

**APPROVED
MEETING SUMMARY**

**Agricultural Advisory Committee
Southwest Florida Water Management District
February 20, 2007**

The Agricultural Advisory Committee of the Southwest Florida Water Management Water District convened for a regular meeting at 1:07 p.m., February 20, 2007, at the Tampa Service Office, 7601 Highway 301 North, Tampa, Florida.

Committee Members Present

Hugh Gramling, Chair
Mac Carraway, Vice-Chair
Shawn Crocker
Laurie Hurner
Dale Lewis
Cara Martin
Assefa Melesse

Staff Members Present

Lou Kavouras, Facilitator
Ron Cohen
Mark Luchte
Joanne McClellan
Michael Molligan
Bill Orendorff

Recording Secretary

Tonya Parker-Rimes

A list of all present who signed the attendance roster is filed in the permanent files of the District. Compact disks of the audio and copies of materials and handouts, as set forth in full herein, are also filed in the permanent files of the District.

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

1. Call to Order and Introduction

Chair Hugh Gramling called the meeting to order and introductions were made.

2. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda

Lou Kavouras, Deputy Executive Director, Outreach, Planning, and Board Services, stated there were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

3. Approval of the August 21, 2006 Meeting Summary

Following consideration, Mac Carraway moved and Laurie Hurner seconded to approve the August 22, 2006, Meeting Summary as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Rule Making Update

a. Committee Member Issues

The Committee did not request discussion on any other rule making updates.

5. Northern District Water Use Management Strategies

Ms. Kavouras provided the Committee with information on the northern planning area of the District. Currently the water resources are in good condition but the area is becoming a high growth area with high water demands. Areas of concern have emerged and the District would like to develop a strategy to prevent local impacts from becoming a regional problem. She discussed several strategies that the District is currently working on such as a Water Conservation Summit, per capita requirements, expanding the NTB WUCA and working with Marion/Sumter and Hernando/Citrus counties to develop WUCAs.

6. SWUCA Water Use Permitting Forms

Ron Cohen, Senior Professional Engineer, gave a presentation on the new SWUCA application and supplemental forms and distributed copies of those forms. He explained the differences in the new supplemental forms and gave examples of when each different supplemental form would be used. The forms guide the applicants through the application process and requests information that is required based on the types of uses and types of activities of the permittee. The forms were created to require most necessary information needed in an attempt to minimize the need to request additional information. Mr. Cohen stated that the District would like Committee to review the new forms and provide any feedback or comments.

7. FARMS Update

Bill Orendorff, FARMS Program Manager, explained that the FARMS Program is a cost -share reimbursement program for agricultural projects focusing mainly on the SWUCA. The purpose of this program is to promote public-private partnerships to implement agricultural BMPs. He stated that currently there are 33 Board approved projects with three projects recently approved and three projects for the April Basin Board. He also explained the Mini FARMS Program also available.

8. AgSWM and PROMIL Update

Mark Luchte, Senior Professional Engineer, provided an overview of the AgSWM and ProMIL programs. He explained that the District has received positive results and feedback about the usefulness of the projects in agricultural operations. These projects are helping growers through project evaluation and data collection to gain an understanding of their specific water use results in water conservation.

9. BMP Implementation Team Update

Brian Boman, IFAS BMP Coordinator, gave an in-depth presentation on the major BMP programs available, the State adoption of BMP manuals and the implementation teams. He provided examples of the BMP manuals that are in print and provided the website address where the BMP manuals can be found. He explained how growers enroll in the BMP programs and that workshops, hands-on training and training materials on implementing BMPs are available. He provided several examples of successful partnering between the growers and the implementation teams.

10. Agricultural Portal on District's Website

Michael Molligan, Communications Director, advised the Committee that a portal idea was suggested as a way to link all the agricultural-related information on the District's website. He then gave an online demonstration of the draft site showing how to access and navigate the site. A link to the website will be sent to all committee members. Committee members are encouraged to visit the site and provide feedback.

11. Reclaimed Water Task Force Update

Chair Gramling briefed the Committee on the recent Reclaimed Water Task Force meeting. He explained that the purpose of the task force was to suggest recommendations to the Governing Board on issues involving reclaimed water. He stated that all members are invited to the next meeting scheduled for March 19 at the Sarasota Service Office.

12. Approval of Resolution of Appreciation to Richard Owen

Chair Gramling presented for approval a Resolution of Appreciation to Richard Owen for his years of leadership as facilitator of the Environmental Advisory Committee. Mr. Owen has been promoted to Deputy Executive Director of Resource Regulation and will no longer be facilitating the Committee. Following consideration, Ms. Hurner moved and Mr. Carraway seconded to approve the Resolution. Motion carried unanimously.

13. Development of Agenda Topics for the May 15, 2007 Meeting

- Northern District Water Use Management Strategies – Cara Martin
- SWUCA Water Use Permitting Forms – Hugh Gramling
- ASR and Arsenic Issue – Mac Carraway
- Reclaimed Water Task Force Update – Hugh Gramling

14. Announcements and Other Business

There were no announcements or other business to come before the Committee.

15. Adjournment

There being no other discussions, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.