

**STATUS REPORT: WRAC ISSUES WORKSHOP – ADAPTIVE PROTOCOLS FOR THE LAKE OKEECHOBEE REGULATION SCHEDULE, 2008**

- Four Issues Workshops have been held since August 2009. Well attended.
- Purpose: Clarify and improve Adaptive Protocols for the Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule, 2008 (LORS, 2008).
- “Adaptive Protocols” provide guidance about water releases:
  - Where the regulation schedule provides a range of options (e.g. where release volumes range from 0 to an upper limit).
  - To refine seasonal and multi-seasonal water needs for the natural system while balancing demand for use of water from the Lake.
- Drafted “Guiding Principles” to become part of the introduction to the improved Adaptive Protocols document.
- There is agreement about reserving water in the Lake at the beginning of the dry season for use later in the dry season for estuary flows.
  - Also have agreement to shift base flows from the St. Lucie estuary to the Caloosahatchee estuary as needed.
- Modeling now underway to:
  - Show impacts of Spring 2009 water releases in the “Beneficial Use Zone” of LORS, 2008 (understanding that this is first year of operation under LORS, 2008).
  - Estimate water volumes if holding water in the Lake early in the dry season for use later in the dry season.
- A draft revised Adaptive Protocols document will be forwarded to workshop participants in early December for comment.
- SFWMD staff will produce a redraft for discussion.
- Workshop Schedule:
  - December 16 – Lower West Coast Service Center, Ft. Myers
  - January 21 – B-1 Auditorium, West Palm Beach
  - February and March dates to be determined.
- Expect to bring a consensus recommendation from the Issues Workshop to the WRAC for “first read” in March, 2010. Final action by WRAC and the Governing Board is expected in April, 2010.