

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](http://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 Star<sup>SM</sup> 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.