

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

July 18, 2017

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

TOC Representatives:

Julianne LaRock, TOC Chair, SFWMD
Daniel Crawford, USACE (by phone)
Lori Miller, Refuge (by phone)
Frank Powell, FDEP

Emmalie Silvester (on behalf of John Barkett,
Special Master; by phone)
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). A video of the meeting is available online at <http://sfwmd.iqm2.com/Citizens/Media.aspx>.

10:00 a.m. **1. TOC Opening Business** – Julianne LaRock, SFWMD

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

Julianne LaRock called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees. Phone participants introduced themselves.

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

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

1C. Approval of Meeting Summary for May 23, 2017

The TOC approved the meeting summary for May 23, 2017, with no changes.

Associated Online Documents:

- [Final Agenda for July 18, 2017](#)
- [Draft Meeting Notes for May 23, 2017](#)

10:10 a.m. **2. First Quarter 2017 Settlement Agreement Report** – Jonathan Madden, SFWMD

Jonathan Madden presented results for the first quarter of 2017 (January–March), including provisional results for Shark River Slough (SRS).

Refuge geometric mean TP values for the 12-month periods ending January, February, and March 2017 were below the long-term levels. Provisional flow-weighted mean TP values for SRS for the 12-month periods ending January, February, and March 2017 were calculated using two methods. Results for both methods were below the long-term limits for each period, and the percent of sampling events greater than 10 ppb was below the guideline for the three periods. The geometric mean TP concentration in the Refuge for February 2017 is 4.4 ppb, which is tied for the second lowest on record (lowest was 4.0 ppb, followed by another value of 4.4 ppb). Preliminary results for the Refuge for April and May 2017 are below

the long-term level. The preliminary geometric mean TP concentration for June 2017 is equal to the long-term level (7.9 ppb) for that month.

Taylor Slough and Coastal Basins flow-weighted mean TP values for the 12-month periods ending January, February, and March 2017 remained below the long-term limit for each period, and there were no sampling events greater than 10 ppb during these periods.

Donatto Surratt noted that EVPA samples were collected in the Refuge a week after the rapid rise of stage due to the heavy rain event in June. Fortunately, the TP concentrations do not appear to have been impacted, despite the potential for heavy rainfall to disturb the water column. As noted earlier, the preliminary geometric mean TP concentration for that month is 7.9 ppb.

Donatto Surratt responded to an inquiry by Julianne LaRock regarding the stage gage 1-8C being out of service for about a week and confirmed it was back in service by the time sampling crews went out. Julianne stated she wonders if there should be a process where TOC Reps are notified when something like this happens.

Associated Online Documents:

- [Provisional Shark River Slough TP Tracking Report, First Quarter 2017](#)
- [Quality Assessment Report for Water Quality Monitoring, First Quarter 2017](#)
- [Quality Assessment Report for Water Quality Monitoring, First Quarter 2017 Data](#)
- [Refuge TP Compliance Table, 2007 through First Quarter 2017](#)
- [Settlement Agreement Report, First Quarter 2017](#)
- [Settlement Agreement Report, First Quarter 2017 Presentation](#)
- [Final Shark River Slough TP Tracking Report, Water Year 2016](#)
- [Settlement Agreement Report, Third Quarter 2016 Revised](#)

10:28 a.m. **3. High Water Conditions in the South Florida Region** – Julianne LaRock, SFWMD

Julianne LaRock presented a summary of the high water conditions that occurred in the South Florida region in June 2017 as a result of heavy rainfall. All areas in the SFWMD experienced at least 125 percent of average rainfall. The southwest coast and the water conservation areas (WCAs) experienced between 200-300 percent of average rainfall.

FDEP issued Emergency Final Order (EFO) Office of General Counsel Case No. 17-0867 to the SFWMD and the USACE giving latitude to operate facilities to deal with the high water. The EFO authorizes temporary relief from some permit conditions, authorizes construction activities, and expires November 30, 2017.

The SFWMD is trying to move water out of the WCAs to lower stages there. Emergency operations include flood control releases from WCA-1 to tide, diverting Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) runoff from stormwater treatment areas (STAs) and WCAs to tide, and other activities. These operations will continue as needed to address any high water issues that may arise, and data for this period should be available for the next quarterly TOC meeting. The USACE and the SFWMD will be required to prepare and submit an after action report for FDEP after the EFO expires. Additional details about the high water conditions are provided in the presentation linked to below.

Associated Online Documents:

- [High Water Conditions in the South Florida Region Presentation](#)

10:45 a.m. 4. Update on Appendix A Sub-team – Stuart Van Horn, SFWMD

Stuart Van Horn gave a brief update on the Appendix A sub-team. At the May 23, 2017, TOC meeting, the TOC charged the sub-team with considering Taylor Slough and the new structures being incorporated as part of the Taylor Slough Headwaters Project. The last sub-team meeting was held on June 27, 2017. At the meeting, the team continued progress on evaluating incorporation of S-356 into the SRS compliance calculation and began evaluating incorporation of G-737 and S-328 into the Taylor Slough and Coastal Basins (TSCB) compliance calculation.

For S-356/SRS, the sub-team focused on uncertainty of flow data, TP collection, and lab analysis variability, as well as the impact of uncertainty on future compliance results. SFWMD provided flow ratings and draft uncertainty analysis of flow ratings to the team for Shark River Slough structures S-333, S-334, and S-356. USACE shared spreadsheets containing USGS field observations related to historical calibration of open channel flow sites in the L-31N Canal. As action items, USACE and DOI will document flow rating and uncertainty for those ratings in the L-31N Canal and will provide existing USGS flow ratings and uncertainty information for the S-12 structures. SFWMD will pursue quantification of TP concentration uncertainty.

For TSCB, the sub-team focused on establishing interim reporting mechanisms and planning for future evaluation of compliance reporting, as well as ensuring flow and TP monitoring is adequate to support reporting and evaluation needs. A one-page monitoring agreement for S-328 was developed by the SFWMD and USACE under a process separate from the TOC. SFWMD initiated monitoring at G-737 and S-328 and synchronized sampling at TSCB sites to facilitate future evaluation. Interim reporting to the TOC is proposed in a format similar to SRS, with three alternative methods (see presentation linked to below for details). As action items, SFWMD is developing tracking spreadsheets for the three alternative methods, will present second quarter 2017 provisional flow results (if available) for G-737 and S-328 at the next TOC meeting, will continue to collect weekly TP samples along with continuous flow monitoring, will track the three TSCB alternative methods quarterly, and will make TP/flow data available on an ongoing basis.

Regarding optimization of the network for sample collection, Stuart clarified that sampling events will be conducted on the same day for all sites included in the three alternative methods. Grab sampling discussed in the one-page monitoring agreement for the S-328 (S-332D detention area Cell 1 outflow) will be conducted weekly at the upstream and downstream sites, regardless of flow, for a minimum of two years. Donatto Surratt requested how external data users can determine when new flow data will become available for G-737 and S-328. Stuart Van Horn indicated the SFWMD will discuss with staff and develop a notice to interested agencies and federal representatives identifying when these structures come online and flow data are available.

The next sub-team meeting will tentatively be scheduled before the next quarterly TOC meeting.

Associated Online Documents:

- [Appendix A Sub-team Update Presentation](#)

11:20 a.m. **5. Public Comment (as requested)**

Drew Martin asked whether TP concentrations continue to be tracked during high water conditions and emergencies situations, and whether these conditions alleviate conditions for phosphorus. Mr. Martin asked about the effect on phosphorus levels by events where water entering the WCAs is primarily through rainfall, and whether TP levels observed during catastrophic events like the high water situation are ignored or used for information the TOC is processing.

11:24 a.m. **6. TOC Closing Business** – Julianne LaRock, SFWMD

It was decided that there is no need for a special meeting.

The next quarterly TOC meeting was confirmed for October 24.

Julianne LaRock adjourned the meeting.