

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

January 26, 2021

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

TOC Representatives:

Julianne LaRock, TOC Chair, SFWMD
John Barkett, Special Master
Daniel Crawford, USACE

Lori Miller, Refuge
Frank Powell, FDEP
Donatto Surratt, ENP

Note: *This meeting was conducted entirely online and by phone and was recorded by a court reporter. Copies of the transcript are available for purchase; for more information, please contact Florida Court Reporting (561-689-0999). Handouts and presentations are available on the TOC website (<https://www.sfwmd.gov/our-work/toc>) and a recording 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 Participants

Julianne LaRock called the meeting to order.

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.

1C. Approval of Meeting Summary for August 11, 2020

The TOC approved the October 27, 2020, meeting summary with no requests for changes.

Associated Online Documents:

- [Final Agenda for January 26, 2021](#)
- [Draft Meeting Notes for October 27, 2020](#)

10:11 a.m. **Update on Memo from Principals about WY2019 Exceedance at SRS** - Julianne LaRock, SFWMD

Julianne LaRock read aloud the memo from Principals about the WY2019 Exceedance at SRS, gave a brief update on the S-333 working group's activities, and noted there are three TOC representatives involved with the working group. Special Master John Barkett reminded the TOC of the importance of keeping the public informed on matters like the agencies' activities related to the S333.

Associated Online Documents:

- [October 2020 Guidance to TOC Representatives](#)

10:18 a.m. 2. Third Quarter Settlement Agreement Report – Jonathan Madden, SFWMD

Jonathan Madden presented the 2020 third quarter Settlement Agreement report, which includes results of total phosphorus (TP) monitoring in the Refuge, Shark River Slough, and Taylor Slough and Coastal Basins through September 2020. September 2020 represents the end of Federal Water Year 2020, however results for Shark River Slough are preliminary and were calculated using provisional flow data. Final results for Shark River Slough for Federal Water Year 2020 will be presented after the United States Geological Survey (USGS) provides final flow data for the S-12 structures through September 30, 2020; these data are expected in March.

Refuge 14-station geometric mean TP values for July and August 2020 were below the computed long-term levels. The September 2020 value (7.8 parts per billion [ppb]) was above its long-term level (7.2 ppb), however this must occur at least two months in a 12-month period to be considered an exceedance. This was not an exceedance as the observed geometric mean TP concentrations for the eleven previous months were all at or below the respective long-term levels. All 14 stations were sampled in August and September, but only 12 could be sampled in July. The average monthly TP geometric mean concentration over the 36 months ending in September 2020 was 6.8 ppb, which is 2.9 ppb below the average monthly long-term level for that period and below the 7 ppb goal stated in the Consent Decree. Preliminary geometric mean TP concentrations for October 2020 through January 2021 were below their respective long-term levels.

Preliminary TP flow-weighted mean concentrations (FWMC) for Shark River Slough for the 12-month periods ending in July, August, and September did not exceed the long-term limit, and the percent of sampling events greater than 10 ppb was below the guideline for each of these periods. Using preliminary data, the observed result for SRS for Federal Water Year 2020 is 9.3 ppb, which is lower than the long-term limit of 9.4 ppb.

TP FWMC values for Taylor Slough and the Coastal Basins for the 12-month periods ending in July, August, and September were each 5.3 ppb, which is well below the long-term limit of 11 ppb and the goal of 6 ppb. The observed percent of sampling events greater than 10 ppb was far below the guideline.

Questions, Comments, and Discussion:

Based on a question from Donatto Surratt, ENP, about slide 16 of the presentation (Daily Flows at Taylor Slough and Coastal Basins Structures into ENP), Jonathan Madden and SFWMD technical staff will consider how to present all the flows in the current method more clearly. Regarding the presentation of information in slide 3 (A.R.M. Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge Monthly TP Geometric Mean Concentrations), Lori Miller, Refuge urged caution when interpreting these data and their relationship with stage.

Associated Online Documents:

- [Settlement Agreement Report, July–September 2020](#)
- [Settlement Agreement Report, July–September 2020 Presentation](#)
- [Quality Assessment Report for Water Quality Monitoring, July–September 2020](#)
- [Quality Assessment Report for Water Quality Monitoring, July–September 2020 – Water Quality Data](#)
- [Provisional Shark River Slough TP Tracking Report, Third Quarter 2020](#)
- [Refuge TP Compliance Table, 2007 through Third Quarter 2020](#)
- [Taylor Slough and Coastal Basins Tracking Report, Third Quarter 2020](#)

10:45 a.m. **3. S333N to Shark River Slough Compliance Equation under Appendix A** – Jonathan Madden, SFWMD

Jonathan Madden gave an overview of the proposed revised compliance equation that would incorporate S333N. The revised equation will add S333N as a parallel structure to S333 and treat flow and TP in the same way S333 is accounted for in compliance. TP and flow monitoring will continue for S333 and additional separate TP and flow monitoring will be conducted at S333N. More details are available in the presentation and handout files on the TOC website (see links below). Jonathan Madden recommended that TOC representatives coordinate with their technical staff to return with additional discussion or to vote on the method of incorporating S333N prior to WY2021 compliance reporting.

Questions, Comments, and Discussion:

The TOC representatives generally agreed it will be relatively simple to incorporate S333N into the compliance equation. Slide 6 of the presentation had an abbreviated version of the revised compliance equation, but the handout had the full version; it was discussed that the full version should be written out when the final decision is presented for the record.

Associated Online Documents:

- [S333N to Shark River Slough Compliance Equation under Appendix A Presentation](#)
- [S333N to Shark River Slough Compliance Equation under Appendix A Handout](#)

11:04 am **4. CEPP South-Future Compliance Monitoring Update** – James Bradshaw, USACE

USACE has refined the selection of locations for the temporary pumps and is refining the position of marsh monitoring station CA3BS. USACE is also finalizing the water quality monitoring plan, and may be able to send it to FDEP by the end of the month for approval. The temporary pumps will most likely be installed in early 2022. Of the different project components, structure S-633 will be constructed first. Monthly grab sampling at station CA3BS may begin as early as this summer. More details are available in the presentation on the TOC website (see link below).

Associated Online Documents:

- [CEPP South Contract 1 Compliance Monitoring Update](#)

11:09 a.m. **5. Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

Frank Powell announced he will be leaving FDEP and joining the Northwest Florida Water Management District in February.

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

The TOC confirmed the next quarterly meeting for Tuesday, May 4, 2021.

11:16 a.m. Julianne LaRock adjourned the meeting.