

APPROVED

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

GOVERNING BOARD
OUTREACH AND PLANNING COMMITTEE
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

TAMPA, FLORIDA

FEBRUARY 10, 2011

The Governing Board Outreach and Planning Committee met at 11:05 a.m. on February 10, 2011, at the District's Tampa Service Office for the purpose of 2013 Strategic Plan Development. The following persons were present:

Governing Board Members

Ron Oakley, Chair
Hugh Gramling, Vice Chair
Doug Tharp, Treasurer
Jennifer Closshey, Committee Vice Chair
Albert Joerger, Member

Staff Members

David Moore, Executive Director
Lou Kavouras, Deputy Executive Director
Kurt Fritsch, Acting Deputy Executive Director
Bruce Wirth, Deputy Executive Director

Staff Members

Roy Mazur, Planning Director
Michael Molligan, Communications Director
Michael Holtkamp, Operations Director
Clark Hull, Environmental Regulation
Program Director
Gordon McClung, Engineering & Watershed
Management Program Director
David Crane, Structure Operations Manager

Administrative Support

Dianna Brass, Administrative Supervisor

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

Vice Chair Closshey called the meeting to order and asked that all in attendance introduce themselves.

2. **Schedule Review**

Ms. Lou Kavouras provided copies of the agenda and the updated fiscal year (FY) 2012 Strategic Planning Calendar. She said the calendar was updated in order to provide additional time for the Natural Systems, Water Quality and Water Supply areas of responsibility. She also noted that in the September timeframe, an opportunity to revisit the Slogan, Mission and Vision statements will be provided.

3. **Overview of Flood Protection Area of Responsibility**

Mr. Moore said the current goal statement for Flood Protection is to minimize flood damage to protect people, property, infrastructure and investment. He said staff is looking for the Committee's input on the core elements that will be discussed today. Mr. Joerger pointed out that the natural systems component was missing from the goal statement. Mr. Moore said staff will discuss performance indicators and add watershed assessments.

4. **Overview of Flood Protection Strategic Initiatives**

Mr. Wirth gave a historical overview of the development of Florida's water management system discussing a variety of topics such as 298 drainage districts, establishment of the water management districts, Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) data collection modeling and FEMA mapping. Ms. Closshey asked what percentage of our budget was allowed for watershed assessment; Mr. Fritsch responded that it was four percent.

Mr. McClung provided detailed information on the watershed assessment for FEMA mapping. He said the District's program is the model recommended by Washington for

other agencies to follow and the most expensive costs of data collection are for flood protection. Mr. Joerger asked for a legal opinion on the potential to collect fees for use of the District's data by others. Mr. Moore expressed his appreciation to Mr. Oakley for attending all the watershed management meetings. Mr. McClung responded to questions relative to how the District's data compares to other states and said New York is borrowing our data scheme and there are elements that the District does that no one else has done. Ms. Closshey asked about science and data-based decisions and whether the District paid when outsourcing. Mr. Moore said projects with the USGS are on a 50/50 cost-share basis.

Mr. Mazur reviewed a map from the Scorecard under the Floodplain Management Strategic Initiative that depicted the status of the watershed management plans that are proposed, under development or completed and said this is used as a performance measurement tool. He stated this information will be updated showing a significant increase in plans underway or completed. Board members posed questions on progress compared to the goal, the map not covering highly developed areas, map maintenance and related budget, and determining any public risk if the mapping process is slowed. Mr. McClung said all citizens should know their flood hazard zone; a District brochure is available on floodplain facts and staff is proactive in its outreach efforts in this regard.

At this time, the Board recessed for a short lunch break.

Mr. Crane discussed the District's water control structures, the technology used to monitor conditions, and maintenance issues. He said the 81 structures consist of 19 for flood control, 59 are for water conservation and 3 are used for drainage. Mr. Crane noted that 35 structures are remote controllable, and two additional structures are being automated this year. He said the District uses SCADA for real-time monitoring of rainfall and water levels and remote gate operations. Ms. Closshey suggested that staff review the cost of handling maintenance in house; if the payback is within a certain timeframe, the Board could set policy to institute a new process.

Mr. Hull gave an overview of the Environmental Resource Permitting (ERP) initiative, staff realignment, rule streamlining and goals for e-permitting. He said the environmental resource program is not just for the environmental permit, it also has aspects of water quality and water quantity. He said the watershed management plans are used as a critical tool in determining whether a proposed development is going to result in adverse impacts to the property. Mr. Hull said the integration of the watershed management plans and ERP should result in a process of continuous improvement in the information we have. He said the goal for ERP, using the Water Management Information System (WMIS), is to have 80 percent of permit submittals and 99 percent of the processing to be done electronically by October 2013. Mr. Hull said the rising importance of watershed management plans and the downturn in permit applications has enabled the redirection of permit evaluator staff to the watershed management plan projects. He said the rule streamlining process is being done as a result of the Governor's Executive Order directing agencies to look at current rules to identify and eliminate obsolete, redundant or those that cause a burden on permit applicants.

Mr. Mazur reviewed the five performance measures of Watershed Management, which include: (1) number of structure protocols modified according to the Watershed model data; (2) area of reduced flood risk as a result of District-funded storage and conveyance projects; (3) reduction in flood damage cost due to District-funded storage and conveyance projects; (4) percentage of ERP permit filed and evaluated on-line; and (5) percentage of ERP submittals that go through a pre-application meeting.

Mr. Holtkamp presented information on the District's emergency weather event planning. He discussed the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) locations, coordination with state and local authorities, staff training and technology enhancements that improve responsiveness.

5. **Strategic Communications Plan**

6. **Board Policies**

In the interest of time, Ms. Closshey requested the Strategic Communications Plan and Board Policies agenda items (No. 5 and 6) be deferred to the next meeting and the Committee hear Budget Alignment item (No. 7) next.

7. **Budget Alignment**

Mr. Fritsch gave a brief overview that related the District's budget in percentages to the programs and areas of responsibility discussed today. Ms. Closshey requested that at the following meetings, these numbers be presented first. The Board had questions that related to the Governor's proposed budget and the 25 percent reduction in ad valorem collections. Mr. Moore advised that it is not certain how the water management districts will be affected and staff is seeking clarification.

8. **Next Meeting Date**

Ms. Kavouras proposed the next meeting date for Tuesday, March 15, at 9:00 a.m., in conjunction with the Basin Board Land Resources Committee meeting scheduled at the Polk County Nature Discovery Center in Lakeland.

9. **Adjournment**

Committee Vice Chair Closshey adjourned the meeting at 2:35 p.m.