

Approved

Minutes of the Joint Meeting and Workshop

MANASOTA BASIN BOARD

AND

PEACE RIVER BASIN BOARD

Southwest Florida Water Management District

Arcadia, Florida

October 21, 2009

The Manasota and Peace River Basin Boards of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a joint meeting and workshop on October 21, 2009, beginning at 9:10 a.m., in the DeSoto County Turner Agri-Civic Center, Arcadia, Florida.

Manasota Basin Board Members Present

Carlos M. Beruff, Co-Chair
Frank E. Strelec, Vice Chair
J. Mac Carraway, Secretary
Elizabeth "Betsy" O. Benac, Member
Paul J. "Jack" Bispham, Member

Manasota Basin Board Members Absent

Albert G. Joerger, Co-Chair
Michael P. McCoy, Member

Staff Present

David Moore	Lou Kavouras
Eric DeHaven	Mark Hammond
David Rathke	Eric Sutton
Terri Behling	Dianne Davies
Jeremy McKay	Beth Putnam

Peace River Board Members Present

Rufus C. Lazzell, Secretary
Patricia Crisman, Member
Paul Samuels, Member
Fred Trippensee, Member

Peace River Basin Board Members Absent

Bryan K. Beswick, Co-Chair
C.A. "Neil" Combee, Jr., Co-Chair
H. Paul Senft, Jr., Co-Chair
J. Ken Harrison, Vice Chair

Gene Schiller	Bruce Wirth
Roy Mazur	Linda Pilcher
Brian Armstrong	Tammy Bader
Susan Douglas	Danny Kushmer
Alison Ramoy	Chan Springstead

Recording Secretary: Phyllis Young

A roster of other attendees 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

Manasota Basin Board Co-Chair Carlos Beruff called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.; Ms. Phyllis Young, Senior Administrative Assistant, Boards and Executive Services, called the roll for each Board. A quorum was not present for the Manasota Basin Board; however, Ms. Benac was expected to arrive momentarily. A quorum was present for the Peace River Basin Board. (CD 1/ Track 1)

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Co-Chair Beruff 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, reported that Executive Director David Moore would speak briefly on the Get Outside! initiative, immediately following Agenda Item 5. (CD 1/Track 1)

4. **Ceremony to Honor Former Peace River Basin Board Member Jim Hageman**

Mr. Rufus Lazzell, Peace River Basin Board Secretary, began by stating that Mr. Hageman's leaving the Basin Board is a sad occasion. He spoke briefly of Mr. Hageman's background and praised his dedication to working for the good of the Basin and shared an anecdote about Mr. Hageman's beliefs about the toilet rebate program, which added levity to a somber occasion. Co-Chair Beruff then presented a plaque to Mr. Hageman and thanked him for his service to the Peace River Basin. In turn, Mr. Hageman expressed his appreciation for being allowed to serve, adding it had been an honor to work with Board members and staff. (CD 1/ Track 2)

5. **Florida Water StarSM Gold – Recognition of Polk County Builders**

Ms. Beth Putnam, Communications Manager, reported that this is the first occasion a Basin has had an opportunity to recognize a builder who has achieved Water StarSM Gold status. The program is a voluntary certification for builders, which focuses on indoor and outdoor conservation and best management practices for landscapes. Currently, five homes have been certified Water StarSM Gold, and 13 builders have signed intent agreements for more than 200 Florida Water StarSM homes. Ms. Susan Douglas, District project manager for the Water StarSM program, presented a commemorative plaque to Mr. Mark Hulbert of Hulbert Homes whose company built the first Polk County Water StarSM Gold home. Peace River Basin Board members joined Ms. Douglas, Mr. Hulbert, and David Moore, Executive Director of the Southwest Florida Water Management District, for a group photo. (CD 1/ Track 3)

ADD-ON

Mr. Moore addressed the Board regarding the value of lands the District manages and the newly launched "Get Outside" campaign, which encourages residents to take advantage of opportunities to use these lands. He spoke of the need for educating the public of recreational opportunities on District lands, the importance of District stewardship of those lands, and opportunities on District lands within each Basin. "Get Outside!" 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 343,000 acres of land. Mr. Moore asked Board members' help to inform others about the campaign. (CD 1/Track 4)

Board members were provided copies of the latest *Recreation Guide, Recreation at a Glance* brochure, and "Get Outside!" campaign fact sheet. Copies are available by contacting the District's Communications Department at 1-800-423-1476 or at WaterMatters.org/publications. In closing, Ms. Putnam briefly highlighted upcoming "Get Outside" events and further encouraged Board members to share this important information with friends and acquaintances. (CD 1/Track 5)

6. **Consent Items:**

a. **Manasota Basin Board**

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

1. **Minutes of the August 12, 2009, Meeting**
Approve the August minutes, as presented.

2. **Appraisals and Purchase/Sale Agreement - Myakka Prairie Project SWF Parcel No. 21-199-106C**

Recommend the Governing Board:

- **accept the appraisals,**

- approve the resolution requesting funds in the amount of \$204,500,
 - approve the Purchase/Sale Agreement, and
 - designate SWF Parcel No. 21-199-106C as being acquired for conservation purposes.
3. **Appraisals and Purchase/Sale Agreement - Myakka Prairie Project SWF Parcel No. 21-199-107C**
Recommend the Governing Board:
- accept the appraisals,
 - approve resolution requesting funds in the amount of \$162,500,
 - approve the Purchase/Sale Agreement, and
 - designate SWF Parcel No. 21-199-107C as being acquired for conservation purposes.
4. **Proclamation: Fiscal Year 2009 Sarasota County Watershed Awareness Week**
Declare the week of October 12–18, 2009, as Watershed Awareness Week.

Manasota Basin Board members unanimously approved the motion.

b. **Peace River Basin Board**

After consideration, Mr. Lazzell moved, seconded Ms. Crisman, to approve the following Consent Items:

1. **Minutes of the August 7, 2009, Meeting**
Approve the August minutes, as presented.
2. **Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems (FARMS)**
 - i. **Bermont Properties, LLC., Charlotte County**
 - 1) Approve the Bermont Properties, LLC, project for a not-to-exceed project reimbursement of \$191,250 with \$47,813 provided by the Peace River Basin Board; \$47,812 provided by the Governing Board; and \$95,625 provided from State Appropriations to the Peace River Basin Board and Governing Board;
 - 2) Authorize the transfer of \$47,813 from Fund 020 H017 Peace River Basin FARMS funds; \$47,812 from Fund 010 H017 Governing Board FARMS funds; \$18,084 from the 2006 State Appropriations allocated to Fund 020 H017 FARMS funds; \$2,342 from the 2007 State Appropriations allocated to Fund 020 H017 FARMS funds; and \$75,199 from the 2009 State Appropriations allocated to Fund 010 H017 FARMS funds, to H588 Bermont Properties, LLC, project fund; and
 - 3) Authorize the Executive Director to sign the agreement.
 - ii. **FLM, Inc., Prairie River Ranch Phase IIa – Culverts, DeSoto County**
 - 1) Approve the FLM, Inc., Prairie River Ranch Phase IIa Culverts Project for a not-to-exceed project reimbursement of \$37,500 with \$9,375 provided by the Peace River Basin; \$9,375 provided by the Governing Board; and \$18,750 provided from 2009 State Appropriations to the Governing Board;
 - 2) Authorize the transfer of \$9,375 from Fund 020 H017 Peace River Basin FARMS funds; \$9,375 from Fund 010 H017 Governing Board FARMS

- funds; and \$18,750 from the 2009 State Appropriations allocated to Fund 010 H017 FARMS funds, to Funds 010 H569 and 020 H569 FLM, Inc., Prairie River Ranch Phase IIa Culverts Project fund; and
- 3) Authorize the Executive Director to sign the agreement.
- iii. **Roper Growers Cooperative, DeSoto County**
- 1) Approve the Roper Growers Cooperative Project for a not-to-exceed project reimbursement of \$37,500 with \$9,375 provided by the Peace River Basin Board; \$9,375 provided by the Governing Board; \$18,750 provided from 2009 State Appropriations to the Governing Board;
 - 2) Authorize the transfer of \$9,375 from Fund 020 H017 Peace River Basin Board FARMS funds; \$9,375 from Fund 010 H017 Governing Board FARMS funds; \$18,750 from the 2009 State Appropriations allocated to Fund 010 H017 FARMS funds to 010 H594 and 020 H594, Roper Growers Cooperative project fund; and
 - 3) Authorize the Executive Director to sign the agreement.
3. **Land Use and Management Plan for the Circle B Bar Reserve**
Recommend the Governing Board approve the Land Use and Management Plan for the Circle B Bar Reserve.
4. **Approval of Resolution No. 107 for the Fiscal Year 2010 Budget Amendment to include Reallocated Funds from Water Protection and Sustainability Trust Fund**
Approve Resolution No. 107 to amend the FY2010 budget of the Peace River Basin by an increase of \$121,830 from \$11,307,353 to \$11,429,183 to reflect the additional revenue from the State's Water Protection and Sustainability Trust Fund.
5. **Lake Gibson Southwest Sub-Basin Stormwater Management System Retrofit**
Recommend the Governing Board approve the Second Amendment to the Agreement with the City of Lakeland for \$4,500,000 with the Basin's share not to exceed \$950,132; and authorize the Executive Director to sign the agreement.

Peace River Basin Board members unanimously approved the motion. (CD 1/ Track 6)

7. **Discussion Item:**

a. **Lake Hancock Land Use Alternatives Study**

Mr. Eric Sutton, Land Resources Director, addressed the Boards to present the preliminary draft of the Lake Hancock Land Use Alternatives Study. This item was specifically intended for the Peace River Basin Board; however, due to regional aspects, the study is also of interest to the Manasota Basin Board. This information was presented to the Governing Board in August 2009; the final plan is expected to be presented for approval at the February 2010 Peace River Basin Board and Governing Board meetings.

Mr. Sutton gave a brief history of the District's acquisition of lands in the Lake Hancock region and projects that are under development and intended to accomplish water resource management benefits including 1) restoring minimum flows in the Upper Peace River, and 2) improving water quality in the Peace River and Charlotte Harbor. Various

types of lands acquired for the Lake Hancock projects provide unique opportunities for public use and natural system management. Future management of these lands has generated public interest, as well as interest from other public agencies. Meetings with interested stakeholders and others have been held to gather input regarding these properties.

Prior to the final plan being presented to the Peace River Basin Board and the Governing Board, additional meetings will be held to allow further comments.

This item was presented for the Boards' information; no action was required. (CD 1/ Tracks 7, 8, & 9)

8. **Workshop Agenda:**

a. **Purpose**

Manasota Basin Board Vice Chair Frank Strelec welcomed everyone to the joint planning workshop, stressing that the workshop is an informal setting where Board members may discuss issues important for the Basins. Since the Basin Boards reaffirmed their Strategic Budget Priorities for FY2011 during the August Basin Board meetings, that was not a part of this year's planning workshop agenda. Interaction between the Boards, Mr. Strelec emphasized, is especially important during these difficult economic times to effectively set a course for the future of the Basins. (CD 1/ Track 10)

b. **Regional Overview**

1. **FY2009 Basin Accomplishments and FY2010 Strategic Budget Priorities**

Mr. Chan Springstead, Peace River Basin Planner, and Ms. Dianne Davies, Manasota Basin Planner, reviewed the meeting agenda and brought Board members' attention to each Basin's accomplishments brochures that had been provided to each member. Ms. Kavouras interjected that the brochures are a good resource to inform others of what the Basins do. (CD 1/Track 11)

2. **Peace River/Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority (PR/MRWSA) Emerging Issues**

Mr. Pat Lehman, Executive Director of the PR/MRWSA, began by speaking of the successful completion of the Regional Expansion Program, which provides 15 million gallons per day of additional water supply to the area. He commented on options for public water supply: local or regional systems and the need to adapt to changing conditions, stressing that regional demand projections, the financial situation, and cooperation with potential partners must all be addressed going forward. He spoke briefly on the Authority's Strategic Plan, its 20-year vision, regional transfers of water, projected water demands, and potential sources of water to meet demand.

Mr. Lazzell noted the importance of emergency interconnects and offered to help in any way possible to make those interconnects happen. (CD 1/Track 12)

As a preface to the estuary program presentations, Mr. Eric DeHaven, Resource Data and Restoration Director, welcomed the three area estuary program directors and shared several points about the national estuary programs (NEPs).

- All three NEPs in the Southwest Florida Water Management District are nationally recognized for their unique approaches to restoration and water quality improvement, and each has unique characteristics and issues that must be dealt with.

- The NEPs work among themselves and with their stakeholders to arrive with consensus-based approaches to deal with emerging issues, such as Total Maximum Daily Loads and habitat corridors.
- The District partners with the NEPs and typically provides Basin and Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Program funding of approximately \$100,000 per year for each NEP.

The NEP directors attended the workshop to report on emerging issues, water quality thresholds, resource protection, water quality improvement, fertilizer ordinances, and other issues of a cooperative nature between the NEPs and the Southwest Florida Water Management District. (CD 1/Track 13)

3. **Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program (CHNEP)**

Dr. Lisa Beever, PhD, AICP, Executive Director of the CHNEP, reported on projects completed over the past two years, priority problems within the estuary, phosphate mining permitting, Florida Gulf Coast NEP cooperation, and climate projects. Emerging issues for the CHNEP include Lower Peace River/Shell Creek minimum flow and level (MFL), fertilizer restrictions, water quality status and trends analysis, numeric nutrient criteria for estuaries, Sarasota County low impact development, Shell/Prairie/Joshua Creek implementation, and the Peace River Basin Resource Management Plan. She emphasized that dollars invested by the Basin Boards are well spent. (CD 1/Track 14)

4. **Tampa Bay Estuary Program (TBEP)**

Ms. Holly Greening, Executive Director of the TBEP, began her report by listing the TBEP Policy Board Partners and sharing good news of improved seagrass coverage in Tampa Bay and improved Bay habitats, including water quality. The TBEP provides education guides, programs, and workshops to the community and facilitates environmental solutions for the region through the Nitrogen Management Consortium, development of fertilizer guidelines, and technical review of MFLs.

Challenges in the future for the TBEP include

- Accepted allocation limits will result in wastewater plants and stormwater permits that are based on loading levels for 2003-2007.
- New or expanded nitrogen sources associated with growth will have to show offsets to be permitted.

Ms. Greening also emphasized that funds allocated by the District to the TBEP are a good investment. (CD 1/Track 15)

5. **Sarasota Bay Estuary Program (SBEP)**

Mr. Mark Alderson, SBEP Executive Director, spoke briefly of the re-examined Bay Management Plan, the six action plans of the SBEP's Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan, and its Partnership Agreement. The presentation included information on declining nitrogen concentrations in Central Bay, increased seagrass coverage and finding of scallops, stormwater projects, Florida Friendly landscaping, fertilizer ordinances, wetlands restoration, the artificial reef program, and educational and outreach initiatives.

Emerging issues include stormwater reuse, development of alternative supplies, and elimination of wastewater discharge. (CD 1/Track 16)

6. **Summary of Emerging Issues**

Mr. Springstead and Ms. Davies summarized the emerging issues presented by Mr. Lehman and the NEP directors.

c. **Financial and Legislative Outlook**

At this time, Mr. Springstead and Ms. Davies reviewed their respective Basin's FY2010 spending by strategic budget priorities. (CD 1/Track 17)

1. **District Financial Overview**

Mr. Eugene Schiller, Deputy Executive Director, 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 provided an overview of Florida's economy, unemployment rates, population growth, housing, ad valorem revenue, and revenue and expenditure planning assumptions. He also commented on implications the recession could have on the District.

Mr. Schiller stated that the District will be "okay" through these uncertain times because the District does not have prior obligations that are "cast in stone," does not have mortgages, does not have debt, and runs on a pay-as-you-go basis. Each year the District's budget process stands alone and adjustments can be made as necessary. He emphasized that the District needs to "stay the course" in order to have the capability to accomplish essential, highest priority service and project goals; to continue funding major regional Water Supply and Resource Development projects; and fund other cooperative funding and Basin projects based on priority and availability of funds.

Discussion topics during this presentation included outsourcing, third-party funding, unfunded mandates, and revenue generation on District lands. (CD 1/Track 18)

2. **Fiscal Impacts of Legislative Activities**

In a brief presentation, Mr. David Rathke, Community and Legislative Affairs Director, commented on the Federal and State Budget scenarios and FY2010 State budget reductions and projections: no new Florida Forever funds, Water Management Lands Trust Fund, Water Protection and Sustainability Trust Fund, and no direct appropriations. Projections reflect continued reduced local revenues, continued lack of State funding, continued reduced Federal funding, and potential legislative impacts to numeric criteria, reclaimed water, and springs protection. He spoke briefly of the possibility of tax credit bonds as a possible means to help reduce project costs and line item appropriations that are being sought, but are difficult to obtain.

In closing, Mr. Rathke stated that the Community and Legislative Affairs Department continues to seek funding wherever possible. (CD 1/Track 19)

3. **Basin Budget Evaluations**

Mr. Brian Armstrong, Water Supply and Resource Development Manager, reviewed graphs and pie charts used to project costs and revenue to estimate how the Basin Boards would stand, budget-wise, on Water Supply and Resource Development projects only, over the next 20 years. Beginning this year, growth has been included in the projections. This information was presented to help the Boards gain a better understanding of how the Basins' funding scenarios look going forward.

Mr. Armstrong shared the following conclusions:

As has been the case for several years,

- 1) the Peace River Basin's financial capabilities will need to be scrutinized to determine the most appropriate approach to meet financial demands to support identified major water supply and resource development projects, and
- 2) it appears the Peace River Basin does not have the financial capacity to meet demands going forward.

For the Manasota Basin:

- The Manasota Basin is adequately positioned to meet financial demands for known water supply development projects in the near future.
- Success in obtaining State and Federal grants for projects could significantly lower District cost contributions.
- Annually, the Basin Board needs to review and update projected funding plan elements.

Ms. Davies and Mr. Springstead, in turn, used graphs to explain each Basin Board's budget by revenue source through FY2010 and multi-year project commitments and budget projections, for ad valorem based funding only, through FY2015. (CD 1/ Track 20)

d. **Open Discussion:**

These topics were covered in earlier discussions throughout the workshop:

1. Cooperative Funding Program Considerations
2. Future Budget Allocations and Funding Prioritization
3. Topics of Discussion for December Joint GB/BB Workshop

In summary, Ms. Kavouras reported that the Basin Planners will review all emerging issues gathered during the October Basin Board workshops, look for commonalities, present them at the joint Governing and Basin Boards workshop on December 15, and address some of those issues moving forward. (CD 1/ Track 20)

9. **Announcements**

Ms. Kavouras brought Board members' attention to announcements listed on the agenda and expressed thanks to Board members and staff for their participation.

10. **Adjournment**

Co-Chair Beruff adjourned the meeting at 12:20 p.m.

A light lunch was provided, followed by a tour of two area FARMS projects.

******INFORMATION ITEMS******

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.

MANASOTA BASIN BOARD

1. Budget Transfer Report
2. FARMS – WCB Properties, LLC (H576) - Cancellation Notice, Manatee County

3. North Port Water Enhancement Program (W437) - Completion
4. Myakka River Watershed Initiative First Amendment (H048) - Execution Notice
5. Sarasota Bay Habitat Restoration Project (W616) - Execution Notice

PEACE RIVER BASIN BOARD

1. FARMS – The Groves of Peace River, Inc. (H552) - Cancellation Notice, Hardee County
2. FARMS – Las Lomas Holdings, Inc. (H553) - Cancellation Notice, Hardee County
3. Lake Menzie Stormwater Improvement (B217) - Completion Notice
4. Predevelopment Land Cover and Hydrologic Mapping of the Peace River Basin, Phase IV (B163) - Execution Notice
5. Peace Creek Canal Watershed Management Program (H034) - Execution Notice
6. Myakka River Watershed Initiative First Amendment (H048) - Execution Notice
7. Watershed Management Consulting Services in the Polk County Watershed - Third Amendment (L672) - Execution Notice
8. City of Auburndale Reuse and Alternative Sources Study (N001) - Execution Notice
9. Lake Eva Stormwater Improvement Project (N072) - Execution Notice
10. Implementation of Best Management Practices in the Charlotte Harbor Watershed (N126) - Execution Notice