

**APPROVED**

Minutes of the Meeting

**ALAFIA RIVER BASIN BOARD**  
Southwest Florida Water Management District

Tampa Service Office

June 5, 2008

The Alafia River Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a regular meeting at 9:07 a.m., June 5, 2008, at the Tampa Service Office.

**Board Members Present**

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

**Board Member(s) Absent**

Cheryl E. Johnson, Member

**Staff Members**

David L. Moore	Will Miller
Bruce C. Wirth	Ralph Lair
Elaine Kuligofski	Jennette Seachrist
Mark Hammond	Trisha D. Neasman
Eric DeHaven	Scott Harbison
Roy Mazur	
Linda Pilcher	
Beth Putnam	

**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**

Chair Closshey called the meeting to order at 9:07 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**

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

3. **Additions/Deletions to Agenda**

Ms. Sesler 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. She said a revised recap and resolution for Discussion Item 6.c. was given to each Board member. (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. **April 3, 2008, Meeting Minutes**

Approve the April minutes as presented.

- b. **Land Use and Management Plan for the Chito Branch Reserve**  
Recommend the Governing Board approve the Land Use and Management Plan for the Chito Branch Reserve.
- c. **Annual Calendar of Meeting Dates – Fiscal Year 2009**  
Approve the FY2009 Basin Board meeting schedule as listed:

Date	Time	Location
*Thursday, October 2, 2008 (Meeting and Workshop)	9:00 a.m.	Tampa Service Office
Tuesday, December 9, 2008	9:00 a.m.	Tampa Service Office
Thursday, February 5, 2009	9:00 a.m.	Tampa Service Office
Thursday, April 9, 2009	9:00 a.m.	Tampa Service Office
Thursday, June 4, 2009	9:00 a.m.	Tampa Service Office
Thursday, August 6, 2009	9:00 a.m.	Tampa Service Office

\*Special Meeting

Following consideration, **Mr. Bissonnette moved, seconded by Mr. Tort, to approve Consent Items 5.a, b and c as presented.** Motion carried unanimously. (CD 1/Track 1)

6. **Discussion Items:**

a. **Tampa Bay Estuary Program Update (W027)**

Ms. Jennette Seachrist, Program Manager for the SWIM Department, introduced Ms. Holly Greening, Executive Director, Tampa Bay Estuary Program (TBEP), who provided a presentation outlining the successes and challenges with regard to Bay recovery, the contributions local agencies have made to this recovery, and the benefits the TBEP provides to the region. The Tampa Bay National Estuary Program was established in 1991 to assist the region in developing a comprehensive plan for the restoration and protection of Tampa Bay. The members decided to continue with the program and in 1998, through an Interlocal Agreement, formed the TBEP (dropping the Federal designation) as a partnership of federal, state, and local agencies and governments including several private industries. These entities include the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the District, Hillsborough, Manatee, and Pinellas counties and the cities of St. Petersburg, Tampa, and Clearwater. The Interlocal Agreement identified a long-term commitment to the program, which for the District requires annual funding approval at the Basin Board level. Since 1998, the District and other partners have completed numerous stormwater retrofit and habitat restoration projects toward achieving the goals of the Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan and the SWIM Plan.

Board discussion included Chair Closshey questioning changes in seagrass acreage amounts and program challenges and requested a copy of the presentation. Ms. Greening noted the majority of the seagrass acreage increase is natural, not due to plantings, and commented on the threat posed by growth and development. This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required (CD 1/Track 2)

b. **District Environmental Stewardship Initiative Overview**

Ms. Elaine Kuligofski, Human Resources & Risk Management Director, provided an overview to the Basin Board of the District's Environmental Stewardship Initiative. On July 13, 2007, Governor Crist signed three Executive Orders (07-126, 127 and 128) initiating Florida's energy policy. Governor Crist called for all State Agencies to

implement plans to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases through a wide variety of means, including use of alternative fuel sources such as solar and biodiesel fuels, as well as by implementing smart building and operational practices to reduce the carbon footprint of government in Florida. The Southwest Florida Water Management District supports and applauds Governor Crist's efforts to move toward more environmentally sustainable governance practices. Florida's water management districts already lead the way in water conservation. Incorporating an emphasis on energy efficiency in our day-to-day operations makes sense and fits well with our focus on sustainable growth and environmental responsibility. Mr. Selvey inquired about the fuel efficiency of trucks. Ms. Kuligofski explained several trucks in the fleet pool are not fuel efficient but are needed for field activities. Chair Closshey and Mr. Bissonnette made complimentary remarks on the program. This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required. (CD 1/Track 3)

c. **Out-of-Cycle Funding Request for Polk's Nature Discovery Center Exhibits (SB54)**

Beth Putnam, Communications Manager, provided an overview of the project. In FY2006, the District and Polk County entered into an agreement to build the environmental education center which later became known as the Polk Nature Discovery Center on Circle B Bar Reserve. Originally, the education center was budgeted only within the Peace River Basin, since the building was constructed there. Because the property is owned by the District, the buildings and the exhibits that are discussed are all fully reimbursable by Water Management Lands Trust Funds.

In FY2007 the Peace River Basin Board allocated \$40,000 for the first exhibit. In FY2009, Polk County submitted a second request. This proposal included funds for development of a field trip program and two additional exhibits, one on the Green Swamp and one on central Florida lakes. The FY2009 request includes funding from the Alafia River Basin Board and the Hillsborough River Basin Board. Polk County plans to fund a fourth exhibit for the center. During the exhibit design and planning phase, Polk County's exhibit designer offered to add \$100,000 worth of interactive features to enhance all four exhibits if they could be constructed at the same time. This expedited time frame would also allow all four exhibits to be completed in time for the center's grand opening on November 1, 2008. As a result, Polk County is requesting \$119,167 of the \$163,833 originally included in the FY2009 proposed budget to be funded this year, FY2008. The funding request for development of the field trip program portion of the project would remain in the proposed FY2009 budget, but it will be reduced to \$44,666 (Alafia River-\$5,119; Hillsborough River-\$6,603; Peace River-\$32,944).

Staff recommended that the Basin Board authorize the transfer of \$13,658 from Reserves for Contingencies for the construction of two exhibits at the Polk's Nature Discovery Center to educate visitors about water resources and authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract for an amount not to exceed \$119,167, with the project to be funded through the Water Management Lands Trust Fund.

Following consideration, **Mr. Bissonnette moved, seconded by Mr. Tort, to approve staff's recommendation.** Motion carried unanimously. (CD 1/Track 4)

d. **Cooperative Funding Initiative Project Status Report - Water Partners, Inc. Reclaimed Water Project - (H076)**

Executive Director David Moore addressed the Board to provide an in-depth report of this project, which involves a public-private partnership that will maximize the

beneficial use of reclaimed water flows that are not currently being beneficially used by Hillsborough County and the City of Tampa. The project was submitted by Water Partners, Inc. (WPI), a not-for-profit, public-private partnership, whose members include Hillsborough County, Tampa Electric Company (TECO), and Mosaic Fertilizer (Mosaic). Other parties involved include the City of Tampa, the City of Lakeland, Polk County, Tampa Bay Water, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), and perhaps Plant City and Temple Terrace. Meetings are being held bi-weekly; four subcommittees (governance, regulatory, recharge, and engineering) have been formed to focus on the major project components. Mr. Moore emphasized that this is a high profile project of which all Board members need to be aware.

Mr. Moore provided background of the project, which is comprised of two major components: (1) a project to provide reclaimed water to industrial users and (2) a project to create opportunities for additional groundwater withdrawals in the Southern Water Use Caution Area (SWUCA) through recharge of reclaimed water in southeastern Hillsborough County and/or western Polk County. He briefly commented on four reasons the project has potential, estimated project costs, and the timeline. He used graphics to explain the various elements of the project and their relationship to each other.

Mr. Selvey questioned whether Temple Terrace had been invited to participate in the project discussions, and whether Polk County's local governments had any reclaimed water to assist with the project. Mr. Moore stated he would look into the Temple Terrace question and noted Lakeland sends most of its reclaimed water to a power plant. Mr. Selvey then questioned whether it would be beneficial to recharge the Green Swamp and the existence of standards for water injected into the aquifer. Both Mr. Selvey and Chair Closshey followed with inquiries on the status of coastal Aquifer Storage and Recovery projects. Mr. Moore explained the Green Swamp's water levels are too high to realize the maximum benefit from recharge and the ASR projects were canceled due to the inability of the projects to meet lower Federal arsenic standards and the inability of the selected sites to retain water (too fractured).

Mr. Bissonnette expressed concern with the short timeframe for examining the project and approving it for funding. Mr. Moore indicated the project would come to them in segments, and the first segment, moving 6 mgd of reclaimed water from Hillsborough to TECO in Polk, is not complicated. Chair Closshey questioned when bonding would be examined. Mr. Moore stated the first segment could pay for itself. Mr. Bissonnette then asked whether the first segment's estimated cost included oversized pipes, and how the groundwater replacement credit would work. Mr. Moore commented numbers would need to be generated for transporting the different quantities of water and he addressed the SWUCA rule's groundwater credit. The discussion closed with Chair Closshey making complimentary remarks on the progress to date and thanking the members for their contributions. This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required. (CD 1/Track 5)

e. **Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Discussion and Approval of Proposed Millage Rate**

Bruce Wirth, Deputy Executive Director Division of Resource Management, provided the Board with an overview of the Fiscal Year 2009 (FY2009) budget. In April, the Alafia River Basin Board received a preliminary budget for the upcoming year. Staff reviewed the budget for discussion and initial direction from the Basin Board concerning funding levels of the various budget categories, including prioritization of Cooperative Funding proposals and other Basin projects. Direction received from the Basin Board at the April meeting had been incorporated into the budget presented to

the Board in June for consideration. Linda Pilcher, Assistant Finance Director, presented three possible millage rate options for FY2009, and using the June 1 estimates of taxable values from the county Property Appraisers provided an estimate as to how much ad valorem revenue may be generated under each option. Ms. Pilcher said that the staff recommendation was to maintain the FY2009 proposed millage rate at the same rate as FY2008. She noted the June 1 taxable values are estimates only and will change when the values are certified beginning July 1, 2008.

The proposed FY2009 budget includes funding for all 1A, high and medium ranked projects. Mr. Selvey questioned whether the reduction in ad valorem revenue would result in any job losses. Chair Closshey noted the District stays lean in the staffing area. Mr. Bissonnette questioned how the monies budgeted for WPI would be used. In response to staff remarks about the uncertainty of the projected ad valorem, he noted the Board could increase the millage rate to the maximum millage rate with the understanding that it could be reduced in August if the ad valorem revenue meets the projected level. Mr. Wirth explained the WPI monies would be used as the project is defined and the Legislature wants to see no tax increases. Chair Closshey noted the staff recommendation is due to direction from Tallahassee, but the Board can do anything within its jurisdiction.

Mr. Wirth called the Board's attention to the revised recap which states, in the event either the rolled-back rate or the Maximum Millage Rate is less than the proposed millage rate, the Board delegate authority to the Executive Director to adjust the millage rate to equal the lower of the rolled-back rate or the Maximum Millage Rate. (CD 1/Track 6)

Following consideration, **Mr. Selvey moved, seconded by Mr. Tort, to approve the staff's amended recommendation as follows:**

1. Provide tentative selection of FY2009 Cooperative Funding projects.
2. Approve and adopt a required proposed millage rate of 0.2163 mills for FY2009.
3. Approve amended Resolution No. 81 -- Resolution Approving the Required Proposed Millage Rate for Fiscal Year 2009.

**Motion carried unanimously.** (CD 1/Track 7)

(Chair Closshey passed the gavel to Vice Chair Selvey and left the meeting at this time.)

f. **Fiscal Year 2010 Strategic Plan**

Roy Mazur, Planning Director provided the Board with an update regarding the Strategic Planning process. The purpose was to inform the Basin Board on the progress of the FY2010 Strategic Plan Update and to communicate the significant discussion items deliberated in the process. In addition, the presentation detailed how the Strategic Plan can assist in the receipt, prioritization, and acceptance of cooperatively funded and Basin initiative projects. Vice Chair Selvey asked how the plan interfaces with the Governor's Executive Order. Mr. Mazur indicated the plan includes several environmental measures from the Florida Perform website and addresses climate change. This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required. CD 1/Track 8)

7. **Reports:**

a. **Governing Board Activities**

A video was aired highlighting major issues discussed at the Governing Board's May 27, 2008 meeting.

8. **Announcements:**

Ms. Sesler noted that the announcements were listed on the agenda. The next Basin Board meeting is scheduled for July 17, 2008, 9:00 a.m., at the Tampa Service Office.

9. **Adjournment**

There was no further business to come before the Board; Vice Chair Selvey adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

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

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The item(s) listed below are 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. The items did not require Board action at this time.

1. Watershed Management Program Consulting Services in the Lake Hancock Watershed (H008) – Execution Notice
2. Polk County Watershed Management Plan – First Amendment (L672) – Execution Notice