

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

**Meeting 45**

**December 3, 2008 - 9:30AM**

**Summary**

The following were in attendance: Bob Tyson, Tampa Bay Water; **Warren Hogg**, Tampa Bay Water; Doug Keesecker, Tampa Bay Water; Patty Fesmire, Tampa Bay Water; **Scott Emery**, EHI/USF; Mark Stewart, University of South Florida; Jonathan Wynn, University of South Florida; Patricia Metz, USGS; Arturo Torres, USGS; **Gordon A. Leslie Jr.**, Hillsborough County EPC; **Mario Cabana**, Hillsborough County WRS; **Dave Slonena**, Pinellas County Utilities; **Joe Richards**, Pasco County; Kevin Atkins, GPI; **Michael Hancock**, SWFWMD; Maya Burke, SWFWMD; John Emery, SWFWMD; Christina Uranowski, SWFWMD; Ken Weber, SWFWMD; **Doug Leeper**, SWFWMD, David Carr, SWFWMD; Lisa Henningsen, SWFWMD; Alex Aycrigg, SWFWMD, and Robert Peterson, 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 priority water bodies in the Northern Tampa Bay area and other regions of the District. He noted that at the December 2008 Governing Board meeting, staff plan to request that the Board approve proposed rule amendments concerning minimum flows for the Weeki Wachee River system in Hernando County and proposed minimum and guidance levels for Lake Anoka in Highlands County. He also noted that staff continues to work on rule language associated with proposed minimum levels and a recovery strategy for the lower Alafia River and expects to present this information to the Board in 2009. Presentation of the proposed rule amendments pertaining to the lower Alafia River is expected to occur following Board action on a permit associated with augmentation of the Alafia River.

Dr. Jonathan Wynn provided a presentation, entitled "Toward a Soils-property-based Index of Wetlands 'Harm'", based on research and a Master's degree thesis by Katherine Powell. The goal of the project was to investigate hydric soils in various wetlands in the Northern Tampa Bay area to assess the use of soil organic carbon content as a measure of wetland health. For the study, several samples of soil were collected in eleven cypress domes. The soil samples were processed and analyzed for several parameters, including soil water content, carbon, and nitrogen. The conclusions of the study were 1) there appears to be a relationship between soil moisture content and organic carbon with wetland health, 2) soil organic carbon is higher in the center of wetlands, and more pronounced in healthier wetlands, 3) soil moisture is higher in organic soils due to higher retention properties, and 4) a soil moisture meter, or soil color, may be proxies for soil carbon stores. Some outliers were present in the study, which may be explained with further work. Several other ideas for further research were presented. Copies of the slides used in Dr. Wynn's presentation are posted on the LTPRG website.

The next regular LTPRG meeting is scheduled for 9:30 AM on February 10, 2009 at the SWFWMD's Tampa Service Office.

# **AGENDA**

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### **Meeting 45 SWFWMD Tampa Service Office, Hwy 301N, Tampa**

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1. August meeting follow-up
2. Miscellaneous updates
  - Lake MFL Update
3. Soil Indicators of Wetland Stress (Dr. Jonathan Wynn, University of South Florida)
5. Issues for next Meeting – February, 2009