

## **Program Management Team Meeting Summary**

March 5, 2003

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

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**To:** Attendees

**From:** Everglades Partners Joint Venture (EPJV)

**Subject:** Program Management Team (PMT) Meeting

**Handouts:** Agenda  
Meeting Minutes from November 5, 2002 PMT Meeting  
Schedule for Development of Project Management Plans (PMPs)  
Schedule for Development of Project Implementation Reports (PIRs)  
Schedule for Development of Pilot Project Design Reports (PPDRs)  
Design Coordination Team (DCT) Project Summary Sheets  
Pre-Project Review Board (Pre-PRB) Summary Sheets

### **OPENING REMARKS**

Dennis Duke, Corps, welcomed all attendees for the Program Management Team meeting held at the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Dennis explained that the PMT meeting is typically held prior to the Working Group meeting and suggested continuing as such. There were no additions or corrections to the November 5, 2002 meeting summary. The meeting minutes were considered approved as final pending any additional changes sent to Allison Barnes, EPJV, by March 7, 2003.

### **HOT TOPICS**

#### **Lake Istokpoga Regulation Schedule**

There is a current proposal to combine this project with the Lake Okeechobee Watershed project so it is only necessary to complete one regulation schedule.

#### **Comprehensive Integrated Water Quality Feasibility Study (CIWQFS)**

The PMP is nearing completion and is currently being reviewed internally by the Corps and the non-Federal sponsor. It will be posted to the web for public review after the internal review is complete.

#### **Acme Basin B Discharge**

The PMP for this project has been initiated. The Corps is working with the SFWMD to establish the without project conditions, which focus on the water going into water conservation area (WCA) 1. The future without project condition must be established. The federal government will cost share water quality improvement if the future without-project condition sends the water to tide.

**Additional Discussion:**

Patrick Hayes, Loxahatchee River Coalition, expressed concern about the flow of water in the L8 Basin. Dennis Duke explained the plan is for the water to travel north, then east through the Loxahatchee Basin, which would provide benefits to the Loxahatchee River.

Ron Smola, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), inquired about the status of the Winsberg Farm Wetland Restoration project. Dennis noted that the project is not going as smoothly as he would like due to delays in completion of the PMP.

Rock Salt, South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force (SFERTF), has concerns about the project delivery teams (PDTs) making progress without the proper input from the RECOVER teams and asked Dennis to explain how the RECOVER teams are participating with the PDTs. Dennis stated that specific RECOVER evaluation teams will work directly with PDTs in the near future.

Another major concern with agencies in the Department of the Interior (DOI) relates to the composition of the Corps; specifically that most of the staff are engineers and may not understand what is best for the environment from a scientific perspective. Dennis assured the team that a CERP vision statement has been drafted to help the PDTs understand that restoration is the ultimate goal and provide some guidelines to follow.

April Gromnicki, Audubon of Florida, noted the dates for the public workshops on the schedules for development of PMPs, PIRs, and PPDRs are incorrect. She also relayed the importance of notifying the public of when PMPs are made available for public comment, as there is a strong interest on the part of the environmental community to provide input to these documents concerning project scopes, schedules, and budgets. Dennis Duke confirmed that many of the dates on the handouts are incorrect, and added that public workshops may not be necessary for all projects, but that PMPs are posted on the web site for public review prior to final approval.

Patrick Hayes, Loxahatchee River Coalition, asked Dennis Duke to provide a brief update on the Kitching Creek project. Dennis noted that although Kitching Creek is not a CERP project, it is part of the overall CERP effort. A preliminary study plan is being prepared for the project, which is similar to the reconnaissance report that is prepared to fulfill a portion of the requirements of WRDA 1996 – Section 206. A recommendation for an Environmental Reevaluation Report will then follow.

**Indian River Lagoon (IRL) Feasibility Study**

The PMP for the special project implementation report (SPIR) is under development and will include the C-44/C-23/C-24/C-25 components. The Corps Jacksonville District should receive comments on the feasibility report today from Corps Headquarters.

**Water Preserve Areas (WPA)**

Data from the completed feasibility report is being incorporated into the project implementation report (PIR). Since there are nine components being pursued separately for the WPA, the Corps is currently ensuring each of the projects can stand alone. Dennis explained that the benefits

from the project as a whole are still abundant even though the individual components may be formulated differently than originally intended.

**Additional Discussion:**

The SFWMD and state of Florida are moving forward on the Palm Beach County Aggregate Reserve project. The site is a facility that the state is pursuing, which will be evaluated as one of alternatives to address the objectives of the North Palm Beach County Project (Part 1). If the alternative is found appropriate, it could be included in the recommended plan that would be forwarded to Congress. This is the only route by which the SFWMD can obtain credit.

**Southern Golden Gate Estates (SGGE) Hydrologic Restoration**

The main focus on this project is currently to address cost and flood protection issues. Alternatives are still being evaluated due to a negative flood impact analysis north of I-75 and the cost of the large pumps in the original plan.

Alternative 3D has been evaluated and is currently very expensive. Construction is a major portion of the alternative, estimated at \$97 million, especially when compared to the Yellow Book estimate, which was only \$15 million for the entire project. However, the Yellow Book cost estimate did not include road removal or pump sizing. Current cost estimates for the following activities are as follows.

- Road removal - \$20 million
- Filling of canals - \$5 million to \$8 million
- Pump sizing/installation - \$38 million to \$40 million

The team has also evaluated limited road removal with an Obermeyer Structure, which would reduce cost. Additionally, the draft PIR is being prepared and the target date for the alternative formulation briefing is early March.

**C-51 / Stormwater Treatment Area (STA) 1E**

The deadline for treatment plans is from three to six months. Rock Salt, SFERTF, noted the SFERTF and the Governor's Office support advanced treatment technologies such as submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) and periphyton-based stormwater treatment areas (PSTA) because they are biological and less expensive than chemical treatment. There are eight different contracts currently underway on the project and a site tour is planned to view the progress.

**Interim Operations Plan (IOP) / Combined Structural Operations Plan (CSOP) – Status**

Efforts are underway to establish a “working group” or “advisory team” for CSOP. The team will provide recommendations to the Corps during key phases in the CSOP process, which is intended to increase stakeholder participation.

**Modified Water Deliveries to Everglades National Park (Mod Waters) – Status**

Congress approved alternative 6D, which was proposed by the Corps. The Corps is currently coordinating with the Department of Justice on efforts related to the appeal of the judge's decision to halt acquisition of land in the 8.5 square mile area (SMA). Due to the previous

ruling, activities on the project were suspended, but are currently being resumed. The Corps is only conducting basic surveying of property in the 8.5 SMA until the legal situation is resolved.

### **Water Conservation Area 3A Decompartmentalization and Sheetflow Enhancement (Decomp) – Status**

Progress with the PIR has resumed due to resolution on the 8.5 SMA issue.

#### **C-111 Status**

The Corps is addressing Headquarters' comments on the general reevaluation report.

### **Programmatic Regulations**

The Corps is continuing their efforts to finalize the document.

### **Initial CERP Update (ICU) Update**

The model update is delayed due to difficulties with integration of the new data and previous data.

### **Interagency Modeling Center (IMC)**

The IMC continues to be established at the SFWMD in West Palm Beach; however, no one has been named to run the center yet. The IMC is intended to increase the modeling capabilities of the Corps and SFWMD.

### **Additional Discussion:**

April Gromnicki, Audubon of Florida, requested placing the Wastewater Reuse Technology Pilot on the PMT agenda for discussion at the May 8, 2003, meeting.

### **MEETING CLOSURE**

Dennis Duke thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting. The next meeting of the PMT will be held in conjunction with the May 8, 2003 Working Group meeting.