

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

**Meeting 34
January 3, 2007 - 9:30AM**

Summary

The following were in attendance: Doug Keesecker, Tampa Bay Water; **R. Warren Hogg**, Tampa Bay Water; Chris Shea, Tampa Bay Water; Patty Fesmire, Tampa Bay Water; Scott Emery, EHI/Hillsborough County; **Dave Slonena**, Pinellas County; Terrie Lee, USGS; **Gordon A. Leslie Jr.**, Hillsborough County EPC; Cindy Pelley, Hillsborough County EPC; Peter Schreuder, Schreuder, Inc.; Mario Cabana, Hillsborough County; **Annemarie Hammond**, Pasco County; **Laura Morris**, Quest Ecology; **Michael Hancock**, SWFWMD; **Ted Rochow**, SWFWMD; Maya Burke, SWFWMD; Marty Kelly, SWFWMD; Robert Peterson, SWFWMD; Mark Barcelo, SWFWMD; and John Emery, SWFWMD. Names in bold are designated representatives for the LTPRG.

Marty Kelly provided an update on the status of minimum flows and levels development for priority District lakes. He noted that in October 2006 the Governing Board approved staff-recommended minimum and guidance levels for selected Citrus County (Fort Cooper and the Floral City, Inverness and Hernando Pools of Tsala Apopka Lake) and Sumter County (Big Gant, Black, Deaton, Miona, Okahumpka, Panasoffkee) lakes. He also indicated that the Governing Board approved staff-recommended levels for six priority Pasco County lakes (Crews, Iola, Jessamine, Pasco, Pierce and Unnamed #22-Loyce) in November 2006.

Dr. Kelly gave a presentation on the proposed MFL for the Lower Hillsborough River (LHR). The District had previously established a minimum for the LHR of 10 cfs; however, this MFL was challenged. As the result of a settlement agreement, the District and City of Tampa agreed to a re-evaluation of the MFL which in part stated, "The study shall include a range of sufficient releases of up to at least 30 cfs of freshwater to examine the effects on the biological communities in the Lower Hillsborough River." Dr. Kelly explained the results of the re-evaluation, and why the District proposed that the MFL should be increased to 20 cfs. The stated LHR minimum flow management goal is: "To provide a minimum flow that would extend a salinity range of <5 ppt from the Hillsborough Reservoir Dam toward Sulphur Springs." Dr. Kelly discussed the results of various modeling scenarios that looked at a range of flows from 10 to 40 cfs in 2 cfs increments. The minimum flow was also evaluated in terms of dissolved oxygen concentrations and the ability to ameliorate a "reverse salinity" gradient upstream of Sulphur Springs. The minimum flow recommendation also included a recommendation for an adjustment based on seasonal hydrologic conditions. The MFL document is currently undergoing independent scientific peer review, and is available on the District's web site.

As an introduction to upcoming discussions on assessments of recovery in the NTB area, Michael Hancock gave the group a review of supporting work previously presented, as well as an overview of the upcoming topics. Mr. Hancock explained that two key pieces of analysis still needed are the reassessment of the existing isolated cypress wetland MFL methodology, and the development of MFL methodologies for other types of wetlands. Other upcoming discussions related to recovery include the development of an overall plan for the period between now and 2010, continued assessments of the status of MFLs, and discussions on the contents of future recovery phases (if any). Future recovery phases would include the role of alternative management techniques, such as augmentation using various water sources.

The next regular LTPRG meeting is scheduled for 9:30 AM on March 1, 2007 at SWFWMD's Tampa Service Office.

AGENDA

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1. September meeting follow-up
2. Miscellaneous updates
 - Lake MFL Update
3. Minimum Flow for the Lower Hillsborough River (Marty Kelly)
4. MFL and Recovery Assessments for 2007 (Michael Hancock)
5. Issues for next Meeting – March 1, 2007