

**Lake Okeechobee Watershed Project  
Project Delivery Team Meeting  
Draft Meeting Summary**

Wednesday November 9, 2016

9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

---

**1. Participants**

Brian Dillehay (USACE)	Tom MacVicar (FDACS)
Emmanuel Freeman (USACE)	Kelli Edson (FDEP)
Gretchen Ehlinger (USACE)	Shannon Bogdanov (FDEP)
Jaime Graulau-Santiago (USACE)	Brent Bachelder (FFWCC)
Lisa Aley (USACE)	Kurt Harclerode (Lee Co.)
Tim Gysan (USACE)	Roland Ottolini (Lee Co.)
Zulamet Vega-Liriano (USACE)	Ed Fielding (Martin Co.)
Clay Brown (SFWMD)	Craig Grossenbacher (Miami-Dade Co. DERM)
Matt Alexander (SFWMD)	<b>Public -</b>
Matt Morrison (SFWMD)	Paul Gray (Audubon)
Tzufit Boyle (SFWMD)	Mike Collins
Telsula Morgan (STOF)	Drew Martin
Leonard Rawlings (BIA)	Mark Perry
Joan Lawrence (DOI)	
Eric Hughes (EPA)	
Paul Tritaik (USFWS)	
Bill Baker (FDACS)	
Katie Hallas (FDACS)	

**2. Summary of discussion**

- a. *Introduction* - Tim Gysan, USACE PM, welcomed all participants to the PDT meeting, took attendance and provided overview of the meeting agenda.
- b. *Alternatives Milestone Meeting Recap* - Lisa Aley, USACE PTL, provided an overview of the AMM held 03 November 2016 with the USACE vertical team and SFWMD (see attached presentation). The purpose of the AMM is to obtain concurrence on the focused array of alternative plans and guidance on technical/policy issues. The LOWP team received concurrence from SAD and USACE HQ on the alternative array and approval to move into the Alternative Analysis and evaluation phase of the SMART Planning study.
- c. Ed Fielding (Martin Co.) stated that the Martin Co. objectives for the project are: 1) no Lake Okeechobee releases to the St. Lucie Estuary; 2) 1 million ac/ft of storage north of Lake Okeechobee; 3) water quality improvement of water coming into Lake Okeechobee and water within the lake. Mr. fielding also stated that the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes storage should be included in the project.
- d. *90-day Look Ahead* – Tim Gysan, USACE PM, provided an overview of the major tasks the PDT will be undertaking as the project moves from the Scoping Phase to the Alternative Analysis and Evaluation Phase of the SMART Planning Study (see attached figure). Tim highlighted the need for the team to 1) finalize the existing/FWO project conditions; 2) finalize PM's and benefits calculation methods; 3) determine methodologies for project assurances (Savings Clause, Climate Change, flood risk management); 4) complete baseline modeling; 5) perform conceptual design of alternatives and complete preliminary

evaluations for cultural resources, real estate and HTRW. Tim highlighted the need to finalize base condition assumptions in order to perform the baseline modeling. Once modeling is complete, PM's and benefit calculations will be performed to establish the baselines for alternative evaluation. The conceptual design of the management measures within the alternative array is imperative to determining ROM costs, further screening of the alternative array and configuring the alternative model runs.

- e. *Baseline Model Assumptions* – Clay Brown (SFWMD) presented a quick overview of the Existing and Future Without project condition assumptions (see attached presentation). These have previously been presented in detail, most recently at the 25 October 2016 PDT meeting by Walter Wilcox. Clay requested final comments be provided by Wednesday November 16. The baseline assumptions will be finalized at that point. The assumption tables have been posted to the project website.
- f. Brent Bachelder (FWC) asked if the Future Without project conditions include the Kissimmee Headwaters Revitalization Schedule for S-65. Clay stated that the HWR schedule is included.
- g. *Sub-team Updates* – Each of the three sub-teams gave an update on the day and time of their meetings.
  - i. Gretchen Ehlinger (USACE) stated the Eco sub-team is going to be meeting bi-weekly starting next Wednesday November 16 from 1 to 3 PM. They will be working on finalizing the benefits models and fine tuning the PM's before sending to the EcoPCX for approval.
  - ii. Matt Alexander (SFWMD) provided an update on the Engineering/Modeling sub-team meetings. They will continue to meet weekly on Thursdays from 2 to 3 PM. On the agenda is discussion of project assurances and planning for the development of conceptual designs for reservoirs, siting of ASR/DIW and wetland restoration requirements.
  - iii. Lisa Aley (USACE) provided the Planning sub-team meeting update letting the PDT know the team will continue to meet weekly on Friday mornings from 9 to 11am. They will be focusing on additional screening of the alternative array prior to the modeling effort. There will be no meeting this week November 11 due to the Veteran's Day holiday.
- h. Ed Fielding asked if the sub-team meetings are webcast. Each sub-team verified that they do use the teleconference and web meeting application to share presentation materials.
- i. *Public Comment*
  - i. Mike Collins – Asked to verify that he heard Savings Clause would be performed on subsequent projects and not on LOWP. Savings Clause will be performed for LOWP on the TSP as required by the CERP authorization.
  - ii. Drew Martin – Concerned that LOWP should be looking at storage south of the lake, that over reliance on ASR is a mistake and other alternatives should be explored and water quality is a crucial concern which LOWP should address.
  - iii. Mark Perry – Storage reservoir volume range present was 150K to 350K ac/ft. The Yellow Book storage reservoir was 200K ac/ft. Will LOWP keep to the Yellow book value or be looking at more volume to make up for the loss of ASR storage?
  - iv. Paul Gray (Audubon) – Concerned with lack of public involvement opportunities and data availability.

**3. Comments, Issues and Concerns**

- a. USACE will make agendas and presentation materials available 1 week prior to future PDT meetings. Limited time and large effort required to meet the Alternative Milestone made getting agendas and presentations ready one week prior to previous PDT meetings very difficult.
- b. PROJECT WEBSITE –  
<http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environmental/Ecosystem-Restoration/Lake-Okeechobee-Watershed-Project/>

**4. Action items**

- a. None

**5. Schedule**

PDT meeting Dec 14 from 9 to 11am

Issue Resolution Conference with USACE vertical team Dec 13, time TBD

DRAFT