

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

June 25, 2019

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 (<i>by phone</i>)
Daniel Crawford, USACE	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>.*

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.

Julianne LaRock took a few moments to recognize Garth Redfield's retirement and 28 years of service to the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD or District) including serving as the TOC Chair.

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. She requested that Agenda Item 3 (WY2018 Settlement Agreement Report) be presented prior to Agenda Item 2 (Fourth Quarter 2018 Settlement Agreement Report). There were no objections to this change to the agenda.

1C. Approval of Meeting Summary for May 1, 2018

No changes were requested to the meeting summary for the October 30, 2018, meeting and the TOC approved it.

Associated Online Documents:

- [Final Agenda for June 25, 2019](#)
- [Draft Meeting Notes for October 30, 2018](#)

10:13 a.m. **3. WY2018 Annual Shark River Slough Compliance** – Jonathan Madden, SFWMD

The results for the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) and Everglades National Park (ENP) – Taylor Slough and Coastal Basins were published in the initial publication of the *Settlement Agreement Report, Third Quarter, July – September 2018* in January 2018. These results were discussed briefly. For the Refuge, all three months reported (July–September 2018) had total phosphorus (TP) geometric means below the long-term levels. The ENP – Taylor Slough and Coastal Basins 12-month TP flow-weighted mean

concentrations (FWMCs) were ~6 parts per billion (ppb) for all three methods, which is below the 11 ppb long-term limit.

For both Methods 1 & 2, the 12-month TP FWMCs for Shark River Slough (SRS) for July through September 2018 were all 7.3 ppb, which were below the long-term limits (all 7.6 ppb). The federal Water Year (WY) is used to determine compliance for SRS. Federal WY2018 (WY2018) began October 1, 2017, and ended September 30, 2018. Flow for the water year was 1.7 million acre-feet, which put the long-term limit at 7.6 ppb for both Methods 1 and 2. For both methods, the 12-month TP FWMC was 7.3 ppb, which is below the long-term limit. The percent of sampling events greater than 10 ppb was 30.8%, which is below the 40.1% guideline. Despite two exceedances in the last five years (WY2014 and WY2017), the five-year FWMC is 8.2 ppb with an average of 8.5 ppb, which is approaching the long-term goal of 8 ppb.

Following the presentation, Donatto Surratt, ENP, asked if the figure on Slide 9 of the presentation (SRS Daily Flows, WCA-3 and S333 Stage, and Weekly SRS TP FWMC) could be integrated into the Settlement Agreement reports and also consider incorporating provisional data especially since we will be concentrating heavily on the S333 structure over the next few years. Julianne LaRock, SFWMD, said there has already been discussion amongst District staff regarding including the figure in the report. Jonathan Madden, SFWMD, said he will await direction from the TOC, and it may be appropriate to continue discussion of this request under Agenda Item 4.

Associated Online Documents:

- [Settlement Agreement Report, July – September 2018 Revised](#)
- [Settlement Agreement Report, WY2018 Annual Shark River Slough Compliance Presentation](#)
- [Final Shark River Slough TP Tracking Report, Water Year 2018](#)

10:30 a.m. **2. Fourth Quarter 2018 Settlement Agreement Report** – Jonathan Madden, SFWMD

Jonathan Madden, SFWMD, presented results for the fourth quarter of 2018 (October–December). He also mentioned the previous quarterly report was also available on the website.

Refuge geometric mean TP values for October, November, and December 2018 were below the computed long-term levels. All values over the past 36 months have been below the long-term limit except for the October 2017 value, which was 0.4 ppb above the long-term limit. The average over the 36 months was 6.7 ppb, which is below the long-term goal stated in the Consent Decree for these stations. On average, the values are 2.9 ppb below the long-term levels during the 36-month period. Preliminary geometric mean TP concentrations for January through April 2019 are at or below the long-term limit.

SRS provisional TP FWMC for the 12-month periods ending October, November, and December 2018 were calculated using two methods. All FWMCs were above the long-term limits. This is not unexpected as stages and flow are low during this time of year and the FWMCs are expected to drop as the federal water year progresses. For the 12-month period ending in December 2018, the TP FWMC was 8.4 ppb.

Taylor Slough and Coastal Basins TP FWMC values for the 12-month periods ending October, November, and December 2018 were calculated using three methods. The long-term limit is fixed at 11 ppb. The long-term goal for these structures is 6 ppb. The values from the three

methods average 6 ppb during the three periods. The five-year average TP FWMC is 5.2 ppb. The TP FWMC recorded on September 4, 2018, was 15 ppb, but the events prior to and after this event were only 4 ppb. The high value was caused by one measurement of 17 ppb taken at the S18C structure.

Following the presentation, Donatto Surratt, ENP, noted that the figure on Slide 19 showing Taylor Slough and Coastal Basins Sampling Event Flow and FWMC only illustrates Method 1. Plotting only this method results in not seeing the influence of the S328 or G737 structures. He asked if there was any way we can incorporate the other methods into the figure. Jonathan Madden and Donatto Surratt will discuss to determine if this is feasible.

Associated Online Documents:

- [Settlement Agreement Report, October - December 2018](#)
- [Settlement Agreement Report, October – December 2018, Presentation](#)
- [Quality Assessment Report for Water Quality Monitoring, October - December 2018](#)
- [Quality Assessment Report for Water Quality Monitoring, October - December 2018 – Water Quality Data](#)
- [Provisional Shark River Slough TP Tracking Report. Fourth Quarter 2018 – Methods 1 and 2](#)
- [Refuge TP Compliance Table, 2007 through Fourth Quarter 2018](#)
- [Taylor Slough and Coastal Basins Data Tracking Report, WY2017 through Fourth Quarter 2018 – Methods 1, 2 and 3](#)

10:47 a.m. **4. Future TOC Meetings and Data Reporting**

Julianne LaRock, SFWMD, began the discussion stating that the SFWMD Principal, Drew Bartlett, has recommended that the TOC reconsider the meeting and reporting schedules. As indicated on the handout, the District proposes that the TOC always meet once a year preferably in the May timeframe and the Settlement Agreement report be produced once a year with final Shark River Slough water year compliance results; data tables, including monthly compliance tracking, will continue to be updated and posted on a quarterly basis. The B-1 Auditorium will still be reserved for every quarter in the event the TOC needs to meet to make a decision, or at the request of the TOC Principals. The Quality Assurance for Water Quality Monitoring reports will continue to be produced and posted on a quarterly basis. Notifications will be emailed to all TOC Representatives, the Special Master, and TOC Interested Parties when items are posted.

Each of the federal representatives indicated that they had not had an opportunity to discuss this proposal with their principals and provided several potential topics for TOC discussion to justify continuing to hold quarterly meetings.

Here is a summary list of the major modifications and issues for which the federal TOC Representatives feel the TOC should be engaged at quarterly meetings:

- Projects associated with Restoration Strategies and their results, including STA performance
- New sources of water coming into the system at higher volumes
- Implementation of the Combined Operations Plan (COP) including inflows to ENP
- Increasing TP concentrations in Taylor Slough with new structures added

- Pending construction of the EAA Reservoir and CEPP southern infrastructure
- Use of multiple methods for determining compliance and Appendix A discussions

Frank Powell, FDEP, said he needs to bring the proposal to the FDEP Principal. This feedback is important to bring to the discussion he will have with his Principal. FDEP facilitates a lot of the changes related to restoration; these are positive. There are going to be a lot of changes happening in the next few years.

Julianne LaRock, SFWMD, said she is hearing concerns about data availability and she reassured the TOC that the data will be no less available in the future no matter what is decided. She questioned how Restoration Strategies relates to the TOC. The TOC representatives have indicated in the past that we thought the projects would help us, but she does not see where these projects fit into the Consent Decree and the TOC. Situational awareness is important and data updates will provide this. Good points have been brought up but there are other forums in which these discussions take place. If it is not something specific the TOC needs to do or charged with doing, maybe this is not the right place to have these discussions.

John Barkett, Special Master, said there is huge public interest in what goes on at the TOC meetings. There is still value of the public's interest in discussions even if decisions are not being made. Data availability to scientists is great but data presentation to non-scientists has a lot of value. It is important for the public perception of the process of the TOC and the agencies' management of restoration. Ms. LaRock voiced her observation that the auditorium was very empty.

Action Item: Bring the proposal for reduced TOC meeting frequency to the Principals

Associated Online Documents:

- [Future TOC Meetings and Data Reporting Handout](#)

11:14 a.m. **5. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

11:14 a.m. **6. TOC Closing Business** – Julianne LaRock, SFWMD

Future agenda items to be considered are status updates of COP and implementation of the EAA Reservoir.

The TOC should tentatively plan to meet in October/November but a new date needs to be found (October 29 is a meeting in Washington, D.C., for the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force and Lori Miller is not available, and Mr. Barkett is unavailable November 19). The end result is to keep the B-1 Auditorium reserved for July 30, October 29, and November 19. SFWMD will look to see if other dates are available in October/November.

Action Item: TOC representatives will get back to Julianne LaRock, SFWMD, by July 3 on releasing or keeping the July 30 TOC meeting date.

11:28 a.m. Julianne LaRock adjourned the meeting.