

Program Management Team Meeting Summary

January 7, 2004

1:00 PM – 3:15 PM

To: Attendees

From: Everglades Partners Joint Venture (EPJV)

Subject: Program Management Team (PMT) Meeting

Handouts: Agenda
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 Monthly Report
Project Review Board (PRB) Reports

OPENING REMARKS

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

HOT TOPICS

Indian River Lagoon (IRL) Feasibility Study

The draft PIR is complete and is available to the public for review. The review period ends February 10, 2004. Completion of the final PIR is anticipated in March 2004; Congressional authorization is anticipated in WRDA 2004. The current cost for the project is \$1.2 billion.

Greg May, SFERTF, stated that issues with the cost of the CERP program typically stem from the length of time required to complete projects. Since CERP has such a long duration, the amount of money it will take to complete will be much greater than the original estimate due to inflation. This confuses many people because the current cost differs from the costs estimated in the Yellow Book. He suggested presenting project/program cost information in a way that is easy to understand.

Dennis Duke noted that full funding has only been approved for authorized projects to date and does not including planning activities. The IRL project is the first example of a PIR that addresses savings clause issues. As such, it serves as a guideline for future projects.

C-44

The McNair Group was awarded the contract for the C-44 reservoir.

Southern Golden Gate Estates (SGGE) Hydrologic Restoration

The Corps and SFWMD are completing the final analysis of alternatives 3d, 6, and 12 for this project. Completion of the alternative analysis is expected by January 31, 2004 and the draft PIR is expected in February 2004. The SFWMD is pursuing a contract to backfill the Prairie Canal portion of the project, for which funding is contingent upon the alternatives presented in the PIR.

Joe Walsh, FWC, asked where the access roads would be located in the project footprint. There are concerns regarding recreation access to the canals for fishing. Since the decision on alternatives has not been made, it is difficult to determine what land uses will be designated. Dennis Duke stated he would investigate this question for Joe and provide an answer.

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

Construction continues on inflow pump station S-319, outflow pump station S-362, clearing and grading contract, and the eastern and western half of the STA. The scope of work for the periphyton-based stormwater treatment areas (PSTA) is almost complete. Implementation of the STA is anticipated around June 2006. Divide structure S-155A has been transferred to the SFWMD for operation and maintenance.

Interim Operations Plan (IOP) / Combined Structural Operations Plan (CSOP)

The project continues to operate in IOP conditions. Flows to S-12 have been reduced and WCA 3A water levels have receded (<200 cfs). A CSOP advisory team has been established and will meet on January 12, 2004. Completion has been accelerated due to linkage to the Mod Waters project and the anticipated 2006 completion date.

Water Quality Certification (WQC) for overflow weirs is incomplete. FDEP has proposed to extend the current emergency order instead of issuing WQC; however, this option is contingent upon construction of the overflow weirs.

Modified Water Deliveries to Everglades National Park (Mod Waters)

Acquisition of land for the pump station buffer area is ongoing. Dennis verified that the design document for the STA/pump station is in the EIS.

Programmatic Regulations (Pro Regs)

The Pro Regs became effective on December 12, 2003. Title 3, Part 385 was added to the Code of Federal Regulations. There are several upcoming products due in 2004, including: 1) RECOVER recommendations on interim goals and targets, 2) Establishment of an independent scientific review panel, 3) Pre-CERP baseline, and the 4) Initial CERP update – due by June 14, 2004. The six guidance memoranda established in the Pro Regs, interim goals agreement, and master implementation sequencing plan are due by December 13, 2004. An interagency task team and four smaller technical sub-teams are developing the six guidance memoranda. Initial drafts of the guidance memoranda are expected in May to June 2004 timeframe.

Initial CERP Update (ICU) Update

Model runs for the 2000 existing condition were completed in September 2003. The 2050 without project condition update was completed in December 2003. Completion of the D-13R update is expected by January 31, 2004. Several changes were made to the SFWM model,

including: 1) Extension of climatic record by five additional years, including 36-year period of record, 2) Updated topographical and land cover data, 3) Improved methods for rainfall and evapotranspiration estimates, and 4) Improved modeling capabilities (small reservoir simulation, ASR recovery simulation). The updated NSM model includes updates to the SFWMM. Population projections were also recalculated based on updated information and methodology.

Everglades Agricultural Area Storage Reservoirs – Phase 1

A/E contracts have been cancelled for EAA – Phase 1. The Corps will be absorbing this work internally; hence, the schedule and budget for this project will be amended.

C-43 Basin Storage Reservoir

This project is in the early design phase, with no firm plan to proceed. Stanley Consultants will continue to work for the SFWMD to prepare the 30% design for the Berry Groves Reservoir that SFWMD is expediting, thereby limiting their participation in the preparation of the PIR for the C-43 Basin Storage Reservoir. The Corps has the lead to complete the PIR.

Wastewater Reuse Technology Pilot

The PMP was approved. Miami-Dade County will construct the project.

Western C-11

S-9 is currently operational.

Broward County Secondary Canal System

This project is still on hold.

L-31N Seepage Management Pilot

The team is currently performing a detailed analysis to determine the most preferred seepage management option.

Critical Projects

Ten Mile Creek

A contract has been awarded and the project is under construction.

Lake Okeechobee Water Retention and Phosphorous Removal

Construction contracts for Taylor Creek and Nubbin Slough have been advertised; however, all new Corps construction contract awards are on hold due to funding issues.

Tamiami Trail Culverts

Work allocated south of SGGE continues; execution of the remainder of the work is contingent upon availability of funds to complete the project.

Seminole Big Cypress

A construction award is expected in 2004.

Southern CREW

The SFWMD is proceeding with land acquisition for this project.

Additional Discussion:

The Corps plans to store water offsite (up to 100,000 acre-feet) for the Lake Okeechobee/Lake Tohopekaliga draw down. Pulse releases will continue until the next wet season. The WSE schedule is being re-examined and adjustments will be made afterward. The Level 1 pulse releases are being discharged to the estuaries, with no net increase flow into the Lake.

The Corps/SFWMD design agreement will be amended to include the Melaleuca Eradication and other Exotic Plants project, which will cover implementation of some biological controls in addition to a report explaining the roles of agencies in exotic species control with appropriate recommendation to support restoration of the Everglades.

MEETING CLOSURE

Dennis Duke, Corps, thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting. The next scheduled meeting of the PMT will be held in conjunction with the next Working Group meeting, March 29, 2004.