

**APPROVED**  
Minutes of the Meeting

**Withlacoochee River Basin Board**  
Southwest Florida Water Management District

Brooksville, Florida                      July 24, 2007

The Withlacoochee River Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a regular meeting July 24, 2007, at 9:05 a.m., at District Headquarters.

Board Members Present

Ronald Oakley, Chair Ex Officio Designate  
Seeth Trimpert, Vice Chair  
Janey Baldwin, Secretary  
Patsy Nathe, Member  
Bo Rooks, Member

Staff Present

Lou Kavouras  
Bruce Wirth  
Gregg Jones  
Mike Holtkamp  
Mark Hammond  
Stephanie Dunham

Carl Wright  
Beth Putnam  
Will Miller  
Eric Sutton  
Steve Blaschka  
Jimmy Brooks  
Cathy Linsbeck

Board Members Absent

Jack Dennis, Member  
Paul Mazak, Member

Recording Secretary

Annette Zielinski

A list of others who were present and signed the attendance roster is filed in the permanent files of the Basin. Compact disks of the audio and copies of the materials and handouts, as set out in full herein, are also filed in the permanent files of the Basin.

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**

Vice Chair Trimpert called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Ms. Zielinski noted a quorum was present. Vice Chair Trimpert welcomed Mr. Ronald Oakley, Chair Ex Officio Designate to today's meeting.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag**

Vice Chair Trimpert led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. (CD1/Track 1 – 00:00/01:37)

3. **Additions and Deletions to the Agenda**

Ms. Kavouras said there is an add-on item that will be presented immediately before Discussion Item 6.c. The title for discussion was **Approval of Amendment to the Construction Agreement with Subaqueous Services, Inc. for the Lake Panasoffkee Restoration Project.**

4. **Oath of Office for Appointed/Re-Appointed Board Members**

Ms. Lou Kavouras, Deputy Executive Director, said Governor Crist has made four re-appointments to the Withlacoochee River Basin Board, Messrs. Dennis and Rooks, and Mesdames Baldwin and Nathe. Ms. Kavouras administered the Oath of Office to the re-appointed members in attendance at today's meeting. Mr. Dennis, who was unable to attend today's meeting, will be sworn in at the next available opportunity. (CD1/Track 2 – 00:00/02:22)

5. **Consent Items:**

a. **April 12, 2007, Meeting Minutes**

Staff recommended approval of the April minutes, as presented.

b. **Board Encumbrances:**

(1) **Structure S-11 Gate Replacement at Big Gant Lake (B670)**

Staff recommended approval of the encumbrance of \$100,000 without a contract for the modification of Structure S-11 during FY2008.

- (2) **Tampa Bay Regional Reclaimed Water and Downstream Augmentation Projects (H300-H310)**  
Staff recommended approval of the encumbrance of \$42,457, without a contract, for the Tampa Bay Regional Reclaimed Water Project to be used in fiscal years 2007-2014.
  - (3) **Tsala Apopka Water Quality Monitoring (B218)**  
Staff recommended approval of the encumbrance of \$54,670 without a contract for the Tsala Apopka Water Quality Monitoring project to be used in FY2008.
  - (4) **Tsala Apopka Outfall Canal (B630)**  
Staff recommended approval of the encumbrance of \$40,000 from FY2007 funds, without a contract, to be used for the replacement of deteriorated culverts along the Tsala Apopka Outfall Canal.
- c. **Revised Operating Agreement between the District and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for the Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems Program and Revisions to District Procedure**  
Staff recommended the Governing Board approve and authorize the Executive Director to execute the revised District/FDACS/FARMS Operating Agreement, Procedure 13-9, and the Funding Contract.
- d. **Amendment to the Cooperative Agreement with Sumter County for the Cleanout of Residential Canals Along the Western Shoreline of Lake Panasoffkee**  
Staff recommended the following:
- (1) Approve amending the cooperative agreement with Sumter County for the cleanout of residential canals along the western shoreline of Lake Panasoffkee to increase the District's not to exceed contract amount from \$200,000 to \$657,000, with funds for the amendment to come from State appropriated funds to be liquidated from the District's dredging contract;
  - (2) Approve replenishing \$207,000 of liquidated State funds from the dredging contract with Basin Board/State SWIM funds from the \$664,721.32 currently encumbered as contingency funds for this project; and
  - (3) Approve entering into an agreement with the FFWCC for the receipt of \$250,000 in grant funding for the in-lake components of the restoration plan (Steps 2 and 3), contingent on the Council's approval of funding an additional \$250,000 of canal cleanout work.
- e. **Appraisals and Purchase/Sale Agreement, Gum Slough Project, SWF Parcel No. 19-193-105**  
Staff recommended the following:
- (1) Accept the appraisals;
  - (2) Approve the Purchase/Sale Agreement; and
  - (3) Designate SWF Parcel No. 19-193-105 as having been acquired for conservation purposes.
- f. **Appraisals and Purchase/Sale Agreement, Green Swamp Wilderness Preserve, SWF Parcel No. 19-410-123C**  
Staff recommended the following:
- (1) Accept the appraisals;
  - (2) Approve the Purchase/Sale Agreement; and
  - (3) Designate SWF Parcel No. 19-410-123C as having been acquired for conservation purposes.

Ms. Trimpert noted, for the record, that she is in favor of purchasing land that is needed for water resources but is not in favor of purchasing land for the sole purpose of recreation. Staff reassured Ms. Trimpert that any recreational use would be an added benefit to the public but not the reason for the acquisition. Ms. Baldwin concurred with Ms. Trimpert's remarks.

- g. **Acceptance of Donation of Land, Northern District Water Resources Assessment Project Well Site, SWF Parcel No. 19-020-063**  
Staff recommended authorizing the Land Resources Director to accept the donation of SWF Parcel No. 19-020-063
- h. **Amendment to the Half-Moon Wildlife Management Area Agreement with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, SWF Parcel No. 19-193-102X**  
Staff recommended the Governing Board approve the amendment to the Half-Moon Wildlife Management Area Agreement with Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for SWF Parcel No. 19-193-102X.
- i. **Annual Calendar of Meeting Dates – Fiscal Year 2008**  
Staff recommended approval of the FY2008 Basin Board meeting schedule. This schedule was amended at today's meeting moving the October Basin Board meeting and Workshop to October 11 from October 18, 2007.

Following consideration, **Ms. Baldwin moved, seconded by Ms. Nathe, to approve the Consent Items as presented. Motion carried unanimously.** (CD1/Track 3 – 00:00/07:04)

6. **Discussion Items:**

- a. **Election of Officers and Committee Representatives**  
Election results were as follows:  
Seeth Trimpert – Vice Chair  
Janey Baldwin – Secretary  
Basin Board Education Committee  
    Primary Representative – Patsy Nathe  
    Alternate Representative – Janey Baldwin  
Basin Board Land Resources Committee  
    Primary Representative – Bo Rooks  
    Alternate Representative – Seeth Trimpert (CD1/Track 4 – 00:00/03:28)
- b. **Western Terminus Cross Florida Greenway**  
Ms. Stephanie Dunham, Engineering Section, Resource Management Department, said the purpose of this item was to present the draft report of the water quality and natural systems analysis for the Western Terminus Cross Florida Greenway project and answer questions raised by the Withlacoochee River Basin Board members at their April 12, 2007 meeting. Ms. Dunham provided a brief history of the project for Mr. Oakley. She said in fiscal year 2003, the Withlacoochee River Basin Board provided funding for a basin initiative to investigate the restoration of the Western Terminus of the Cross Florida Greenway. The District's consultant, URS Corporation Southern, was retained to perform an Alternatives Analysis. Restoration alternatives took into consideration flood protection, natural systems, water quality, permitting requirements, navigation, and conceptual construction costs. Four alternatives were presented to the Board at its August 2004 meeting. At the Basin Board's October 25, 2004 meeting, the Board accepted the Alternatives Analysis Report, and eliminated Alternatives 1 and 2 from further consideration. Staff was authorized to continue further evaluation to identify impacts to the estuary and identify potential benefits of restoration of freshwater flows to the lower river. URS was contracted to develop a water quality model to evaluate the salinity conditions due to redirection of freshwater flows through the Barge Canal and the potential benefits of restoring some of those flows to the lower river. The University of Arkansas was contracted to examine impacts to bald cypress trees along the lower river. Additionally, the University of South Florida was contracted to provide shoreline mapping and a bathymetric survey.

Since December 2006, URS has been utilizing the water quality model to evaluate the potential benefits from Alternative 3 to increase freshwater flows in the lower segment of the river. Ms. Dunham reviewed and handed out copies of the draft report *Cross Florida Greenway: Watershed Evaluation, Evaluation of Alternative Flow Scenarios Using Hydrodynamic Models* for review to Basin Board members at today's meeting. Ms. Dunham also presented the following topics: the existing capacity of bypass channel, environmental benefits, bypass channel alterations, and future actions. In a brief summary, she said the project costs for alterations far outweigh the potential benefits. Ms. Dunham said the next step is to accept comments on the draft report; those results will be presented at a future meeting.

Ms. Trimpert said she was disappointed to hear those results; she was hoping there would be greater benefits. She is prepared to share this report with the local work group.

This information was provided for the Board's information only; no action was required. (CD1/Track 5 – 00:00/28:05)

At this time, an item not listed on the published agenda was presented.

***Addition***

**Approval of Amendment to the Construction Agreement with Subaqueous Services, Inc. for the Lake Panasoffkee Restoration Project**

Mr. Michael L. Holtkamp, Director, Operations Department, said the purpose of this item is to recommend the Withlacoochee River Basin Board approve amending the contract with Subaqueous Services, Inc., the dredging contractor for the Lake Panasoffkee restoration project. The amendment would reallocate existing funds from the task associated with Dredging to the Dredge Down Time (Contingency) task.

Mr. Rooks asked what would happen if the contractor was unable to dredge due to low water conditions in September. Mr. Wirth responded to Mr. Rooks' question and said a renegotiation would occur at that point.

Staff recommended approval to amend the agreement with Subaqueous Services, Inc. to transfer \$200,000 from the Dredging tasks to the Dredge Down Time (Contingency) task. The total not-to-exceed amount of the agreement will remain unchanged.

Following consideration, **Ms. Nathe moved, seconded by Ms. Baldwin, to approve the staff recommendation. Motion carried unanimously.** (CD1/Track 6 – 00:00/09:31)

c. **FY2008 Budget Discussion and Approval of Final Millage Rate and Budget for Governing Board Approval**

Mr. Bruce C. Wirth, Deputy Executive Director, Division of Resource Management and Development, said today staff was seeking adoption of the final FY2008 millage rate in compliance with the new tax reform legislation, House Bill 1B (HB 1B), which was signed into law on June 21, 2007, and adopt the final FY2008 budget for Governing Board approval. The Florida Department of Revenue has determined that the District and Basins must certify compliance with HB 1B when the proposed millage rates are certified to the county Property Appraisers by August 4.

The Basin's proposed budget for FY2008 has been updated to reflect ad valorem tax revenue at the maximum millage rate for FY2008, which is equal to 97 percent of the

rolled-back rate in compliance with HB 1B. This rate was computed based on the Certifications of Taxable Value received from the county Property Appraisers.

Mr. Wirth noted that for the past five years, the Withlacoochee River Basin Board has adopted a millage rate of 0.265. Consistent with HB 1B, the millage rate for FY2008 is set at 0.2308. All FY2008 Cooperative Funding project proposals currently being considered are included in the budget. Projects not recommended for funding have been tentatively removed from the budget but are shown for the Board's information below the revenues section of the Budget Comparison Report.

Ms. Baldwin led a discussion about flood mapping, remarking that this necessary information is extremely expensive to obtain. Mr. Wirth explained that this is a multi-organizational and focused effort. Costs are high due to challenging geology and are based on costs per mile. The mapping changes have affected many residents and the insurance industry; better information will be valuable to everyone as a whole. Ms. Baldwin thanked Mr. Wirth for better explaining the program.

Ms. Kavouras read the staff recommendation into the record. Staff recommended the following: (1) Approve and adopt the final required millage rate of 0.2308 for FY2008; (2) Approve and adopt the final FY2008 budget for Governing Board approval; and (3) Approve Resolution No. 86 -- Resolution Affirming the Required FY2008 Final Millage Rate and Budget for Governing Board Approval.

Following consideration, **Ms. Baldwin moved, seconded by Mr. Rooks, to approve the staff recommendation. Motion carried unanimously.** (CD1/Track 7 – 00:00/38:57)

7. **Announcements**

Ms. Kavouras directed Board members to the announcements listed on the agenda. The Joint Governing Board/Basin Board Workshop is scheduled to be held September 11, 2007; the time and location are yet to be determined.

Ms. Kavouras said the Springs Conference, scheduled for October 10-12, 2007, has been postponed.

Ms. Kavouras called attention to the Information Items in the July Withlacoochee River Basin Board packet on pages 20 – 25; she said there was a lot of varied and informative subject matter contained in this section.

Vice Chair Trimpert requested that there be a presentation on the subject of bio-fuels to the Basin Board in October. She is particularly interested in the water use and crop growth and processing for these systems. Mesdames Baldwin and Nathe expressed interest in a presentation on bio-fuels.

Mr. Rooks inquired about a possible discussion in October regarding the proposed super homestead exemption and its effects on the basin budget.

8. **Adjournment**

Since there was no further business to come before the Board, Vice Chair Trimpert adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m. (CD1/Track 8 – 00:00/08:24)

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**★ ★ ★ Information Items ★ ★ ★**

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The items listed below were for the Board's information, intended to keep the Board apprised of completed projects, cancelled projects, and projects that have executed contracts and were ready to begin. The items did not require Board action at this time.

1. Budget Transfer Report
2. Citrus County Brentwood Reclaimed Water Transmission Project (L768) – Withdrawal Notice
3. County Parcel Data Acquisition (B530) – Execution Notice
4. Crop Coefficients and Water Use for Peppers in Southwest Florida (B238) – Execution Notice
5. Lake Tsala Apopka Stormwater Retrofit (L769) – Execution Notice
6. Pasco County State Road 52 East/West Regional Reclaimed Water Interconnect (H055) – Execution Notice
7. Watershed Management Program Consulting Services for the Cardinal Lane Watershed Management Plan (L659) – Execution Notice
8. Watershed Management Program Consulting Services for the Center Ridge Watershed Management Plan (L661) – Execution Notice
9. Watershed Management Program Consulting Services for the Floral City/Withlacoochee Watershed Management Plan (H066) – Execution Notice
10. Watershed Management Program Consulting Services for the Inverness Watershed Management Plan (L660) – Execution Notice
11. Watershed Management Program Consulting Services for the Tsala Apopka Outlet Watershed Management Plan (L658) – Execution Notice
12. Withlacoochee Master Regional Water Supply Planning and Implementation Program (Phases II & VII): Water Supply Feasibility Analyses, and Northern District Modeling and Local Community Technical Support (H037) – Execution Notice
13. Withlacoochee River Watershed Initiative (H066)

Attest:

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Chairman