

**Northern Tampa Bay Phase II Local Technical Peer Review Group (LTPRG)
SWFWMD Tampa Service Office, Hwy 301N, Tampa**

**Meeting 29
September 7, 2005 - 9:30AM**

Summary

The following were in attendance: **R. Warren Hogg**, Tampa Bay Water; Nisai Wanakule, Tampa Bay Water; Alison Adams, Tampa Bay Water; Janice Lantrip, Tampa Bay Water; Tiruseu Asefa, Tampa Bay Water; Patty Fesmire, Tampa Bay Water; **Annemarie Hammond**, Pasco County; Joe Richards, Pasco County; **Andy Smith**, HCWRT; Scott Emery, Hillsborough County; **Dave Slonena**, Pinellas County; **Laura Morris**, Quest Ecology/WRWSA; Cliff Harrison, EnHydro, LLC; **Richard Voakes**, City of St. Petersburg; **Michael Hancock**, SWFWMD; **Ted Rochow**, SWFWMD; Robert Peterson, SWFWMD; John Emery, SWFWMD, Ken Weber, SWFWMD; Mark Barcelo, SWFWMD; and **Doug Leeper**, SWFWMD. Names in bold are designated representatives for the LTPRG.

Doug Leeper provided an update on the status of minimum flows and levels development for water bodies in the Tampa Bay area. He noted that the District has scheduled four public workshops for input on the 2006 Minimum Flows and Levels Priority List and Schedule. The workshops are scheduled to begin at 6:00 P.M. and will be held on October 3 at the Bartow Service Office, on October 5 at the Tampa Service Office, on October 10 at the Brooksville Office and October 12 at the Sarasota Service Office. Doug indicated that proposed levels for lakes scheduled for adoption in 2005 would be presented to the Governing Board for adoption at the November Board meeting. He noted that presentation of levels for lakes in the SWUCA may be delayed, pending adoption of the SWUCA Recovery Plan and associated rules. He also informed the group that adoption of levels for Lake Linda in Pasco County would be delayed until 2006. Doug also provided an update on the development of minimum flows and levels for regional rivers and estuarine systems. He noted that the report outlining proposed minimum flows for the freshwater portion of the Alafia River is currently being peer-reviewed, and that a workshop for public comment on the proposed flows would be scheduled soon. He indicated that the summary report on proposed minimum flows for the Tampa Bypass Canal is also currently being peer-reviewed. He reminded the group that the summary report on proposed minimum flows for Sulphur Springs has been peer-reviewed, and that the District is delaying adoption of flows for the system until flows can be adopted for the entire river system. Finally, Doug noted that the report on proposed minimum flows for the lower Hillsborough River is nearing completion and should be available for review this fall.

Michael Hancock gave a presentation on issues related to Recovery assessment in the Northern Tampa Bay area. Mr. Hancock pointed out the specific references to recovery in Chapter 373 Florida Statutes, as well as District rule 40D-80. While the basic

premise of the recovery effort is to assess the status of minimum flows and levels and make decisions on the next necessary steps to recovery, the District has also taken steps to perform a more regional and comprehensive evaluation for consideration in 2010. Much of the effort to prepare for the 2010 assessment to date has been the expansion, upgrade, and quality control of the regional data collection network, as well as revisions to the methodologies used to collect biologic data (WAP). This work has been done with cooperation from Tampa Bay Water, and includes their data collection network. Mr. Hancock also discussed other tools and assessments to be used, included the regional integrated model (IHM), NEXRAD rainfall data, and control sites. The presentation can be found on the NTB II website.

Warren Hogg gave a presentation on some of Tampa Bay Water's goals and approaches to recovery. Mr. Hogg explained that Tampa Bay Water's goals include understanding the hydrologic relationships, continued data collection and analysis, the identification of sites where water levels have not reached their expected levels, and the understanding of physical systems and cause(s) of continued stress. Annual evaluations of wellfield areas, documented in the wellfield annual reports, are an important step to achieving these goals. Tampa Bay Water has been working to streamline the reports to make them more useful, and is discussing the development of periodic interpretive reports. Hydroperiod assessments, normal pool offset evaluations, water level trends analyses, and areal assessments of areas where water level data are not collected are examples of assessments that are performed. Monitoring and referrals under the Optimized Regional Operations Plan (OROP) are also important components of Tampa Bay Water's efforts.

Mr. Hogg also discussed the planned updates to the Candidate Sites Evaluation Study (CSES) and Phase I Mitigation Plan. These studies evaluated the health status of wetlands and lakes in the vicinity of the regional wellfields, forecasted conditions after wellfield pumping reductions, and proposed sites and priorities for recovery management projects. This work was previously approved by the District under condition that it be updated, and that update is planned to begin later this year. An important part of this work is Tampa Bay Water's quality control assessment of all historic water level data.

The next regular LTPRG meeting is scheduled for 9:30 AM on November 2, 2005 at SWFWMD's Tampa Service Office.

AGENDA

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1. July meeting follow-up
2. Miscellaneous updates
 - Lake MFL Update
3. Overview of the District's NTB Recovery Assessment Efforts (Mark Barcelo and Michael Hancock)
4. Overview of NTB Recovery Assessment Efforts from Tampa Bay Water's Perspective (Warren Hogg)
5. Issues for Next Meeting – November 2, 2005