

APPROVED

MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP

**GOVERNING AND BASIN BOARDS
JOINT WORKSHOP**

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

THONOTOSASSA, FLORIDA

DECEMBER 15, 2009

The Governing Board and Basin Boards of the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) met in a workshop session at 9:05 a.m. on December 15, 2009, at the TECO Center at Nature's Classroom in Thonotosassa. The following persons were present:

Board Members Present

Todd Pressman, Chair
Ronald E. Oakley, Vice Chair
Hugh Gramling, Secretary
Carlos Beruff, Member
Jennifer E. Closshey, Member
Neil Combee, Member
H. Paul Senft, Member
Douglas B. Tharp, Member
Judith C. Whitehead, Member

Board Members Absent

Sallie Parks, Treasurer
Bryan Beswick, Member
Albert G. Joerger, Member
Maritza Rovira-Forino, Member

Staff Members Present

David L. Moore, Executive Director
William S. Bilenky, General Counsel
Lou Kavouras, Deputy Executive Director
Richard S. Owen, Deputy Executive Director
Bruce C. Wirth, Deputy Executive Director

Basin Board Members Present

Stephen J. Bissonnette, Alafia River
Randall S. Maggard, Coastal Rivers
George R. Burt, Hillsborough River
Devon Higginbotham, Hillsborough River
John Nicolette, Hillsborough River
Susan Welsh, Hillsborough River
Elizabeth O. Benac, Manasota
Paul "Jack" Bispham, Manasota
J. Mac Carraway, Manasota
Patricia Crisman, Peace River
Fred Trippensee, Peace River
Terry M. England, Pinellas-Anclote River
Housh Ghovae, Pinellas-Anclote River
Mitchell Hammer, Pinellas-Anclote River
Chet Renfro, Pinellas-Anclote River
William J. Bachschmidt, Withlacoochee River
Candy L. Nathe, Withlacoochee River
Kelly S. Rice, Withlacoochee River

A list of others present who signed the attendance roster is filed in the permanent files of the District. Approved minutes from previous meetings can be found on the District's Web site (www.WaterMatters.org).

1. **Call to Order and Introductions**

Chair Pressman called the workshop to order.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair Pressman led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Each Board member introduced themselves. (CD 1/Track 1 – 00:00/04:50)

3. **Dialogue on Current and Emerging Issues**

Mr. Moore said executive staff, with assistance from senior staff, identified approximately 30 significant and open-ended issues leading to five-minute to 20-minute discussions. He noted that the issues were written in phrases to promote questions and intrigue. Board members chose one of the identified issues or proposed one of their own. Staff then provided a brief one-minute to four-minute overview focusing on outstanding issues and items of interest. The floor then was open to Board members' questions and discussion.

Discussion topics included District enforcement of watering restrictions, earmarking funds for large cooperative projects, the concept of a statewide water czar, funding requests during the current economic downturn, permit violation enforcement and fines, recreational opportunities on District lands, the continuing drought, interdistrict coordination, Southern Water Use Caution Area recovery strategy, delegation of permit approvals, and elected versus appointed Board members.

Staff and Board members also discussed the District's long-term financial outlook, climate change initiatives, control of invasive and exotic species, diversity efforts, electronic permitting, communications, per capita and conservation goals, stormwater pollutant load reductions and proposed numeric nutrient criteria, future Surface Water Improvement and Management funding concerns, and cooperative funding expectations including water supply pipeline ownership and control considerations.

Additionally, the Board members engaged in discussion about the District's new Utility Outreach Program, Water Management Information System, agency's investment policy, Florida-friendly landscapes and the Florida StarSM Gold program, minimum flows and levels recovery strategy for northern Tampa Bay, bottled water tax exemptions, concept of a statewide water grid, unused quantities of reclaimed water in the Tampa Bay area, and the District's Strategic Planning efforts.

4. **Adjournment**

Chair Pressman expressed his appreciation to the Board members for attending the workshop. (CD 1/Track 3 – 2:01:20/2:14:17)

The workshop adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

The Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) does not discriminate on the basis of disability. This nondiscrimination policy involves every aspect of the District's functions, including access to and participation in the District's programs and activities. Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation as provided for in the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the District's Human Resources Director, 2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899; telephone (352) 796-7211, ext. 4702 or 1-800-423-1476 (FL only), ext. 4702; TDD (FL only) 1-800-231-6103; or email to ADACoordinator@swfwmd.state.fl.us.