

LOWER ST. JOHNS RIVER (LSJR) TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)
Ad Hoc Committee on Environmental Events Coordination
FDEP-Northeast District Office
Tuesday, April 19, 2011
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Participants

Lee Banks, FDEP Russ Brodie, FWC Tiffany Busby, Wildwood Consulting Betsy Deuerling, COJ John Higman, SJRWMD	John Hendrickson, SJRWMD Chuck Jacoby, SJRWMD Pat O'Connor, FDEP Marcy Policastro, Wildwood Consulting Lucy Sonnenberg, JU
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Welcome and Introductions

- The original idea for the event response discussions was to focus on all types of environmental events to update the Water Quality Atlas and to create a report on agency response responsibilities. The Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) report included some of this information, but the results of these discussions would be used to update the report and include other types of events. In addition, the goal is to determine the best way to distribute information to the involved agencies to help with coordination of response and data collection during an event. The St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) created the original Water Quality Atlas for the St. Johns River and John Hendrickson will determine if they can take the lead on the atlas update.

Event Response Coordination

- Tiffany Busby created a distribution list for the LSJR Environmental Incident group. She received feedback on the draft list from most of the agencies and a revised list was sent out. The stakeholders need to remember to delete the old list from their contacts and save the new version so that they have a complete list for sending information.
- It would be helpful to also have a separate list with contact names, agency, email address, phone number, and area of responsibility. Tiffany will create this contact list and send it to the distribution list.
- The City of Jacksonville (COJ) Citizen Action Response Effort (CARE) database does a good job tracking efforts in the tributaries. This TAC effort should focus on the main stem events and any major tributary events that would affect the main stem. Certain items, such as fish kills in stormwater ponds, do not need to be tracked.
- SJRWMD maintains a Google calendar of all their monitoring activities. While the initial calendar might not reflect the actual monitoring that occurs on that day, SJRWMD usually goes back and updates the calendar to reflect the actual activity. This calendar could be expanded to include the monitoring activities for the other organizations. The only information needed on the calendar is the agency, nature of the activity, and location.
- The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), and COJ all agreed that they could upload their monitoring calendars on a monthly basis. Pat O'Connor, Russ Brodie, and Betsy Deuerling will follow up with the correct staff at their agencies to ensure the calendar is

updated regularly. John Hendrickson will check to make sure that other agency's information could be added to the SJRWMD calendar. If not, Wildwood Consulting will set up a separate Google calendar. Marcy Policastro will provide instructions for transferring information from an Outlook calendar to a Google calendar.

- All members of the environmental events distribution list would be given access to the calendar. For entities that do not conduct regular monitoring (such as Jacksonville University [JU]), they should send a notice to the distribution list if they have added a monitoring activity to the calendar.
- It will be important to keep the calendar updated and for people to reference the calendar to ensure it is a useful tool.
- There was discussion about also having a separate repository for data, photographs, and reports that are generated from the sampling events. The TAC website has been updated to include field observations, laboratory results and diagnostics, and photographs that were sent to Tiffany. The information, by category, is in chronological order with the newest information on top. Additional information can be sent to Tiffany for posting.
- FDEP conducts transect sampling for chlorophyll-a during the period of April through October. This information does not need to be posted to the TAC site because it is uploaded to STORET; however, dissolved oxygen (DO) concentrations below 5 mg/L and DO saturation levels greater than 100% are noted. Pat will talk to Sharon Piltz (FDEP) about sending a notice to the distribution list when one of these DO thresholds is met.

Data Storage and Analysis

- There was discussion about posting the data from the sampling events to the TAC site. While providing access to the data for the involved organizations makes sense, there were concerns about posting data in a location that could be accessed by the public. Preliminary results should be sent to the distribution list as soon as possible during an event but it takes time to process the results for public use.
- Lucy Sonnenberg spoke to the information technology (IT) staff at JU about whether JU could host a website for the central repository. They are able to host and the site can be set up with a public access portion and a restricted portion that requires log in information for access.
- The group agreed that the best approach for disseminating information is to use the distribution list. If the information is ready for public use, the data generator should note in their email that the information can be posted to the TAC website and Wildwood Consulting will add it to the website. If the information is not ready for public use, the email should note this and the data will be posted to an access-limited site for use by technical staff only. The access-limited site will be tested for a few months to see if staff are using it as a resource. Lucy will follow up with the JU IT staff to set up the access-limited site.
- During the March TAC meeting, Neil Armingeon (Riverkeeper) had questions about what information he should pass along to the distribution list since he receives a lot of emails from the public during an event. Lucy and Tiffany will follow up with Neil and ask him to send everything he receives about events to the distribution list for now. If an event does occur, this information may need to be pared down to identify hot spot areas before sharing with the distribution list.

Relaying Current Environmental Information to the Public

- Teresa Monson and Kraig McLane at SJRWMD, Jodi Conway at FDEP, Jan Landsberg at FWC, and Andy Reich at Florida Department of Health (FDOH) should be involved in discussions on relaying information to the public. John Hendrickson will talk with Teresa, Pat will talk with Jodi, Russ will talk with Jan, and Tiffany will talk with Andy about the meeting today. A teleconference with these staff may be scheduled.
- The River Report will include a new section on current events to discuss significant events for the year. This section could be used as a standalone document for distribution to the public. The report will be completed in May or June and would, therefore, focus on the events of the prior year. The discussion will mainly be about what occurred, since a lot of the research efforts that will provide conclusions are still in progress.

Wrap Up and Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 PM.

Action Items

- John Hendrickson will determine if SJRWMD can take the lead on the Water Quality Atlas update.
- Tiffany Busby will create the contact list and send it to the distribution list.
- Pat O'Connor, Russ Brodie, and Betsy Deuerling will follow up with the correct staff at their agencies to ensure the calendar is updated regularly.
- John Hendrickson will check if other agency's information could be added to the SJRWMD calendar. If not, Wildwood Consulting will set up a separate Google calendar.
- Marcy Policastro will provide instructions for transferring information from an Outlook calendar to a Google calendar.
- Pat O'Connor will talk to Sharon Piltz about sending a notice to the distribution list when one of these DO thresholds is met.
- Lucy Sonnenberg will follow up with the JU IT staff to set up the access-limited site.
- Lucy Sonnenberg and Tiffany Busby will follow up with Neil Armingeon and ask him to send everything he receives about events to the distribution list for now. If an event does occur, this information may need to be pared down to identify hot spot areas before sharing with the distribution list.
- John Hendrickson will talk with Teresa Monson, Pat O'Connor will talk with Jodi Conway, Russ Brodie will talk with Jan Landsberg, and Tiffany Busby will talk with Andy Reich about the meeting today. A teleconference with these staff may be scheduled.