

**Northern Tampa Bay Phase II - Public Meeting
SWFWMD - Tampa Service Office**

**June 29, 2000
9:00 AM**

Minutes

The following were in attendance: Kay Adams, Hernando County; Dawn Durham, Hernando County; Peter Owens, Hillsborough County EPC; Zhongyab Lin, Hillsborough County EPC; Gordon Leslie, Jr., Hillsborough County EPC; Tony D'Aquila, Hillsborough County EPC; Crystal Clark, Hillsborough County EPC; Heidi Swanson, Hillsborough County EPC; Rich McLean, Pinellas County; Dave Slonena, Pinellas County; Richard Voakes, City of St. Petersburg; Ralph Craig, City of St. Petersburg; R. Warren Hogg, Tampa Bay Water, Kathleen Coates, Tampa Bay Water; Jeff Vilagos, City of Tampa; Jie Gao, City of Tampa; Andy Smith, Hillsborough County; Cathleen Jonas, SDI Environmental, Inc.; Charles Fletcher, del a Parte and Gilbert; Jeff Churchill; Gaye Townsend, County Line Coalition; Michael Hancock, SWFWMD; Mark Barcelo, SWFWMD; Karen Lloyd, SWFWMD; Richard Schultz, SWFWMD; Marty Kelly, SWFWMD; Terry Johnson, SWFWMD; John Emery, SWFWMD; Clark Hull, SWFWMD; Ted Rochow, SWFWMD; Doug Leeper, SWFWMD, Jonathan Morales, SWFWMD; Adam Munson, SWFWMD

Michael Hancock gave a brief presentation on the recent history of the District's activities in the Northern Tampa Bay (NTB) area. A figure displaying the boundaries of the study area for the Northern Tampa Bay Phase II program was presented, although it was explained that the boundaries are meant to imply a general area of focus rather than "hard" boundaries. Mr. Hancock presented that the primary purpose of the NTB Phase II Program and NTB Technical Advisory Group was to address the commitments made by the District in Chapter 40D-8 concerning 1) the development of ongoing environmental monitoring, data collection, and analysis programs, and 2) the coordination of such work with local governments, agencies, and interested parties. The NTB Scope of Work was developed to address the first of these, and the NTB TAC is being formed to address the second. The District would like the TAC to serve as a mechanism to improve all technical projects in Northern Tampa Bay, rather than be limited to just minimum flows and levels projects, and would like to invite other agencies to bring their projects to the TAC as well.

Mr. Hancock said that the TAC would provide peer review from the technical representatives of the interested parties, be advisory in nature, provide opportunity for technical input or feedback, allow for coordination of efforts, and provide an exchange of technical information. The TAC will consist of one main panel of technical representatives, with subcommittees formed as necessary. Each party that would like to participate should volunteer at least one representative, but more than one representative is fine. The process will only work if the representatives regularly attend meetings, and set aside enough time in their schedules to review projects in detail.

Various types of presentations and work product will be offered to the TAC, including scopes of work, progress reports, and final project reports. Mr. Hancock stressed that the scope of the TAC should remain technical, and that policy or legal debates will need to be recognized and resolved in another forum. Also, the voluntary independent scientific peer review process outlined in Chapter 373, F.S. will be administered by the District separately.

Gaye Townsend commented that she felt referring to this TAC as a “community” review is misleading, and suggested that a community committee be formed separately. She felt that there needs to be an avenue for citizen input.

Rich McLean suggested that a “policy” committee also be formed, to discuss the application of the science. He suggested investigating the Tampa Bay Estuary Program as a model for this type of a committee.

Peter Owen suggested that future minimum flows and levels need to be driven by science, and not diluted by policy makers.

Andy Smith asked if Hillsborough County could be involved in the Chapter 373 peer review process, including helping with funding. He said he felt that the process would not be “independent” if it were administered only by the District. Mr. McLean agreed, and said that Pinellas County would like to participate similarly.

Warren Hogg asked at what point would the Chapter 373 process occur, at the beginning or end of projects? He asked whether the panel would review parts of the analysis, such as a numerical model, or just the final minimum flows or levels themselves? Mr. Hancock stated that how this process will work has not been finalized. Mr Hogg also mentioned that he felt the Chapter 373 process does not preclude the District from allowing interested parties into the voluntary independent scientific peer review process.

Karen Lloyd stated that we need to have further discussions on the process of resolving policy debates.

Mr. Hancock asked for those that are interested in participating in the TAC to provide the name of their representative(s), so that he could quickly organize the first TAC meeting.