

# **APPROVED**

## Minutes of the Meeting

### **ALAFIA RIVER BASIN BOARD**

Southwest Florida Water Management District

Tampa Service Office

April 9, 2009

The Alafia River Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a regular meeting at 9:03 a.m., April 9, 2009, at the Tampa Service Office.

#### **Board Members Present**

Jennifer E. Closshey, Chair Ex Officio  
James D. Selvey, Vice Chair  
J. C. Tort, Secretary  
Stephen J. Bissonnette, Member

#### **Staff Members**

Bruce C. Wirth	Rand Frahm
Lou Kavouras	Cori Cuttler
Eric DeHaven	Karen Morgan
Mark Hammond	Trisha Neasman
Michael Holtkamp	Alison Ramoy
Roy Mazur	Leslie Touchton
Michael Molligan	Randy Emberg

#### **Board Member(s) Absent**

Cheryl E. Johnson, Member

#### **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.

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

Chair Closshey called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. Ms. Sesler called the roll and noted a quorum was present.

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

Chair Closshey led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag, followed by a moment of silence.

#### **3. Additions/Deletions to Agenda**

Ms. Lou Kavouras, Deputy Executive Director, Outreach, Planning and Board Services, stated that Item 4, Oath of Office for Appointed/Re-Appointed Board Member(s) was deleted from the agenda. The Governor has not named any new appointees to the Board.

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

This item was deleted from the agenda, as stated above.

#### **5. Basin Activities Report and Agenda Review**

Ms. Kavouras explained the purpose of adding this item to the Basin Board meetings' agendas. Ms. Trisha Neasman, Senior Planner, provided the Board with a brief overview of relevant items and what they could expect in future meetings.

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

6. **Consent Items:**

a. **Meeting Minutes of the October 2, 2008, Meeting and Workshop**

Approve the October minutes, as presented.

b. **Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Amendment to Include Additional Revenue from Water Management Lands Trust Fund (WMLTF) for Surface Water Improvement and Management Projects**

1. Approve Resolution No. 83, Resolution to Amend the Fiscal Year 2009 Budget, of the Alafia River Basin by an increase of \$42,500 from \$8,705,445 to \$8,747,945 to reflect the additional revenue from the WMLTF. This is subject to approval of budget amendments by the Manasota and Withlacoochee River Basin Boards to remove the WMLTF revenue and the associated expenditure appropriations for two education centers which would allow for the reallocation of these funds for FY2009.
2. Authorize the Executive Director to approve and execute agreements to add the WMLTF revenue to the Lost River Preserve Habitat Restoration project (W349) for \$25,000; and the Biennial Seagrass Mapping of Tampa Bay, Sarasota Bay and Charlotte Harbor project (W331) for \$17,500.

Mr. Selvey questioned, Item "6b" on the Consent Agenda and whether it is premature to approve Budget Amendment before the budget is discussed. Mr. Bruce Wirth, Deputy Executive Director, said the budget being amended is the current year's budget. This would allow staff to bring in \$42,000 from the WMLTF.

Following consideration, **Mr. Selvey moved, seconded by Mr. Tort, to approve the Consent Items. Motion unanimously carried.** (CD 1/Track 2)

7. **Discussion Items:**

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

Election results as follows:

Vice Chair: Jim Selvey

Secretary: J.C. Tort

**Basin Board Land Resources Committee**

Primary Representative: Steve Bissonnette

Alternates: J.C. Tort and Cheryl Johnson

**Basin Board Education Committee**

Primary Representative: Cheryl Johnson

Alternate: Vacant

b. **Water Shortage Actions and Drought Messaging**

Mr. Michael Molligan, Communications Director, noted the District is experiencing a rainfall deficit exceeding 30 inches over the last three years. Lakes, rivers and aquifers are being impacted. In response to the drought and its impact on specific public water supplies, the District has taken a series of emergency and Water Shortage actions to find alternative water sources and reduce existing demand for water. Also, the District is conducting an extensive public service advertising campaign to promote water conservation. In response to Mr. Selvey's question about impacts of the drought on the desalination plant and reservoir, Mr. Molligan indicated the low surface water levels prevented the removal of water from the Hillsborough and Alafia Rivers. Mr. Tort and Mr. Selvey asked about the status and operation of the reservoir. Mr. Warren Hogg, Tampa Bay Water, advised of the approved short-term reservoir repairs scheduled for

completion in May, and stated average or above average rains throughout the entire summer would provide the water needed for the dry season. Mr. Selvey then asked about the possibility of a water transfer from flooded areas to the north to the Tampa Bay region, and the potable quality of local reclaimed water. Mr. Wirth responded with comments on local sources first, the infrequency of the flooding (not an annual occurrence), and, the resulting growth limitations for the sending areas. In regards to the reclaimed water inquiry, Mr. Wirth noted the City of Tampa's reclaimed water does not meet drinking water standards, and addressed efforts to date on the aquifer enhancement project, which would use reclaimed water to recharge the aquifer, and offset groundwater withdrawals elsewhere. Mr. Bissonnette followed with an inquiry on the status of the desalination plant. Mr. Hogg stated the facility is operating at about 18 mgd, and when the transformer repairs are completed in April, the output should increase to 25 mgd.

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

c. **Regional Reclaimed Water Partnership Initiative – Phase I (H076-A)**

Ms. Alison Ramoy, Senior Water Conservation Analyst, Resource Projects Department, provided the Board with an update on activities associated with the Regional Reclaimed Water Partnership Initiative – Phase I. The project is a traditional reclaimed water supply project consisting of transmission pipelines and storage to provide reclaimed water to industrial users from one or more domestic wastewater treatment facilities. Ms. Ramoy said the primary customer is Tampa Electric Company (TECO), which needs additional water for its expansion at its Polk Power Station in southwest Polk County. Mr. Bissonnette complimented the project. Mr. Selvey asked about the location of the proposed TECO power plant, and why the Alafia River Basin is funding more than the Peace River Basin. Ms. Ramoy noted the plant is proposed for the Peace River Basin, but the project benefits the Alafia River Basin, and the funding is set up for equal contributions from the Peace and Alafia basins.

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

d. **Medard Reservoir Safety Measures Update**

Ms. Lesley Touchton, Staff Engineer, Operations Department, gave an update on safety measures taken at the Medard Reservoir. Mr. Selvey opened the discussion with questions on CSX's culverts, and the emergency alerts installed for the reservoir. Ms. Touchton stated CSX is aware of the District's concerns, and the berm/tracks in place would act as a second dam if Medard failed. She noted CSX regularly maintains and inspects its facilities, and addressed safety measures installed/proposed for Medard as well. On the matter of liability, she said the General Counsel Office expressed an interest in personally addressing such questions due to the complexity of sovereign immunity laws. Mr. Bissonnette inquired about the condition of the embankment improvements and the availability of nearby land for overflow storage. Ms. Touchton reported the embankment looks fine, and stated she would have to research the land question. Staff will review the precautions that have been implemented by the District, working with Hillsborough County Emergency Management to ensure the safe operation of the Medard facilities.

This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required. (CD 1/ Track 5)

e. **Fiscal Year 2010 Budget Preparation**

Mr. Bruce Wirth, Deputy Executive Director facilitated the discussion of the budget. He emphasized the importance of the Board's direction on funding levels of the various budget categories, including prioritization of Cooperative Funding proposals and other Basin projects. Mr. Selvey questioned whether staff layoffs are anticipated, and commented he would rather see program cutbacks, instead of staff positions being cut. Chair Closshey and Mr. Wirth advised of the District's pay-as-you-go policy and noted the District's staffing level has not increased since the early 1990s. Mr. Wirth asked the Board to consider transferring \$1.5 million from the Water Supply and Resource Development Reserve (H100) to the Regional Reclaimed Water Partnership project (H076). He explained the additional revenue would allow for the funding of all high and medium ranked projects. Mr. Bissonnette gave complimentary remarks about the project priority matrix, and asked that the project approval process consider whether the project addresses the Board's approved priorities. (CD 1/Track 6)

f. **Fiscal Year 2011-2015 Strategic Plan Update**

Mr. Roy Mazur, Planning Director, presented the Strategic Plan Update concept to the Board. His presentation included an explanation of the three-tiered approach of staff involvement and an Annual Work Plan Report, which is required when a District Water Management Plan (DWMP) is replaced. By replacing the annual DWMP update with the Strategic Plan, staff will annually save in excess of 200 staff hours. Mr. Selvey stated that he would like to see the plan's rating system applied to SWUCA activities. Mr. Bissonnette commented the next step should be to link the budget to priorities in the plan.

During this presentation, Chair Closshey left the meeting and passed the gavel to Vice Chair Selvey who continued with the meeting.

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

8. **Reports:**

a. **Basin Board Education Committee/Basin Board Land Resources Committee**

Mr. Bissonnette noted he and Ms. Johnson attended the meeting held on March 16 at Polk's Nature Discovery Center at the Circle B Bar Reserve. A major discussion topic was the marketing of District lands while maintaining the balance between conservation lands and public access. He said that everyone can be proud of the investment that was made.

This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required. (CD 1/Track 8)

b. **Governing Board Activities**

Ms. Kavouras circulated a summary of the March 31 Governing Board's meeting, which was held at District headquarters in Brooksville. Part of the discussion involved around the drought and the water shortage restrictions which was the primary focus of the meeting. Other key projects were discussed, the Regional Reclaimed Water Aquifer Recharge Project and the Sun West land exchange in Pasco County.

This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required. (CD 1/Track 8)

9. **Announcements:**

Ms. Kavouras reviewed the announcements listed on the agenda. She noted that the Peace River/Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority ribbon-cutting ceremony is scheduled for May 15. Also, on May 5, Tampa Bay Water is hosting a water conservation summit at the Tampa Bay Convention Center.

Mr. Selvey said it's a good idea and encouraged everyone to continue to promote the "It's A Drought Conserve Water" signs that have been placed along the roadway.

Mr. Tort remarked that the canoe trip on the Hillsborough River was enjoyable and encouraged everyone to take the trip.

10. **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Vice Chair Selvey adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m. (CD 1/Track 8)

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

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The item(s) 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 at this time.

1. Evaluation of Different On-Farm Blueberry Systems to Improve Irrigation Efficiency (B263)
2. Optimizing Irrigation for Shade Tree Production (B265)
3. Regional Reclaimed Water Partnership Initiative – Phase I (H076A) – Execution Notice
4. Christina Watershed Management Program Implementation of Best Management Practices – First Amendment (L967) - Execution Notice
5. Tampa Bay Estuary Program Non-Federal Funding for Federal Fiscal Year 2009 Annual Work Plan (W027) - Execution Notice

*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](mailto:ADACoordinator@swfwmd.state.fl.us).*