

SWF RAMP Meeting Summary
Mote Marine Laboratory
January 19, 2005

1. Introduction

Keith Kibbey and Andy Squires called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM. There were 25 attendees. Everyone introduced themselves after the meeting was called to order.

Attendees:

Keith Kibbey, Lee Co	Greg Wahl, Sarasota Co	Megan Tinsley, Sanibel-Captiva CFML	Mary Ann Marshall, Southern Analytical
Andy Squires, Pinellas Co	Jim Felix, Collier Co	Kerry Harkinson, Manatee Co	Honganh Nguyen, Polk Co
Julia Wood, DEP	Dawn Jaspard, EPC	Rob Johnson, Cape Coral	Ralph Montgomery, PBSJ
Ari Nissauka, Mote	Joe Barron, EPC	Connie Jarvis, Cape Coral	Stephanie Erickson, DEP EBAP
Kerry Hennenfent, COT	Mindy Schneider, DEP Charlotte Hbr Aq P	Mark Rials, SWFWMD	
John Lindsey, Flowers	Stacey Calloway, HBEL	Les Boardman, Southern Analytical	
Jennifer Thera, DEP	Kathleen Roach, Pinellas Co	Sue Myers, Pinellas Co	

2. Acceptance of October 20, 2004 Meeting Summary

No one suggested any changes be made to the meeting summary, thus it was accepted. Regarding the split sample results, Mark Rials stated that his lab tested the ammonia samples twice and obtained the same results.

3. Agenda additions / deletions

Additional items were identified and are shown under items #7 and #9 below.

4. Is chlorophyll analysis a grind? Discussion on grinder types

Keith Kibbey, Lee County Environmental Laboratory

Keith stated that his lab is looking for a better and faster way to do chlorophyll than grinding with a Teflon mortar and pestle. Ari Nissauka from Mote Marine Lab stated that she uses sonication. She states that it is easy, saves time, and that she has experienced very little contamination issues. Kathleen Roach from Pinellas County

stated that her lab tried sonication several years ago but did not get comparable results with their original method. Ralph Montgomery stated that he bought a high-end cell disrupter, which was very fast but required technicians to perform more filtering and overall took more time due to long amount of time the samples spent in the centrifuge. The DEP, at that time, said the method was not standardized. Keith asked the group if everyone used Magnesium Carbonate. Kerry Harkinson from Manatee County stated that if you do not add Magnesium Carbonate while filtering you do not have to centrifuge the sample.

5. Update on NELAC Forum

Kathleen Roach, Pinellas County

Kathleen reported that the group is becoming more focused, mainly discussing deficiencies that labs have reported after their audits. The NELAC Forum will write Steve Arms (NELAC) or someone at the EPA to let them know that they are not responding to individual labs, but rather to a forum of labs that communicate with one another. Hopefully this will reduce the inconsistency of auditors and the audits they issue to different laboratories. Kathleen suggested that interested labs check the NELAC website <http://www.epa.gov/nerlesd1/land-sci/nelac/index.html> for updates on NELAC issues. Anyone interested in joining the Forum can e-mail her at kroach@co.pinellas.fl.us.

6. Update on SWF RAMP Database of Lab Results

Keith Kibbey, Andy Squires, and Megan Tinsley

Michael Hannan and Megan Tinsley of the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation have almost completed the database designed to store the RAMP split sampling results. All of the previous RAMP sample data will be entered into the database. Andy mentioned he would eventually like to get to a point where labs participating in the split sampling would enter their results directly into the database.

7. Group Discussion on Color

The group discussed whether the labs should test for color along with the other standard split sampling tests. Kerry Harkinson stated that color is best suited for freshwater samples, and that when the RAMP tested color in the past there was not a great deal of variability in the results. Kerry Hennenfent stated that COT BSG bought a **transmissometer** that hooks up to their LICOR. So far they are results but they are not yet sure how they compare to more traditional methods of testing color. Seven attendees said their labs regularly test for color. Most do their color tests using tubes, a couple use spectrometers. Keith suggested that perhaps the labs that wish to test color and compare with others should test color when the group splits freshwater samples.

8. Interlaboratory Results

Keith and Andy commented that these results were some of the best that the RAMP group has seen thus far. TKN had more variance than the rest of the results, and Turbidity and TSS showed some variance as well. Harbor Branch Environmental Laboratories reported a high turbidity value. Stacey Calloway, of HBEL, stated that their lab was the first to collect the sample out of the container, which may have affected the results. Ari from MML didn't think this would affect the results because the water is well-circulated in the container. Someone stated that there is less trouble measuring TKN in freshwater samples. Kathleen Roach asked the group if there was any interest in testing for Chlorophyll B and C in addition to Chlorophyll A. Keith suggested that if the labs test for Chlorophyll B and C to report it along with their other results. When the question of what methods labs were using to run the TOC samples, the group agreed to specify the method by placing a "P" (persulfate digestion) or a "C" (combustion) in their data reports.

9. New Business

Andy Squires, Pinellas County

Andy stated that not much has happened since he discussed the TMDL topic last time. Half of the WBIDs in his county were fairly accurate, while the other half needed changes to reflect actual basin boundaries. After recently working with the DEP staff, FDEP indicated that they may adopt many of the County's proposed WBID changes. He suggests that if you think changes are needed for your local WBIDs, send written documentation to FDEP indicating exactly how and why each WBID boundary should be changed. Coordinate closely with FDEP staff throughout the process and you may find that FDEP will incorporate your suggestions. Keith stated the big battle is the freshwater and saltwater interface, and where to draw the line between the two. Andy also discussed how the County has made numerous comments to FDEP and EPA on proposed TMDL rulemaking. Andy stated anyone is welcome to e-mail him at asquires@co.pinellas.fl.us if they are interested in copies of County correspondence with FDEP and EPA.

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, April 13 from 10 am to 12 pm at Mote Marine Lab. On February 3rd; however, due to scheduling conflicts, the next meeting date was changed to April 27th. Roger Johannson from COT BSG has agreed to do a presentation on color and other factors affecting seagrass growth in Tampa Bay. There will also be a short demonstration of the database created for the RAMP results. Andy would also like to revisit the mission of the RAMP and have a discussion on whether the RAMP group is meeting desired needs and goals.

11. Sample Exchange

Water samples were collected from the dock at Mote Marine Lab around 12 PM. The water was spiked with Nitrates, NH₃, and Ortho P.