

**Northern Tampa Bay Phase II Local Technical Peer Review Group
Conference Room C - SWFWMD Tampa Service Office**

**Meeting 6
April 4, 2001 - 9:30AM**

Minutes

The following were in attendance: Zhongyan Lin, Hillsborough County EPC; Gordon Leslie, Jr., Hillsborough County EPC; Manfred Liebner, Hillsborough County EPC; Peter Owens, Hillsborough County EPC; Dave Slonena, Pinellas County; Rich McLean, Pinellas County; Doug Keesecker, Tampa Bay Water; Mike Coates, Tampa Bay Water; E. Zia Hosseinipour, Tampa Bay Water; Chris Shea, Tampa Bay Water; Ralph Craig, City of St. Petersburg; Richard Voakes, City of St. Petersburg; Andy Smith, Hillsborough County; Scott Emery, Hillsborough County; Cliff Harrison, Schreuder, Inc. for WRWSA; Vivienne Handy, Quest Ecology for WRWSA; Kim Haag, United States Geological Survey; John Emery, SWFWMD; Michael Hancock, SWFWMD; Marty Kelly, SWFWMD; Adam Munson, SWFWMD; Ted Rochow, SWFWMD; Karen Lloyd, SWFWMD; David Carr, SWFWMD; Jay Yingling, SWFWMD; Ken Weber, SWFWMD; Robert Peterson, SWFWMD.

Michael Hancock presented a brief update on the time line for establishment of the Chapter 373 Peer Review Program. He said that the RFP is still being developed, and an overview of the process will be presented to the Resource Management and Development Committee of the District Governing Boards at the April Board meeting. Once submissions to the RFQ have been reviewed, the results will be presented to the LTPRG.

Mr. Hancock presented information on the status of the Northern Tampa Bay data collection network. Most of the objectives of the Northern Tampa Bay Phase II effort strongly rely on field data, so it is important the existing network be evaluated and upgraded as necessary. So far, the assessment has concentrated on the Floridan aquifer monitoring well and wetland monitoring networks, although the surficial aquifer, lakes, biologic, flow, rainfall, pan evaporation, water quality, and aquifer parameter networks will also be assessed.

The inventory of Floridan aquifer monitoring wells is still in progress, but 27 areas where additional wells are needed have already been identified. So far, one of the wells has been drilled, with the rest scheduled to be drilled as soon as sites can be acquired. Additionally, there may be more existing wells that currently have no or irregular data collection added to the collection network.

Prior to 1999, the District had 94 wetlands in its hydrologic monitoring network. Since then, 24 more wetlands have been added, and 66 surficial aquifer monitoring wells have been drilled in and around the existing and new wetlands. The District plans to add 47 new wetlands in the next year, and drill approximately 230 more surficial aquifer wells in and around the monitored wetlands and lakes. The inventory of Tampa Bay Water's monitored wetlands is still in progress, but there appears to be 371 wetlands, lakes, and other waterbodies in their network. Several of these sites overlap with the District's monitor sites.

All of the District and Tampa Bay Water wetland monitoring sites are being assessed to investigate the quality of associated wells and staff gauges. If data is to be reliable over the next 20 years, 40D-3 well construction standards should be the standard of all wells. The District and Tampa Bay Water should work together to upgrade sites that may not meet these standards. Steps should also be taken to protect the wells from fires, vehicles, and other hazards. Consistent with the EMP requirements, all wetland monitoring stations should consist of a staff gauge, a surficial aquifer monitoring well next to the staff gauge, and a second surficial aquifer monitoring well in the upland or transition zone of the wetland.

Over the next several months, the District will be working with Tampa Bay Water to assure that data collection is of the highest practical quality, data bases are adequate for all collected information, and that site easements in private properties are adequate.

Marty Kelly distributed copies of the draft paper entitled "A Multiple-Parameter Approach for Establishing Minimum Levels for Category 3 Lakes of the Southwest Florida Water Management District.", dated April 2, 2001. A special meeting of the LTPRG will take place on Thursday, April 12, during which District staff will present the contents of the report and answer questions. A similar presentation will be given to the District's Governing Board at the April Board meeting. All members of the LTPRG were encouraged to read the report and return written comments to the District.

Mr. Hancock asked the Group if there were any specific issues that they would like to see discussed in future meetings. Ideas from the LTPRG included a report on the status of the data collection instrumentation of the MFL wetlands network (Andy Smith), a report on the District's assessment of MFLs in springs (Peter Owens), an report on the ongoing upper Hillsborough River study by the USGS and the District (Gordon Leslie), and a discussion of how the MFLs will be used in the assessment of any future water use permit at Cone Ranch (Mr. Smith). Mr. Hancock also invited LTPRG representatives to present any new information or studies in the Northern Tampa Bay area as well.

The next regular LTPRG meeting will be held at 9:30 AM on June 6, 2001. The location and topics for the meeting have not yet been determined.

Agenda

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Meeting 6 SWFWMD Tampa Service Office, Hwy 301N, Tampa April 4, 2001 - 9:30AM

1. February Meeting Follow-up
2. Chapter 373 Peer Review update (Michael Hancock)
3. Data Network Discussion (Michael Hancock)
4. Category III Lakes
5. Other issues
6. Next Meetings - April 12, 2001 (at the Tampa Service Office)
- June 6, 2001 (location TBA)