

**Lower St Johns Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
Meeting Summary
Host: City of Jacksonville
Jacksonville City Hall
August 17, 2006**

Attendees

Alex Ainza, CCUA
Felicia Boyd, SJRWMD-WAV
Ray Bowman, UNF
Richard Bryant, National Park Service
Robert Burks, SJRWMD
Derek Busby, PBSJ
Dean Campbell, SJRWMD
Ed Cordova, FDEP
Cindy Cosper, DEP Watershed Monitoring
Barry Cotter, COJ-EQD
Dean Dobberfuhr, SJRWMD
Chris Ferraro, FDEP
Trish Gramajo, The Nature Conservancy
John Hendrickson, SJRWMD
John Higman, SJRWMD
Mike Hollingsworth, USACE
Amy Kalmbacher, CAMA
Tom Kallemeyn, FDEP
J. David Lambert, UNF
Wayne Magley, FDEP
Mike McManus, The Nature Conservancy
Kraig McLane, SJRWMD
Dana Morton, COJ-EQD
Alan Obaigbena, FDOT
Ying Ouyang, SJRWMD
Nicole Robinson, DEP/CAMA-Northeast FL Aquatic Preserves
Brad Russell, JEA
Gail Sloane, FDEP
Lucy Sonnenberg, JU
Paul Steinbrecher, JEA
Mike Stowe, Environmental Services Inc.
Scott Turner, DCHD

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting began at 10:10 am. Dana Morton welcomed everyone and explained that Tiffany Busby (facilitator) was ill and unable to attend. The participants introduced themselves.

No comments were made on the June 20, 2006 meeting summary but participants were requested to forward any comments to Tiffany Busby.

Mr. Morton briefly discussed the recent (July 27, 2006) *River Accord* event and reviewed the information about the Accord on the City's website. Kraig McLane noted that the Accord agreement had been signed the day of the event and that a funding page was still to be signed. Dana highlighted a few areas of interest including a number of white papers associated with the Accord contained on the website.

Presentation: "Northeast Florida Water Quality Preservation Group: Sample locations, Data Sondes, & Explanatory Data Analysis"

Dana Morton introduced Mike McManus of The Nature Conservancy. Mr. McManus explained that the purpose of the talk was to highlight the efforts of the Water Quality Preservation Group. His talk had three parts: 1) Who, What and Where; 2) Data; and 3) Opportunities for Collaboration.

Who, What, Where

The Water Preservation Group consists of a number of member organizations conducting water sampling associated with preservation lands. This portion of the presentation listed the member groups and the boundaries of their sampling areas. It also provided the mission of the group which is "To collect and compile data to preserve, protect and enhance water quality in order to maintain the viability of protected habitats."

Data

Examples of two different data sets were provided to illustrate ways in which data are formatted, analyzed and available for sharing. Examples included data from fixed stations in flat files and randomized sampling scenarios using continuous sampling techniques.

Collaboration Opportunities

Opportunities exist to share database development and management experiences. Additionally, Mr. McManus indicated that the group is interested in exploring what constitutes evidence that load reductions are affecting core and supplemental indicators such as plants, animals, and natural communities.

Questions and answers followed with questions about Mr. McManus's experience with temporal impacts and random versus stratified random sampling plans. (John Hendrickson) How analyzed/formatted data sets are accessed? (Wayne Magley) Whether there are plans to expand the geographic coverage of the groups sampling program? (Kraig McLane) How long the program is funded for? (Brad Russell) General thoughts about Mr. McManus's view on the question of load reduction affects were sought (John Higman) and whether The Nature Conservancy (TNC) conducts any sampling on its own? (Dana Morton).

Mr. McManus generally discussed his sampling experiences and means of determining the most effective sampling plan. He indicated that currently data analyses may be requested directly (and may be posted to an ftp site, if needed) but that a work plan is

being explored concerning the best means of sharing data. He stated that there is no plan to expand the program boundaries currently but that it could be a possibility as it is more fully developed. The program basically depends on its members activities, but it is hoped that in the future there would be independent funding to allow the group to fill needed data collection gaps. The group is trying to develop a Conservation Action Plan where the status of answering the posed question could be addressed. Lastly, he indicated that the program is in its fledgling state and just recently obtained its first data loggers. TNC does conduct sampling itself in more mature program areas, e.g. Reedy Creek.

Presentation: “Lower St. Johns River Basin Legislative Projects and Future Funding”

Kraig McLane addressed the proposed legislative initiative for FY 07-08 explaining that the initiative received a \$10 million appropriation and that it would be used for treatment projects aimed to meet the Lower St Johns River Basin (LSJRB) - Nutrient Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). He further added that the St Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) was committing to up to \$150 million for 10 years to cost-share in the construction of reuse projects to support meeting the TMDL and to provide reuse water areas currently using groundwater. Additionally, he added that this upcoming fiscal year the District was planning to provide \$23 million for near-term (1-3 year) reuse projects and that, with the near-term treatment projects, the TMDL would almost be met ahead of schedule. The long-term projects (years 4-10) would continue to be worked on by the same set of partners and that the working group established by CH2MHILL would merge into the Northeast Florida Utility Managers group.

He then presented the newly submitted project list and noted that some projects in the most recent legislative initiative were not resubmitted. Those sponsors will be contacted to confirm the status of their submittals. Alan Obaigbena (FDOT) noted that two of his projects didn't make the list. Scott Turner, Duval County Health Department, asked about the status of his continuing project. Mr. McLane responded that his project was on the most recent legislative initiative and they need to talk further regarding septic tank work. Mr. McLane concluded his presentation with a summary of the efforts to exceed the TMDL allocation target through the collaborative partnership know as the River Accord.

A few questions arose about the effort and that of the partners. Questions included how the point and non-point load numbers depicted in the presentation were derived (Wayne Magley), how wastewater and storm water projects were rated relative to one another, are the near-term projects funded for one year or multiple years (Brad Russell), with this level of funding effort might there be conflicts in the future as up stream counties want to conduct similar improvements (Wayne Magley) and how the optimization model was used for ranking (Dave Lambert).

Mr. McLane responded stating that the loadings were based on point sources generally within the marine section, that the rankings were based largely on treatment efficiencies, that near-term projects are funded for their entire estimated cost and that efforts will

continue to coordinate with local utilities to provide as much as support as possible as they initiate improvement projects.

Update on Report Card Effort

Dana Morton explained that funding for the Report Card had encountered a snag with the City of Jacksonville-Environmental Protection Board (EPB). The cost and long-term commitment required have raised questions. Mark Middlebrook and the Riverkeeper are continuing to work with the EPB to resolve these questions. It is expected that the proposal will be discussed at the September EPB meeting. Tiffany Busby will be keeping the group apprised of developments.

Dana Morton announced that the EPB and Florida Community College Jacksonville (FCCJ) will be sponsoring the annual “Environmental Partnering Workshop” to be held at the South Campus of FCCJ on September 8th. He also announced that Ebenezer (Eb) Gujjarlapudi is now the Acting Director of the Environmental Resource Management Department.

Update on SJRWMD Resource Management Projects Scheduled for the Upcoming Fiscal Year (FY07)

Dean Campbell, St Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD), provided an overview of the projects and budget slated for fiscal year 2007 (FY07). He began by assuring the group that the District was not scaling back on science-related work regardless of the level of effort being committed to the implementation of projects. Mr. Campbell provided a handout describing the funding levels for work programs and explanations of the work itself. Other SJRWMD staff were present to answer specific questions. He highlighted a few key areas of interest including:

- Agricultural Non-Point Projects (~\$2M)
 - Control release fertilizers, especially for sod
 - Alternative irrigation techniques and technologies
 - Urban best management practices (BMPs) in conjunction with the Institute for Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS)
- Pollutant Load Reduction Goal (PLRG) & Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Development (~\$1M)
 - Model fine-tuning
 - Nutrient sources and cycling
- Resource Monitoring and Assessment (~\$1M)
 - This work furthers research to characterize the system and how it works.

He referred the group to the handout and opened the discussion to questions.

Chris Ferraro asked if the model was going to be expanded into the Middle Basin. John Hendrickson answered that the plan was to extend it to Astor Park.

Wayne Magley asked if along with the Chlorophenol assessment work there would also be work on any of the new phosphorous-based chemicals being used by homeowners.

John Higman stated that the FY07 work was intended to look only at chlorine-based chemicals.

Mr. Campbell noted that additionally the District would be making approximately \$5M available to look at algal toxin issues, in particular in the Middle Basin. Examples might include alum injection for a known fertilizer plant, regional storm water ponds, retrofits for large discharge canals and shad harvesting, etc.

Wayne Magley asked if there would be any investigation of algal scrubbers. John Hendrickson indicated that current efforts in that regard would probably be best categorized as in the “pre-feasibility” stage. Mr. Campbell did indicate that the reported treatment efficiencies of algal scrubbers might warrant further investigation and noted that he was aware of some presentations on the topic provided recently at professional meetings. Wayne Magley also noted that he was aware of some presentations. Ed Cordova indicated that he would like to see such a presentation at a future TAC meeting.

Technical Updates and Announcements

LSJ Nutrient TMDL Update

Ed Cordova and Wayne Magley provided an update on the status of the site specific alternative criterion (SSAC) and TMDL challenge. John Hendrickson indicated that the verification run was waiting for the allocations to be settled and that the Executive Committee is rethinking the allocations approach.

Mr. Cordova indicated that Daryll Joyner hopes that the Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) will be complete April of 2007.

Mr. Cordova also reported that the Pollutant Trading Policy Advisory Committee (PTPAC) has probably two remaining meetings before submitting their report to the Legislature. Eventually those recommendations, as approved or modified by the Legislature, will be adopted through rule.

Fecal Coliform TMDL Update

Ed Cordova reported that PBSJ had completed its report exploring methodologies to assess sources of fecal coliform in tributaries. JEA funded the report (with fine monies directed to the project) which is available on the DEP ftp site under Wayne Magley’s name. Brad Russell indicated that the information in the report will be disseminated by the means determined by the Lower St Johns Tributary BMAP Working Group but was anticipated to be presented at several venues, e.g. the Waterways Commission, etc. Dana Morton asked if the Tributaries BMAP might address more than fecal coliforms, i.e. metals etc. Wayne Magley answered that it could be expanded in the future, but not now.

Fisheries Data Collection Update

No report. It was reported that the boat had a break down the previous day so the group was on the water making up the day of sampling.

St. Johns River Alliance Update

No report.

Member Updates

Ray Bowman explained to the group how the sedimentation sampling proposal came about and that it was always his intention for it to be vetted through a committee such as this. He was surprised to see it posted with the other River Accord information. He is looking forward to that opportunity and the chance to coordinate that effort, if funded, with others sampling in the basin.

Nicole Robinson reported that Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) are sponsoring a workshop on small docks and piers on September 20th. Contact Ms. Robinson for more information about the workshop.

Mike Hollingsworth announced Section 206 funds in the amount of \$50K had been appropriated for Big Fish Weir Creek. Anyone interested in participating on the Project Delivery Team for this project should contact Mr. Hollingsworth. He also indicated that Doris Marlin has been investigating authorities under which the Corps could more fully support the Lower St Johns effort. She has identified some authorities that may allow additional involvement in water quality work.

Richard Bryant noted sedimentation issues associated with Fort George Inlet and concerns over the possibility that the inlet could be closed by a tropical storm or hurricane.

Next Meeting

It was determined that Tiffany Busby would establish the next meeting date and notify the Committee.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 PM.

Meeting notes taken by Derek Busby, PBS&J. Summary edited by Tiffany Busby, Wildwood Consulting. Please send comments to busbytl@bellsouth.net or call 904-797-2721.