

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

Meeting 17
April 2, 2003 - 9:30AM

Summary

The following were in attendance: **Dave Slonena**, Pinellas County; **Rich McLean**, Pinellas County; Chris Shea, Tampa Bay Water; Kathleen Coates, Tampa Bay Water; **Richard Voakes**, City of St. Petersburg; **Andy Smith**, Hillsborough County; Scott Emery, EHI for Hillsborough County; Mario Cabana, Hillsborough County; Julie Earls, Schreuder, Inc.; **Michael Hancock**, SWFWMD; **Ted Rochow**, SWFWMD; Mark Barcelo, SWFWMD; John W. Parker, SWFWMD; Robert Peterson, SWFWMD; Anthony Andrade, SWFWMD; Mikel Renner, SWFWMD; Adam Munson, SWFWMD; and John Emery, SWFWMD. Names in bold are designated representatives for the LTPRG.

Michael Hancock noted that there was nothing new to report on the status of the adoption of minimum levels for Category 3 lakes in the northern Tampa Bay area. Rule writing was ongoing, and no date has been announced for Governing Board adoption. Also, work is ongoing on the preliminary assessment of the Wetland Assessment Procedure. The data set is near completion, and once some results of the assessment are available, they will be presented to the LTPRG or a subcommittee.

Anthony Andrade (Senior Water Conservation Analyst for the SWFWMD) gave the group a presentation on ongoing and proposed reclaimed water projects in the Tampa Bay area. The primary focus of the presentation was on the Tampa Bay Area Comprehensive Reclaimed Water Initiative and on new reclaimed water quality studies to be cooperatively funded by the WaterReuse Foundation and the District. Mr. Andrade presented the existing and proposed reclaimed water network in the Tampa Bay area, and the long-term financial considerations and goals of the various projects. The first of two projects with the WaterReuse Foundation will analyze and compare the water quality of ground and surface waters influenced by effluent, ground and surface waters not influenced by effluent, and reclaimed water. This one-year study will form a scientific basis for responsible reuse development and assist in regionalizing and maximizing the utilization of reclaimed water for natural system restoration, river augmentation, ASR, and aquifer recharge. A second one-year project with the WaterReuse Foundation will investigate the effectiveness of various treatment methods to reduce or eliminate a variety of biological and chemical constituents that may be present in reclaimed water (may include *Cryptosporidium*, *Giardia*, NDMA, endocrine disrupters, pharmaceuticals, personal care products, and natural and synthetic hormones). The presentation was interspersed with lively discussions on such diverse issues as District funding,

Cooperator/District coordination, offset calculations, and cost/benefit calculations. Some LTPRG members felt that some of the offset values used in reclaimed water use planning were too high, but Mr. Andrade felt confident that the values were reasonable.

Mr. Hancock presented some of the initial ideas being discussed at the District to use excess reclaimed water during the wet season to augment ground water in areas of impact. Several methods can be used for wet weather disposal of reclaimed water in a way that contributes toward water level recovery in the region, including the use of rapid infiltration basins (RIBs), land applications through spray fields, and direct discharges to wetlands. Mr. Hancock felt that each method will have both benefits and drawbacks in the Tampa Bay area, and significant research will be needed to determine if a combination of these techniques will work. District staff visited the Conserve II operation in Orange County, where RIBs are used very successfully to dispose of over 30 mgd of wet weather reclaimed water, while increasing water levels in the underlying aquifers. Whether or not the hydrogeologic conditions in the northern Tampa Bay area are conducive to the use of RIBs to dispose of large quantities of excess reclaimed water is a primary question, although studies of very localized area of high recharge may show that the technique can be effective. Mr. Hancock explained that he felt spray fields would require a larger footprint, but may be more feasible in northern Tampa Bay, while some information on direct wetland recharge will be obtained through existing studies. Mr. Hancock felt that all methods will need more research before any conclusions can be reached, and that this discussion will be the first of many on the subject for the LTPRG. Rich McLean suggested that extending the reclaimed network might be more feasible if they were designed for the wet season flows rather than dry season, and systems were augmented with potable water during the periods of low flows.

Due to a number of scheduling conflicts, there will be no meeting in June. The next regular LTPRG meeting is scheduled for 9:30 AM on August 6, 2003 at the Tampa Service Office.

AGENDA

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1. February meeting follow-up
2. Miscellaneous updates
 - Category III lakes
 - Subcommittees
3. Discussion of current and future activities in reclaimed water use in the Tampa Bay area (Anthony Andrade, Mark Barcelo, Michael Hancock)
4. Issues for Next Meeting – June 4, 2003 (at the Tampa Service Office)