

Approved

Minutes of the Joint Meeting and Workshop

**ALAFIA RIVER BASIN BOARD
HILLSBOROUGH RIVER BASIN BOARD
AND
PINELLAS-ANCLOTE RIVER BASIN BOARD**
Southwest Florida Water Management District

St. Petersburg, Florida October 15, 2009

The Alafia River Basin Board, Hillsborough River Basin Board and the Pinellas-Anclote River Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a Joint Meeting and Workshop on October 15, 2009, at 9:20 a.m. at Weedon Island Preserve, St. Petersburg, Florida.

Alafia River Board Members Present

Jim Selvey, Vice Chair
Steve Bissonnette, Member
Cheryl Johnson, Member

Alafia River Board Member Absent

Jennifer E. Closshey, Chair

Pinellas-Anclote Board Members Present

Todd Pressman, Co-Chair
Sallie Parks, Co-Chair
Terry M. England, Secretary
Housh Ghovaaee, Member

Pinellas-Anclote Board Members Absent

Chester "Chet" Renfro, Member

Via Communication Media Technology

Mitchell Hammer, Member

Hillsborough River Board Members Present

Hugh Gramling, Co-Chair
George Burt, Member
Devon Higginbotham, Member
John Nicolette, Member

Hillsborough River Board Members Absent

Maritza Rovira-Forino, Co-Chair
Renee Gilmore, Vice Chair
Susan Welsh, Secretary

Staff Present

David Moore
Mark Hammond
Maya Burke
Jeremy McKay
Beth Putnam
Sandie Will

Lou Kavouras
Roy Mazur
Cori Cuttler
Jason Mickel
Miki Renner

Gene Schiller
David Rathke
Randy Emberg
Trisha Neasman
Doug Sanders

Bruce Wirth
Anthony Andrade
Rand Frahm
Linda Pilcher
Jennette Seachrist

Recording Secretary – M. Frances Sesler

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.

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

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

Hillsborough River Basin Board Co-Chair Hugh Gramling called the meeting to order at 9:20 a.m. Ms. Lou Kavouras, Deputy Executive Director, Outreach, Planning, and Board Services, called the roll and noted a quorum was present for the Alafia River and the Hillsborough River Basin Boards. A quorum was not present for the Pinellas-Anclote River Basin Board.

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

Co-Chair Gramling led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. (CD 1/Track1)

3. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda

Since a quorum was not present for the Pinellas-Anclote River Basin Board Co-Chair Gramling said that Board would be skipped for now, Mr. Hammer was expected to attend. Ms. Kavouras said there was one addition to the agenda, to be placed on the Hillsborough River Basin Board Consent Agenda, the Hillsborough River Watershed Awareness Month Proclamation. Staff is recommending approval of the proclamation.

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

Ms. Kavouras administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Terry England and Mr. Housh Ghovae. Mr. England was re-appointed to the Pinellas-Anclote River Basin Board on September 30, 2009; his term expires March 1, 2012. Mr. Ghovae was appointed to the Pinellas-Anclote River Basin Board September 30, 2009; his term expires March 1, 2012. Ms. Kavouras congratulated both upon their appointments. (CD 1/ Track 1)

ADD-ON

Mr. David Moore, Executive Director, addressed the Board regarding the value of lands the District manages and the newly launched "Get Outside!" campaign, which seeks to raise awareness that District lands are available for recreation and to encourages residents to take advantage of opportunities to use these lands. He spoke of the need for educating the public about recreational opportunities on District lands, the importance of District stewardship of those lands, and opportunities on District lands within each Basin. The "Get Outside!" campaign, which was officially launched on September 26, 2009, is part of a long-term multidepartment, District effort to promote watershed stewardship and sustainability through recreation on conservation lands. The District began the "Get Outside!" campaign to encourage diverse groups to use and enjoy the District's more than 350,000 acres of land. Types of recreation include hiking, birding, in-line skating, bicycling, equestrian, picnicking, boating, paddling, fishing, hunting, camping, and nature watching. Mr. Moore asked Board members to help inform others about the campaign. (CD 1/Track 1)

Ms. Beth Putnam, Communications Manager, provided copies of the latest *Recreation Guide, Recreation At A Glance* brochure, and "Get Outside!" campaign fact sheet. She gave an overview of the significant positive media coverage the campaign had garnered since it began and invited Board members to attend the Get Outside! Day events planned November 7, 2009, and April 10, 2010. Ms. Putnam said more information is available by contacting the District's Communications Department at 1-800-423-1476 and additional copies of the publications can be ordered online at WaterMatters.org/publications. (CD 1/ Track 2)

5. Ceremony to Honor Former Basin Board Members

Hillsborough River Basin Board Co-Chair Hugh Gramling presented Mr. Joe Robinson a plaque recognizing his service to the Basin Boards. Mr. Robinson served on the Northwest Hillsborough Basin Board beginning on March 12, 2001; he was re-appointed on March 18, 2003, and March 29, 2006. He became a member of the Hillsborough River Basin Board when the Hillsborough River Board merged with the Northwest Hillsborough Basin Board on January 1, 2009; he served through August 31, 2009.

Mr. Robinson said it was great working with everyone. He thanked Basin Board members and staff, offered his services, and wished everyone well.

Although Ms. Mercy DiMaio was not present at the meeting she was also honored for her service to the Basin Boards. She was appointed to the Northwest Hillsborough Basin Board on June 13, 2002, and re-appointed June 22, 2005. She became a member of the Hillsborough River Basin Board when the Board merged with the Northwest Hillsborough Basin Board on January 1, 2009; she served through June 2009.

Mr. J.C. Tort was not present, but was also recognized for his service to the Alafia River Basin Board. He was appointed to the Basin Board on June 1, 2005; re-appointed on March 29, 2006; and served through August 31, 2009. (CD 1/Track 3)

Mr. Jim Selvey entered the meeting at this time.

Co-Chair Sallie Parks, Pinellas-Anclote River Basin Board, presented Mr. Rod Fischer a plaque recognizing his service to the Basin Board. She said Mr. Fischer has been a leader in water matters in the community and on the Basin Board. He was appointed to the Pinellas-Anclote River Basin Board on August 4, 1999; he was re-appointed in March 2000, March 2003, and March 2006, serving through August 31, 2009.

Mr. Fischer said it was an honor to be appointed to the Pinellas-Anclote River Basin Board, and expressed appreciation for staff's support and added that he looks forward to working with the District in the future. (CD 1/Track 4)

6. **Consent Items:**

a. **Alafia River Basin Board**

1. **Minutes of the August 6, 2009, Meeting**

Approve the August minutes, as presented.

Following consideration, **Mr. Bissonnette moved, seconded by Ms. Johnson, to approve the August minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

2. **Hillsborough Water Conservation Education Project (K652) – Reduction in Scope.**

Approve the reduction of the number of students reached by this project from 50,000 to 40,000.

Following consideration, **Mr. Selvey moved, seconded by Ms. Johnson, to approve staff recommendation. Motion carried unanimously.** (CD 1/Track 5)

b. **Pinellas-Anclote River Basin Board**

This item was postponed until later in the meeting pending contact with Pinellas-Anclote Basin Board Member Mitchell Hammer. (CD 1/Track 5)

c. **Hillsborough River Basin Board**

1. **Minutes of the August 6, 2009, Meeting**

Approve the August minutes, as presented.

2. **Hillsborough Water Conservation Education Project (K652) – Reduction in Scope**

Approve the reduction of the number of students reached by this project from 50,000 to 40,000.

3. **Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems – Floyd W. Williams Blueberry Farm (H589) Hillsborough County**

1. Approve the Floyd W. Williams Blueberry Farm project for a not-to-exceed reimbursement of \$10,000 with \$2,500 provided by the Hillsborough River Basin Board, \$2,500 provided by the Governing Board, and \$5,000 provided from State Appropriations to the Governing Board;

2. Authorize the transfer of \$2,500 from fund 013 H017 Hillsborough River Basin FARMS funds, \$2,500 from fund 010 H017 Governing Board FARMS funds, and \$5,000 from the 2005 State Appropriations allocated to fund 010 H017 FARMS funds, to the H589 Floyd W. Williams Blueberry Farm project fund; and
3. Authorize the Executive Director to sign the agreement.
4. **Proclamation: Hillsborough River Watershed Awareness Month**
Declare the month of November as Watershed Awareness Month.

Following consideration, **Mr. Burt moved, seconded by Mr. Nicolette, to approve Consent Items 6c. 1, 2, 3, and 4. Motion carried unanimously.** (CD 1/Track 5)

7. **Workshop Agenda:**

a. **Purpose**

Alafia River Basin Board Vice Chair Jim Selvey welcomed Board members, staff, and attendees to the FY2010 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 Basins. The workshop is designed to focus primarily on future trends relevant to all three Basins. The intended outcome of the workshop is an understanding of the importance of coordination between the Governing Board, Basin Boards, and cooperative partners to achieve the District's objectives and to explore changes that may be needed in light of the current economic climate. Mr. Selvey stressed 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 6)

b. **Regional Overview**

1. **Basin Board Accomplishments and FY2011 Strategic Budget Priorities**

Mr. Jason Mickel, Pinellas-Anclote River Basin Board Planner, said Mr. Selvey did a wonderful job with the introduction and wanted Board members to know that this was the Boards' workshop. He said Board members should feel free to ask questions. Staff will provide written summaries of the major Basin accomplishments of the past year and discuss recent budget allocations by the Basin Priorities that were reaffirmed during the August 2009 Board meetings.

2. **Shared Resource Concerns**

Mr. Mickel provided a brief overview of what the Board members could look forward to and shared important emerging water resource issues. He said this discussion will set the stage for upcoming speakers, identify shared Basin resources undergoing pressure, and target emerging issues for further consideration. Mr. Bissonnette questioned whether there is a regional approach to reclaimed water in the central part of the State. Mr. Anthony Andrade, Senior Water Conservation Analyst, stated that there is cooperation among the State and the three largest water management districts and commented on a project in North East Polk County where reclaim water lines have been installed to serve areas in the Southwest and South Florida Water Management Districts. Mr. Moore added that there is a group that has been meeting monthly, the MyRegions Group, which includes Polk, Orange, Volusia, Seminole, Brevard, and Osceola counties, to focus on a regional water supply plan for central Florida. In West Coast Florida, Tampa Bay Water and Polk County Regional Water Supply plans are being looked at as models. Mr. Moore said there is a Memorandum of Understanding between Tampa Bay Water and Polk County for possible cooperation on a project and also an agreement with the St. Cloud, Tohopekaliga Water Authority, Orange County Utilities, Polk County,

Reedy Creek Improvement District (STOPR) group, which consists of Polk County and residents to the east of the County. (CD 1/ Track 7)

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.

Mr. Hogg said TBW was looking to develop additional water supplies. By the year 2030, TBW anticipates needing an additional 40 million gallons of water per day to meet projections for the region. Mr. Selvey asked if the Manatee River has been considered or studied for additional water supply sources. Mr. Hogg replied that the Manatee River is not part of TBW water supply options. Mr. Wirth said the Manatee River is the primary source for Manatee County.

Mr. Burt asked for an update on the desal plant. Mr. Hogg reported that TBW is now ready to run its last acceptance test, to produce 25 million gallons of water per day, for four consecutive months. He said the plant has been producing 25 million gallons of water per day, but some adjustments are still being made. (CD 1/ Track 8)

4. **Tampa Bay Estuary Program Emerging Issues**

Jennette Seachrist, Surface Water Improvement Management Program Manager, introduced Ms. Holly Greening, Executive Director, Tampa Bay Estuary Program (TBEP). Ms. Greening said the estuary program started in 1991 to protect and restore Tampa Bay through a science-based management plan. The TBEP Policy Board consists of the three major cities and counties around Tampa Bay as well as the water management district, Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Environmental Protection. She emphasized that funds allocated by the District to the TBEP are a good investment. Ms. Greening's overview included emerging issues for Tampa Bay, water quality issues relating to nutrients and other pollutants, habitat restoration, and other long-term concerns for the health of the bay. (CD 1/Track 9)

5. **Summary of Emerging Issues**

Ms. Maya Burke, Hillsborough River Basin Planner, summarized the emerging issues that were presented by the workshop speakers or raised by Board members. (CD 1/ Track 10)

6. **Consent Items:**

b. **Pinellas-Anclote River Basin Board**

Staff was able to contact Mr. Hammer via telephone; therefore, the Pinellas-Anclote River Basin Board Consent Items could be considered. Ms. Kavouras reminded the Boards that with the passage of Senate Bill 2080, Board members may participate in meetings via communications media technology. Mr. Hammer apologized for not being able to attend the meeting in person.

After consideration, **Mr. England moved, seconded by Mr. Ghovae, to approve Consent Items 6b 1, 2 and 3, as follow:**

1. **Minutes of the August 27, 2009, Meeting**
Approve the August minutes, as presented.
2. **Non-Exclusive Perpetual Easement to City of St Petersburg for Clam Bayou Paved Multi-Use Trail – SWF Parcel Number 16-728-127X**
Recommend the Governing Board approve conveyance of a Non-Exclusive Perpetual Easement to City of St. Petersburg for SWF Parcel No. 16-728-127X subject to the terms and conditions stated herein.
3. **Pinellas County Spray Nozzle Replacement Project - Second Amendment (L706)**
Recommend the Governing Board approve the Second Amendment to the agreement with Pinellas County to modify the scope of work while maintaining a total cost of \$14,000, with the Basin's share not to exceed its existing commitment of \$7,000; and authorize the Executive Director to sign the amendment.

Motion carried unanimously. (CD 1/Track 10)

At this time, Co-Chair Todd Pressman, Pinellas-Anclote Basin Board, entered the meeting.

c. **Financial and Legislative Outlook**

1. **District Financial Overview**

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.

Mr. England said residential real estate values have been impacted heavily, which might affect ad valorem taxes. Mr. Schiller said the District's unique structure allows the District to adapt and adjust. The District is not carrying debt; it runs on a pay-as-you-go basis. (CD 1/Track 11)

2. **Fiscal Impacts of Legislative Activities**

Mr. David Rathke briefed Board members on potential water-related and funding issues. He shared projections and reductions for the Fiscal Year 2010 State budget: no new funding from the 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 total maximum daily load related numeric criteria, reclaimed water, and springs protection.

Mr. Rathke said all the funding programs the District has utilized in the past have one revenue stream, the documentary stamp taxes, which have been significantly reduced due to the decline in the housing market. He said reduced local revenues, lack of State funding, and reduced Federal funding will continue. When times are better, once the economy improves and monies begin to flow, the District should see a return of State, Federal, and local funding. (CD 1/Track 12)

3. **Basin Budget Evaluation**

Ms. Trisha Neasman, Alafia River Basin Planner, reviewed the various programmatic budget categories and provided analyses of historical Basin spending by strategic budget priorities, programmatic budget categories, and by funding sources. She also provided budget projections based on anticipated obligations and revenues. Overall she said the Boards are in good financial health and are expected to meet budget obligations in the near future, although no State or Federal funding is anticipated.

d. **Open Discussion**

Topics for discussion were requested in advance of the December 15 joint Governing Board and Basin Boards workshop. (CD 1/Track 13)

8. **Announcements:**

Ms. Kavouras called attention to the announcements on the agenda and encouraged everyone to attend the "Get Outside!" events.

9. **Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 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.

ALAFIA RIVER BASIN BOARD

1. Lake Hancock Outfall Structure P-11

HILLSBOROUGH RIVER BASIN BOARD

1. North Dale Mabry Stormwater Retrofit and Wetland Restoration Project (W259) – Execution Notice
2. Urban Lake Rescue (W268) - First Amendment – Execution Notice
3. Stewart Middle School Shoreline Restoration (W399) – Execution Notice
4. Zephyrhills Reclaimed Water Extension Project (L824) – Completion Notice
5. Lake Meade Water Quality Improvement Project (N026) – Execution Notice

PINELLAS-ANCLOTE RIVER BASIN BOARD

1. City of Clearwater Glen Oaks/Palmetto Reclaimed Water Distribution Project (N095) – Execution Notice