

Technical Advisory Group

2/28/08 Meeting Minutes

6PM to 7PM

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ATTENDEES: Lee Cook, Derek Doughty, Scott Emery, Dale Meryman, Patricia Metz

EPC ATTENDEES: Chris Cooley, Pete Owens, Debbie Sinko, Kim Tapley, Mike Thompson

HANDOUTS: Agenda
TAG Sunshine Law Handout

Bob Stetler could not attend the meeting due to the concurrent Board Meeting being held downtown. Mike Thompson is the facilitator for this meeting.

It was discussed at the previous meeting to assign topics to the remainder meeting dates. This was the goal for today's meeting.

The next meeting (March 21st from 9am to 11:30am) will cover the Basis of Review and Reasonable Use. EPC staff will supply TAG with their draft of the Reasonable Use definition prior to this meeting via posting on the website (goal posting date is March 14). The reasonable use and avoidance topic has been slated to run over to the next meeting date of April 3 (Thursday 6pm to 8pm). This is due to the fact that the current timeline has a draft of the Basis of Review going before the EPC Board for the May meeting.

Any outside research/comments that members find or create can be sent to Kim Tapley for posting on the website. Then, TAG members can review the documents prior to the scheduled meetings.

The goal for the future meetings is that the sub-committee will present their findings to the full TAG. At that point the TAG will discuss the topics while one member of the presenting Sub-committee takes notes and creates/adds to the white paper. By the end of the meeting the content of the white paper should be completed and ready for compilation by the Sub-committee member. Once compiled the white paper will be posted, thus completing that topic assignment.

Mitigation sub-committee will present on April 18th (Friday 9am to 11:30am meeting). They will compile a draft of talking points (topics) to discuss with TAG.

Classification sub-committee will present on May 1 (Thursday 6pm to 8pm).

The May 16th meeting (Friday 9am to 11:30) should be the wrap-up and miscellaneous topics. It is possible that a June meeting will be held, depending on the progress of the meetings. Miscellaneous topics may include: inter-agency coordination/training, timelines, basin boundaries beyond county borders and Army Core of Engineers (ACOE) and the Rapanos supreme court decision and it's effect on EPC.

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The process sub-committee have already discussed that the training should be once or twice a year where the SWFWMD staff trains the EPC staff in the morning and the EPC staff trains the SWFWMD staff in the afternoon or vis versa. Mike Thompson noted that there is already regularly scheduled interagency training via manager meetings.

TAG discussed the possibility for a timeline extension from the EPC Board. Depending on how the next meeting goes, if it is a slow process then the TAG might want to recommend to the EPC Board that they relax the timeframes if there is more work to be done.

It was brought up that if the meetings were extended, less members may attend (this meeting only had 5 members in attendance). However, it was mentioned that the meetings must go on regardless of the attendance and TAG members who are absent can always review the progress via the website postings.

Further discussion of the ACOE and the Rapanos supreme court decision and it's effect on EPC occurred. It was motioned by Scott Emery that EPC does not make any further actions on getting delegation from the ACOE until the Rapanos issue is resolved. It was then suggested by Mike Thompson that a paragraph (presented at the Miscellaneous topic meeting) is written stating due to the ACOE issues TAG's recommends that EPC does/does not get involved with ACOE at this time.

Further discussion of the basin boundaries beyond county boarders resulted in the suggestion that the SWFWMD Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) reference that any project where the impact is in Hillsborough County and the mitigation is outside of the county SWFWMD will do the compliance inspections. Since legally EPC staff can only do compliance/enforcement within the county's boundaries.

The next meeting on March 21 members will have to approve the past meeting minutes, due to the Sunshine Law. The TAG members were instructed to review all of the meeting minutes posted online prior to the March 21 meeting. At that time the members can vote to approve the past minutes. It was suggested that that an email be sent to the TAG members that discusses 1) the topics for the future meetings 2) to review the past meeting minutes so that they can be approved at the next meeting 3) review reasonable use definition.

Members discussed the Sunshine Law in relation to seeking information from EPC staff. Any member of TAG can speak to any EPC staff at any time and ask questions or request information, but the members cannot speak to each other outside of the meetings unless it's about scheduling dates.

Derek Doughty requested that the auditor's report be posted. Mike Thompson noted that EPC staff will check on the status of the report and when it can be posted.

Meeting adjourned.