

# Approved

## Minutes of the Meeting

### PEACE RIVER BASIN BOARD Southwest Florida Water Management District

Bartow, Florida

October 5, 2007

The Peace River Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a regular meeting on October 5, 2007, at 9:32 a.m., in the Bartow Service Office.

#### **Board Members Present**

Patsy C. Symons, Co-Chair Ex Officio  
J. Kenneth Harrison, Vice Chair  
Rufus C. Lazzell, Secretary  
Ann W. Dunlap, Member  
James L. Hageman, Member  
Paul G. Samuels, Member  
Fred W. Trippensee, III, Member

#### **Staff Present**

Bruce Wirth  
Mark Hammond  
Roy Mazur  
Linda Pilcher  
Kathy Scott  
Cham Springstead  
Scott Harbison  
Lou Kavouras  
Eric DeHaven  
Beth Putnam  
Mike Holtkamp  
Sid Flannery  
Danny Kushmer  
Audrie Liszewski

#### **Board Member Absent**

C. A. "Neil" Combee, Jr., Co-Chair Ex Officio

#### **Recording Secretary**

Phyllis Young

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**

Co-Chair Symons called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. Ms. Young called the roll and noted a quorum was present. (CD 1/Track 1)

#### 2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Co-Chair Symons led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. (CD 1/Track 1)

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

Deputy Executive Director Lou Kavouras, Outreach, Planning and Board Services, stated no gubernatorial appointments or confirmations for this Board had been received; therefore, Agenda Item 4 was deleted from the agenda. (CD 1/Track 1)

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

This item was deleted from the agenda, as noted above.

#### 5. **Consent Items:**

After consideration, **Mr. Samuels moved, seconded by Mr. Hageman, to approve the Consent Items, as follow:**

a. **July 27, 2007, Meeting Minutes** - Approve the July minutes, as presented.

b. **Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems – Classic Caladiums, L.L.C. (H540)**

1. Approve the Classic Caladium, L.L.C., FARMS Project for a not-to-exceed project reimbursement of \$85,000, with \$21,250 provided by the Peace River Basin; \$21,250 provided by the Governing Board; and \$42,500 provided from State Appropriations;

2. **Authorize the transfer of \$21,250 from Fund 020 H017 Peace River Basin FARMS Funds; \$21,250 from Fund 010 H017 Governing Board FARMS funds; and \$42,500 from the 2006 and 2007 State Appropriations allocated to Fund 020 H017 Peace River Basin State Appropriations, to H540 Classic Caladiums, L.L.C., FARMS project fund; and**
3. **Authorize the Executive Director to sign the agreement.**

**Motion carried unanimously.** (CD 1/Track 1)

6. **Discussion Items:**

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

Communications Manager Beth Putnam 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.

The staff recommendation was to **authorize District staff to change the title of the B246 FYN Regional Builder/Developer Specialist to Water Conservation/FYN Regional Builder/Developer Specialist and to expand the scope to allow for promotion of indoor as well as outdoor conservation.** No cost would be involved with the change.

Ms. Dunlap added that FYN is a great program. There was a brief discussion of various indoor conservation measures, e.g., appliances, plumbing, bathroom fixtures.

After consideration, **Ms. Dunlap moved, seconded by Mr. Hageman, to approve the staff recommendation, as stated above. Motion carried unanimously.** (CD 1/Track 2)

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

Mark Hammond, Resource Management Director, provided an update on this project, which would allow water to be stored by raising the elevation of the Lake Hancock's outflow structure and slowly release water during the dry season. This is in conjunction with State law regarding development of minimum flows and levels, in this case the upper Peace River, as included in the Southern Water Use Caution Area Recovery Strategy. The project is anticipated to recover up to approximately 50 percent of the minimum flows for the upper Peace River. Additionally, the Project will improve the function of approximately 1,000 acres of wetland around the Lake.

Mr. Hammond also spoke of impacts the project would cause by inundating surrounding public and private properties with water. He emphasized the importance of keeping affected property owners informed and emphasized that effort is ongoing.

Graphs were used to show comparative flow data with and without the Lake Level Modification Project and maps showed existing and proposed lake and floodplain levels. His presentation also included information on land acquisitions, including a resolution authorizing proceedings in Eminent Domain; permitting; funding and costs; a project timeline; and actions taken by the Governing Board at the September 25 meeting, as follow:

1. authorization to implement the Lake Hancock Lake Level Modification Project,
2. adoption of a resolution authorizing proceedings in Eminent Domain,
3. amendment of the Florida Forever Work Plan and designation of Florida Forever funds for acquisition of properties around Lake Hancock, and

4. authorization to use General Fund Water Supply and Resource Development Reserves for acquisitions.

Topics of discussion during this presentation included sinks in the river bed, potential effects to the Oak Hill Cemetery, how commercial fishermen might be affected, timeframe of land acquisitions, and disposition of funds from the sale of surplus land.

Co-Chair Symons interjected that the Peace River is an area lifeline and it is very important to see the project through.

Mrs. Berma Thomas, long-time area resident, briefly addressed the Board to voice her support for the Lake Level Modification Project.

This presentation was for the Board's information; no action was required. Other updates will be provided, as appropriate. (CD 1/Track 3)

- c. **Proposed Minimum Flow Updates Prior to Submission for Scientific Peer Review for the Estuarine Reaches of the Lower Peace River and Shell Creek**

This information item was presented by Senior Environmental Scientist, Sid Flannery, Ecologic Evaluation Section, Resource Conservation and Development Department. The presentation included the following:

- the basic function of establishing minimum flows,
- the methods and findings of a minimum flow study for the lower Peace River and Shell Creek,
- graphs of lower Peace River and Shell Creek flows,
- critical habitats for minimum flows,
- steps of the MFL process, and
- a progress report.

The next step in the minimum flow process is peer review by an independent scientific panel. After a favorable peer review is received, staff will present rule language to establish the minimum flow. (CD 1/Track 4)

At this time, Co-Chair Symons recognized Hardee County Commissioner Minor Bryant, who was in the audience.

## 7. Reports:

- a. **Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program Policy Committee**

Rufus Lazzell, the Basin Board's representative on the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program (CHENP) Policy Committee, provided members a summary of the August 2007 CHNEP Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan, which included comments from District staff. He reported that the District is involved in all phases of CHNEP issues. He commented on the fine support of Senior Environmental Scientist Lizanne Garcia, who is staff's representation on the Management Committee.

- b. **Report on Governing Board Activities**

Co-Chair Symons requested staff play the pre-recorded highlights of the September 25 Governing Board meeting. Before the video began, Co-Chair Symons briefly mentioned the success of the joint Governing and Basin Boards workshop held September 11.

Communications Manager Robyn Hanke narrated the brief video of the September Governing Board meeting. Topics covered included the lower Hillsborough River minimum flows and levels, an out-of-cycle request for funding from Mosaic Fertilizer, the District's policy regarding brackish water projects, Peace River/Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority projects, Peace River watershed events, and an update of the District's Strategic Plan. (CD 1/Track 5)

8. **Announcements**

Ms. Kavouras directed members to announcements listed in the agenda, particularly mentioning upcoming Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Program anniversary events, many of which will take place in the Peace Basin, and the Public Land Acquisition and Management Partnership Conference, beginning December 5 in Sarasota.

9. **Adjournment**

Co-Chair Symons called for a brief recess before beginning the planning workshop; she adjourned the meeting at 11:18 a.m. (CD 1/Track 5)

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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 are ready to begin. These items did not require Board action at this time.

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1. Lake Hancock Outfall Treatment Project (H014)
2. Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems - Lykes Brothers, Inc. - Camp Mack Grove (H525)
3. Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems - Lykes Brothers, Inc. - Lake Placid Grove Phase 1A (H521)
4. Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems - Sun Grown Citrus, LP - Block 23 Grove (H531)
5. Implementation of Best Management Practices in the Lake Wales Ridge Watershed (B217) - Execution Notice
6. Charlotte Harbor Harbor/Gasparilla Sound Water Quality Monitoring -Second Amendment (W521) - Execution Notice
7. Firms Pre-Qualified for Work to Support Minimum Flows and Levels - Execution Notice
8. Horse Creek Watershed Management Plan (L679) - Execution Notice
9. Polk County Aquifer Recharge Project to Relieve Flooding & Augment Groundwater Supplies (L671) - Execution Notice
10. South Lake Conine Watershed Restoration Project (W781) - Execution Notice
11. Upper Peace River Watershed Management Program - Homeland to Zolfo Springs (H024) - Execution Notice
12. Watershed Management Program Consulting Services for Polk County (MI 14) - Execution Notice
13. Watershed Management Program Consulting Services in the Thorton Branch Watershed (M103) - Execution Notice
14. Watershed Management Program - Maintenance of Watershed Parameters and Models (8206) - Execution Notice

# Approved

## Minutes of the Planning Workshop

### PEACE RIVER BASIN BOARD Southwest Florida Water Management District

Bartow, Florida

October 5, 2007

The Peace River Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for the annual planning workshop on October 5, 2007, at 11:40 a.m. in the District's Bartow Service Office, Bartow, Florida.

#### **Board Members Present**

Pat Symons, Co-Chair Ex Officio  
Ken Harrison, Vice Chair  
Rufus Lazzell, Secretary  
Ann Dunlap, Member  
Jim Hageman, Member  
Paul Samuels, Member  
Fred Trippensee, Member

#### **Staff Present**

Bruce Wirth	Lou Kavouras
Roy Mazur	Fritz Musselmann
Michael Molligan	Linda Pilcher
Sid Flannery	Chan Springstead
Mark Hammond	Beth Putnam
Mike Holtkamp	Eric DeHaven
Audrie Liszewski	Kathy Scott
Scott Harbison	Danny Kushmer

#### **Board Member Absent**

Neil Combee, Co-Chair Ex Officio

**Recording Secretary:** Phyllis Young

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**

Co-Chair Symons called the workshop to order at 11:40 a.m. (CD 1/Track 2)

#### 2. **Introduction/Workshop Purpose**

Deputy Executive Director Lou Kavouras welcomed members to their annual planning workshop and explained the emphasis of the workshop would be on future trends and priorities. Ms. Kavouras stated the goals of the workshop: (1) give Board members a better understanding of how all parts of the District align with the District's strategic priorities and how the Basin Board contributes to achieving those objectives, (2) review the Basin budget, and (3) help the Board identify and prioritize future funding needs.

Members had been provided a brochure of the Basin's FY2007 accomplishments; therefore, an extensive discussion of accomplishments was not part of the workshop agenda. The other seven Basin Boards were provided similar brochures, specific to each Board. (CD 1/Track 6)

#### 3. **Governing Board Strategic Priorities**

Planning Director Roy Mazur briefed the Board on efforts to update the District's Strategic Plan, using a new tool, a "Strategy Map," which was developed as part of the current update process. Mr. Mazur explained how the elements of the map are interrelated and that the map can be used to illustrate how the District achieves its goals. He used examples from the Basin Board meeting agenda to show how Basin projects align with the District's strategic objectives and contribute to achieving the District's mission.

Co-Chair Symons interjected that she is always impressed with staff and their ability to present topics in a fashion that is easy to understand. (CD 1/Track 6/16:36)

- **Future Ad Valorem Considerations**

Linda Pilcher, Assistant Finance Director, provided an update on tax reform legislation, including how the legislation impacted the Board's FY2008 budget and what might be anticipated for FY2009. Revenues are uncertain due to legislation passed in FY2007, the upcoming referendum, and possible further legislation. (CD 1/Track 7)

- **Review of Long Term Funding Needs**

Deputy Executive Director Bruce Wirth, Division of Resource Management and Development, presented this item instead of Brian Armstrong, Water Supply and Resource Development Manager. He provided an update on the continuing financial commitments of the Basin Board and challenges to meet the resource management needs of the District and the Basin. He used graphs to show projected water needs and funding sources for the District's three planning areas, including large projects in the Southern Water Use Caution Area (SWUCA). The graphs depicted estimated cost of projects, cost share allocation, the Peace River Basin's estimated project costs, and potential Water Supply and Resource Development funding versus estimated project costs.

Mr. Wirth also commented on the basis for the projections used in his presentation. In summary, he made several conclusions regarding the Basin's budgetary challenges.

- Financial capabilities of Peace River Basin Board will be looked at in greater detail.
  - Together the Board and staff will work to determine the most appropriate approach to meet financial demands to support identified major water supply and resource development projects in the SWUCA,
  - It does not appear the Basin has the financial capacity to meet demands going forward.
- Success in obtaining State and Federal grants for projects could significantly lower District cost contributions.
- An annual review and update of financial engine elements is essential. (CD 1/Track 8)

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

- **Future Project Projections**

Basin Planner Chan Springstead reviewed the Basin Board's spending by the four areas of responsibility (AOR)—water supply, flood protection, water quality, and natural systems—for the past three years and shared information on future funding, also by AOR. He used graphs to show (1) a comparison of potential funding versus estimated project costs for FY2009 – FY2021, (2) estimated project costs for the next five years, and (3) potential budget allocations by category: Water Supply and Resource Development, Cooperative Funding, Basin Initiatives, etc.

In an effort to better forecast future projects from local cooperators and give the Board a glimpse of what is on the horizon, Mr. Springstead highlighted the capital improvement plans of Polk County and the City of Lakeland. He reviewed a graph Mr. Wirth used in his presentation to reiterate that the Basin's funding outlook is not good.

- **Identification of 2009 Priorities**

In reviewing the Basin Board Strategic Priorities, which are included in the notebook for each Basin Board meeting, Mr. Springstead reported that, considering the current fiscal situation, it may not be possible for the Basin to fund the priorities at past levels or at the levels the Board would like. Staff sought direction from the Board as to how the priorities might be adjusted.

Mr. Wirth commented briefly on potential ways to help with the Board's future needs, such as reallocating costs among other AORs, spreading project costs over more years, or to entities that have existing revenue streams or greater financial opportunities, etc. He emphasized that not being able to help fund projects has historically led to local governments pushing for more ground water. (CD 1/Track 8/17:00)

## 6. Open Discussion

Comments and topics of discussion during the workshop included the following:

- What is the Board member's role in this process?
- Timeframe of the Polk County Water Development project.
- Cooperators need to know the Basin Board's situation.
- Funding the best projects for the dollars spent.
- The Governing Board's interaction with the Basin Boards.
- Is there a conflict of interest when the Peace River/Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority (Authority) evaluates projects for which it is competing?
- The Basin Board could play a much bigger role in area water issues.
- Why other Basins are in better financial condition.
- Aspects of raising the millage rate.
- The Board must prioritize.
- The importance of coordination with cooperators.
- Site visits to projects would be helpful to Board members.

Mr. Wirth emphasized the importance of the October 29 Governing Board and Authority workshop. One of the main issues to be discussed will be funding projects through the Authority, which should address some of the Basin Board's concerns.

The Board made no changes to their current Strategic Budget Priorities; however, the discussion will be continued at the next Basin Board meeting. (CD 1/Track 8/17:29)

## 7. Adjournment

Co-Chair Symons thanked everyone for their input and concern and adjourned the workshop at 1:50 p.m. (CD 1/Track 8/18:02)