

# Approved

## Minutes of the Meeting

### MANASOTA BASIN BOARD

Southwest Florida Water Management District

Sarasota, Florida

October 17, 2007

The Manasota Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a regular meeting on October 17, 2007, at 9:04 a.m. in the Sarasota Service Office, Sarasota, Florida.

#### **Board Members Present**

Patricia M. Glass, Co-Chair Ex Officio  
Elizabeth "Betsy" O. Benac, Vice Chair  
J. Mac Carraway, Secretary  
Frank E. Strelec, Member  
Dora Maria C. Thomas  
Paul J. "Jack" Bispham

#### **Staff Members Present**

Bruce Wirth            Mark Hammond  
Roy Mazur            Eloise Buzbee  
Beth Putnam           Eric Sutton  
Rand Frahm           Dianne Davies  
Kathy Scott            Audrie Liszewski  
Scott Harbison

#### **Members Absent:**

Thomas G. Dabney, Co-Chair Ex Officio  
Richard H. Meyers, Member

#### **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 forth in full herein, are also filed in the permanent files of the Basin.

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

In the absence of Co-Chair Dabney, Co-Chair Glass called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. Ms. Young called the roll and noted a quorum was present. (CD 1/Track 1)

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

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

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

Since no gubernatorial appointments or Senate confirmations concerning this Board had been received, Ms. Kavouras stated Agenda Item 4 would be 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 stated above. (CD 1/Track 1)

#### 5. **Consent Item:**

After consideration, **Mr. Strelec moved, seconded by Ms. Benac, to approve the Consent Item, as follows:**

- a. **July 25, 2007, Meeting Minutes** – Approve the July minutes, as presented.

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

6. **Discussion Items:**

a. **Expansion of the Florida Yards and Neighborhoods (FYN) 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.

After consideration, **Mr. Carraway moved, seconded by Mr. Strelec, to approve the staff recommendation, as stated above. Motion carried unanimously.** (CD 1/Track 2/00:00 – 13:17)

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 to be slowly released 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 wetlands 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, adding that is an ongoing effort.

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. The 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 why the Manasota Basin Board is involved in the project, potential for water loss due to sinks, outlook of property owners around the Lake, impacts to a nearby landfill and cemetery, and mine land issues.

This presentation was for the Board's information; no action was required. Other updates will be provided to the Board, as appropriate. (CD 1/Track 2/13:18-14:03)

7. **Reports:**

a. **Sarasota Bay Estuary Program Policy Board**

Basin representative Jack Bispham gave a brief report on the September 21 Sarasota Bay Estuary Program (SBEP) Policy Board meeting, which was held at Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota. The main issue was the possibility of moving the SBEP office to a building next to the Mote Marine facility. The building needs to be "brought up to code" and, since there seems to be no funds available from the City of Sarasota for the work, it is a "wait and see" situation. Mark Alderson, SBEP Executive Director, added the City is currently evaluating the situation. (CD 1/Track 3)

b. **Report on Governing Board Activities**

From the September 25 Governing Board meeting, Co-Chair Glass commented on water conservation, water restrictions, and enforcing the restrictions. (CD 1/Track 4)

8. **Announcements:**

Co-Chair Glass reviewed announcements listed on the agenda. Mr. Wirth reminded Board members of the October 29 joint Governing Board and Peace River/Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority (Authority) workshop to be held in the Sarasota Service Office. A tour of Authority facilities would precede the workshop and a tour of Hi Hat Ranch would follow the workshop. (CD 1/Track 4)

8. **Adjournment:**

Co-Chair Glass thanked everyone for attending, called for a brief recess before the planning workshop would begin, and adjourned the meeting at 10:17 a.m. (CD 1/Track 4)

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

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The item(s) 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. The item(s) did not require Board action.

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1. Charlotte Harbor Harbor/Gasparilla Sound Water Quality Monitoring – Second Amendment (W521) - Execution Notice
2. Exploratory Wells of the Intermediate Aquifer System (IAS) (H058) - Execution Notice
3. Manatee County Indoor Water Conservation Project (L601) - Execution Notice
4. Firms Pre-Qualified for Work to Support Minimum Flows and Levels - Execution Notice
5. Sarasota County – Lemon Bay Watershed Plan (L610) - Execution Notice
6. Sarasota County – Roberts Bay Watershed Plan (L611) - Execution Notice
7. Sarasota County – Tidal Creek Biological Index (W615) - Execution Notice
8. Upper Peace River Watershed Management Program – Homeland to Zolfo Springs (H024) - Execution Notice
9. Watershed Management Program – Maintenance of Watershed Parameters and Models (B206) - Execution Notice

# Approved

## Minutes of the Planning Workshop

### MANASOTA BASIN BOARD

Southwest Florida Water Management District

Bartow, Florida

October 17, 2007

The Manasota Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for the annual planning workshop on October 17, 2007, at 10:25 a.m. in the District's Sarasota Service Office, Sarasota, Florida.

#### **Board Members Present**

Patricia M. Glass, Co-Chair Ex Officio  
Elizabeth "Betsy" O. Benac, Vice Chair  
J. Mac Carraway, Secretary  
Frank E. Strelec, Member  
Dora Maria C. Thomas  
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#### **Recording Secretary**

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#### 1. **Call to Order**

Co-Chair Glass called the workshop to order at 10:25 a.m. (CD 1/Track 5)

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

Planning Director Roy Mazur welcomed members to their annual planning workshop and explained the emphasis of the workshop would be on future trends and priorities. Mr. Mazur 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. Co-Chair Glass requested copies of the other Basin Boards' accomplishments brochures be provided to the Board. (CD 1/Track 5)

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

Mr. 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. He 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. (CD 1/Track 6)

#### 4. Long-Range Water Supply and Water Resource Development Funding Plan

- Future Ad Valorem Considerations

Senior Budget Analyst Eloise Buzbee 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. Ms. Buzbee briefly commented on questions from Board members on the "highest and best use evaluation" and cuts made at the State level. (CD 1/Track 7)

- Review of Long Term Funding Needs

Deputy Executive Director Bruce Wirth, Division of Resource Management and Development, presented 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 Manasota Basin's estimated project costs, and potential Water Supply and Resource Development funding versus estimated project costs. The graphs showed a shortfall in the Basin's ability to fund projects to the same degree as in the past beginning in 2010. 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 stressed that the Board's prioritization of projects and related issues will be of utmost importance going forward.

Mr. Wirth commented on the basis for the projections used in his presentation and then made several conclusions regarding the Basin's budgetary challenges.

- Financial capabilities of the Manasota Basin Board will be reviewed in greater detail and monitored continually.
- The most appropriate approach to meet financial demands to support identified major water supply and resource development projects in the SWUCA must be determined.
- Success in obtaining State and Federal grants for projects could significantly lower District cost contributions.
- An annual review and update to financial engine elements is necessary. (CD 1/Track 8)

At this time, Co-Chair Glass called for a brief recess; she re-convened the workshop at 12:05.

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

- Future Project Projections

Basin Planner Dianne Davies 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. She 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, Ms. Davies highlighted the capital improvement plans of Manatee County and the City of Venice as examples.

She reviewed a graph Mr. Wirth used in his presentation to reiterate that the Basin will be challenged to alleviate future budgetary shortfalls.

- **Identification of 2009 Priorities**

In reviewing the Basin Board Strategic Priorities, which are included in the notebook for each Basin Board meeting, Ms. Davies 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. Discussion among the Board members and Ms. Davies resulted in the revised list of Basin Board strategic priorities below.

- Alternative Water Supply and Development
- Watershed Management Program
- Support Implementation of SWUCA Recovery Strategy
- Public, Youth and Stakeholder Education (CD 1/Track 9)

## 6. **Open Discussion**

- **Basin Board Requested Topics**

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

- Polk County and the cities along the Ridge that are outgrowing their traditional water sources will need a new plan to supply water for that area.
- The importance of regional partnerships.
- Public/private partnerships.
- The Basin's millage rate.
- Cooperators need to be made aware of the Basin's situation.
- Demand for projects and trends for the future.
- Oversight of the FEMA mapping efforts.
- A line for Authority future revenues should be included on the Potential Funding versus Estimated Project Costs graph.

## 7. **Adjournment**

Co-Chair Glass thanked everyone for their participation and adjourned the workshop at 12:48 p.m.