

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

May 1, 2018

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

TOC Representatives:

Julianne LaRock, TOC Chair, SFWMD	Lori Miller, Refuge
John Barkett, Special Master (<i>by phone</i>)	Frank Powell, FDEP
Daniel Crawford, USACE (<i>by phone</i>)	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.igam2.com/Citizens/Media.aspx>.*

9:02 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 February 27, 2018

The TOC approved the meeting summary for February 27, 2018.

Associated Online Documents:

- [Final Agenda for May 1, 2018](#)
- [Draft Meeting Notes for February 27, 2018](#)

9:09 a.m. **2. Fourth Quarter 2017 Settlement Agreement Report** – Jonathan Madden, SFWMD

Jonathan Madden presented results for the fourth quarter of 2017 (October–December), including provisional results for Shark River Slough (SRS).

The Refuge geometric mean total phosphorus (TP) value for October 2017 (7.6 ppb) was above the computed long-term level (7.2 ppb); the value for November 2017 (5.5 ppb) was below the long-term level; and the value for December 2017 (7.2 ppb) was equal to the long-term level. Jonathan noted that the average TP geometric mean over the 35-month period from January 2015 to December 2017 (excluding July 2015) was 7.2 ppb, which approximates the Consent Decree goal of 7 ppb. The average TP geometric mean was 2.6 ppb below the computed long-term level during this 35-month period. Preliminary results for the Refuge for January–April 2018 are below the computed long-term levels.

SRS provisional TP flow-weighted mean concentrations (FWMC) for the 12-month periods ending October, November, and December 2017 were calculated using two methods. Each of these periods contains the June 2017 event, which was a major contributor in WY2017 to the FWMC into SRS. Provisional tracking results for both methods for all three periods indicate the TP FWMC (8.9, 8.3, and 8.0 ppb, respectively) were above the computed long-term limit (7.6 ppb for each period). The percent of sampling events greater than 10 ppb was below the guideline for the three periods. For October–December 2017, the WCA-3A peak stage was 12.68 feet on October 13, 2017, which got down to Zone E (10.5 feet) by January 3, 2018. During this quarter there was about 775,000 acre-feet net inflow to SRS, and about 70% of the water entering the eastern segment of the L-29 Canal through S-333 left through S-334.

Taylor Slough and Coastal Basins flow-weighted mean TP values for the 12-month periods ending October, November, and December 2017 were calculated using three methods. Results for all three methods remained well below the long-term limit of 11 ppb. The percent of sampling events greater than 10 ppb was far below the guideline for the three periods. For the last 5 years, TP FWMC levels for Taylor Slough and Coastal Basins have been about 5 ppb, well below the limit of 11 ppb and below the Consent Decree's expectation of 6 ppb.

Agency Technical Comments:

For Taylor Slough, Bill Walker noted that the data tables show that no samples were collected for G737 for the last several sampling events, and inquired what concentrations were used for this station. Jonathan Madden explained that because just prior to sample collection there was construction at site G737, sample collection was not performed. As such, the site was not considered in the compliance calculations. However, Jonathan stated that there is a strong relationship between sites S200 and G737-D (on the downstream side of that structure), but these were not considered for calculating the Method 2 or Method 3 FWMC. Jonathan confirmed that no concentrations were assigned to those flows and clarified that this decision was made based on prior TOC precedents and decisions of not using surrogates or other methods when data are not available. Donatto asked if the data from S200 and G737-D could be used to backfill the data. Jonathan said while no statistical analysis of the correlation between the stations has been conducted, the TP values between G737 and G737-D are nearly identical. Donatto requested that such an analysis be conducted to see if the data are correlated and could be used. Frank Powell said that when FDEP conducts a correlation analysis, they prefer to have at least a year of data. Bill Walker suggested that if a year of data had been collected, there still would not have been samples collected during the dry season, so perhaps the analysis could be done using the existing wet season data. Jonathan suggested that the District send the data currently available and further analysis or determination can be conducted when more data is available; since the final results for Taylor Slough will not be presented until January 2019 there is time for more data to be collected for analysis.

Action Item #1: The District will provide S200, G737 and G737-D TP data to TOC representatives for correlation analysis of the data gap at G737.

Associated Online Documents:

- [Provisional Shark River Slough TP Tracking Report, Fourth Quarter 2017](#)
- [Quality Assessment Report for Water Quality Monitoring, Fourth Quarter 2017](#)
- [Quality Assessment Report for Water Quality Monitoring, Fourth Quarter 2017 Data](#)
- [Refuge TP Compliance Table, 2007 through Fourth Quarter 2017](#)

- [Settlement Agreement Report, Fourth Quarter 2017](#)
- [Settlement Agreement Report, Fourth Quarter 2017 Presentation](#)
- [Taylor Slough and Coastal Basins Data Tracking Report, Fourth Quarter 2017](#)

9:39 a.m. **3. WY2017 Annual Shark River Slough Compliance** – Jonathan Madden, SFWMD

Jonathan Madden presented final results for WY2017 (October 2016–September 2017) annual SRS compliance. The final SRS TP FWMC for WY2017 was calculated using two methods, and the result for both methods was 9.7 ppb. These exceeded the calculated WY2017 long-term limit, which was 7.9 ppb for Method 1 and 7.8 ppb for Method 2. The 5-year average SRS TP FWMC is 8.3 ppb, approximating the long-term goal of 8.0 ppb for SRS inflows.

Most TOC representatives indicated that they have briefed their principals on this matter and were ready to move forward on deciding how to handle the exceedance. Lori Miller said that she has not had an opportunity to speak with her principal.

Using the guidance questions provided in the 2016 letter from the principals to the TOC, the TOC representatives evaluated conditions related to the exceedance. The TOC confirmed it has sufficiently evaluated the relevant information as to what might have caused the exceedance and agreed there is substantial evidence that the exceedance is due to extraordinary natural phenomena represented by the June 2017 rainfall event. TOC representatives pointed out that while the rainfall event was the main cause, it was likely exacerbated because the area went from drought conditions, with the possibility of wildfires, to flood conditions; this was further compounded by the effects of Hurricane Irma.

TOC Consensus:

The TOC determined that the WY2017 Shark River Slough FWMC TP exceedance was the result of extraordinary natural phenomena.

Associated Online Documents:

- [Final Shark River Slough TP Tracking Report, WY2017](#)
- [Letter: Principals to the Consent Decree, Direction to TOC Representatives, February 25, 2016](#)
- [Settlement Agreement Report, Third Quarter 2017 \(revised\)](#)
- [Settlement Agreement Report, WY2017 Annual Shark River Slough Compliance Presentation](#)
- [Water Quality Conditions for Everglades National Park, Water Year 2017, Shark River Slough Presentation](#) (from 2/27/2018 TOC meeting)

9:49 a.m. **4. Update on Appendix A Sub-team** – Frank Powell, FDEP

Frank Powell gave a brief update about the Appendix A sub-team, indicating that FDEP is seeking to schedule a meeting and may send out a poll to participants to help select the best date, which may possibly be in the second or third week of July. The meeting should ideally take place before the next TOC meeting so that results can be shared at the TOC meeting.

Action Item #2: FDEP will schedule an Appendix A sub-team meeting in July and if possible before the next TOC meeting.

9:52 a.m. **5. Public Comments**

Melody Naja, Everglades Foundation, inquired whether information about the Refuge exceedance was presented at the last TOC meeting. Julianne LaRock noted to the TOC representatives that there was only one excursion in October 2017 and no exceedance occurred, therefore no investigation is planned through the TOC.

9:53 a.m. **6. TOC Closing Business** – Julianne LaRock, SFWMD

Julianne LaRock summarized action items from the meeting.

The next TOC meeting was tentatively planned for Tuesday, 7/24/2018. Mr. Barkett indicated this date was not ideal, but he could make it work. He also indicated that the possible meeting date of October 23 was a bad day for him.

Julianne LaRock adjourned the meeting.