

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

**Meeting 38
August 7, 2007 - 9:30AM**

Summary

The following were in attendance: **R. Warren Hogg**, Tampa Bay Water; Terry Thomas, Tampa Bay Water; **Gordon A. Leslie Jr.**, Hillsborough County EPC; Mario Cabana, Hillsborough County; **Dave Slonena**, Pinellas County Utilities; **Rich McLean**, Pinellas County Utilities; **Annemarie Hammond**, Pasco County; Richard Voakes, City of St. Petersburg; Kim Haag, USGS; Terrie Lee, USGS; Patty Metz, USGS; Dan Schmutz, GPI Southeast, Inc.; Deborah Daigle, HDR Engineering, Inc; **Michael Hancock**, SWFWMD; Maya Burke, SWFWMD; and **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 currently identified priority water bodies in the northern Tampa Bay area. He noted that at the August Governing Board meeting, staff plans to recommend continuation of a public hearing on proposed rule amendments concerning minimum and guidance levels for Crews Lake and other priority Pasco County lakes until the September Board meeting. Mr. Leeper also indicated that staff were currently preparing draft reports on proposed minimum and guidance levels for three additional Pasco County lakes (Lakes King, King-East and Linda), and that these reports would be available for review by the end of August, with the expectation that staff would recommend Board adoption of the proposed levels in October. He also indicated that a District-funded project involving analysis of the effects of drainage alterations on water levels in Lakes Raleigh, Rogers and Starvation in Hillsborough County was behind schedule and that revision of proposed minimum and guidance levels for the lakes, if necessary based on the project results, would not be undertaken until the project is finished.

With regard to minimum flows for river systems, Mr. Leeper noted that the peer-review document on the report outlining proposed minimum flows for the upper segment of the Hillsborough River has been completed and is available for review on the District web site. He further noted that staff expect that the peer-review panel chairperson will likely present the panel's findings to the Board in September. Mr. Leeper noted that at the August Governing Board meeting, staff anticipates seeking Board approval for rule amendments that include proposed minimum flows for the Lower Hillsborough River, the Tampa Bypass Canal and Sulphur Springs, and that the amendments will also include recovery strategies for ensuring compliance with the proposed minimum flows. He did, however, indicated that some issues concerning the proposed rule amendments are currently being discussed by District staff and various interested parties. Mr. Leeper noted that a draft report for proposed minimum flows for the Alafia River estuary is currently being completed by District staff, and that the report would be presented to the

Board at their August meeting and subsequently submitted to a voluntary, scientific peer-review process.

Finally, Mr. Leeper noted that staff expect to present a proposed Minimum Flows and Levels Priority List and Schedule to the Board at their September meeting, and expects to return to the Board in October to ask for finalization of the list and schedule prior to submission of the document to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. He noted that staff would be hosting public workshops to solicit input on the proposed list and schedule and that interested parties should contact District staff regarding inclusion of additional water bodies on the list.

Deborah Daigle gave a presentation on the Section 21 Wellfield Restoration Project. A PDF file of the presentation can be found on the NTB II website. Ms. Daigle explained that the key component of the project was to investigate the potential public health risks of using reclaimed and/or diverted surface water to rehydrate wetlands and lakes on the Section 21 wellfield. The project included data collection, ground-water modeling, and risk characterization analyses. The project concluded that 1) there were no significant risks with respect to chemical constituents, 2) the use of reclaimed water/storm/surface water presents a comparable or decreasing risk profile for *ingestion* as compared to the background risk with respect to microbiological constituents, and, 3) the use of reclaimed water/storm/surface water presents varying risk profiles for *recreational activities* as compared to the background risk with respect to microbiological constituents. Several people in attendance suggested that additional studies of risk for other contaminants not included in this study should be done before the rehydration project is applied in the field. Others felt that more detailed assessment of the risk should also be performed. As of the date of the presentation, Warren Hogg stated that Tampa Bay Water plans to delay further work and/or implementation of the project until more assessment of the results of the recent decrease in ground-water withdrawals at the wellfield takes place.

Michael Hancock gave an update discussion of the overall planning process for the 2010 recovery assessment. Mr. Hancock presented timelines for the process, and explained that the next two years will be a key period in which the LTPRG will be presented results of several pieces of the assessment, and input on the analyses will be sought. Key components include the reevaluation of the existing MFLs, proposals for changes to existing methodologies, the role of alternative management strategies, and discussions on the content of future recovery phases. Those in attendance agreed that relaying the large amount of information and data collected over the last ten years to decision makers, and the general public, will be one of the challenges.

The next regular LTPRG meeting is scheduled for 9:30 AM on October 3, 2007 at SWFWMD's Tampa Service Office.

AGENDA

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1. May meeting follow-up
2. Miscellaneous updates
 - Lake MFL Update
3. Section 21 Wellfield Rehydration Project (Deborah Daigle, HDR)
4. Recovery Assessment Update (Michael Hancock)
5. Issues for next Meeting – October 3, 2007