

SWF RAMP Meeting Summary
Mote Marine Laboratory
July 7, 2004

1. Introduction

Keith Kibbey and Andy Squires introduced themselves and due to the number of new faces asked everyone present to do the same. There were 26 attendees. Andy asked the group if everyone had been receiving enough advance notice of the meetings. No one indicated a problem with the timing of the emails announcing future meetings.

Attendees:

Melissa Harrison	Ari Nissanka	Megan Tinsley	Patrick Casey
Andy Squires	Jim Felix	Kerry Harkinson	Kathleen Roach
Julia Wood	Carl Gibson	Kerry Hennenfeut	Kathleen Cooney
Diane Gibson	Keith Kibbey	Connie Jarvis	Hong Nguyen
Bob Woithe	Mindy Schneider	Mark Rials	Rob Johnson
John Lindsey	Bob McConnell	Bill d'Angelo	
Richard Boler	John Ryan	Judy Ott	

2. Agenda additions / deletions

Additional items were identified and are shown under item #7 below.

3. How I Survived a FDEP TMDL Audit on my Lab and Field Operations

Keith Kibbey, Lee County Environmental Laboratory

Keith Kibbey described his experience of a TMDL audit on his lab. He noted that Lee County Environmental Laboratory was randomly selected in order for the DEP to determine if their data is defensible for TMDL purposes. A team of three people pulled records and examined them carefully. They wanted to throw out chlorophyll records because it was not noted on the data sheet when the samples were prepped. They also suggested that on the field data sheets where "Time" is listed that it would be more desirable to write "Time sample was collected" to avoid any possible confusion. Keith noted that the LCEL data that is in the EPA STORET database is accurate, but the data in the DEP STORET has additional significant figures added to the Ammonia results. Keith mentioned that he has heard of similar problems (extra numbers added to results in DEP's STORET) from others as well. Keith emphasized the importance of correct data being in STORET since it will be used to make TMDL Impaired Waters judgments.

Mark Rials suggested that perhaps the DEP made some sort of conversion to the Ammonia data such as correcting for ionized/deionized water. A discussion relating to this possibility ensued.

Keith emphasized that NELAC is very particular about things being done right in the field. He also mentioned the DEP auditors were upset that he had not been applying all qualifiers. Keith stated the DEP wants their rules followed for all sampling—not only the sampling that is for them. If the SOPs are always followed, then all data, whether collected for DEP or not, can be considered defensible for TMDL purposes.

Melissa Harrison described her auditing experience with Pinellas County and mentioned that the DEP requested/suggested changes for the HydroLab post-calibration data sheets to include space for bracketing calibrations after the data is collected in the field and ranges are known.

4. Everglades Restoration Program (Laboratory) Round Robin Discussion

Kathleen Cooney, Harbor Branch Environmental Laboratories, Inc.

Kathleen gave a brief overview of the Round Robin program. She stated that it was initiated by DEP as a way to introduce/discuss phosphorus monitoring related to Everglades Restoration. She brought a technical report that compiled the latest data from this effort covering the months April-June 2004. She stated the report (“Statistical Analysis and Summary of the Everglades Total P Round Robin XIV Inter-lab Comparison Program”) could be found online at the DEP website and Andy said he will email a copy of the report to all RAMP members.

Kathleen invited all RAMP members to attend an advanced field sampling workshop at Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute in Ft. Pierce October 28, 2004 from 8 AM-5 PM. The workshop, titled Field Sampling Mock Audit Advanced Training Course, will focus on SOP sampling techniques. Participants in the workshop will collect ground, surface, and wastewater samples around the HBOI campus and nearby Ft. Pierce Utilities. Participants should bring their sampling equipment to the workshop. The workshop will be free to RAMP members and the DEP, however space is limited and registration is required. To register for the course, go to www.hbel.com and click on “Continuing Education” or contact Kathleen at (772) 465-2400 ext. 291.

Keith elaborated that the Round Robin split sampling consists of the DEP sending 18 non-preserved samples from various natural water sites to labs for analysis. The samples are generally taken from sites which have low phosphorus levels, however one sample is usually spiked. This is a way to see how lab results compare with one another. Jim Felix from Collier County mentioned that his lab did well on the high level samples but poorly on the low level samples. He also mentioned that NELAC advised the Collier County lab not to use an autoclave so they are using a hotplate. Keith replied that LCEL does their digestion and TP analysis on autoclave, which brings consistent results.

5. Presentation of ADAPT QC Software

Mark Rials, Southwest Florida Water Management District

Jim Griffin, who was originally scheduled to present a Work Group update on the Tampa Bay Mean Concentration (EMC) Watershed Modeling, was unable to attend the meeting. Mark Rials presented a software program called ADAPT (Automated Data Processing Tool). Mark described that traditionally the Water Management District has allowed data to be contracted out and it ends up sitting on a PC and is often never used. Subsequent water quality studies may not have been needed, but since the data was never made available, it was essentially lost. A common format was needed for water quality data, and ADAPT has been developed to fit this need. Data can be uploaded into STORET directly from ADAPT. The software checks matrices against one another, allows for period sampling, and checks data for outliers. The Southwest Florida Water Management District will require that their contractors submit data in ADAPT—they will be able to download forms from the Internet.

A discussion followed regarding if the data has to go into LIMS. This code is owned by the Water Management District and anyone can get a copy. LIMS puts data into an electronic table, but soon it will be pushed to an Oracle table. Keith Kibbey stated that when data is taken from LIMS it doesn't match what is in ADAPT.

6. Interlaboratory Results

The results of the split sampling were discussed. Flowers Chemical Lab results were not listed on the data sheet and were announced verbally. Keith and Andy stated the turbidity results of the labs looked very similar but the Ammonia results showed a great deal of variance. It was stated that City of Cape Coral's Lab evolved as a waste water lab and therefore its Ammonia detection limits are higher. John Lindsey from Flowers Chemical Lab stated that their lab uses different instruments to measure Total and Ortho Phosphorus.

Ari Nissanka stated that it might be important to know when the labs actually analyzed the samples. It was suggested that in the future all labs participating in the split sample analysis record the date and time the analyte is analyzed. Kathleen Cooney suggested that perhaps some one could get the samples ready during the meeting and pass them out after the meeting, rather than the groups collecting their own samples. Kathleen Roach stated that this would defeat the purpose of comparing the lab's sampling methods to one another.

Judy Ott suggested that a DI blank sample be given to all labs. Keith said this was a good idea because occasionally blanks show traces of elements. It was not agreed upon by all present that a DI blank be analyzed as part of the split sampling. A discussion ensued on chlorophyll. Jim Felix of Collier County stated that SFWMD told their lab what value to use as a chlorophyll detection limit. Someone from Pinellas county stated a way to get acceptable readings was to pick a "good" site and run the chlorophyll samples until decent readings are obtained.

It was stated that the assessors who perform the laboratory audits often interpret SOPs differently. Kathleen Roach from Pinellas County said that labs could petition

NELAC to get a requirement changed. Andy said he will ask Terry Grimes to do a quazi “z” score for RAMP sample analyses.

7. New Business

Judy Ott mentioned an upcoming workshop sponsored by the DEP and The Ocean Conservancy. The workshop, which takes place in Cocoa Beach July 15-16, will focus on the future of the Florida Water Quality Monitoring Council. She said the event was still open to participants and encouraged everyone to attend.

Megan Tinsley from the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation Marine Lab asked for the group’s participation in a short questionnaire regarding RAMP meetings and water quality monitoring efforts in Florida. The surveys could either be completed at the meeting or faxed to Megan. She also passed an email list and will email the survey to anyone who signed the list.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, October 20 from 10 am to 12 pm at Mote Marine Lab. Andy asked for any suggestions regarding guest speakers for the meeting. Anyone is welcome to email him with ideas.

9. Sampling Sequence

Laboratory	Sampling Start Time	Sampling Finish Time
Mote Marine Lab	1218	1224
Mote Marine Lab	1219	1224
Mote Marine Lab	1221	1223
City of Cape Coral	1220	1222
Polk County	1223	1224
Pinellas County	1224	1226
Flowers	1224	1234
DEP	1226	1234
Collier County	1228	1235
Mote Marine Lab	1230	1236
Manatee County	1231	1232
Lee County	1232	1238
Harbor Branch	1235	1241
City of Tampa	1236	1239
EPC of Hills. County	1239	1242
SWFWMD	1240	1244
Mote Marine Lab	1242	1247