

**Quarterly Meeting of the
Technical Oversight Committee (TOC)
September 14, 2011**

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

TOC Representatives:

Garth Redfield, TOC Chair, SFWMD
Ernie Marks, FDEP (by phone)
Sean Smith, USACE (by phone)

Mike Waldon, Refuge
Nick Aumen, NPS/ENP
John Barket/Camila Tobon, Special Master (by phone)

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 also available on the TOC website (www.sfwmd.gov/toc).

10:05 a.m. **Meeting Called to Order by TOC Chair**

Approval of May 31, 2011, draft meeting notes and review of action items –
Garth Redfield, SFWMD

Garth Redfield asked if the TOC members had any changes to the notes from the May 31, 2011, meeting (**Document 1**). None were requested and the notes were approved. Garth also asked if any changes to the agenda (**Document 2**) were required; none were requested.

Associated Online Documents

1. [TOC Meeting Notes from May 31, 2011](#)
2. [Agenda for TOC Meeting, September 14, 2011](#)

10:15 a.m. **Agenda Item #2. Briefing on the 2010–2011 Drought in South Florida –**
Wossenu Abteu, SFWMD

Wossenu Abteu presented a summary of the drought conditions currently affecting the region (**Document 3**). The drought will likely continue due to a strong La Niña climatic cycle. The lack of water is impacting water quality monitoring: no water could be collected for 59 sampling events from January through July 2011 and Refuge monthly sampling was limited to stations nearest to the canals. Drought-related discussion among the TOC members followed with topics including hydrological modeling, the impacts on monitoring and exotic species, and floating peat mats.

Associated Online Documents

3. [Briefing on the 2010-2011 Drought in South Florida](#)

10:45 a.m. **Agenda Item #3. Water Management Operations –**
Susan Sylvester, SFWMD

Susan Sylvester reviewed the District's water management operations for 2010–2011 in response to the drought conditions (**Document 4**). The District is trying to provide enough water to meet users' needs and maintain groundwater levels to prevent saltwater intrusion. Discussion followed with topics including EAA water supply cuts, water levels in WCA-3A, and the effects of water quality in the Miami Canal on Taylor Slough and Shark River Slough.

Associated Online Documents

4. [Dry Season Operations, Presentation to the TOC](#)

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11:15 a.m. **Agenda Item #4. Presentation of the Settlement Agreement Report –**
Stuart Van Horn, SFWMD

Stuart Van Horn presented the Settlement Agreement Report for April–June 2011 (**Documents 5 and 6**). The Quality Assessment Report for Water Quality Monitoring (**Document 7**) is also available.

Associated Online Documents

5. [Settlement Agreement Report, April - June 2011](#)
6. [Settlement Agreement Report Presentation, April - June 2011](#)
7. [Quality Assessment Report for Water Quality Monitoring, April - June 2011](#)

11:45 a.m. **Agenda Item #5. Miscellaneous Issues Impacting Monitoring Associated with the TOC –**
Pete Rawlik, SFWMD

Pete Rawlik updated the TOC on monitoring issues related to construction and drought conditions (**Document 8**). Pete also asked for and received unanimous TOC approval to continue the suspension of monitoring when water levels are too low for collection. Pete briefed the TOC that the SFWMD is going to discontinue the collection of qualitative vegetative metadata during monitoring trips. Several TOC members asked that this data continue to be collected.

➔ **Action Item #1:** The SFWMD will organize a meeting for TOC agencies to look into the possibility of continuing to collect qualitative vegetative metadata and how the process can be streamlined.

Associated Online Documents

8. [Monitoring Issues, An Update for the TOC](#)

12:15 p.m. **Agenda Item #8B. TOC Meeting Dates**

Garth Redfield moved this item ahead in the schedule to ease planning. The next quarterly meeting will be November 29, 2011. The following meeting will be either February 21 or February 28, 2012. February 28 may be better since it is farther from the President's Day holiday.

12:20 p.m. Break

1:00 p.m. Call to order

Agenda Item #6A. Update on STAs and Related Projects –

Dave Unsell, Lawrence Gerry, and John Mitnik, SFWMD

Dave Unsell made a presentation detailing the studies being conducted in the STAs to track and improve their function (**Document 9**).

Lawrence Gerry updated the TOC on partial water diversions to protect the aquatic vegetation in STA-3/4 (**Document 10**). Managers worried that rapidly rising water related to heavy rains following dry conditions could damage STA vegetation and reduce its long-term ability to treat stormwater. The STA seems to be recovering rapidly, but there is concern over the phosphorus in the water diverted around the STA. The discussion that followed included requests to allow stakeholders outside the SFWMD and FDEP to have input in future similar situations, concern that more attention was seemingly paid to protecting the STA than the Everglades, and questions regarding what options other than diversion are available or will be possible in the future.

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→ **Action Item #2:** Report back from FDEP on status of diversion requirement in permits.

John Mitnik presented an update on Compartment B and C construction (**Document 11**).

Associated Online Documents

9. [Stormwater Treatment Areas: Applied Studies and Evaluations](#)
10. [STA-3/4 Diversions to Protect Aquatic Vegetation \(Presentation to TOC\)](#)
11. [STAs and Related Projects Update - Part 2 for September 14, 2011, TOC Meeting](#)

2:20 p.m. **Agenda Item #6B. Update on Refuge Monitoring and Modeling –**
Mike Waldon, USFWS

Mike Waldon reviewed the recent Refuge Monitoring and Modeling and stated the associated files are available (**Document 12**).

Associated Online Documents

12. [Refuge's Enhanced Water Quality Program Monthly Sampling, April-June 2011](#)

2:30 p.m. **Agenda Item #6C, Update on Data Usability Document –**
Ernie Marks, FDEP

Ernie Marks reviewed the progress being made on the Data Usability Document. He expects to have the cover memo that will accompany the document ready for the next TOC meeting. The SFWMD is also working on examples to go along with the document.

2:35 p.m. **Agenda Item #7, Additional and Public Comments**

Nick Aumen, NPS/ENP, thanked those who participated in the Refuge's annual science workshop. There were no other public comments.

2:40 p.m. **Agenda Item #8A, Discussion of Proposed Future TOC Agenda Items**

Garth Redfield, SFWMD, asked for future TOC agenda topics. A technical document on the Shark River Slough Water Quality Analysis is being generated and will be presented in the future, but the schedule is undecided at the moment. Mike Waldon, Refuge, summarized the reasons he would like to discuss the XYZ transects in the Refuge. This topic is slated to be discussed at the next meeting. Ernie Marks, FDEP, is still working with the USACE on the ERTF and it will be a future agenda item, but the timing is uncertain.

2:55 p.m. **Meeting Adjourned**