

APPROVED

Minutes of the Joint Meeting and Workshop
COASTAL RIVERS BASIN BOARD
AND
WITHLACOOCHEE RIVER BASIN BOARD
Southwest Florida Water Management District

Brooksville, Florida

October 13, 2009

The Coastal Rivers Basin Board and the Withlacoochee River Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a Joint Meeting and Workshop October 13, 2009, at 9:02 a.m., at District Headquarters, Brooksville, Florida.

Coastal Rivers Board Members Present

Randall S. Maggard, Vice Chair
William Y. Bunch, Member
Vacant, Member

Coastal Rivers Board Member Absent

Judith C. Whitehead, Chair

Recording Secretary

M. Frances Sesler

Withlacoochee River Board Members Present

Ronald Oakley, Co-Chair
Doug Tharp, Co-Chair
Albert Rooks, Vice Chair
Janey Baldwin, Secretary
William Bachschmidt, Member
Jack Dennis, Member
Kelly Rice, Member

Withlacoochee River Board Member Absent

Candy Nathe, Member

Staff Present

David Moore	Lou Kavouras	Gene Schiller
Bruce Wirth	Eric DeHaven	Mark Hammond
Mike Holtkamp	Roy Mazur	Linda Pilcher
Dianne Davies	Corey Denninger	Dave DeWitt
Randy Emberg	Cara Martin	Will Miller
Beth Putnam	Miki Renner	Doug Sanders
Chan Springstead		

A list of others who were present and signed the attendance roster is filed in the permanent files of the Basin. Compact discs 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**

Withlacoochee River Basin Board Co-Chair Doug Tharp called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. Ms. Frances Sesler, Senior Administrative Assistant, called the roll. A quorum was not present for the Coastal Rivers Basin Board, but a quorum was present for the Withlacoochee River Basin Board.

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

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

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

Ms. Lou Kavouras, Deputy Executive Director, Outreach, Planning, and Board Services, advised there was one deletion from the agenda. The minutes for the Coastal Rivers Basin Board will be carried over to the February 2010 meeting; the Board is not constituted and cannot take action until the vacant seat is filled.

4. **Ceremony to Honor Former Basin Board Members**

Coastal Rivers Basin Board Vice-Chair Randy Maggard presented Ms. Elaine Perry a plaque recognizing her service to the Basin Board and the citizens of Florida from May 2003 to August 2009. Ms. Perry said it has been a joyful experience, and thanked District staff and the members of the Coastal Rivers Basin Board.

Mr. John Nicolette was appointed to the Coastal Rivers Basin Board in October 2007, served until August 2009, and became a member on the Hillsborough River Basin Board on August 19, 2009. Mr. Nicolette thanked the members of the Coastal Rivers Basin Board and expressed his appreciation to the staff.

5. **Consent Items:**

a. **Withlacoochee River Basin Board**

1. **Minutes of the August 13, 2009, Meeting**

Approve the August 13, 2009, minutes as presented.

2. **Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems – Splendid Blue Farms, LLC (H590), Sumter County**

- 1) Approve the Splendid Blue Farms, LLC, project for a not-to-exceed project reimbursement of \$21,000, with \$5,250 provided by the Withlacoochee River Basin Board, \$5,250 provided by the Governing Board, and \$10,500 provided from 2008 State Appropriations to the Governing Board;
- 2) Authorize the transfer of \$5,250 from Fund 019 H017 Withlacoochee River Basin Board FARMS Funds; \$5,250 from Fund 010 H017 Governing Board FARMS funds; \$10,500 from 2008 State Appropriations allocated to Fund 010 H017 FARMS funds, to H590, Splendid Blue Farms, LLC, project fund; and
- 3) Authorize the Executive Director to sign the agreement.

3. **Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems – D & J Blueberry Farms, LLC (H592), Citrus County**

- 1) Approve the D & J Blueberry Farms, LLC, project for a not-to-exceed project reimbursement of \$18,531 with \$4,633 provided by the Withlacoochee River Basin, \$4,633 provided by the Governing Board, and \$9,265 provided from 2008 State Appropriations to the Governing Board;
- 2) Authorize the transfer of \$4,633 from Fund 019 H017 Withlacoochee River Basin FARMS funds, \$4,633 from Fund 010 H017 Governing Board FARMS funds, \$9,265 from the 2008 State Appropriations allocated to Fund 010 H017 FARMS funds to H592, D & J Blueberry Farms, LLC, project fund; and
- 3) Authorize the Executive Director to sign the agreement.

Following consideration, **Ms. Baldwin moved, seconded by Mr. Bachschmidt, to approve Consent Items 5a, 1, 2, and 3. Motion carried unanimously.** (CD 1/Track 1)

6. **Workshop Agenda:**

a. **Purpose**

Mr. Maggard, welcomed Board members, staff, and attendees to the FY2011 Joint Planning Workshop and provided introductory remarks. He said the workshop provides an opportunity for Board members and staff to enjoy an informal setting to discuss issues of importance for the Basin. Noting that both Basins represent the northern boundary of the District, he said it is important that the two Basins work together. The Boards will not be voting on any business items during the workshop; however, issues that need to be addressed can be brought to a regular Board meeting or to the Joint Governing Board/Basin Workshop on December 15. (CD 1/Track 1)

Mr. Bo Rooks, Vice Chair of the Withlacoochee River Basin Board, added that one focus of the workshop is to recognize the accomplishments of the Basins and the challenges they may face in the coming years. The workshop is an opportunity for the Board members, staff, and the public to address critical water issues. The annual Basin Board workshops provide guidance to Board members, staff, cooperators, and citizens, as the Boards begin the next year's budget deliberations. (CD 1/Track 2)

Mr. Maggard stressed the importance of the Basins working together to lay the foundation so future Boards will be able to work together to meet needs as the State continues to grow.

b. **Regional Overview**

1. **Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 Basin Accomplishments and FY2011 Strategic Budget Priorities**

Mr. Doug Sanders, Basin Planner for the Coastal Rivers and Withlacoochee River Basin Boards, provided brochures of the major Basin accomplishments in FY2009, and discussed recent budget allocations by Basin priorities that were reaffirmed during the August 2009 Board meetings for FY2011. (CD 1/Track 3)

2. **Northern District Resource Issues**

Ms. Miki Renner, Northern District Planning Manager, briefed the Board on important shared and emerging water resources issues. Ms. Renner said the two Basins shared similar resources including springs, lakes, wetlands, forests, rivers, and a productive estuary. Topics of interest were: nitrates in springs and groundwater, minimum flows and levels, regional water supply planning, and local government requirements for water supply planning. Topics to be addressed in the future include: ad valorem changes, cooperator funding, State and Federal funding, protection and preservation of the area, and water resource needs. She noted that the Brooksville Ridge is the dividing line between the two Basins and showed photos of the shared resources. (CD 1/Track 4)

3. **Tampa Bay Water Emerging Issues**

Mr. Warren Hogg, Evaluation & Permitting Manager with Tampa Bay Water (TBW), provided a regional overview of water supply and resource emerging issues, which included proposed future water supply sources and implications for long-term funding. Mr. Hogg said prior to 2002 TBW was 100 percent groundwater, but with the conclusion of the fiscal year in September, 30 percent of the water supply was delivered from alternative water supply sources. A major reason for the reaffirmation to become TBW and have the ability to develop alternative water supplies was the financial assistance from the Governing and Basin Boards who contributed \$183 million. Looking at the future, Mr. Hogg reported that TBW's long-term water supply plan and master water plan are being updated. He noted four key concerns have been identified looking to the future; 1) protect current water supply, both water quality and water quantity; 2) conserve current water supply; 3) plan for reclaimed water; and 4) develop future supply and continue interregional coordination. Co-Chair Tharp thanked Mr. Hogg for his presentation and said the members of Tampa Bay Water are to be commended for their efforts in the area of conservation. (CD 1/Track 5)

4. **Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA) Emerging Issues**

Mr. Jack Sullivan, Executive Director, Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA), provided an update on the potential need for, and development of, water supply projects in each Basin. His discussion included the Water Supply Master Plan (H037), which is currently under development in cooperation with the District, the Basins, and the Authority. Mr. Sullivan's overview also included the

Charles A. Black Water Supply Facility, inclusion of Marion County in the Master Plan, boundary issues between Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) and the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) in Marion County, and projects and program initiatives based on conclusions in the Master Plan.

The Charles A. Black Water Supply Facility is located in Citrus County and owned by the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA). The wellfield was constructed in 1988 with a \$4.7 million grant from SWFWMD and the Coastal Rivers and Withlacoochee River Basin Boards.

The Facility currently contracts with Citrus County to maintain and operate the facility. Citrus County and the Authority maintain a joint Water Use Permit (WUP). The County currently pays the Authority \$218,115 annually for water supply and contributes to a renewal and replacement fund owned by the Authority. The Authority contracts with an engineering firm every three years to evaluate maintenance of the facility and compliance with permit conditions.

Mr. Rooks said he had seen the Citrus County wellfield in previous presentations; he asked who would be the recipient of, or the end user of that water. Mr. Sullivan said there ultimately may be other users, but primarily it will be Citrus County. Mr. Rooks stated the reason for asking was because some of the planning documents that he had seen included a 36-inch mainline to Hernando County. Mr. Sullivan said that, in that particular context, it would be introducing alternative water supplies into an interconnected system between counties using alternative water supplies, to be able to be shared within a region. He said Hernando County may be one of the first counties that may need alternative supplies. Mr. Rooks said the plan he reviewed indicated fresh water being pumped from Citrus to Hernando County. Mr. Sullivan said the interconnects would not necessarily be for ground water supplies, although having an interconnected system for any water supply would be a major advance in the region just simply as a backup for the region over time. He reiterated that there are no plans for pumping groundwater across county lines, only sharing of alternative supplies, but he would look into Mr. Rook's concerns.

In summary Mr. Sullivan emphasized the need to complete and begin implementation of the Master Plan in 2010, continue the initiative to develop the concept of a "Regional Framework" for eventual utilization of alternative water supply, and initiate an aggressive water conservation program in cooperation with local County agencies. (CD 1/Track 6)

5. Summary of Emerging Issues

Mr. Sanders summarized the emerging issues that were presented by the workshop speakers, which included nutrient issues, conservation, and alternative sources, among others.

Ms. Baldwin said we speak of conservation and alternative sources, but private companies are allowed to get a permit, bottle water, and send out of State. We encourage people to move to this State knowing we might not have water for them in the future. Mr. Bruce Wirth, Deputy Executive Director responded that, it is allowed under the statute that guides the allocation of water, which is what the water management districts do. Ms. Baldwin said she understands the legality of it, but wonders on the local or State level if this issue needs attention. Co-Chair Tharp asked if the District can take a position regarding "giving away water."

Mr. David Rathke, Director Community and Legislative Affairs, reported that two related topics were discussed during the last legislative session: 1) removal of the sales tax exemption on bottled water, and 2) a severance tax on all water use, whether it is public supply or agricultural. Both failed.

Board members asked staff to check further on bottled water use in this Basin. (CD 1/Track 8)

c. **Financial and Legislative Outlook**

1. Mr. Gene Schiller, Deputy Executive Director, Division of Management Services, led a discussion of the State and District's current economic picture and an evaluation of potential changes and future concerns in light of existing information. He gave an overview of the economy, unemployment rates, and the population growth. Mr. Schiller said the District has the ability to "stay the course," continue funding major regional water supply and water resource development projects, and fund other Basin projects based on priority and availability of funds. (CD 1/Track 9)

Fiscal Impacts of Legislative Activities

2. Mr. Rathke briefed Board members on potential water-related and funding issues. He shared projections and reductions for the Fiscal Year 2010 State budget: no funding for Florida Forever Trust Fund, Water Management Lands Trust Fund, and Water Protection and Sustainability Trust Fund, and no direct appropriations. The budget projections reflect continued reduced local revenues, continued lack of State funding, continued reduced Federal funding, and potential legislative impacts to TMDL related numeric criteria, reclaimed water, and springs protection. Mr. Rathke said all of the funding programs that the water management district has utilized in the past have one revenue stream; that is the documentary stamp taxes, which have been significantly reduced due to the decline in the housing market. He said we will continue to see reduced local revenues, lack of State funding, and reduced Federal funding for FY2011. When times are better, once the economy improves and monies began to flow, the District should see a return of state, federal and local funding. (CD 1/Track 10)

3. **Basin Budget Evaluations**

Mr. Sanders led a discussion to assist the Board members in evaluating potential future funding scenarios in light of the emerging issues, environment of fiscal uncertainty, and continuing water management needs presented during the workshop. Mr. Sanders said both Basin Boards combined have potential discretionary funds averaging \$1.5 million over each of the next five fiscal years. Coastal Rivers Basin Initiatives have an average amount of \$1.02 million available annually for the next five years; and Withlacoochee River, Basin has an average of \$1.15 million, available annually for the next five years. In developing these estimates, Mr. Sanders said it was assumed there will be no increase in millage rates, an average increase in ad valorem of three percent for FY2012 through FY2015, expenditures continue pay-as-you-go, and contingencies remain the same as FY2010 through FY2015. (CD 1/Track 11)

d. **Open Discussion**

1. Cooperative Funding Program Considerations
2. Future Budget Allocations and Funding Prioritization
3. Topics of Discussion for December Joint Governing Board and Basin Board Workshop
4. Profile of the Brooksville Ridge and Its Unique Karst Geology

Mr. Sanders said there will be a tour of the Brooksville Ridge, ending at Peck Sink near Wal-Mart, where Hernando County staff will give a presentation on the Sink. Ms. Baldwin said Peck Sink is not a popular word in Hernando County. She said citizens in Hernando County don't understand and need an explanation why Peck Sink is being funded. Mr. Wirth said this is a very important issue; this sinkhole drains a large portion of downtown Brooksville. One interest the District has, other than preservation, is that these vents act as direct conduit to the aquifer. The fear is if petroleum spills or anything else finds its way into those vents, the aquifer and many wells will be ruined. He stated the price was well worth the investment. (CD 1/Track 11)

7. **Announcements:**

Ms. Kavouras called attention to the announcements on the agenda and encouraged everyone to attend the "Get Outside!" events. The campaign was launched in September 2009. Ms. Beth Putnam reported that the Communications, Land Resources, Community and Legislative Affairs Departments have joined forces to promote watershed stewardship and sustainability through recreation on conservation lands. Types of recreation consist of hiking, birding, in-line skating, bicycling, equestrian, picnicking, boating, paddling, fishing, hunting, camping, and nature watching. The public is encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities. Board members received copies of the *Recreation Guide, Recreation At A Glance* brochure, "Get Outside!" campaign fact sheet, and invitation to the first Get Outside! Community event planned for the Starkey Wilderness Preserve—Serenova Tract on November 7, 2009, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (CD1/Track 12)

Mr. David Moore, the District's Executive Director, said Ms. Putnam did a wonderful job summarizing the "Get Outside!" campaign; however, this is much bigger than just an educational campaign. At District level, he said, this is top priority, equivalent to water supply, in the coming year. To some degree staff is disappointed about comments being made on how we carry out the stewardship of District lands. Mr. Moore said this is a way that Governing and Basin Board members can be a tremendous asset. We want people to know that lands are available and the District wants compatible land uses. The majority of land used for hunting in the sixteen-county area is District land. Our organization needs your help to get the word out, take the field trips, and understand why restoration efforts are done the way they are. (CD 1/Track 13)

During the lunch break, Mr. Dave DeWitt shared photos and gave a presentation on the Brooksville Ridge, which is a major landform in the District and has significant hydrologic importance: well developed karst terrain, and many surface water features. (CD 1/Track 14)

8. **Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

*****Information Items*****

The items listed below were for the Boards' information, intended to keep them 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.

COASTAL RIVERS BASIN BOARD

1. Kings Bay Plaza Southwest Runoff Management Project (W468) - Completion Notice

WITHLACOOCHEE RIVER BASIN BOARD

1. Withlacoochee River Watershed Initiative (H066)
2. Lake Tsala Apopka Stormwater Retrofit Project (L769) – Completion Notice
3. Jumper Creek Canal Watershed Management Plan (L957) - Cancellation Notice
4. Hydrologic and Wetlands Restoration of District-Owned Lands Flying Eagle-Shinn Ditch (SA06) - Completion Notice