

## Kissimmee Interagency Meeting – Aquatic Plant Management

April 4, 2007

Keshav Setaram (SFWMD) gave an update on floating plant management throughout the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes (KCOL). Crews are currently working in Lakes Hatchineha, Toho, and Cypress - depending on weather conditions. Keshav also introduced Ryan Higgins, the new crew chief for SFWMD's Kissimmee field station.

David Tarver (SePRO) gave an update on plant samples that were recently tested for fluridone tolerance in the KCOL. A new data table is being developed to track tolerance in these lakes. Plans are being created for an experimental endothal/fluridone treatment protocol in Lakes Toho and Kissimmee. Danielle Sobczak (FDEP) reported that she has mapped nearly 115 acres of topped out hydrilla in Lake Kissimmee that could be treated under this protocol. Ed Harris (FDEP) reported that there is nearly 80 acres of topped out hydrilla in Lake Toho that could be treated. There was discussion of herbicide rates and the length of time that fluridone would need to be present. A short-term (30 days) 30 ppb concentration of fluridone would be required before following up with 3 different rates of endothal. David Tarver will begin working on a prescription ASAP.

Tim Coughlin (FFWCC) gave an update on snail kites that are present and/or nesting on Toho and Kissimmee. Tylan Dean (USFWS) will continue to provide updates on kite nests and recommended exclusion zones.

Danielle discussed several areas of hydrilla in Lake Hatchineha that will need to be treated soon. There is 75 acres in the NE cove that need to be treated in order to maintain a clear channel. She will coordinate treatments with Keshav, Dharmen Setaram (Uniphos), and Mike Page (Helicopter Applicators). There are also several areas adjacent to the Pig Trail in Lake Kissimmee that may need to be treated soon. However, low water levels prohibit treating anytime soon. The north cove of Kissimmee has at least 250 acres that need to be treated soon in order to maintain open water adjacent to the grass line.

There was extensive discussion of the recent Aquathol treatment on Lake Cypress. It was agreed that the treatment area would continue to be monitored by FDEP, FWC, and SFWMD to determine if additional treatments need to be made.

Kimberly Lawrence (Osceola County) asked about the hygrophila and limnophila that are choking Boggy Creek. Ed, Dharmen, and Greg Reynolds (Syngenta) will look at this area for possible experimental treatments with endothal and diquat. Mike Netherland (USACE/IFAS) has indicated a desire to monitor any treatments in these areas.

Matt Phillips (FDEP) reported that ReMetrix is currently mapping Lake Toho for us. They will be providing a map showing biovolume of submerged vegetation and will provide a subset of sediment data for SFWMD. They will map all 4 lakes in the upper KCOL. Keshav and Tim Coughlin requested copies of the finished maps.

Tim Coughlin reported that FWC would be starting a harvesting project on Lake Toho. Approximately 30 acres north of Lanier Point, 3 acres near Regal Bay, and 7 acres near Neptune Road are targeted. Most of the targeted area is smartweed but there are a few tussock areas to be worked on. Their contractor has a 45-day period to complete the job. Most of the harvested material will be placed on existing spoil islands.

Ed gave an update on the Lake Runnymede harvesting project. He will contact Sid Bronson about having the County remove a broken concrete slab from the Runnymede Trailer Park.

Tina Bond (IFAS) gave an update on their Earth Day program and the kickoff of the hydrilla project. There will be lots of hydrilla-related information presented as part of the EPA's grant. Tina also reported that their new biologist would be starting in mid-April.

Kimberly spoke about the NPDES program at Osceola County. She will be working with the several educational groups and the TMDL working groups. She is also coordinating lake cleanup for Earth Day. Kimberly also reported that the County's Lake Management Committee meeting has been postponed.

Mike Bodle (SFWMD) reported that Rotala was rapidly replacing Hygrophila as the major problem plant in south Florid canals.

The next meeting was set for Wednesday, July 11, at the IFAS Center in Kissimmee.