

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

May 4, 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
Ed Smith, 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.

Donatto Surratt requested a brief update on the S333N working group (agenda item 5). Jonathan Madden requested to present agenda item 3 (Shark River Slough Final WY2020 Annual Compliance Results) before agenda item 2 (Fourth Quarter Settlement Agreement Report). Items in this summary appear in the order presented, but with the original item numbers.

1C. Approval of Meeting Summary for January 26, 2021

The TOC approved the January 26, 2021, meeting summary with no requests for changes.

Regarding the new CEPP-South WCA-3B marsh monitoring location (station CA3BS), Daniel Crawford noted sampling is expected to begin in September or October.

Associated Online Documents:

- [Final Agenda for May 4, 2021](#)
- [Draft Meeting Notes for January 26, 2021](#)

10:15 a.m. **3. Shark River Slough Final WY2020 Annual Compliance Results** – Jonathan Madden, SFWMD

Jonathan Madden, SFWMD, presented final federal water year 2020 (WY2020) annual compliance results for Shark River Slough from the third quarter Settlement Agreement report. The report was previously presented at the January TOC meeting, and has been revised to incorporate final United States Geological Survey (USGS) flow data for the S-12 structures.

Shark River Slough final total phosphorus (TP) flow-weighted mean concentrations (FWMC) for the 12-month periods ending in July, August, and September 2020 were below the long-term limits. The observed percentage of sampling events with a FWMC greater than 10 parts per billion (ppb) was below the guideline for all three periods.

Compliance is based on the federal water year, the 12-month period ending on September 30. The TP FWMC for the 12-month period ending in September 2020 was 9.3 ppb, which is below the long-term limit of 9.5 ppb.

Associated Online Documents:

- [Settlement Agreement Report, WY2020 Shark River Slough Compliance Presentation](#)
- [Final Shark River Slough TP Tracking Report, WY2020](#)

10:27 a.m. **2. Fourth Quarter Settlement Agreement Report** – Jonathan Madden, SFWMD

Jonathan Madden presented the 2020 fourth quarter Settlement Agreement report, which includes results of TP monitoring in the Refuge, Shark River Slough, and Taylor Slough and Coastal Basins through December 2020. Results for Shark River Slough were calculated using provisional flow data and are preliminary. Final results for Shark River Slough for federal WY2021 will be presented after USGS provides final flow data for the S-12 structures through September 30, 2021.

Refuge 14-station geometric mean TP values for October, November, and December 2020 were below the computed long-term levels. All 14 stations were sampled for each of these months. The average monthly TP geometric mean concentration over the 36 months ending in December 2020 was 6.8 ppb, which is 3 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 January through April 2021 are below their respective long-term levels; due to dry conditions, only 11 of the 14 sites could be sampled in April.

Preliminary TP FWMC for Shark River Slough for the 12-month periods ending in October and December 2020 did not exceed the long-term limit, however the value for the 12-month period ending in November 2020 was 8.2 ppb, which slightly exceeded the estimated limit for these 12 months (7.6 ppb). The percent of sampling events greater than 10 ppb was below the guideline for each of these periods.

For inflows to Everglades National Park (ENP) through Shark River Slough in WY2020 and WY2021, periods where stage and flow were low tended to be associated with higher TP FWMC, and, conversely, periods with higher stage and flow tended to be associated with lower TP FWMC.

TP FWMC values for Taylor Slough and the Coastal Basins for the 12-month periods ending in October, November, and December 2020 were well below the long-term limit of 11 ppb, and the observed percent of sampling events greater than 10 ppb was far below the guideline. The five-year average FWMC TP of 5.6 ppb is below the Consent Decree goal of 6 ppb.

Questions, Comments, and Discussion:

Donatto Surratt referenced slide number 8 and noted that the recommendations of the Combined Operational Plan (COP) adaptive management strategy for S333 that have been implemented are functioning well, in his opinion. So far, ENP's recommendation has been to keep the S333 structure open to avoid buildup of sediment that might otherwise be released

later. The observed TP concentrations this year are slightly below the concentrations last year, and Donatto believes that if we continue to follow this pattern, we should be on a trajectory to meet compliance again this year.

Associated Online Documents:

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

10:50 a.m. **4. Addition of S333N to Shark River Slough Compliance Equation** – Jonathan Madden, SFWMD

Jonathan Madden recapped information presented at the last TOC meeting, with the objective of getting formal TOC confirmation of the methodology update to the Appendix A Shark River Slough calculation for interim tracking and annual compliance, incorporating S333N structure flows from WCA-3 to Shark River Slough.

Questions, Comments, and Discussion:

Daniel Crawford, USACE, made a motion to approve the addition of S333N, and the other TOC representatives approved.

In response to a question from Jed Redwine related to the previous agenda item, Daniel Crawford noted that from September 21 to 23, some flows went through S333N that were associated with construction and testing of the structure, but that was prior to SCADA equipment installation, so there is no way to quantify the amount of flow during those three days; the first time the gates were open to pass flows was November 15, which is consistent with the slides in the previous presentation. In Daniel Crawford's view, that is not likely to make any difference in the compliance equation because there are no metered flows to use for those three days when there was some testing by the contractor and SFWMD.

TOC Consensus:

TOC representatives unanimously approved incorporation of S333N into the Appendix A Shark River Slough equation for interim tracking and annual compliance.

Associated Online Documents:

- [Proposed Method for Incorporating S333N to Shark River Slough Long-Term Level Compliance Calculation](#)

11:04 am **5. S333N Working Group Update** – Donatto Surratt, ENP, and Stuart Van Horn, SFWMD

On February 12, the S333N working group provided an initial set of recommendations to the agency principals. At the quarterly agency leadership meeting on March 24, the principals decided to divide responsibilities for the work, with SFWMD taking the lead on recommendations associated with hydrodynamic studies and ENP leading studies on

sediment and sediment transport. Since then, there have been efforts to assign resources and define scopes of work, and this is nearing completion. A working group kickoff meeting with team resources in place will likely occur in two to three weeks. The goal is to coordinate the scopes of work for the different studies to complement each other so they are congruent and consistent, and to develop those scopes over the summer, with implementation targeted for this fall.

11:07 a.m. **6. Public Comment**

Yogesh Khare, Everglades Foundation, provided comments related to public participation and the S333N working group.

Joe Gilio asked about discharge proportions included in equations and was pointed to Volume I, Appendix 3A-5 of the South Florida Environmental Report to obtain the information he is seeking.

11:13 a.m. **7. TOC Closing Business** – Julianne LaRock, SFWMD

The TOC confirmed the next quarterly meeting for Tuesday, August 10, 2021.

11:15 a.m. Julianne LaRock adjourned the meeting.