

## **APPROVED**

### Minutes of the Meeting

#### **NORTHWEST HILLSBOROUGH BASIN BOARD** Southwest Florida Water Management District

Tampa Service Office

October 9, 2007

The Northwest Hillsborough Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a regular meeting at 9:09 a.m., October 9, 2007, at the Tampa Service Office.

#### Board Members Present

Maritza Rovira-Forino, Chair Ex Officio  
Joseph W. J. Robinson, Vice Chair  
Mercy DiMaio, Secretary  
Devon Higginbotham, Member  
Susan Welsh, Member

#### Absent Member(s)

Frank "Lester" Adams, Member

#### Recording Secretary

M. Frances Sesler

#### Staff Members

Bruce Wirth  
Lou Kavouras  
Mark Hammond  
Michael Molligan  
Roy Mazur  
Brian Armstrong  
Maya Burke  
Scott Harbison  
Jeanette Seachrist  
Marty Kelly  
Ralph Lair  
Miki Renner  
Kathy Scott

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 Rovira-Forino called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m. Ms. Sesler called the roll and noted a quorum was present.

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

The pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was led by Chair Rovira-Forino. She reminded members of the audience that if they wish to speak on a particular item; they should fill out a blue card and present it to Ms. Sesler. (CD 1/Track 1)

3. **Additions and Deletions to Agenda**

Ms. Lou Kavouras, Deputy Executive Director, stated that there were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

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

Ms. Kavouras administered the Oath of Office to Dr. Susan Welsh, who was reappointed to the Northwest Hillsborough Basin Board by Governor Charles Crist.

5. **Consent Items:**

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

Approve the July minutes as presented.

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

Approve 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.

Following consideration, **Dr. Welsh moved, seconded by Mr. Robinson to approve the Consent Items as presented. Motion carried unanimously.** (CD 1/Track 1)

6. **Discussion Items:**

a. **Urban Lakes Rescue Project (W268)**

Mark Hammond, Director Resource Management Department, and Chuck Walter, Director, City of Tampa Stormwater Department, provided the Board with an update regarding the activities occurring at Lake Kipling. Mr. Hammond said that at the Board's direction, a letter was sent by Bruce Wirth, Deputy Executive Director, addressing concerns raised by several residents at the Board's July 26, 2007 meeting, relative to Lake Kipling.

The City of Tampa held a public meeting on August 29, 2007, to provide information on the proposed restoration activities for Lake Kipling and to gain public input from the area residents. Mr. Hammond said the Urban Lake Rescue Project includes three projects which include three lakes: Lake Kipling, Lake Edna and Lake Roberta. Mr. Hammond met with local citizens of the area in August to understand the issues associated with Lake Kipling and a follow-up meeting is planned for the future. Shelley Thornton, District Project Manager, met with citizens living near Lake Roberta and there are also plans to meet with citizens living near Lake Edna.

Ms. DiMaio was curious about where sediments would be disposed of and whether or not they could be used in a beneficial way. Ms. Higginbotham asked how the sediment traps work. Mr. Walter described two different devices within the traps: one collects the floatables that are going through the water columns and the other component removes the solids. Mr. Robinson expressed several concerns; he inquired about the potential source(s) of the sediments, the bathymetric contours of the lake, the appropriate number of sediment traps to be installed at the lake, the necessity of removing mangroves to restore the lake, and the project timeline. Mr. Walter said the City is proposing to install three sediment traps within the contributing stormwater system that discharges to Lake Kipling and to remove sediment at two stormwater outfalls. Mr. Robinson stated he would like to hear citizen's response regarding the acceptability of the letter.

Chair Rovira-Forino thanked Mr. Walter for coming out to express concerns to the Board and citizens. She indicated that, as Chair of the Basin Board, the letter from the citizens was addressed to her and that homework had to be done to get information that was accurate, responsible and in tune with the policies of the District. Through the cooperative agreement, the District is working to make things better for everyone because improving water quality is an important District priority. She thanked staff for their time and efforts in helping to address every issue in a way that would relate to every request that came in. Chair Rovira-Forino requested that staff provide an update on the project at the next Board meeting and respond to the questions asked by Mr. Robinson.

This item was for the Board's information, no action was required.

b. **Expansion of FYN Builder/Developer Outreach (B246)**

Michael Molligan, Communications Director, made a presentation requesting the expansion of the scope and title of B246 from FYN Regional Builder/Developer Specialist to Water Conservation/FYN Regional Builder/Developer Specialist to allow promotion of indoor and outdoor water conservation. He explained how the District could benefit from St. Johns River Water Management District's *Florida Water Star* program. He indicated there is no additional cost associated with the project expansion.

Mr. Robinson questioned the extent of Hillsborough County's participation in the program and emphasized the importance of addressing landscape contractors in addition to builders and developers. Chair Rovira-Forino was pleased with this announcement and praised other District efforts like Water C.H.A.M.P. and the Skip-A-Week campaign.

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, **Mrs. DiMaio moved, seconded by Mr. Robinson, to approve the staff recommendation as indicated above. Motion carried unanimously.**

c. **Minimum Flows for Tampa Bypass Canal, Sulphur Springs and the Lower Hillsborough River**

Martin Kelly, Interim Director for the Resource Conservation and Development Department, provided an update on the establishment of minimum flows for the Tampa Bypass Canal (TBC), Sulphur Springs, and the Lower Hillsborough River (LHR) and the Governing Board approved recovery strategy for LHR which includes a discussion of the joint funding agreement with City of Tampa (City) to implement projects associated with the recovery strategy for the LHR. Mr. Kelley used maps and graphs for his presentation to the Basin Board.

At its August 2007 meeting, the Governing Board established minimum flows on the LHR, Sulphur Springs, and the TBC by approving amendments to Rule 40D-8. The Governing Board also approved the recovery strategy for the LHR by incorporating amendments to Rule 40D-80, and approved a Joint Funding Agreement with the City to implement portions of the recovery strategy.

Ms. Higginbotham was concerned that taking water from various sinks to meet the MFL may create a new environmental problem. Mr. Robinson expressed support for restoring the ecological health of the river, but was disappointed that the Basin Board was not more informed and involved with the negotiation process for the recovery strategy. (CD 1/Track 5)

This item was provided for the Board's information; no action was required.

7. **Report:**

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

8. **Announcements:**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 4, 1:00 p.m., at the Tampa Service Office.

Ms. Kavouras introduced Ralph Lair the Senior Community Affairs Coordinator for the Tampa Bay Area. Mr. Lair replaces Rand Baldwin, who recently retired from the District. Mr. Lair said that he was looking forward to working with the Board members.

9. **Adjournment**

Chair Rovira-Forino called for a ten-minute recess, after which the planning workshop would begin. The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m. (CD 1/Track 6)

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\*\*\*\*Information Items\*\*\*\*

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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. The items did not require Board action at this time.

1. City of Tampa Plumbing Retrofit and Education Project (L836) – Withdrawal Notice
2. Firms Pre-Qualified for Work to Support Minimum Flows and Levels – Execution Notice
3. Watershed Management Program – Maintenance of Watershed Parameters and Models (B206) – Execution Notice

## **APPROVED**

### Minutes of the Planning Workshop

#### **NORTHWEST HILLSBOROUGH BASIN BOARD** Southwest Florida Water Management District

Tampa Service Office                      October 9, 2007

The Northwest Hillsborough Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for its workshop meeting at 11:20 a.m., October 9, 2007, at the Tampa Service Office.

#### Board Members Present

Maritza Rovira-Forino, Chair Ex Officio  
Joseph W. J. Robinson, Vice Chair  
Mercy DiMaio, Secretary  
Devon Higginbotham, Member  
Susan Welsh, Member

#### Absent Member(s)

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Bruce Wirth  
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Brian Armstrong  
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Scott Harbison  
Marty Kelly  
Ralph Lair  
Miki Renner  
Kathy Scott  
Jeanette Seachrist

#### 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Rovira-Forino called the meeting to order at 11:20 a.m. She thanked the staff and everyone for participating. (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 FY2009. Staff provided copies of the Basin's FY2007 accomplishments, specifically for each Board. Ms. Kavouras said the accomplishments will also be placed on the website. (CD 1/Track 7)

#### 3. Governing Board Strategic Priorities

Roy Mazur, Planning Director, provided a presentation on the Governing Board's Strategic Planning process. He said that the purpose of 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. Ms. DiMaio asked about Land Acquisition and where it fits into the Strategy Map. Ms. Kavouras said that both Regional Water Supply Planning and Land and Structure Operations may relate to Land Acquisition. Via satellite from Brooksville, Eric Sutton, Assistant Land Resources Director, emphasized the importance of Land Acquisition and answered general questions from the Board. Mr. Robinson and Chair Rovira-Forino concurred with Ms. DiMaio that Land Acquisition is an important

District initiative that should be included in the document. The Chair requested that each Basin Board member take the opportunity to read the Strategic Plan. Chair Rovira-Forino said there is a lot of information given at the Governing and Basin Board level. (CD 1/Track 7)

4. **Long-Range Water Supply and Water Resource Development Funding 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.

Chair Rovira-Forino thanked Ms. Pilcher and staff for the report presented to the Basin Board regarding the budget. Ms. Welsh wanted to know how the passage of a Super Homestead Exemption would affect the Basin's budget. Mr. Robinson asked several questions about how the personal income rate is calculated and how it relates to real estate. Mr. Robinson also wanted to know about growth comparisons of recent years and the status of Basin Reserves. (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. The Northwest Hillsborough Basin Board is well positioned to meet the funding demands to build these projects, but there is a need to "stay the course."

Ms. Higginbotham left the meeting at this time.

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

• **Budget Outlook**

Maya Burke, Basin Planner, provided a presentation on the Basin Board's Budget Outlook and Priorities. She briefed the Board on the four areas of responsibilities which are water supply, water quality, natural systems and flood protection. Mr. Robinson noted that the hook-up fee is problematic to the success of STAR; he suggested staff look into the possibility of using Basin funds to help defer the cost and encourage users to take advantage of reclaimed water. Chair Rovira-Forino agreed that this was an excellent approach to making the system more users friendly. Ms. Kavouras said that staff asked the City of Tampa to evaluate their current rates and rate structure. Kathy Scott, Manager Conservation Project Section, gave her thoughts on rebates for the cost to hook-up to reclaimed water. Ms. Scott said reclaimed water hook-up rebates have not been supported in the past, but staff can re-evaluate the District's position. She said there are successful reclaimed water programs in 14 counties in the District. Chair Rovira-Forino and Ms. DiMaio agreed

that deferring the hook-up cost is a great idea to help reduce demand on potable water supplies.

**SWIM Presentation**

Jeanette Seachrist, SWIM Program Manager, gave a brief overview of the SWIM Program and highlighted some of the significant accomplishments achieved during the past 20 years. The District adopted ten SWIM priority water bodies which include Tampa Bay, Rainbow River, Banana Lake, Crystal River/Kings Bay, Lake Panasoffkee, Charlotte Harbor, Lake Tarpon, Lake Thonotosassa, Winter Haven Chain of Lakes and Sarasota Bay. Since 1987, the SWIM Program has completed over 200 habitat restoration and water quality improvement projects, resulting in more than 3,000 acres of restored habitat. Chair Rovira-Forino thanked Ms. Seachrist for her presentation and stated “we all can be proud of our accomplishments.”

• **Strategic Budget Priorities**

Mr. Robinson indicated he would like to see the Lower Hillsborough River added to the Basin Board’s list of Strategic Budget Priorities. He said that, if we work together, we can have the River Walk, clean up the river and educate the public at the same time. Chair Rovira-Forino noted that the Basin Board’s activities seem to align nicely with both the District’s Strategic Initiatives and the Basin’s existing priorities.

Following consideration, **Mr. Robinson moved, seconded by Ms. DiMaio, that Lower Hillsborough River be added to the list of priorities for FY2009 with the education strategy included. The Basin Board voted unanimously to add the Lower Hillsborough River to their priorities.**

The FY2009 Strategic Budget Priorities for the Northwest Hillsborough Basin Board are: Alternative Water Supply Development, Watershed Management Program, Public and Youth Education and Lower Hillsborough River.

6. **Open Discussion**

Ms. Kavouras thanked the Basin Board members for their time and directions given to staff. Chair Rovira-Forino thanked everyone on the working committees and declared “job well done.” (CD 1/Track 11)

7. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, Chair Rovira-Forino adjourned the workshop meeting at 1:47 p.m. (CD 1/Track 9)