

APPROVED

MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD
AND
TAMPA BAY WATER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TARPON SPRINGS, FLORIDA FEBRUARY 22, 2010

The Governing Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) met with the Tampa Bay Water Board of Directors in a workshop session at 9:10 a.m. on February 22, 2010, at the Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center in Tarpon Springs. The following persons were present:

SWFWMD Board Members Present

Todd Pressman, Chair
Ronald E. Oakley, Vice Chair
Hugh Gramling, Secretary
Sallie Parks, Treasurer
Carlos Beruff, Member
Bryan Beswick, Member
Jennifer E. Closshey, Member
Neil Combee, Member
Albert G. Joerger, Member
Maritza Rovira-Forino, Member
H. Paul Senft, Member
Douglas B. Tharp, Member
Judith C. Whitehead, Member

SWFWMD Staff Members Present

David L. Moore, Executive Director
William S. Bilenky, General Counsel
Lou Kavouras, Deputy Executive Director
Richard S. Owen, Deputy Executive Director
Eugene A. Schiller, Deputy Executive Director
Bruce C. Wirth, Deputy Executive Director
Michael C. Hancock, Sr. Professional Engineer

Tampa Bay Water Board Members Present

Mark Sharpe, Chair
Ann Hildebrand, Vice Chair
Al Higginbotham, Member
Ted Schrader, Member
Susan Latvala, Member
Neil Brickfield, Member
Karl Nurse, Member
Charlie Miranda, Member

Tampa Bay Water Staff Members Present

Gerald J. Seeber, General Manager
Rick Lotspeich, General Counsel
Koni Cassini, Director, Finance and Admin.
Donald J. Polmann, Director, Science & Eng.
Chuck Carden, Director, Operations & Fac.
Warren Hogg, Director, Permits Mitigation
Alison Adams, Ph.D., Director, Source
Rotation & Environmental Protection

SWFWMD Administrative Support

C. LuAnne Stout, Administrative Coordinator
Tahla Paige, Senior Administrative Assistant

A list of others present who signed the attendance roster is filed in the permanent files of the District. Approved minutes from previous meetings can be found on the District's Web site (www.WaterMatters.org).

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

Tampa Bay Water Chair Sharpe called the meeting to order and opened the workshop. Chairs Sharpe and Pressman introduced the members of their respective Boards who were present at the workshop. (00:00/03:05)

2. **Partnership Plan Success**

Mr. Seeber said in 1998 the Tampa Bay Water Board of Directors entered into a Partnership Agreement with the SWFWMD Governing Board. He said this item will present an overview of the partnership activities and successes accomplished.

Mr. Warren Hogg, Director of Permits Mitigation, Tampa Bay Water, said the Partnership Agreement executed in 1998 contained four objectives: end existing and avoid future litigation and administrative hearings, develop new water supplies, reduce groundwater pumpage from the 11 Consolidated Permit wellfields, and provide District financial assistance to accomplish the water supply development necessary to reduce groundwater pumpage. Through collective efforts, the objectives have been accomplished. He

reviewed Consolidated Wellfield pumping, compliance with the 90 million gallons per day (mgd) limit, status of the regional reservoir and preparedness for the dry season. The presentation included the District's key role in the success that has been achieved since 1990. A copy of the presentation was provided to each Board member. (03:05/13:15)

3. **Northern Tampa Bay Recovery Plan and Consolidated Permit Renewal Process Status Report**

Mr. Moore introduced District staff who would provide an update on the ecological systems and water resources as a result of reducing the pumping from nearly 160 mgd to 90 mgd.

Mr. Michael Hancock, Senior Professional Engineer, Resource Projects Department, SWFWMD, provided an overview of the District's efforts to monitor water level recovery in the Northern Tampa Bay (NTB) area. Since the inception of the first phase of the recovery strategy, District and Tampa Bay Water staffs have been monitoring the water levels, flows, and biologic data in the area's water resources to assess changes in conditions as groundwater withdrawals in the area have been reduced. While implementation of the second phase of recovery will continue through 2020 and assessment is ongoing, there are clear indications that progress toward recovery in the area has occurred. District staff is currently working with Tampa Bay Water staff to develop a work plan to implement the second phase of recovery. (13:15/39:25)

In response to Commissioner Schrader's question, Mr. Hancock said one of the key components of both phases of recovery has been to study the "tools in the toolbox" which are elements other than groundwater wellfield reductions which can be done to improve the situation such as augmentation. Mr. Moore said there was a great deal of discussion about the "tools in the toolbox" to reduce the size of the impacted areas back to more manageable areas, using augmentation as part of the equation. Commissioner Latvala asked whether there is a point when it might be declared that wellfields have been restored to normal. Mr. Hancock replied the goal is the end of the second phase of recovery—2020. (39:25/44:10)

Ms. Closshey said while watching this data emerge and come together over the past five years, she has observed greater communication between the two staffs. She requested an explanation how this type of data plus Tampa Bay Water's operational data is discussed, and how does cooperation take place between the two staffs. Mr. Hancock provided an overview of the establishment of the local technical peer review group. He said this technical group consists of people throughout the community, Tampa Bay Water, U.S. Geological Survey, etc., who have been meeting every other month to discuss new data, reports and analyses. He said a great deal of time is spent exchanging information and finding consensus based upon these studies. (44:10/46:16)

Councilman Nurse asked whether the 90 mgd is a target that is below sustainable so that ongoing recovery occurs. Mr. Hancock replied that at 90 mgd, there will still be impacts but those impacts are more manageable. He said staffs are looking at the long-term averages and the highs/lows to determine acceptable levels and provide natural fluctuations. Mr. Moore asked Mr. Hancock to discuss how some systems have been fundamentally changed due to pumpage, oxidation, etc. Mr. Hancock explained how some impacts are irreversible due to soil oxidation in wetlands. He said staff will assess if seeing a true sign of recovery due to higher water levels and response by biological systems or damage is so dramatic the system will not fully recover. (46:16/50:25)

Ms. Closshey directed her question to Mr. Moore. She asked whether over the next ten years will there be a decision process made about whether that degree of impact is the appropriate degree and, therefore, will the minimum flows and levels that have been set will be simultaneously reevaluated. She asked if there is a plan in place to allocate the factors to measure how to make that decision or is that just beginning. Mr. Moore said there is a process in place with all the entities involved. He said, from a technical point of

view, it is most important to allow time to understand what is occurring. He said as 2020 approaches, it will be the Governing Board that has the responsibility of stating what is appropriate, and there will be dialogues between the two Boards. Mr. Moore reiterated that nothing is more important in this analysis than time. He said he is confident that with the tremendous amount of talent, human and financial resources in place on both sides, the process will determine what will be needed in 2020. (50:25/54:30)

Commissioner Schrader noted that currently Pasco County has a wet weather distribution issue with reuse water. He asked whether it would be appropriate now to see what plans the District has, if any, for reuse water in addressing rehydration issues. Mr. Hancock said the concept has been discussed for many years to use extra reuse water for environmentally beneficial ways. He said there are several projects in the early stages of discussion and this is one of the “tools in the toolbox.” (54:30/56:30)

Chair Pressman said, at its most critical time, Tampa Bay Water used over 200 mgd of water in one month. He noted for Tampa Bay Water to use only 40 mgd in December 2009 is a major accomplishment. He said that reaching past the goal of 90 mgd shows the tremendous work both staffs have done. (56:30/57:10)

4. **Long-Term Demands for Potable Supply**

Mr. Seeber said Tampa Bay Water must plan for future demand and whether to invest in alternative water supply at the appropriate time or not invest as the case may be.

Dr. Alison Adams, Director for Source Rotation and Environmental Protection, Tampa Bay Water, provided a presentation focusing on the results of Tampa Bay Water’s most recent long-term demand forecast and how it relates to water supply needs. She reviewed the latest revisions to projections for anticipated growth and the need for new alternative sources of supply. Dr. Adams noted that, even with the year-to-year variability, water supplies are more than adequate to meet demands for the next 10 plus years given the current economic forecast. Tampa Bay Water will continue its water supply planning and working with District staff on long-term planning so when growth resumes supply will be available. (0:57:10/1:05:52)

In response to Councilman Nurse’s question, Dr. Adams replied that the reservoir’s level is dependent on surface water flow due to local hydrologic conditions. (1:05:52/1:06:50)

5. **Desalination Plant Performance and Grant Funding**

Mr. Chuck Carden, Director, Operations and Facilities, Tampa Bay Water, provided an overview of the operations since December 2007 through Friday, February 19, 2010, and the milestones achieved regarding the performance tests included in the December 2005 Second Amendment to the desalination funding agreement. He reviewed the production status of the plant and noted that Tampa Bay Water will be requesting final payment from the District as soon as possible to minimize the expense to the public. (1:06:50/1:09:20)

Mr. Seeber recognized the Tampa Bay Water staff that have done an outstanding job managing this project. He said staff have demonstrated a commitment to achieve the Board’s objectives to make this a success for the region. Mr. Seeber said staff merit his personal thanks for their hard work and weekend worrying over this facility, and their perseverance to complete the project and operate it in an effective manner. He stated they have demonstrated class, competence and commitment in their role as public servants. (1:09:20/1:10:50)

Chair Pressman said this has been a great success and he is thrilled to have just a little piece of involvement with it. He commended all staffs and Tampa Bay Water for its work in the last few months to complete it. (1:10:50/1:11:45)

Ms. Parks said, although a number of people who were involved in the beginning are not here, it is a day for celebration and Mr. Roy Harrell (former Governing Board Chair) would be so proud of this day. (1:11:45/1:13:18)

Ms. Closshey said she wanted to share a few words from a national perspective. She said Tampa Bay Water now has an incredible reputation of quality as a pioneer. Of course, she said, she is pleased that many of those same people recognize the District is Tampa Bay Water's partner. She noted the recognition of this accomplishment and the journey has been recognized across the nation. She said Tampa Bay Water has been an inspiration and model, and has paved the way for many others. (1:13:18/1:14:26)

Chair Sharpe said for those Board members on both sides that have been here from the beginning, regionalism is not always easy to accomplish especially when things are not going right. He said this is an example of persevering to see the objective through and to see it work is only going to help when looking at other areas to work together collectively. He commended all involved. (1:14:26/1:15:04)

Vice Chair Hildebrand said nobody does any of this by themselves, and it had to be done to diversify water sources and reduce pumping. (1:15:04/1:15:14)

6. **Open Discussion**

Councilman Nurse said he was thinking about what can be done in the near term to make a difference. There are about 200,000 toilets in use and concentrated in the single-family rental home market; therefore, toilet rebates have not had the impact they should have had. He said he is advocating a dramatically more robust toilet rebate program—the cheapest thing that can be done to drive down usage every month. In response to Ms. Closshey's question, Mr. Wirth said that rental units are eligible and typically those type programs come from the local governments. (1:15:14/1:17:50)

Ms. Parks asked Mr. Seeber what Tampa Bay Water's anticipated usage of desalination and other resources while the reservoir is under repair. Mr. Seeber said the Board of Directors has set staff on a path to undertake a permanent fix at the reservoir facility. He said staff is engaged in that procurement now, and the current schedule has construction activity beginning June 2012. He noted there would be no water in the reservoir for two seasons. Mr. Seeber reiterated that Tampa Bay Water's use will be a function of what is available such as an expanded surface water treatment plant, Tampa Bypass Canal, Alafia River, etc. In addition, he said the desalination facility has the ability to meet about 10 percent of demand. He noted those sources would be maximized. (1:17:50/1:20:25)

Ms. Whitehead said she wanted to emphasize that education, preparation and letting the people know what to expect will be a key factor to save money and save water. She said people essentially want to do the right thing and they need to be prepared in advance through the media. (1:20:25/1:21:20)

Ms. Closshey asked Mr. Seeber about plans to expand Tampa Bay Water's service area into eastern Hillsborough County and whether that could affect demand. Mr. Seeber said the member governments decide about service area expansions. He noted that no change is anticipated at this time since demand is not expected to increase in the next five to 10 years. In response to Ms. Closshey's comments regarding rates, Mr. Seeber said rates that Tampa Bay Water assesses to its member governments are set by agreement. He said it is expected that there will be pressure to increase rates due to selling less product to a smaller customer base. He noted that member governments have the ability to implement tiered retail rates. Ms. Closshey said we've just come through a period where conservation was very much emphasized and asked whether there are any take away lessons for the Boards. Commissioner Latvala said an unintended consequence of citizens doing such a good job with conservation is that Pinellas County is having difficulty meeting the costs of delivering water to them. She noted the County is making serious

cuts in the utility department; however, she said ongoing conservation for the future is positive. (1:21:20/1:26:20)

Chair Pressman said he wanted to address Councilman Nurse's direction regarding toilet rebates and retrofitting. He said the District is set up to address such rebate programs in a number of separate Basin Boards and that funding comes through those boards. He said it is cooperative funding between counties and the appropriate Basin Board. Mr. Wirth said there are one or two ongoing rebate programs with the City of St. Petersburg. He said the program can be modified to change focus from residential areas. He said the problem with the apartment type units is that, since it is a cost share program, the owner has to outlay the cost herself. He noted until it makes economic sense, the owners are typically not interested. (1:26:20/1:30:00)

Chair Pressman said both organizations are run beautifully which starts at the top with Messrs. Moore and Seeber. He thanked everyone for being here and their attentiveness. He also thanked the Pinellas County Parks Department for its support and the use of the Brooker Creek facility.

Chair Sharpe said Tampa Bay Water has greatly enjoyed its relationship with the District and the Board members. He noted the Board is well versed and knows its issues, and Tampa Bay Water looks forward to continuing the relationship.

Mr. Seeber said in recognition of the accomplishments of the desalination facility, everyone is invited to join in the celebration and have a piece of cake brought to share with the District. (1:30:00/1:32:40)

The meeting was adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

The Southwest Florida Water Management District does not discriminate upon the basis of any individual's disability status. This non-discrimination policy involves every aspect of the District's functions including one's access to, participation, employment, or treatment in its programs or activities. Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation, as provided for in the Americans with Disabilities Act, should contact the Executive Department, telephone 1-800-423-1476 (Florida only), extension 4610; TDD ONLY 1-800-231-6108 (Florida only); FAX 352-754-6874.