

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

Meeting 44

August 5, 2008 - 9:30AM

Summary

The following were in attendance: Chris Shea, Tampa Bay Water; Bob Tyson, Tampa Bay Water; **Warren Hogg**, Tampa Bay Water; Doug Keesecker, Tampa Bay Water; Jeff Geurink, Tampa Bay Water; Patty Fesmire, Tampa Bay Water; Dan Schmutz, GPI Southeast, Inc.; **Scott Emery**, EHI/Hillsborough County; **Gordon A. Leslie Jr.**, Hillsborough County EPC; Mario Cabana, Hillsborough County WRS; **Dave Slonena**, Pinellas County Utilities; **Michael Hancock**, SWFWMD; Maya Burke, SWFWMD; John Emery, SWFWMD; Christina Uranowski, SWFWMD; Ken Weber, SWFWMD; **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 northern Tampa Bay and other priority water bodies. With regard to minimum flows for river/spring systems, Mr. Leeper noted that at the June 2008 Governing Board meeting, staff presented a response to the peer-review of proposed minimum flows for the lower Peace River and Shell Creek. He indicated that staff is currently working on rule language and analyses related to development of a recovery strategy for Shell Creek. He further noted that at the July Governing Board meeting, staff presented a report on proposed minimum flows for Dona Bay/Shakett Creek and noted that a peer-review panel for the work is currently being assembled. Finally, with regard to minimum flows, Mr. Leeper noted that staff continues to work on rule language and a recovery strategy for the lower Alafia River. With respect to minimum lake levels, Mr. Leeper stated that work related to levels for lakes scheduled for levels adoption in 2008 is ongoing. He also stated that new floodplain mapping for the Pithlachascotee watershed was expected to be completed soon and that rule-making for proposed minimum levels for Crews Lake was expected to be reinitiated upon completion of the work. He indicated that the District-funded drainage analysis/water budget study of the Lake Raleigh, Rogers and Starvation watersheds is behind schedule and that staff do not expect to move forward with proposed minimum levels for the three lakes until the project is completed. Mr. Leeper closed his update by noting that the District now has a Minimum Flows and Levels page on its web site and that the page may be accessed from the Projects and Programs web page.

Mr. Leeper also provided a presentation, titled, "Bird Species Richness, Lake Area and Minimum Levels". The presentation summarized use of previously published data for development of currently existing District rules pertaining to development of minimum levels for lakes, and also provided an overview of results from a recently completed District-funded study on bird species richness and lake area. Mr. Leeper noted that a report on the study, authored by Scott Emery, Dean Martin, Dave Sumpter, Reed Bowman and Rich Paul, will soon be finalized and posted on the District web site.

Michael Hancock presented the results of the annual assessment status of minimum levels in the NTB area through 2007. A copy of the slides used in the presentation is posted on the NTB II website. There are approximately 69 lakes, 41 wetlands, and 7 wells in the NTB area in which minimum levels have been adopted as of the end of 2007. Information was presented on the 6, 10, and 2 year assessments of each minimum level site, along with the 6, 10, and 2 year assessments of each Recovery site. Some comparisons were made between the current status of MFLs, and the status five to eight years ago. Mr. Hancock concluded that the effect of reductions in groundwater withdrawals at the regional well fields is becoming more evident at many of the minimum level and Recovery sites, especially in the areas of well fields that have had large reductions. However, it is still too early for final conclusions on MFL compliance to be made due to limits in time series data, and ongoing development of compliance techniques. In general, progress is as expected. Mr. Hancock reminded the group that many important decisions are due to be made by 2010, including the final assessment of the first phase of NTB recovery, and the renewal of the Consolidated permit, so many assessments will be performed over the next three years to support this effort.

The date for the next regular LTPRG meeting was not available at the time of the August meeting since there is a need to change the meeting location, and possibly the date. The meeting will take place in October, and the date and location will be announced when available.

AGENDA

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1. June meeting follow-up
2. Miscellaneous updates
 - Lake MFL Update
3. Bird Species Richness, Lake Area, and Minimum Levels (Doug Leeper, SWFWMD)
4. 2008 MFL update (Michael Hancock, SWFWMD)
5. Issues for next Meeting – October, 2008