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

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

### **Agenda Item 1C. Approval of December 18, 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, below). None were requested.

#### **Associated online documents:**

1. [Agenda for February 19, 2013, TOC Meeting](#)
2. [TOC Meeting Notes from December 18, 2012](#)

10:05 a.m. **Agenda Item 4. Presentation of the Settlement Agreement Report** –  
Stuart Van Horn, SFWMD

Stuart Van Horn presented the Settlement Agreement Report for October–December 2012 (Documents 3 and 4, below). In the Refuge, the limit was exceeded in October 2012. However, there were no other exceedances, and the Refuge remained in compliance. Taylor Slough and the Coastal Basins were in compliance for the period. Flow data for Shark River Slough for this reporting period, including the previous annual reporting period for Water Year 2012 (October 2011–September 2012), were still pending completion and not available. Therefore, compliance for this area could not be determined for this quarterly reporting period or for Water Year 2012. The annual compliance and quarterly reports will be revised and distributed after the data are available. Shark River Slough total phosphorus concentrations will be discussed in detail at a future TOC meeting.

Stuart provided an update on efforts to complete the annual flow data for Shark River Slough, which is needed to determine annual compliance for Water Year 2012. The District is working with the data providers (USGS and USACE) to investigate the flow data gaps in August and September 2012 at the S12D structure, identify appropriate approaches to fill the gaps, and ascertain the best quality data to use for the Water Year 2012 annual compliance report.

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In doing so, the District has learned more about the quality of the USACE and USGS flow data and processes involved in generating the data. The USGS and USACE draw data from the same sensors, but the USGS applies a quality assurance (QA) process to validate the data. The USACE provides initial provisional data (which is, at times, available earlier than USGS data) for operational decision-making, and these data are not subjected to a QA process. Stuart recommended that the TOC wait for the final validated USGS data to be released, and then to perform the compliance calculations. TOC representatives discussed this and reasons for and against using the validated USGS data (instead of the USACE provisional data) in future calculations. Nick Aumen recommended that at a future TOC meeting, when the Shark River Slough compliance results are brought to the TOC, the District makes a recommendation to change to using the final validated USGS flow data for annual compliance determinations.

Garth Redfield noted that the S-174 structure has been plugged, and requested that it be excluded from future graphs and calculations. TOC representatives agreed.

## **Associated online documents:**

3. Settlement Agreement Report, October–December 2012
4. Settlement Agreement Report Presentation, October–December 2012

- **Action Item #1:** Stuart Van Horn and team will wait for the validated USGS data, and when data sets are complete, perform the missing compliance calculations for Shark River Slough for Water Year 2012 and the October-December 2012 quarterly period.
- **Action Item #2:** District staff will work with USACE and USGS staff to determine how the USGS data validation process compares with the District's flow data QA process and identify the variability of the provisional (USACE) data versus the validated (USGS) data. The District and USGS will jointly present an overview at the May 14<sup>th</sup> TOC meeting of their respective processes. The District will submit a recommendation for the TOC to consider for future flow data and compliance calculations.
- **Action Item #3:** District staff will exclude structure S-174 from future calculations and graphs.

## 10:45 a.m. **Agenda Item 3. Monitoring Issues Update** – Pete Rawlik, SFWMD

Pete Rawlik gave a monitoring issues update in which he reported the status of three items:

1. S-5A: This site will undergo maintenance. The autosampler will be moved and go from flow-composite to time-composite, with one sample taken every three hours, for a total of eight samples per bottle.
2. Rainfall Collector in the Park: This collector has been shut down until the end of April or beginning of May, due to nearby vegetation removal causing issues.
3. TAMBR105: Turbidity curtains are up for construction, but this sampling site is *within* the turbidity curtains, so turbidity values are high.

## 10:50 p.m. **Agenda Item 4. Public Comment (as requested)**

A phone participant asked for an update on Compartments B and C. Temperince Morgan responded, noting that all components passed startup and are prepared to treat and store water as the District receives stormwater inflows.

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10:55 p.m. **Agenda Item 5. TOC Closing Business** – Garth Redfield, SFWMD

**Agenda Item 5A. Discussion of Proposed Future TOC Agenda Items**

**Agenda Item 5B. TOC Meeting Dates and Review of Action Items**

The next quarterly TOC meeting is set for May 14. A special meeting will be held on March 26, and a future quarterly meeting will be held on August 20.

Garth Redfield summarized and confirmed the action items and adjourned the meeting.

DRAFT