

The Water Resource Assessment Team (WRAT) – along with members of the Environmental Measures Team (EMT) -- met on January 11, 2017 to, among other things, discuss the Regulatory Team's request as described in italics below:

1. *Is it possible to apply a wetlands numeric standard for harm to all wetlands (or types of wetlands) across all physiographic regions (or types of regions) of the CFWI with a high reliability that the standard would act as a screening tool for harm and to develop such a tool within 1 year?*

It does not appear possible to apply a wetlands numeric standard for harm to all wetlands across all physiographic regions within CFWI within one year.

First, numeric standards for harm for all wetlands within CFWI would need to be developed. Although SFWMD has successfully developed and applied wetland harm protection criteria for a certain class of wetlands (i.e., one-foot drawdown for Category 2 [seasonally inundated] wetlands under a 90-day no-recharge modeling scenario), numerical criteria have not been developed and adopted for other wetland classes. The data needs and complexity of developing such criteria would make it challenging to complete this task within one year. Recall that statistical techniques were used to evaluate wetland impacts under the scenarios simulated and described in the CFWI Water Supply Plan. These statistical techniques were conducted specifically because wetland status and corresponding water level data in order to develop numeric criteria are lacking for the vast majority of wetlands in the area.

Second, the EMT has already developed a Statement of Work (SOW) – soon to be shared with the Management Oversight Committee (MOC) for their consideration -- designed to address the needs of the Water Supply Planning Subteam for the next plan. It is focused largely on revisiting a statistically valid subset of the wetlands visited more than 10 years ago to observe wetland condition and document status change, if any. Additional resources would be needed for the EMT to take on this additional requested task within the required timeframe.

2. *Will a model be available and ready to use within 1 year that would allow the districts to consistently apply a numeric standard across the CFWI?*

The Hydrologic Assessment Team (HAT) is currently focused on completing calibration of an updated, transient version of the ECFT Model, referred to as the East Central Florida Transient Expanded (ECFTX) Model by the end of 2017. If some level of wetland numeric criteria are developed, it is possible that the steady-state version of the previous ECFT Model could be applied as a screening-level tool.