

APPROVED

Minutes of the Meeting

ALAFIA RIVER BASIN BOARD
Southwest Florida Water Management District
Tampa Service Office October 4, 2007

The Alafia River Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a regular meeting at 9:15 a.m., October 4, 2007, at the Tampa Service Office.

Board Members Present

Jennifer E. Closshey, Chair Ex Officio
James D. Selvey, Vice Chair
Stephen J. Bissonnette, Secretary
Cheryl E. Johnson, Member
J. C. Tort, Member

Board Member Absent

None

Staff Members

Lou Kavouras	Bruce Wirth
Mark A. Hammond	Ralph Lair
Fritz Musselmann	Brian Armstrong
Mike Holtkamp	Kathy Scott
Roy Mazur	Scott Harbison
Linda Pilcher	Sid Flannery
Beth Putnam	Marty Kelly
Eric DeHaven	Trisha Neasman

Recording Secretary

M. Frances Sesler

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

The numbers preceding the items listed below correspond with the published agenda.

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

Chair Closshey called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. Ms. Sesler called the roll and noted a quorum was present. (CD 1/Tract 1)

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

Chair Closshey led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag followed by a moment of silence.

3. **Additions/Deletions to Agenda**

Lou Kavouras Deputy Executive Director, Outreach, Planning, and Board Services, stated that one item, Oath of Office for Appointed/Re-appointed Board Members, was deleted from the agenda.

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

This item was deleted from the agenda.

5. **Ceremony to Honor Former Basin Board Member, Cammy Hinton**

Vice Chair Jim Selvey, presented outgoing Board Member Cammy Hinton with a plaque and thanked her for the many years of service to the Alafia River Basin Board. Ms. Hinton was appointed by Governor Bush in August 1999 and served on the Alafia River Board until August 2007.

Ms. Hinton said it has been great working on the Board and she appreciates all of the hard work that the Chair and staff of the District have performed. Ms. Hinton said she hopes that she has helped to make a difference on the Board. (CD 1/Track 3)

6. **Consent Items:**

a. **July 26, 2007, Meeting Minutes**

Approve the July 26, 2007, minutes as presented.

b. **Donation of Land, Medard Reservoir, SWF Parcel No. 11-100-148**

Recommended the Land Resources Director accept the donation of an easement on SWF Parcel 11-100-148; accept the deed and pay costs associated with transfer, not to exceed \$5,000.

c. **Water Conservation Theatre Program (K652) Scope of Work Change**

Recommended approval of the Arts Council of Hillsborough County as the new lead cooperater for this project, with the District and Hillsborough County each contributing \$40,000; and approve a reduction of the number of students reached by this project from 60,000 to 40,000.

After consideration, **Mr. Selvey moved, seconded by Mr. Tort, to approve Consent Items; 6.a, b, and c. Motion carried unanimously.**

7. **Discussion Items:**

a. **Expansion of Florida Yards and Neighborhoods (FYN) Builder/Developer Outreach (B246)**

Beth Putnam, Communications Manager, gave background of the Florida Yards and Neighborhoods program and creation of a Districtwide specialist position to promote FYN to the builder/developer community. She explained the District's opportunity to expand builder/developer outreach to include both outdoor and indoor water conservation and, additionally, commented on St. Johns River Water Management District's *Florida Water Star* program, a new home certification program, which could potentially be used for promoting indoor water conservation to builders and developers.

Chair Closshey said this is another opportunity to spread the Florida-friendly landscaping message. In response to Mr. Selvey's question about being able to quantify the effectiveness of water conservation education programs like this, Chair Closshey stated that education was one of several tools the District uses to achieve conservation. She informed Mr. Selvey that a per capita study should be available sometime mid-winter. Ms. Putnam commented on an upcoming pilot irrigation education project that will be evaluated based on reduction of water usage. She also mentioned that as a result of one of FYN Community Outreach projects, at a townhouse community in St. Petersburg, monthly water usage was reduced by more than half, from a monthly average of 460,000 gallons. Ms. Kavouras stated that per capita water use is one of the methods the District's strategic plan identifies to evaluate water conservation.

Staff recommendation was to authorize District staff to change the title of B246 from FYN Regional Builder/Developer Specialist to Water Conservation/FYN Regional Builder/Developer Specialist and to expand the scope to allow for the promotion of indoor as well as outdoor conservation.

Following consideration, **Ms. Hinton moved, seconded by Mr. Tort, to approve the staff recommendation to expand the project. Motion carried unanimously.** (CD 1/Track 2)

Mr. Bissonnette entered the meeting at this time.

b. **Proposed Minimum Flows for the Lower Alafia River and Submission for Scientific Peer Review (B053)**

Sid Flannery, Senior Environmental Scientist, made a brief presentation on proposed minimum flows (MFLs) for the lower Alafia River and the methodologies used to develop them. The report has been finalized for outside review and comment by interested parties and submitted to a selected independent technical panel that will conduct scientific peer review.

Mr. Selvey questioned the executive order allowing more water to be withdrawn from the Alafia River. Chair Closshey stated technical data indicated the additional quantities would not harm the river system. Mr. Bissonnette questioned whether the District would revisit Tampa Bay Water's (TBW) permit to increase its Alafia River quantities. Mr. Flannery indicated TBW would need to initiate that. Mr. Selvey questioned the flow rate when the executive order was issued – did we exceed the 120 cfs. Mr. Flannery indicated that we did not, and the emergency order is in complete compliance with the proposed MFLs.

Warren Hogg, TBW, followed with an update on Tampa Bay Water's Alafia River/Tampa Bypass Canal Reclassification initiative. Board members were advised that technical materials should soon be available online.

This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required. (CD 1/Track 4)

c. **Lake Hancock Lake Level Modification Project (H008)**

Mark A. Hammond, Director, Resource Management Department gave an update on the Lake Hancock Lake Level Modification Project. Land acquisition and public outreach are critical project elements and have been ongoing and will continue throughout the Project. In October 2004, the Governing Board authorized staff to proceed with the preliminary design and engineering to prepare a conceptual Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) application for the Lake Hancock Lake Level Modification project with a target operating level of up to 100 feet (Beginning of Step 2). Implementation of the Project will require the additional acquisition of certain property rights on approximately 2000 acres, involving 64 parcels and 33 homes.

Mr. Tort inquired about the household relocation numbers. Mr. Hammond said 33 households would have to relocate, and funds are available for the acquisitions. Mr. Selvey questioned whether eminent domain would be used. Mr. Hammond stated yes, and commented the intent is to purchase everything within the 100-year floodplain. Ms. Johnson then inquired about the proactive measures to protect the nearby cemetery, and Mr. Bissonnette noted his appreciation for the attention to the cemetery and landfill, and inquired about the status of Jacque Lee Lane. Mr. Hammond commented that funds are available to address cemetery issues, and he summarized properties that need to be acquired. Mr. Fritz Musselmann, Land Resources Director, said that activity is underway to assemble a land management plan for the area. Mr. Bissonnette asked that the City of Lakeland be included in the land discussions. This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required. (CD 1/Track 5)

8. **Reports:**

A seven-minute video was aired highlighting major milestones at the Governing Board's September meeting.

9. **Announcements:**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 4, 9:00 a.m., at the Tampa Service Office.

10. **Adjournment**

Chair Closshey called for a ten-minute recess, after which the planning workshop would begin. The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m. (CD 1/Track 6)

****Information Items****

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

1. Firms Pre-Qualified for Work to Support Minimum Flows and Levels – Execution Notice
2. Upper Peace River Watershed Management Program - Homeland to Zolfo Springs (H024) – Execution Notice
3. Watershed Management Program – Maintenance of Watershed Parameters and Models (B206) – Execution Notice
4. Fish Hawk Creek Preserve Habitat Restoration (W315) - Execution Notice
5. Christina Watershed Evaluation – Second Amendment (L672) - Execution Notice

APPROVED

Minutes of the Planning Workshop

ALAFIA RIVER BASIN BOARD

Southwest Florida Water Management District

Tampa Service Office

October 4, 2007

The Alafia River Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for the annual planning workshop at 11:04 a.m., October 4, 2007, at the Tampa Service Office.

Board Members Present

Jennifer E. Closshey, Chair Ex Officio
James D. Selvey, Vice Chair
Stephen J. Bissonnette, Secretary
Cheryl E. Johnson, Member
J. C. Tort, Member

Board Member Absent

None

Staff Members

Lou Kavouras
Fritz Musselmann
Roy Mazur
Linda Pilcher
Alba Mas
Beth Putnam
Eric DeHaven

Bruce Wirth
Brian Armstrong
Kathy Scott
Scott Harbison
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A list of others who attended and signed the attendance roster is filed in the permanent files of the Basin. Compact disks of the audio and copies of materials and handouts, as set forth in full herein, are also filed in the permanent files of the District.

The numbers preceding the items listed below correspond with the published agenda.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Closshey called the meeting to order at 11:04 a.m. She thanked the staff for their preparation and planning of the workshop. Chair Closshey stated that the OROP Report would be moved to the December meeting because it is information only, and no action is needed. Due to a prior engagement, Chair Closshey said she would leave the workshop early and pass the gavel to Vice Chair Selvey who would continue with the meeting. (CD 1/Track 7)

2. Introduction/Workshop Purpose

Lou Kavouras Deputy Executive Director welcomed members to their annual planning workshop and explained the importance of it. She stated that staff have three important goals for the workshop: (1) provide an overview of the District's Strategic Plan and show how the Basin Board actions work into that plan, (2) review the budget, look at the anticipated revenues into the future and the long term project costs, and (3) help to identify priorities for the next fiscal year. Staff provided copies of the Basin's FY2007 accomplishments, specifically for their Board. Ms. Johnson questioned whether the accomplishments narrative would be available online. Ms. Kavouras stated staff would follow up on the suggestion. (CD 1/Track 7)

3. Governing Board Strategic Priorities

Roy Mazur, Planning Director, briefed the Board regarding the District's Strategic Planning process. He said his presentation was to discuss the strategic planning process of the District, provide more information on the strategic planning process, detail how the strategy map is being used, discuss how the Basin Board actions tie into the strategic plan and finally, to answer questions and receive feedback from the Basin Board. Mr. Bissonnette commented on the need to make the strategy map as user friendly as

possible. Mr. Selvey questioned the status of the Basin's MFLs and how the subject is addressed in the Strategic Plan. Mr. Mazur stated the MFL prioritization process would support the strategy relating to MFLs and Chair Closshey commented on the importance of the plan for providing guidance. Ms. Johnson made comments on the balanced-scorecard system; framework used in developing the plan, and noted that she looks forward to seeing the actual plan. The discussion concluded with Chair Closshey questioning the status of talks on linking projects to the strategic areas. Mr. Mazur and Ms. Kavouras noted there is activity in this area. Mr. Bissonnette then related his experiences with strategic planning and performance-based budgeting. Ms. Kavouras commented that the Strategic Plan is the main communication piece for the public and it is unclear whether the map will be incorporated into it, and the Governing Board's input will be provided to the team. (CD 1/Track 7)

4. **Long Term Financial Water Supply Plan**

- **Future Ad Valorem Considerations**

Linda Pilcher Assistant Finance Director, gave a brief update on the tax reform, how it impacted the FY2008 budget and how it will possibly affect FY2009. For FY2008, the District was required to set the millage rate equal to 97 percent of the rolled back rate. She explained that the rolled back rate is the rate that you would levy in order to receive that same amount of revenue that you received from FY2007, but it also allows you to increase your ad valorem revenue for taxes on new construction. Ms. Kavouras said due to the deadlines regarding the millage rates, a special meeting was required in July which may happen again next year. (CD 1/Track 8)

Board commentary included Vice Chair Selvey questioning the budget number for future construction, and commenting on the potential threat that the Super Homestead Exemption poses for the smaller counties. Ms. Pilcher stated the values certified in July for FY2008 included six percent for new construction. Ms. Johnson stated she is hearing complaints about increased permitting fees. Ms. Pilcher stated the Governor has not supported an increase in permit fees, and Ms. Kavouras noted it was thrown out for discussion purposes. Mr. Bissonnette next inquired about the working assumptions for the budget, and imparted the need to be conservative because every indication is that something legislatively will happen in the property tax area. Ms. Pilcher stated the projections assume a five percent growth in the property tax base, and mentioned the State has been slow in providing projections on the potential impact of the Super Homestead Exemption. (CD 1/Track 8)

- **Review of Long Term funding Needs**

Brian Armstrong Manager, Water Supply and Resource Development, gave an update on the Long Range Water Supply and Resource Development Funding Plan. He said the plan will allow the Board to weigh the Basin's financial standing, versus potential and upcoming projects and their financial impact of the basin. Mr. Armstrong said when developing water supply and resource development (WSRD) projects, the District is split into three parts: 1) Northern District, 2) Northern Tampa Bay Area, and 3) Southern Water Use Caution Area.

In FY2009, we anticipate the total cost for WSRD projects to be approximately \$2.2 million. The projected revenue for the Alafia Basin was \$2.7 million, and if current reserves were added to the projected revenue, \$3.8 million could be made available for funding WSRD projects. The difference between the \$2.2 and the \$2.7, if unused,

or unallocated, will balance forward into reserves. Again, he said these are only projections. This means the Alafia Basin Board is well positioned to meet the funding demands to build these projects, but there is a need to “stay the course.” (CD 1/ Tract 8)

5. **Basin Board Budget Outlook and Priorities**

Trisha Newsman, Senior Planner, reminded the Board that the workshop had two purposes, to help staff inform cooperators as to what the basin considers important, and, to provide the Board information on the budget process. She spoke of the budget for the past three years by area of responsibility, large multi-year projects, ongoing and proposed projects, funding needs and how they will be met and conclude with basin priorities.

Commentary included Ms. Kavouras imparting that prioritizing projects will be important in the future because the budget forecasts indicate that funding will be available to maintain current funding levels but discretionary funds will be limited so competition will likely occur in the future. Vice Chair Selvey asked about placing a permanent education display at MOSI. Ms. Putnam responded that staff had a meeting scheduled with MOSI this week to discuss future projects. Mr. Bissonnette questioned the plans for partnering on the educational center proposed for the Lake Hancock area. Ms. Putnam indicated the Peace River Basin has budgeted funds for developing displays for the center. Mr. Bissonnette then questioned the number of project proposals expected with the establishment of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs). Mr. Mazur followed with information on the TMDLs process. The discussion concluded with Mr. Bissonnette commenting on the need for developing alternative water supplies in Polk County, and imparting the need to recognize this in the priorities. This was followed with a Board action to recognize alternative water supplies in Polk County in the priorities.

Future Project Projections

The motion came from Mr. Bissonnette as follows: Following consideration, **Mr. Bissonnette moved, seconded by Mr. Tort that language for the Alternative Water Supply priorities be expanded to include reference to that portion of Polk County that’s within the Basin.** Motion carried unanimously.

Identification of 2009 Priorities

The Strategic Priorities will remain the same, except wording will be included to accept the motion by Mr. Bissonnette.

6. **Open Discussion**

Regarding a question earlier from Mr. Bissonnette, Ms. Putnam said the Polk County Circle B Bar Environmental Education Center is under construction and is scheduled for completion in July.

7. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, Vice Chair Selvey adjourned the workshop meeting at 12:50 p.m. (CD 1/Track 9)