

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

May 14, 2013

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

TOC Representatives:

Stuart Van Horn, TOC Chair, SFWMD	Frank Powell, FDEP
Nick Aumen, NPS/ENP	Melissa Martin, Refuge
John Barkett, Special Master (<i>by phone</i>)	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). A video of the meeting is available online at <http://sfwmd.ig2.com/Citizens/Media.aspx>.*

10:00 a.m. **1. TOC Opening Business** – Stuart Van Horn, SFWMD

1A. Welcome, Announcements, and Identification of Those on Phone

Stuart Van Horn called the meeting to order, welcomed attendees, and asked those on the phone to introduce themselves. Stuart introduced himself as the new TOC chair, and recognized Garth Redfield for his many years of service as the previous TOC chair. Nick Aumen introduced Jake Tuttle, the new assistant manager of the Refuge.

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

Stuart Van Horn mentioned each of the recently posted files available on the TOC website, and called for any last-minute changes to the agenda. Agenda changes were not requested.

1C. Approval of Meeting Summaries for February 19 and March 26

Stuart Van Horn asked if the TOC members had any changes to the notes from the previous two TOC meetings. At Nick Aumen's request, this discussion was moved to later in the meeting, during TOC closing business.

Associated online documents:

- [Agenda for May 14 meeting](#)
- [Notes from February 19 meeting](#)
- [Notes from March 26 meeting](#)

10:15 a.m. **2. Update to Fourth Quarter 2012 Settlement Agreement Report – Shark River Slough** – Stuart Van Horn, SFWMD

Stuart Van Horn presented the Shark River Slough (SRS) portion of the updated fourth quarter Settlement Agreement Report for October–December 2012. The SRS portion was not presented previously due to issues with flow data availability. Stuart explained that the first three quarters' data were final approved USGS data, and the last calendar quarter's data were provisional, compiled from the USACE and USGS.

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Associated online documents:

- [Settlement Agreement Report, October-December 2012 \(Updated\)](#)
- [Settlement Agreement Report Presentation, October-December 2012 \(Updated\)](#)

10:25 a.m. 3. WY2012 Annual Shark River Slough Compliance – Stuart Van Horn, SFWMD

Stuart Van Horn discussed the Water Year 2012 compliance result now that the final USGS flow data is available. The flow-weighted mean concentration for total phosphorus was 8.9 ppb without the resampled value, and 8.8 ppb including the resampled value. The long-term limit was 8.8 ppb. Stuart discussed the number of samples collected across all structures and explained the circumstances surrounding the resampled value from December 2011 at S12D. Water year 2012 compliance is scheduled for further discussion later in the agenda. Melissa Martin (Refuge) inquired about the availability of first quarter 2013 Refuge data, and Stuart explained that it was not completely available in time for the meeting (TP data was available, but stage data was not), but would be posted to the website as soon as it becomes available and will be presented at the next meeting.

→ **Action Item #1:** District staff will update the Refuge data tracking spreadsheet for the first quarter of 2013 and will post it to the TOC website.

→ **Action Item #2:** District staff will present first quarter 2013 Refuge data at the next TOC meeting, if the data become available in time.

10:40 a.m. 4. Flow Data Used in Settlement Agreement Reports

4A. S-12D Data Collection and Computation Overview – Mark Dickman, USGS

Mark Dickman presented the general workflow and timing of computing data from S-12D. Mark also discussed the data computation process used to move the data from “provisional” to final approved status. This discussion covered data gap scenarios, how gaps are filled, the USGS quality assurance process, challenges to rapid approval of the data, and recent and planned enhancements to S-12D.

Discussion followed on a variety of QA-related topics, including the procedure for handling missing data and equipment problems, recent and planned gate automation, the Corps’ use of provisional data for real-time operational decision-making, and the importance of continual improvements to instrumentation technology and data processing to have more confidence in the data and calculations.

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4B. Flow Data at SFWMD Structures Used in Settlement Agreement Report – Matahel Ansar, SFWMD

Matahel Ansar presented the District's workflow and quality assurance process for hydrologic data. Matahel also explained the challenges of reconciling anomalies in data from external sources.

Associated online documents:

- [S-12D Data Collection and Computation Overview Presentation](#)
- [Flow Data at SFWMD Structures in Settlement Agreement Report \(Presentation\)](#)

11:45 a.m. **5. Shark River Slough (SRS) Compliance Topics –** Stuart Van Horn, SFWMD

Use of Final USGS Data for Annual Compliance

Stuart Van Horn formally recommended that for annual SRS compliance calculations and determination the TOC use the final approved USGS data set, when available. Stuart also requested that the final USGS data be "gap-free". Nick Aumen asked if compliance calculations would be recalculated if data shifts occurred after the final approved data set is released and Stuart explained that in regulatory matters (including the WQBEL) we do not go back and recalculate determinations from the past.

TOC Consensus:

For future SRS compliance calculations and determination, the TOC will use the final approved USGS data set, when it becomes available. If data shifts occur after the compliance calculations and determination have been completed, the TOC will not go back and recalculate the original values.

Annual Compliance Presentation & Posting Provisional Data on TOC Website

To be able to use USGS approved data, Stuart Van Horn proposed that SRS compliance be reported only once a year in the Settlement Agreement Report, with provisional data posted online quarterly for review. This would also eliminate the need to make constant revisions to past reports as provisional data change. Melissa Martin (Refuge) asked that a standing item appear on each quarterly meeting agenda for presentation and discussion of the provisional SRS data.

TOC Consensus:

The TOC agreed to the following approach:

1. Post provisional Shark River Slough (SRS) data on the TOC website each quarter.
2. Have a standing, separate item on quarterly meeting agendas for presentation and discussion of provisional SRS data.
3. Include SRS in the Settlement Agreement Report only once a year, in April or May, when final USGS data are available.

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TOC Quarterly Meetings & Settlement Agreement Reporting Schedule Revisions

To ensure that TOC quarterly meetings are scheduled after (not before) data are available, and thereby avoid unnecessary reschedules, Stuart Van Horn proposed the following meeting dates:

Quarter Covered:	Earliest Meeting Date:
Jul – Sep	Mid-January
Oct – Dec	Mid-April*
Jan – Mar	Mid-July
Apr – Jun	Mid-October

**With additional separate agenda items for the SRS annual compliance presentation and TP Rule / Refuge TP compliance results*

TOC Consensus:

The TOC accepted the proposed meeting schedule shown above.

WY2012 Compliance Determination

Stuart Van Horn asked for TOC input on how to evaluate the WY2012 Shark River Slough TP compliance determination. Nick Aumen (NPS/ENP) indicated that Bill Walker (DOI consultant) had just recently started to go back and look at evaluation of the information, and that Bill's information could be provided to the District. Nick also noted that projects and processes like Restoration Strategies are coming online and should have a positive effect, and that the team's time would best be spent focused on these endeavors. Stuart Van Horn, Melissa Martin (Refuge), and Sean Smith (USACE) agreed and mirrored Nick's comments. Nick proposed that TOC representatives consult with their respective agencies and come back at the next meeting with a plan for how to address this and future potential exceedances that may occur.

→ **Action Item #3:** TOC representatives will consult their respective agencies and come back at the next meeting with a plan for how to address this and future potential exceedances that may occur.

Associated online documents:

- [TOC Meeting Notes from Feb 28, 2012](#)
- [TOC Meeting Notes from May 30, 2012](#)

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1:40 p.m. **6. Update on Process and Scope to Evaluate the Use of Appendix A with CEPP –**
Ernie Marks, FDEP

Ernie Marks reported that the sub-team met on April 17, and gave a brief status and summary of sub-team activities and upcoming meeting dates.

1:45 p.m. **7. Public Comment** (as requested)

Martha Musgrove (Florida Wildlife Federation) urged the TOC to seek congressional authorization of the WRDA bill by the end of 2013.

1:55 p.m. **1C. Approval of Meeting Summaries for February 19 and March 26**

The TOC approved finalizing the draft meeting summaries for February 19 and March 26. Nick Aumen (NPS/ENP) requested a minor change to the March notes.

1:57 p.m. **8. TOC Closing Business** (as requested)

Melissa Martin (Refuge) asked why first quarter 2013 results for the Refuge have not yet been presented. Stuart Van Horn explained that we are waiting for stage data from USGS for the conservation areas so that it can all be presented together. Melissa also noted that some links on the TOC website are not working, and requested easier bulk access to all previous TOC files.

A special meeting was planned for July 2, and quarterly meetings were planned for July 23 and October 29.

Stuart Van Horn summarized and confirmed the action items and adjourned the meeting.

→ **Action Item #4:** Kim Chuirazzi will correct broken links on the TOC website.

→ **Action Item #5:** Kim Chuirazzi will provide Melissa Martin with easier bulk access to all previous TOC files.