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

Meeting 48

May 19, 2010 - 9:30AM

Summary

The following were in attendance: **Doug Keesecker**, Tampa Bay Water; Chris Shea, Tampa Bay Water; Bob Tyson, Tampa Bay Water; Ivana Blankenship, Tampa Bay Water; Jeff Geurink, Tampa Bay Water; Patricia Metz, USGS; Kim Haag, USGS; Terrie Lee, USGS; Dan Schmutz, GPI Southeast; **Dave Slonena**, Pinellas County Utilities; Sharon Feit, USF; Ken Nilsson, USF; David Lewis, USF; Paul Thurman, USF; Fenda Akiwumi, USF; Scott Emery, EHI/USF; **Michael Hancock**, SWFWMD; Maya Burke, SWFWMD; Christina Uranowski, SWFWMD; **Keith Kolasa**, SWFWMD, Karen Gruenhagen, SWFWMD; David Kramer, SWFWMD; William Copeland, SWFWMD; David Carr, SWFWMD; Joe Andress, SWFWMD; Chaz Collins, SWFWMD; David Kramer, SWFWMD; Rick Perry, SWFWMD; Patricia Frantz, SWFWMD; and Robert Peterson, SWFWMD. Names in bold are designated representatives for the LTPRG.

Keith Kolasa was introduced as the new lake MFL specialist. He provided an update on the status of minimum flows and levels development for priority water bodies in the Northern Tampa Bay area. Mr. Kolasa explained that the Anclote River MFL has been completed and peer reviewed and is scheduled for Board approval on May 25th. Rivers and estuaries to be adopted this year are the Little Manatee and Manatee, and Upper and Middle Withlacoochee. On schedule for 2011 are Cottee River and Brooker Creek. Lakes to be completed in 2011 are Carroll and Hooker. The MFL priority list and schedule can be obtained from the District's website at: http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/projects/mfl/2010_board_approved_priority_list.pdf

Dr. David Lewis gave a presentation entitled "Urban development, social relationships, and water policy as drivers of wetland change in the Tampa Bay Region - *An introduction to USF's "ULTRA-Ex" project*." Dr. Lewis explained that the Ultra Urban Long-Term Research Area-Exploratory Award is supported by the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Forest Service to enable interdisciplinary teams of scientists and practitioners to conduct research on the dynamic interactions between people and natural ecosystems in urban settings in ways that will advance both fundamental and applied knowledge. Dr. Lewis identified the project area as the Tampa Bay Regional Socioecosystem, and stated that the goals in the area were to 1) conduct empirical research to improve our conceptual model; 2) exercise an interdisciplinary socioecological research team; 3) instill an interdisciplinary perspective in social and natural science graduate students; and 4) develop cooperative relationships with, and provide usable information to, organizations involved in regional water resource management. Research questions include

1) How do perceptions and values of change in freshwater habitats vary across the urban-rural gradient?
2) How do relationships among jurisdictions and stakeholders result in particular water policies?

3) How do forested wetlands respond to water policies (e.g., groundwater withdrawal) and the urban growth that those policies facilitate?

Dr. Lewis' presentation can be found on the NTB II website.

Dr. Ken Nilsson gave a presentation entitled "Improved Methodologies for Modeling Storage and Water Level Behavior in Wetlands." He explained that without an accurate representation of wetlands in hydrologic models may produce inaccurate estimates of stream flows, groundwater recharge, flood plain delineation, and wetland sustainability. To address this, Dr. Nilsson investigated the development of lake and wetland stage-storage models, performed a wetland water level frequency analysis, and assessed wetland groundwater recharge characteristics. Dr. Nilsson's presentation can be found on the NTB II website.

The next regular LTPRG meeting will be announced when it is scheduled.

AGENDA

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Local Technical Peer Review Group

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1. Introduction

2. MFL Update

3. Urban development, social relationships, and water policy as drivers of wetland change in the Tampa Bay Region: an introduction to USF's "ULTRA-Ex" project (Dr. David Lewis, USF)

4. Improved Methodologies for Modeling Storage and Water Level Behavior in Wetlands (Dr. Ken Nilsson, USF)

5. Issues for next meeting – July, 2010