

**Lower St. Johns River TAC
MEETING MINUTES
August 27, 2002
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Northeast District Conference Room A
Jacksonville, Florida**

- Dean Campbell—Called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m.
- Larry Danek—Presented the Special Legislative Appropriations (SLA) project list and project rankings. Mr. Danek described the project evaluation method used by the TAC members and summarized the results. He presented two lists: general priority areas and specific projects. There were only 15 responses, so the results might not be representative of the 100+ members of the TAC. The results of the ranking are attached.
- Dean Campbell—Summarized the value of the list as guidance to the St Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) and responded to questions. Mr. Campbell mentioned limitations on flexibility for prioritizing some items. This is the first time we had a full project list and numerical ranking. Usually, the ranking and voting process was a show of hands. Mr. Campbell noted that the general priority list ranking correlated to SJRWMD's priorities, with "assessment" being most important. The SLA project list is large because SJRWMD asked for other agency input.
- Tiffany Busby—Noted that there are several important meetings and decisions being made in the near future that may affect monitoring programs and resource goals. The River Summit is now planned for January 2003. Revised goals for the Lower St. Johns River, that is, revised goals that have good technical input, will likely be used during the River Summit. Also, the Planning and Executive Committees are scheduled to meet in October, and have requested input from the TAC on both resource goals as well as input into the roles of the committees and the best management structure for the river.

Two workshops have been scheduled in September to specifically discuss resource goals and management structure issues, respectively. Upon further discussion with the TAC members, the dates selected for the workshops were: Friday, September 20 (Resource Goals) and Friday, September 27 (Management Structures). Members requested start times of 9:30 a.m. for both workshops.

- Question from Dean Dobberfuhl—On submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) monitoring for SJRWMD: is SAV in there? SJRWMD's data mostly includes STORET data.
- John Hendrickson thought we would have two atlases: one water quality and one biology.
 - Discussion followed as to including biology and to what detail (in description). Mike Hartman wanted detailed descriptions of all sampling/monitoring.

- Dean Campbell suggested adding biology would dramatically slow down the water quality atlas. Let's do biology separately.
- Jim Maher agreed.
- Dean Campbell said John Higman is developing a sediment atlas.
- Mike Hartman said he could supply a lot of water quality data.
- John Hendrickson commented that the purpose is to list ongoing (current) monitoring, not all history of monitoring.
- Jeff Martin: are you going to include effluent water quality?
- Response: yes, as possible, but not everything.
- Jim Maher said effluent data is not appropriate but upstream and downstream data are valuable.
- Wayne Williams stated that he has some septic tank monitoring information that could be included in the Atlas.
- Tiffany Busby: reviewed water quality monitoring goals. Reinforced there will be no data/analysis in the Atlas, just identification of ongoing projects.
- No further comments on goals.
- Deena Wells—Described the River Summit agenda on January 13 and 14, 2003. Registration starts at 8 a.m. on January 13th. Session is 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on 13th. 8 a.m. to 5:30 on 14th. Not anticipating a registration fee for agencies. Public registration fee may be \$60.
 - Mike Hartman suggested the last Summit's sessions were too general.
 - Deena Wells said they would be better this time. Sessions will be riverwide and focus on technical issues for the whole river.
 - Dana Morton: is there a proposed tangible product?
 - Deena Wells: yes; a restoration plan.
- Stewards of SJR—Don Loop could not attend the meeting. Tom Fortson talked instead about the importance of a plan for the river.
- RiverKeeper—Mike Hollingsworth reported that the organization was busy on sedimentation discharges. They are hiring an administrative director to help coordinate grants and administrative matters. The person will be hired within 3 weeks.
- TMDL Stakeholder Update—Jim Maher reviewed last meeting where the TMDL model was presented. The model will be completed by Sept. 30. Another TMDL allocation workshop is scheduled on October 24 to discuss computer scenarios. Next TMDL stakeholder meeting Sept. 24. John Abendroth will present planning list of potentially impaired waters at the September 24 meeting.
 - Jim Maher referred to John Hendrickson's efforts in establishing predevelopment water quality values on LSJR.
 - Jim Maher discussed problem of dealing with permitted loads versus actual loads.
- Planning and Executive Committee—Kraig McLane was not able to attend the meeting. Tiffany Busby announced the next meeting of the Planning and Executive Committees would be held on October 10.
- LSJR Research Symposium—John Hendrickson announced that the Research Symposium would be held October 14 and 15 at J.U.
 - Agenda includes:
 - Sediment interaction.

- Algal growth.
- Submerged SAV
- Fisheries
- Ed Lowe will summarize the results. All TAC members are invited.
- Algal Bloom Task Force—Dean Dobberfuhl reported that the funding has dried up for the task force. At the last meeting they discussed cyanobacteria problems plus others. The second meeting in Sarasota focused on effects on human health. Australian, Canadian, and Great Britain scientists presented their approach on algal bloom treatment. Agencies also presented their research. EPA summarized their plans.
- No FMRI fisheries representatives were present.
- Jack Dodge—Discussed the Greater Jacksonville Plan. They included environmental issues in their economic plan. Other communities should do this and don't allow exemptions.
- Next TAC meeting: Thursday, December 12, 2002.
- The meeting adjourned at 12:03PM.