

September 29, 2003

**Memorandum**

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TO: Palm Beach County NPDES Permittees  
FROM: Alan D. Wertepny, P.E.  
REF. NO. A2026.01  
SUBJECT: Minutes of NPDES Steering Committee Meeting Held on September 17, 2003

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**I. Attendees/Introductions**

Approximately 25 of the 39 co-permittees were represented at the September 17, 2003 NPDES Steering Committee meeting. Steering Committee members present included: Laurent Van Cott (Chair), Jay Foy (Vice Chair), Randal Krejcarek (Secretary), Tony Puerta (Member), Allen Trefry (Member) and Karen Brandon (Member). A copy of the sign-in list is available upon request.

**II. Administrative Activities**

- a. Approval of July 16, 2003 Meeting Minutes** – Allen Trefry motioned for approval of the minutes for the July 16, 2003 meeting. It was seconded by Karen Brandon and approved by the Steering Committee.
- b. Interlocal Agreements for Second Term Permit** – Betsy Burden with Caldwell & Pacetti reported that there are two outstanding Agreements (City of Lake Worth and FDOT District Four). Both entities are reportedly processing the Agreements.
- c. Monitoring Program** – Alan Wertepny reported the following: On August 7, 2003, a meeting was held with representatives of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (Michael Bateman, Fred Calder and Richard Hicks) and PBC ERM (Brian Gentry and Bonnie Finneran), and Alan Wertepny. As a result of the meeting, the proposed ambient water quality sampling program was revised to add three additional sampling sites; two in the Lake Worth Lagoon south of the C-51 Canal and one in Lake Osborne. This revised plan was submitted to FDEP for their comments and approval.

On September 16, 2003, Alan received a telephone call from Michael Bateman and Richard Hicks. Michael Bateman indicated that the proposed ambient program and the monitoring program was acceptable; however, he requested that we include a sediment monitoring component. Michael indicated that both Broward and Dade County had included a sediment monitoring element as a component of their water quality monitoring program. Michael also indicated that we might be able to utilize information from ongoing programs such as the existing and proposed studies in the Lake Worth Lagoon. These studies include the Palm Beach County Environmental Resource Management (PBC ERM) program for sediment deposition studies from discharges associated with the C-51 Canal and programs underway for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP). Additionally, the co-permittees may propose their own sediment sampling element. Michael said that if we proposed a sediment sampling program, the monitoring program would be approved by FDEP in a relatively short time frame.

Copies of the proposed Broward County Monitoring Program were distributed to the Steering Committee. Broward County's program includes quarterly ambient water quality sampling at 40+ sites and continuous monitoring (fifteen minute intervals, 24 hours a day, seven days a week) at five sites for the specific conductance (salinity), pH, dissolved oxygen, flourometric chlorophyll, and turbidity). Broward also proposed a 3-year sediment sampling component, the details of this program have yet to be developed. The NPDES Staff recommended that the Steering Committee investigate PBC ERM, existing and proposed sediment programs in the Lake Worth Lagoon. The Steering Committee had some discussion and decided to discuss it further at a tentative meeting set for October 15, 2003 at Northern Palm Beach County Improvement District. The Steering Committee asked Ken Todd to participate with Brian Gentry (PBC ERM) and Alan Wertepny (Mock•Roos) to research the issue and provide feedback to the Steering Committee.

- d. Budget Report** - Financial reports for the 1<sup>st</sup> Year and 2<sup>nd</sup> Year of the 2nd Permit Term were provided to all attendees. The 1<sup>st</sup> Year Program has a fund balance of \$70,834.59 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Program has a fund balance of \$235,486.13. Copies of the financial records and billings for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Program are available upon request. Activities ongoing and to be completed for the 1<sup>st</sup> Year Program include coordination with FDEP, water quality sampling by PBC ERM and the Annual Report. At this time, there are no excess funds to be credited to the next billing cycle commencing October 1, 2003. Consequently, the billings for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Year of the 2nd

Permit Term to each of the co-permittees will be based on the budgeted amount provided to co-permittees in March 2002. Northern Palm Beach County Improvement District will invoice each co-permittee their respective amounts for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Program.

- e. **Annual Reports** – Co-permittees were reminded that this current reporting cycle ends September 30, 2003. Any draft reports by the co-permittees that are to be submitted for review should be submitted to Alan Wertepny by November 14, 2003. The final report is due to Mock•Roos by December 15, 2003. Information on the outline format and co-permittee appendix number for the annual report may be found on the Palm Beach County NPDES website ([www.pbco-npdes.org](http://www.pbco-npdes.org)).

### **III. TMDL Program**

Michael Schmidt (Camp, Dresser & McKee) provided a presentation on the current status of Florida's TMDL Program in Palm Beach County. A copy of his presentation will be made available on our NPDES website. The State has divided the watersheds in the State of Florida into five groups. Palm Beach County watersheds are covered in three groups. Group 1 includes the Lake Okeechobee watershed, Group 2 includes the C-18 Canal and Loxahatchee River watersheds and all the remaining watersheds (L-8, C-17, C-51, C-16, C-15, Hillsboro, and Lake Worth Lagoon) are contained in Group 3. Within each group there is a five step evaluation process by FDEP. Step 1 is a preliminary basin assessment, Step 2 is a coordinated monitoring, Step 3 is development of a TMDL, Step 4 is management plan development and Step 5 is management plan implementation. Each step is scheduled to be a one-year effort. To date, Lake Okeechobee (Group 1) is the only watershed in Palm Beach County that has an established TMDL. The TMDL is for phosphorus, with an approximate limit of 38 ppb limit for discharges into the Lake.

As the State is in Steps 2 and 3 for the remaining watersheds within Palm Beach County, water quality data is extremely important in identifying potential parameters for impairment. The State has developed Categories 1, 2, 3 (a-d), 4 (a-c) and 5 for designating whether (1) a waterbody is obtaining all designated uses; or (2) attaining some uses; or (3) identifying that there is no data or insufficient data to determine a criteria for potential impairment; or (4) listing a waterbody as impaired but not requiring a TMDL; or (5) that an impaired waterbody requires a TMDL. The most desirable designation is "de-listed" which is achieved when Steps 1 & 2 are completed and a waterbody is determined to be achieving all its designated uses. For the Group 3 watersheds in Palm Beach County all the major canal systems were identified with a water quality parameter potentially impaired. Impairments noted were

typically metals (mercury, copper, lead) and dissolved oxygen. Palm Beach County municipalities are encouraged to continue to monitor the TMDL process.

#### **IV. Next Scheduled Meeting**

The next Steering Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, October 15, 2003, 9:00 a.m. at the offices of Northern Palm Beach County Improvement District. The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss the progress made on the water quality monitoring program with FDEP. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be November 20, 2003, 9:00 a.m. at the offices of Northern Palm Beach County Improvement District to discuss the progress on the annual report and the water quality monitoring program.

I believe these minutes accurately reflect the discussions and decisions of this meeting; however, the writer will welcome additions and/or corrections in writing within seven days of the date of these minutes. Should you have any questions, please call me at extension 231.

ADW:jeh

Copies: Tracy C. Robb  
All Co-Permittees  
Anne Capelli