

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

**Meeting 19  
October 1, 2003 - 9:30AM**

## **Summary**

The following were in attendance: **Dave Slonena**, Pinellas County; **Mike Coates**, Tampa Bay Water; **R. Warren Hogg**, Tampa Bay Water; Kathleen Coates, Tampa Bay Water; Doug Keesecker, Tampa Bay Water; **Richard Voakes**, City of St. Petersburg; **Andy Smith**, Hillsborough County; Scott Emery, Hillsborough County; Mario Cabana, Hillsborough County; **Cliff Harrison**, Schreuder, Inc for the WRWSA; **Jeff Vilagos**, City of Tampa; Bill Tait, Friends of the River; Gordon Leslie, Hillsborough County Environmental Protection Commission; **Michael Hancock**, SWFWMD; **Ted Rochow**, SWFWMD; Sid Flannery, SWFWMD; Mark Barcelo, SWFWMD; Robert Peterson, SWFWMD; **Doug Leeper**, SWFWMD; Lisa Henningson, SWFWMD; Marty Kelly, SWFWMD; John Parker, SWFWMD; Michael Heyl, SWFWMD; Ken Weber, SWFWMD; and John Emery, SWFWMD. Names in bold are designated representatives for the LTPRG.

Doug Leeper provided an update on the status of minimum level development for Northern Tampa Bay area lakes. He noted that the District staff would be asking the Governing Board to approve revisions to District minimum flows and levels rules (Chapter 40D-8, Florida Administrative Code) at the Board's October meeting. Mr. Leeper also initiated a discussion of proposed minimum levels for Lakes Big Fish, Raleigh, Rogers and Starvation, indicating that he was motivated to do so based on recent input from several members of the LTPRG. Principal contributors to the discussion included Warren Hogg, Rick Voakes and Dave Slonena. Issues raised included: 1) the selection of the control point elevation for Starvation Lake; 2) the period of record identified for development of the Current P10, P50 and P90 statistics for Starvation Lake; 3) changes in drainage patterns in the vicinity of Lake Park, and how evaluation of these changes has been included in the minimum levels development process; 3) the occurrence of trees within the Lake Raleigh and Lake Rogers basins at elevations lower than the minimum levels proposed for the lakes; 4) use of reference lake water regime statistics; and 5) use of the species richness standard for minimum levels development in general, and for Big Fish Lake, specifically.

Sid Flannery gave a presentation summarizing progress on the establishment of minimum flows for Sulphur Springs. The report will be finished in December 2003, and will be presented to the Governing Board at its December meeting. Mr. Flannery's presentation included photographs of the spring and a description of the water control structures and

modifications to the spring pool and run. A history of water use by the City of Tampa from the spring was discussed, including pumping the spring at a rate of 20 MGD during droughts. The recent modifications to the pumping system at the spring were described, including construction of the flume below the Hillsborough River Dam and the return pipe at the spring pool so that variable amounts of water can now be diverted from the spring pool.

The ecological criteria that will be used to establish the minimum flow were presented, which are; maintain a low salinity habitat in the spring run, evaluate the springflow needs of the lower river, and evaluate the thermal requirements of manatees. Results from the flow diversion experiments conducted during 2001 and 2002 were presented, along with data from continuous recorders in the spring and run that are operated by the USGS. The thermal model developed by Janicki Environmental, Inc. was described. These combined results indicate that a minimum flow to meet the salinity needs of the spring and lower river will provide a suitable thermal refuge for manatees. The rising trend in specific conductance the spring has been experiencing was also discussed.

Questions about the presentation concerned the effect of the spring on dissolved oxygen concentrations in the run, use of the spring by manatees, and tide stage relationships with salinity in the spring run.

Michael Hancock announced that a brief meeting would be held next week with Tampa Bay Water to begin discussing the draft results of the District's analysis of the Wetland Assessment Procedure (WAP). Following that meeting, the District will organize a wetlands subcommittee of the LTPRG to begin discussing the results. The subcommittee meeting should take place in late October or early November 2003 (November 6<sup>th</sup> was later chosen). Also, a field trip to visit the Gulf Coast pilot desalination plant will be organized for November or December 2003.

Mr. Hancock also gave a brief presentation on the draft results of the 2003 MFL lake and wetland assessment. Mr. Hancock explained that the assessment was performed for both 6- and 10-year periods, for the periods ending in 1999 through 2002. For the 10-year period ending in 2002, zero of the fifteen lakes were achieving their minimum level, while three were achieving their high minimum level. For the same period, fifteen wetlands were achieving their minimum levels, twenty were not, and six did not yet have enough information and/or data to make the determination. Two of the seven wells were meeting the minimum level, while five were not. Until 2010, these results are interim, and are not subject to regulatory action.

The next regular LTPRG meeting is scheduled for 9:30 AM on December 3, 2003 at the Tampa Service Office.

# **AGENDA**

## **Northern Tampa Bay Phase II Local Technical Peer Review Group**

### **Meeting 19 SWFWMD Tampa Service Office, Hwy 301N, Tampa October 1, 2003 - 9:30AM**

1. August meeting follow-up
2. Miscellaneous updates
  - Category III lakes
  - WAP assessment
  - Future presentation/field trips
3. Sulphur Springs Minimum Flows and Levels (Sid Flannery)
4. 2003 MFL evaluations (Michael Hancock)
5. Issues for Next Meeting – December 3, 2003 (at the Tampa Service Office)