

**APPROVED**

Minutes of the Meeting

**ALAFIA RIVER BASIN BOARD**

Southwest Florida Water Management District

Temple Terrace

February 8, 2007

The Alafia River Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a regular meeting at 9:05 a.m., February 8, 2007, at the Temple Terrace.

**Board Members Present**

James D. Selvey, Vice Chair  
Stephen J. Bissonnette, Secretary  
J. C. Tort, Member  
Cheryl E. Johnson, Member  
Carol "Cammy" Hinton, Member

**Board Member Absent**

Jennifer E. Closshey, Chair Ex Officio

**Staff Members**

Lou Kavouras  
Bruce C. Wirth  
Mark A. Hammond  
Gregg Jones  
Rand R. Baldwin  
Eric DeHaven  
Scott Harbison  
Beth Putnam

Trisha D. Neasman  
Kathy Scott  
Lois Sorenson

**Recording Secretary**

M. Frances Sesler

A list of others who attended and signed the attendance roster is filed in the permanent files of the Basin. 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 listed below correspond with the published agenda.*

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

Vice Chair Jim Selvey called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Ms. Sesler called the role and noted a quorum was present. (CD 1/Track 1)

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Vice Chair Selvey led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

3. **Additions/Deletions to Agenda**

Ms. Lou Kavouras, Deputy Executive Director, stated that the wrong agenda was sent out with some of the packets and apologized for that action. She noted that the correct agenda was on the table along with the booklets. Other than this change, there were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

4. **Consent Item:**

a. **December 7, 2006, Meeting Minutes**

Basin Board members were provided minutes of the December 2006 meeting for review.

b. **FY2007 Budget Amendment to Include Additional Revenue from Polk County for Christina Watershed Management Plan (L702)**

(Cheryl Johnson and Cammy Hinton entered the meeting.)

Mr. Bissonnette asked to be recognized in the minutes as attending the land conference and Land Resources Committee meeting held in Jacksonville, and noted he was unable to attend the December Basin Board meeting. The minutes will be revised to reflect Mr. Bissonnette attendance at the Land Conference.

After consideration, **Mr. Bissonnette moved, seconded by Mr. Tort, to approve Consent Items 4.a and 4.b as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

5. **Discussion Items:**

a. **Marsh Creek Habitat Enhancement**

At the December 7, 2006 meeting, the Board requested staff return in February with more information on this project. Mr. Mark Hammond, Director of Resource Management, provided an update on what had been accomplished on the Marsh Creek Habitat Enhancement project. Mr. Selvey questioned experiences with residents opposed to the project and the availability of restoration funds from the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE). Mr. Hammond noted verbal confrontations have occurred from residents opposed to the project; and restoration funds from the ACOE are unlikely due to the federal overseas efforts. Ms. Johnson questioned whether Hillsborough County's funding commitment (i.e., \$50,000 annually) would cover maintenance needs. Mr. Hammond indicated it would, and explained the District usually participates in the initial three years of maintenance.

The Board next heard commentary in support of the effort from Sandy Council, Mariella Smith and Wade Clark. The discussion concluded with Mr. Selvey questioning Mr. Clark on area flooding. Mr. Clark stated past flooding was due to heavy rains, not cleanup of the creek; and debris removal in the creek area should improve water movement.

This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required. (CD 1/ Track 1)

b. **2006 Regional Water Supply Plan**

Mr. Gregg Jones, Director of Resource Conservation and Development Department, provided an overview of the approved 2006 Regional Water Supply Plan (RWSP). The RWSP is an assessment of projected water demands for all use sectors and potential sources of water to meet those demands over a 20-year planning period within the area required by the RWSP. Legislation passed in 1997 requires the water management districts to complete a RWSP for areas with water supply shortfalls and to update it every five years. The District's first RWSP was completed in 2001. The 2006 RWSP is the result of technical investigation and collaboration with local governments, water suppliers and other stakeholders; and shows sufficient water sources exist in the Planning Region to meet water supply demand through 2025.

Rand Baldwin, Senior Community Affairs Coordinator, introduced Commissioner Kevin White, the designated Liaison for Hillsborough County, who was in attendance.

Mr. Selvey's comments included some concern with the use of 2002 groundwater withdrawal information. Mr. Jones explained the information comes from the 2002 Estimated Water Use Report and publication of this document runs two years behind due to the data needs. Mr. Bissonnette then commented on the City of Lakeland's water use permit renewal situation and local efforts underway to address the water supply issue. Mr. Selvey then questioned the rivers considered for water supply development. Mr. Jones stated rivers were examined districtwide. Mr. Bissonnette commented on Lakeland's limited water supply choices. Mr. Tort inquired about the desalination plant's status and requested a visit to the facility. Mr. Jones stated the facility's repairs are completed and work is underway for the upcoming acceptance test. Ms. Kavouras agreed to work with Tampa Bay Water on a site visit.

This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required. (CD 1/Track 2)

c. **Tampa Bay Regional Reclaimed Water Project Update**

Ms. Kathy Scott, Manager, Conservation Projects, led the discussion on the Tampa Bay Regional Reclaimed Water Project update. She explained the project resulted from Governing Board direction to develop a project that would utilize Howard Curren Water Treatment Plant flows. She mentioned the presentation's purpose is to inform the Board that downstream augmentation is no longer a project component. Mr. Selvey initiated the discussion with an inquiry on the recharge capability of the Bill Young Reservoir. Ms. Scott noted storage for this project would involve reclaimed water reservoirs, not potable water reservoirs. Mr. Tort questioned the amount of water the Howard Curren plant discharges into Tampa Bay. Paula Dye, Tampa Bay Water, indicated an average of 55 million gallons daily (mgd) during wet periods and 40 mgd for dry times. Ms. Johnson questioned the reason for the bay discharge. Ms. Dye explained the effluent was not considered a water source at the time of plant creation, and the high quality water allowed the discharge to remain. Ms. Scott commented the STAR project will use a portion of the reclaimed water, and funds provided to Tampa Bay Water for downstream augmentation were well spent because the work provided valuable information. Ms. Hinton questioned whether new development is required to install reuse lines. Ms. Scott said the City of Tampa has no ordinance requiring that, and noted it is an additional cost and the latest estimates show the cost at \$65 million.

This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required. (CD 1/Track 3)

d. **Approval of Agreement and Transfer of Funds for the Tampa Bay Water's System Configuration II Project**

Mr. Gregg Jones summarized the project and funding recommendation. Mr. Selvey questioned the periods when flow over the Hillsborough dam would be adequate for Tampa Bay Water to take additional quantities from the river. Mr. Jones stated wet periods such as the rainy season, and Ms. Dye addressed how the additional quantities would enhance the reliability of the reservoir. Mr. Jones said the project must produce 25 mgd of new water supply. Mr. Selvey questioned the consequences of not meeting this requirement. Mr. Jones stated the project would not receive District funds.

Mr. Jones explained that several facilities in place would be needed for this project, and Tampa Bay Water's Board at its October 2006 meeting voted to move forward with the System Configuration II project to meet its 2011 demands. Mr. Jones read the staff recommendations as follows:

1. Recommend the Governing Board approve the agreement with Tampa Bay Water to construct the System Configuration II Project for a total amount of \$232,000,000, with the District's share not to exceed \$116,000,000, and the Alafia Basin's share not to exceed \$5,262,329;
2. Approve the transfer of \$626,820 of Basin funds previously budgeted for the Tampa Bay Regional Reclaimed Water and Downstream Augmentation Project to the System Configuration II Project;
3. Approve the transfer of \$716,564 of Basin Funds previously budgeted for the South Central Hillsborough Interconnect Project to the System Configuration II Project;
4. Approve the transfer of \$970,482 of Water Protection and Sustainability Program trust funds previously budgeted for the Tampa Bay Regional Reclaimed Water and Downstream Augmentation Project and the South Central Hillsborough Interconnect Project to the System Configuration II Project subject to adoption of a future resolution by the Governing Board; and
5. Recommend the Governing Board authorize the Executive Director to sign the agreement.

Ms. Kavouras noted an updated recap, which reflects the five-part staff recommendation, was given to Board members for approval, and replaces the incorrect one listed in the Board Notebook. She also mentioned a section of the Agreement in pages 8 and 9 shows the new diversity language to be approved. After consideration, **Ms. Hinton moved, seconded by Ms. Johnson, to approve the staff recommendation, as well as the diversity language, that was added to the Cooperative Funding Agreement. Motion carried unanimously.** (CD 1/Track 4.

- e. **Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems – Holmberg Farms, Inc.**  
Mr. Eric DeHaven, Director of Resource Conservation and Data Department, presented to the Board the request for approval of the Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems (FARMS) project with Holmberg Farms, Inc., and approval to reimburse FARMS eligible costs up to a not-to-exceed limit of \$294,586. Of this amount, the 2005 State Appropriations for FARMS will be used for \$147,293 of the reimbursement; the Governing Board is requested to fund \$73,647; the Alafia River Basin Board is requested to fund \$50,000 from funds budgeted to FARMS; and \$23,647 is requested from the Alafia River Basin's Water Supply and Resource Development Reserves. Total project costs are estimated at \$589,172.

Mr. Selvey raised some concerns with disease in tail water recovery ponds, and made complimentary remarks on Mr. Holmberg's farming practices. Mr. DeHaven acknowledged disease in tail water is still of concern and shared other less threatening uses of the recovery water (i.e., frost-freeze protection, bed preparation). He also noted Pacific Tomato Growers (PTG) chlorinates the water to address the pathogen issue. Mr. Bissonnette commented on the lack of FARMS projects in the Basin and inquired about ways to promote the program. Mr. DeHaven said the early focus was on the priority areas, and noted the addition of more staff and ongoing coordination with commodity groups should help with project identification.

Staff recommendations were presented as follows:

1. Approve the Holmberg Farms, Inc. FARMS Project for a not-to-exceed project reimbursement of \$294,586, with \$50,000 provided by the Alafia River Basin Board budgeted FARMS funds, \$23,647 provided by the Alafia River Basin's Water Supply and Resource Development Reserves, \$73,647 provided by the Governing Board, and \$147,293 provided from 2005 State Appropriations.
2. Authorize the transfer of \$150,000 from fund 011 H017, the FARMS Program, \$23,647 from fund 011 H100, Water Supply and Resource Development Reserves, and \$120,940 from fund 010 H017 the FARMS program, to H515 Holmberg Farms, Inc. project fund.
3. Authorize the Executive Director to execute the agreement.

After consideration, **Mr. Tort moved, seconded by Mr. Bissonnette, to approve staff recommendations. Motion carried unanimously.** (CD 1/Track 5)

f. **FY2008 Cooperative Funding Requests**

Ms. Trisha Neasman, Senior Planner, Planning Department, provided a brief overview of the project submittals received and review of the District's project ranking process and project proposals for FY2008. She advised the Board of the Cooperative Funding applications received for the FY2008 budget cycle and the staff review process they undergo. Applications for the FY2008 Cooperative funding cycle were received in December and were provided in the Budget section of the notebook.

Ms. Neasman then addressed significant project activity within the Basin. Mr. Selvey opened the discussion with an inquiry on work completed for the South/Central Reclaimed Water ASR effort. Ms. Scott said the infrastructure has been completed, but more monitor wells are possible.

This item was presented for the Board's information only; no action is required. (CD 1/Track 6)

6. **Reports:**

a. **Water Shortage Update**

Ms. Lois Sorensen, Demand Management Coordinator, reported that Executive Director David Moore signed Order SWF 07-02 to put Severe Water Shortage restrictions into effect due to below normal hydrologic conditions. Before the Order was signed, a public hearing was held on January 9, 2007, so the Executive Director could receive testimony from the general public regarding conditions and resulting impacts. At that time, the Executive Director determined that District action was necessary and all water users should be required to conserve water consistent with the modified "Phase II" restrictions recommended by staff. A copy of the Order, which included a summary of the new restrictions, was included in the notebook as an exhibit to this report.

This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required. (CD 1/Track 7)

b. **Report on Governing Board Activities**

Ms. Lou Kavouras, Deputy Executive Director, reported the Communications Department's media messaging had increased. Three water conservation ads being aired on television and radio and appearing on area billboards were viewed. In addition, the Board viewed a video highlighting the Governing Board's January 30 meeting. This

video, narrated by Ms. Kavouras, included information on the Water Shortage Order, conservation ads, water management strategies, a Water Conservation Summit to be held in March, the Peace River Cumulative Impact Study, and minimum flows and levels, among others. (CD 1/Track 8)

7. **Announcements:**

- a. Memorial for Former Governing Board Member Ramon "Ray" F. Campo: Monday, February 12, 2007, 9:00 a.m. Tampa Service Office
- b. Memorial for Former Governing Board Member Ed Chance: Friday, March 2, 2007, 8:30 a.m., Lake Manatee Reserve
- c. Basin Board Education Committee: Tuesday, March 6, 2007, 9:30 a.m., Tampa Service Office
- d. Basin Board Land Resource Committee: Thursday, March 22, 2007, 9:30 a.m., Starkey Environmental Education Center
- e. Next Basin Board Meeting: Thursday, April 5, 2007, 9:00 a.m., Tampa Service Office
- f. Other

8. **Adjournment:**

Mr. Bissonnette extended an invitation to the Spring Obsession Activities in Lakeland on Saturday, March 10, which will include outdoor gardening, Florida friendly landscaping, etc.

There being no further business or discussions, Vice Chair Selvey adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

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

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These 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.

1. Design and Construction of the South/Central Reclaimed Water Aquifer Storage and Recovery Well Project (K509) – Completion Notice
2. Pasco County Southeast Regional Reclaimed Water Loop (H041) - Execution Notice
3. Watershed Management Program – Maintenance of Watershed Parameters and Models (B206) – Execution Notice