

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

February 4, 2015

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

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## TOC Representatives:

|                                                  |                      |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Juli LaRock, TOC Chair, SFWMD                    | Frank Powell, FDEP   |
| John Barkett, Special Master ( <i>by phone</i> ) | Sean Smith, USACE    |
| Melissa Martin, Refuge                           | 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](http://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 – Juli LaRock, SFWMD

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

Juli LaRock called the meeting to order, welcomed attendees, and asked phone participants to introduce themselves.

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

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

### 1C. Approval of Meeting Summary for October 21, 2014

Juli LaRock asked if TOC members had any changes to the notes from the previous TOC meeting. The TOC did not request any further changes, and approved finalizing the draft meeting summary.

#### Associated Online Documents:

- [Agenda for February 4, 2015 meeting](#)
- [Draft Notes from October 21, 2014 meeting](#)

## 10:10 a.m. 2. Third Quarter 2014 Settlement Agreement Report – Stuart Van Horn, SFWMD

Stuart Van Horn presented results for the third quarter of 2014 (July–September), noting that Shark River Slough (SRS) results are not yet final because they are based on provisional data, and that final results will probably be available by the next TOC meeting in April.

For the Refuge, all monthly geomean total phosphorus (TP) values for the quarter were below the long-term level. TP values for Taylor Creek and Coastal Basins for the quarter were below the long-term limit and guidelines.

For consideration before the next TOC meeting, Stuart noted that provisional TP data for the Refuge for the fourth quarter of 2014 (October–December) include a value from October 14 of 7.9 ppb, which is higher than the 7.2 ppb long-term level. This may have resulted from

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the heavy rainfall event in September/October 2014. Provisional TP values for the Refuge for the rest of the fourth quarter are below the long-term level, and provisional values for Taylor Creek and Coastal Basins for the entire fourth quarter are below the long-term limit and guidelines.

Stuart noted that for the past three quarters, SRS flow-weighted mean TP concentrations calculated using provisional data have been higher than the long-term limit, but the percent of samples over 10 ppb has been lower than the guideline.

#### Associated Online Documents:

- [Settlement Agreement Report, Third Quarter 2014 \(April–June 2014\)](#)
- [Settlement Agreement Report, Third Quarter 2014 Presentation](#)
- [Quality Assessment Report for Water Quality Monitoring, Third Quarter 2014](#)
- [Refuge TP Compliance Table, Third Quarter 2014](#)
- [Provisional Shark River Slough TP Tracking Report, Third Quarter 2014](#)

#### 10:35 a.m. **3. Water Quality Conditions for Everglades National Park, Water Year 2014** – Melissa Martin, Refuge/USFWS

Melissa Martin gave a presentation on total phosphorus compliance for inflows to ENP, focusing mainly on the S-333 structure, and explained the interplay and impacts of various factors and conditions in the areas of the system that lead to the inflows. In particular, Melissa and other TOC meeting participants discussed flows and elevated TP levels observed from June 21 to July 31, 2014. More details about the flows and levels are included in the presentation file.

**Action Item #1:** TOC representatives will discuss the WY2014 excursions with the principals before final data are presented at the next meeting.

#### Associated online documents:

- [Water Quality Conditions for Everglades National Park, Water Year 2014 Draft Preliminary Analyses Presentation](#)

#### 11:10 a.m. **4. Refuge TP Rule, Water Year 2014** – Paul Julian II, FDEP

Paul Julian gave an annual update on compliance with the TP Rule in the Refuge. Because the program has been in place long enough, it is now possible to transition stations from impacted to unimpacted, and two stations in the Refuge (LOXA130 and LOXA137) were transitioned. Paul explained that these changes are primarily due to cleaner water entering the area, along with better hydrologic management. Information on which stations are impacted or unimpacted will be included in Appendix 3A-6 of the 2015 South Florida Environmental Report Volume I, to be published on March 1, 2015. Finally, Paul provided additional information on the status of TP Rule stations in the other water conservation

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areas and ENP. Special Master John Barkett recommended that the principals discuss these data.

**Action Item #2:** TOC representatives will discuss the TP Rule data with the principals.

**Associated online documents:**

- [WCA-1 Annual TP Criteria Compliance Assessment – WY2014](#)
- [WCA-1 Annual TP Criteria Compliance Assessment – WY2014 \(extra slides\)](#)

11:35 a.m. **Follow-up on Action Item from Previous Meeting (not in agenda)** – Stuart Van Horn

Melissa Martin asked Stuart Van Horn to follow-up on the status of activities related to the dealing with the missing stage data for the Refuge. Stuart shared that staff from SFWMD and USGS met several times, are looking at the EDEN data network, working through who has ownership of handling the data when there are gaps, and will hopefully have a resolution to present at the next TOC meeting.

Melissa asked if, in addition to addressing the missing data, a potential methodology was being sought to deal with these types of issues if they occur in the future, and Stuart indicated that it could be done. Melissa requested that Kyle Douglas-Mankin, senior hydrologist for the Refuge, lead an interagency technical talk to move toward this goal.

**Action Item #3:** Refuge staff (Kyle Douglas-Mankin) will contact SFWMD and USGS for an interagency discussion on developing a methodology for addressing future gaps in Refuge stage data.

11:40 a.m. **5. Modified Water Deliveries to Everglades National Park: Incremental Approach to the Integrated Operational Plan for the MWD and C-111SD Projects** – Sean Smith, USACE

Sean Smith gave a brief update on the Modified Water Deliveries project, including current schedules, timelines, milestones, dependencies, and objectives.

**Associated Online Documents:**

- [Modified Water Deliveries to Everglades National Park: Incremental Approach to the Integrated Operational Plan for the MWD and C-111SD Projects](#)

11:50 a.m. **6. Update of the Appendix A Subteam** – Stuart Van Horn, SFWMD

Stuart Van Horn provided an update on the Appendix A subteam, noting that the principals had a meeting in December, at which Stuart gave the status of the subteam's progress and issues. The principals felt the immediate need for the subteam was to address changed and impending changed conditions before spending more time on proposals for alternative methodologies to deal with the issues at hand. The subteam met on January 27 as a follow-up to the principals meeting and developed an initial list of changed and pending changed

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conditions. The next subteam meeting is scheduled for mid-February or March to refine, organize, and prioritize items in the list, finalize it, and discuss next steps for presentation to the principals.

As a public comment, Melodie Naja, Everglades Foundation, requested that the S-356 test methodology be presented to the TOC. Frank Powell said it may not be ready in time for the April meeting, but Juli will add it to the list of future agenda items.

**Action Item #4:** FDEP staff will present an update at a TOC meeting on progress with the authorization, once it is finalized, of the USACE S356 incremental pump test which incorporates the S-356 test methodology.

## 11:55 a.m. 7. Public Comment

Drew Martin of the Sierra Club expressed concern over a number of issues related to phosphorus in the system, including the importance of determining the source of phosphorus in the system, the need to ensure that phosphorus in sediments is not released through scouring, long-term versus short-term solutions, and related concerns.

## 12:00 p.m. 8. TOC Closing Business – Juli LaRock, SFWMD

The next two quarterly meetings are scheduled for April 28 and July 28, 2015.

Juli LaRock reviewed the action items and adjourned the meeting.