

**APPROVED**

Minutes of the Meeting

**ALAFIA RIVER BASIN BOARD**

Southwest Florida Water Management District

Tampa Service Office

April 3, 2008

The Alafia River Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a regular meeting at 9:02 a.m., April 3, 2008, at the Tampa Service Office.

**Board Members Present**

James D. Selvey, Vice Chair

Stephen J. Bissonnette, Secretary

J. C. Tort, Member

Cheryl E. Johnson, Member

**Staff Members**

Bruce C. Wirth

Lou Kavouras

Michael Molligan

Mark Hammond

Eric DeHaven

Ralph Lair

Kathy Scott

Veronica Crow

Jennette Seachrist

Trisha D. Neasman

Alison Ramoy

Marty Kelly

Ken Herd

Randy Emberg

**Board Member(s) Absent**

Jennifer E. Closshey, Chair Ex Officio

**Via Teleconference**

Linda Pilcher

**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 9:02 a.m. Ms. Sesler called the roll and noted a quorum was present. (CD 1/Track 1)

2. **Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag**

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

3. **Additions/Deletions to Agenda**

Ms. Kavouras stated that Agenda Item #4 was deleted from the agenda since there were no gubernatorial appointments or Senate confirmations from the Governor concerning this Board. (CD 1/Track 1)

4. **Oath of Office for Appointed/Re-Appointed Board Members**

This item was deleted from the agenda as stated above.

5. **Consent Items:**

a. **February 7, 2008, Meeting Minutes**

Staff recommended to approve the April 2008, meeting minutes.

**Mr. Bissonnette moved, seconded by Ms. Johnson, to approve Consent Item 5a., as recommended by staff. Motion carried unanimously.**

6. **Discussion Items:**

a. **Election of Officers and Committee Representatives**

Vice Chair Selvey stated there were two officer positions and committee representatives up for reappointment or replacement and asked if the Board wanted to go forth with the elections or wait until the next meeting. It was the Board's consensus that it should move forward with the elections.

- (1) Vice Chair – **Mr. Bissonnette moved, seconded by Ms. Johnson, that Vice Chair Selvey continue as Vice Chair for the coming year. Motion carried unanimously.**
- (2) Secretary – **Mr. Bissonnette moved, seconded by Ms. Johnson, that Mr. Tort serves as secretary for the coming year. Motion carried unanimously.**
- (3) Basin Board Education Committee – Ms. Johnson volunteered to continue as the primary representative. The alternate position will be filled when new members are appointed.
- (4) Basin Board Land Resources Committee – Mr. Bissonnette volunteered to continue as the primary representative, along with Mr. Tort and Ms. Johnson serving as alternates. (CD 1/Track 1)

b. **Consumer Fertilizer Task Force Report**

Veronica Crow, Environmental Manager, Resource Projects Department, provided the Board with a brief overview of the work of the Florida Consumer Fertilizer Task Force and a summary of its final report to the 2008 Florida Legislature.

The Final Report recommended support for the current Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) labeling rule (Rule 5E-1.003(2)) with the understanding that the rule will be reviewed and revised based on updated science by December 31, 2012. A model ordinance concerning the use of nonagricultural fertilizer was developed for use by local governments who chose to adopt it. The Task Force supported public education regarding fertilizer use based on the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences' six best practices for lawn care and they supported the continued support of ongoing research projects on fertilizer management. Finally, the Task Force recommended a dedicated funding source be provided for education and training by authorizing DACS to increase their tonnage fee on the sale of nitrogen and phosphorus.

The Final Report was adopted unanimously by the Task Force at their January 11, 2008 meeting and DACS was authorized to transmit the document to the Legislature on January 15, 2008.

Vice Chair Selvey noted the legislation is aimed at homeowners but agriculture could be impacted. Mr. Bissonnette commented on the need for funding to assist with local implementation. Ms. Johnson asked about how the fertilizers are regulated, and Mr. Tort commented this information may confuse the homeowner. Ms. Crow advised regulated fertilizers would be clearly defined, and DACS would provide instructional labels. The discussion closed with Mr. Bissonnette noting the burden is on the land use. Ms. Crow stated this is the case because the Task Force thought it was improper use that caused the problem. This item was for the Board's information; no action was required. (CD 1/Track 2)

- c. **Tampa Bay History Center: Landscaping & Educational Signage Project (B282)**  
Ralph Lair, Senior Community Affairs Coordinator, Community & Legislative Affairs Department, explained the purpose of this project and the circumstances that necessitated an out-of-cycle funding request. (CD 1/Track 2)

Vice Chair Selvey questioned the availability of funds for the project and was told they would come from the FY2008 Contingencies. Mr. Bissonnette questioned why the funding allocation is the same for the Hillsborough Basins. Ms. Kavouras explained no funding allocation study was performed due to the size of the dollars requested. The amount was equally divided between the Basins involved. Staff recommended the Basin Board approve the transfer of \$16,667, from its FY2008 contingencies for the Tampa Bay History Center Landscaping and Educational Signage Project, for a total project cost not to exceed \$50,000, and authorize the Executive Director to execute the agreement.

Following consideration, **Mr. Tort moved, seconded by Ms. Johnson to approve the staff's recommendation. Motion carried unanimously.** (CD 1/Track 3)

- d. **Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Preparation**

Deputy Executive Director Bruce Wirth began the budget discussion by making comments to orient members on their first look at a preliminary budget for fiscal year (FY) 2009. He emphasized the importance of their direction concerning funding levels of the various budget categories, including prioritization of Cooperative Funding proposals and other Basin projects. First-time cooperative funding proposals, after staff review, were tentatively ranked as 1A, High, Medium, or Low priority. Mr. Wirth explained that the cooperative funding project ranking was preliminary. He also explained that the budget was prepared assuming ad valorem revenue at five percent below FY2008. This is due to tax reform legislation enacted in 2007, the constitutional amendment approved in January 2008, and declining property values. In June, staff will provide an updated ad valorem revenue estimate to the Basin Board and present a revised budget, based on the Board's input and further investigation by staff. At the July meeting, the Basin Board will vote on a final FY2009 millage rate and budget for recommendation to the Governing Board.

The Board then heard the following project updates:

Mark Hammond, Director Resource Management, briefed the Board on New Development Reclaimed Water Distribution Initiative. Vice Chair Selvey questioned whether lines would be separately metered. Mr. Hammond said yes.

Mr. Hammond also briefed the Board on Watershed Management Program/FEMA Map Modernization. Vice Chair Selvey inquired about the status of the Hillsborough FEMA map effort. Mr. Hammond indicated the maps would become effective in August.

Hillsborough/TECO Reclaimed Water Project, Hillsborough/Mosaic Hopewell Reclaimed Water Recharge Project, by Alison Ramoy, Senior Water Conservation Analyst and Bart Weiss, Hillsborough County. Vice Chair Selvey inquired about the status of Water Partners, Inc. (WPI), the ownership of future project infrastructure and whether industry would be charged for reclaimed water. Mr. Weiss addressed the organization's makeup and noted project infrastructure would belong to the public and industry would be charged for the water. Mr. Bissonnette commented that Ms. Ramoy's and Mr. Weiss' presentations were contradictory and requested

clarification. Mr. Wirth stated public funds are involved so the District needs assurance that the project will work.

Mr. Bissonnette questioned the importance of TECO's participation. Mr. Weiss stated project economics would need to be reexamined if TECO withdrew from the project. Vice Chair Selvey inquired about discharging the reclaimed water, and Mr. Weiss said Hillsborough County wanted to do something more beneficial with the water, and DEP is encouraged about the project. The discussion concluded with Mr. Bissonnette commenting that he is impressed with the regional approach and level of information provided, and piping the water to Polk County's groundwater users would produce an offset.

Communication Director, Michael Molligan discussed the Tampa Riverwalk Kiosks Project. Ms. Johnson commented on the difficulty in maintaining electronic kiosks. Vice Chair Selvey questioned whether the kiosks would be protected from the weather. Mr. Molligan said the design is still conceptual. Mr. Lee Hoffman, City of Tampa, provided an overview of the project. He noted the City's goal to develop a powerful regional destination place.

Mr. Wirth provided additional information on the budget. He noted the Basin has funds for the high and medium ranked projects and almost \$1 million was moved into the Water Supply and Resource Development Reserves. Mr. Bissonnette questioned the status of the Medard sirens and budget impacts due to property tax reform. Mr. Wirth stated he would have to check on the sirens and commented the Board had met its obligation under the property tax legislation and the current millage rate is .21163. The discussion ended with Pam Reynolds, Polk County, addressing work underway on Polk Natural Resources Fixture Retrofit Project (N008) and Conservation: Everyone's Business (N009).

This item was for the Board's information; no action was required.  
(CD 1/Track 4)

7. **Reports:**

a. **Basin Board Education Committee Meeting**

Mr. Michael Molligan provided an overview of the Basin Board Education Committee meeting held on March 11, 2008, at the Tampa Service Office. He mentioned the notebook includes a summary of the recent committee meeting and reported the next meeting is scheduled for July 10. There was also mention of the Spanish advertising effort and work with focus groups.

This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required.

b. **Governing Board Activities**

A pre-recorded video was aired highlighting major milestones at the Governing Board's March meeting.

8. **Announcements:**

Ms. Kavouras noted that the announcements were listed on the agenda. She specifically reminded the Board of the upcoming Tampa Bypass Canal System Tour that is planned for April 23, and a tour of the Tampa Bay Water Facilities, May 30. She also reminded the Board members to mark their calendars for the upcoming Basin Board meeting on June 5 and July 17.

Mr. Bissonnette told Board members he paddled the Alafia River and encouraged everyone who hasn't recently to do so. He noted it is a beautiful time of year, the weather is perfect and the river is absolutely gorgeous. He said the trip was 12 miles, approximately 4 hours.

9. **Adjournment**

There was no further business to come before the Board; Vice Chair Selvey adjourned the meeting at 11:52 a.m. (CD 1/Track 4).

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