

APPROVED

Minutes of the Meeting

ALAFIA RIVER BASIN BOARD

Southwest Florida Water Management District

Tampa Service Office

June 7, 2007

The Alafia River Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a regular meeting at 9:05 a.m., June 7, 2007, at the Tampa Service Office

Board Members Present

Jennifer E. Closshey, Chair Ex Officio
James D. Selvey, Vice Chair
Stephen J. Bissonnette, Secretary
Cheryl E. Johnson, Member
Carol "Cammy" Hinton, Member

Board Member Absent

J. C. Tort, Member

Staff Members

Lou Kavouras
Bruce C. Wirth
Mark A. Hammond
Gregg Jones
Eric DeHaven
Mike Holtkamp
Roy Mazur
Rand R. Baldwin
Scott Harbison

Trisha D. Neasman
Kathy Scott
Raina O'Neil

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 9:05 a.m. Ms. Sesler called the roll and noted a quorum was present. (CD 1/Track 1)

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair Ex Officio Closshey led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

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

This item was deferred to the August meeting.

4. **Additions/Deletions to Agenda**

Lou Kavouras Deputy Executive Director, Outreach, Planning, and Board Services, stated no gubernatorial appointments or Senate confirmations concerning this Board had been received; therefore, Agenda Item #3 will be carried over to the August meeting.

5. **Consent Item:**

a. **April 5, 2007, Meeting Minutes**

Basin Board members were provided minutes of the April 5, 2007 meeting for review.

b. **Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems Operating Agreement between the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the District and Revisions to District Procedure**

Recommend the Governing Board approve and authorize the Executive Director to sign the revised District/FDACS/FARMS Operating Agreement, Procedure 13-9, and the Funding Contract.

c. **Annual Calendar of Meeting Dates – Fiscal Year 2008**

Recommend approval of the FY2008 Basin Board meeting schedule.

Date	Time	Location
*Thursday, October 4, 2007 (Meeting and Workshop)	9:00 a.m.	Tampa Service Office
Tuesday, December 4, 2007	9:00 a.m.	Tampa Service Office
Thursday, February 7, 2008	9:00 a.m.	Tampa Service Office
Thursday, April 3, 2008	9:00 a.m.	Tampa Service Office
Thursday, June 5, 2008	9:00 a.m.	Tampa Service Office
Thursday, August 7, 2008	9:00 a.m.	Tampa Service Office

*Special Meeting

After consideration, **Mr. Selvey moved, seconded by Ms. Johnson to approve Consent Items 5a, b, and c. Motion carried unanimously.** (CD 1/Track 2)

6. **Discussion Items:**

a. **Abbey Grove Reclaimed Water Distribution Project (L759)**

Mr. Gregg Jones, Director, Resource Development and Conservation Department, provided background on the project, which included him noting that the recommendation for project cancellation resulted from Hillsborough County's decision not to pursue the required efficiency ordinances and its subsequent withdrawal of the project funding request. The Board discussion opened with Mr. Selvey questioning work performed to date on the project. Mr. Jones explained Hillsborough County initiated work even though it was informed that the District needed a contract to move forward and work performed prior to contract execution is not reimbursable. This discussion ended with Mr. Bissonnette questioning whether the County would return with another funding request for the project. Mr. Jones stated any future request would have to meet the ordinance requirement.

Staff recommended the Alafia River Basin Board approve cancellation of the project. If the Basin Board approves this recommendation, the ad valorem contribution of \$78,400 will be included in the Alafia River Basin Board's FY2008 balance forward, and \$39,200 from the Water Protection and Sustainability Trust Fund (WPSTF) can be reallocated to other water supply projects.

After consideration, **Mr. Selvey moved, seconded by Mr. Bissonnette, to approve staff recommendation. Motion carried unanimously.** (CD 1/Track 3)

b. **Fiscal Year 2008 Budget Discussion and Approval of Proposed Millage Rate**

For FY2008 budget preparation, Bruce Wirth, Deputy Executive Director, informed the Board of three items requiring action before the August meeting: (1) general concurrence of the budget as presented with the rankings and the general order of the projects, (2) adoption of a tentative millage rate and (3) approve Resolution Number 79 affirming the required proposed millage rate for Fiscal Year 2008.

Mr. Selvey inquired about how proposed property tax cuts would affect the water management districts. Mr. Wirth stated any rollbacks would probably affect the districts. Chair Closshey addressed District monitoring of the tax discussions and noted no specific direction is available at this time. Ms. Johnson inquired about the status of the Newman Branch project (W386). Mark Hammond indicated the Newman Branch project is almost complete and the proposed budget reflects staff time to wrap-up the project. Mr. Selvey commented on the importance of the proposed Hillsborough County-Mosaic Reclaimed Water Project and requested a presentation on its status. Mr. Wirth advised of an upcoming District/Hillsborough County meeting to discuss the project in more detail, and noted Hillsborough County staff presented the project to the Governing Board, but decided to postpone discussions with the Basin Boards due to the project's premature nature.

Chair Closshey questioned whether any "low or not recommended for funding" ranked projects could be elevated to a "recommended for funding" status with additional information. Mr. Gregg Jones, noted City of Mulberry plans to submit additional project information for its reclaimed water project (L907), and stated if all requirements are met, the staff ranking would be changed to high.

Mr. Bissonnette questioned when the Board would address the tax cut impacts and noted several local governments have indicated any mandated cuts would translate into significant rollbacks in capital improvements. Mr. Wirth stated the discussion would occur in August, and Chair Closshey explained the staff recommendation includes language for addressing any mandates from Tallahassee. Ms. Kavouras read correspondence from Mr. Tort, who was not in attendance, encouraging funding support for water conservation and water quality projects even with the tax cuts.

For the record, Ms. Kavouras read the three-part staff recommendation:

1. Provide tentative selection of FY2008 Cooperative Funding projects.
2. Approve and adopt a proposed required millage rate of 0.240 for FY2008.
3. Approve Resolution No. 79 -- Resolution Affirming the Required Proposed Millage Rate for Fiscal Year 2008.

Staff recommended the Board adopt the current millage rate of .240 and in the event that a tax reduction is mandated, authorize and delegate authority to the Executive Director to change the proposed millage rate if mandated by the Legislature.

After consideration, **Mr. Selvey moved, seconded by Ms. Johnson, to approve and adopt item (2), a proposed required millage rate of 0.240 for FY2008. Motion carried unanimously.**

After consideration, **Ms. Hinton moved, seconded by Mr. Bissonnette, to approve (1) tentative selection of FY2008 Cooperative Funding projects, and (3) approve Resolution No. 79, affirming the required proposed millage rate for FY2008. Motion carried unanimously.** (CD 1/Track 3)

7. Reports:

a. Tampa Bay Ground Water Institute for Teachers™

Ms. Raina O'Neil, Youth Education Coordinator, Communications Department, gave an overview of the Tampa Bay Ground Water Institute for Teachers which was held at Nature's Classroom in Thonotosassa on May 31–June 2, 2007. The goal of the program

was to increase water resources awareness among teachers and students within the watershed so that they are empowered to play an active role in protecting these resources.

The Institute is funded by the Alafia River, Coastal Rivers, Hillsborough River, Northwest Hillsborough and Pinellas-Anclote River Basin Boards through the FY2007 Basin Initiative for Youth Education (P259). Youth Education staff coordinated the training with American Ground Water Trust (AGWT) and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). The Institute was promoted to all public and private schools within Hillsborough, Pasco and Pinellas Counties.

These teacher workshops provided an overview of local hydrology, water quality issues and the dynamics of surface water and groundwater interactions within the respective basins. This item was for the Board's information, no action was required.

b. **Report on Governing Board Activities**

Ms. Kavouras shared with the Basin Board the new slate of officers for the Governing Board: Judy Whitehead, Chair; Neil Combee, Vice Chair; Todd Pressman, Secretary, and Jennifer Closshey, re-elected Treasurer.

Staff played pre-recorded highlights of the May 29, 2007, Governing Board meeting. The highlights addressed water restrictions, Hillsborough County, Mosaic Reclaimed Water Project, watershed awareness efforts, strategic planning and the Peace River Water Supply Authority, and resolutions passed declaring April 14-21 as Peace River Watershed Awareness Week.

8. **Announcements:**

Ms. Kavouras reminded members of the announcements listed in the agenda. The next Basin Board meeting is Thursday, August 9, 2007.

9. **Adjournment**

There were no further discussion items to come before the Board; Chair Closshey adjourned the meeting at 10:23 a.m. (CD 1/Track 4)

****Information Items****

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 and formal presentations were not made.

1. Evaluating the Potential for Aquifer Storage and Recovery Operation in the Avon Park Formation (B242) - Execution Notice
2. Hillsborough County Lake and Stream Monitoring Program (K057) - Execution Notice
3. County Parcel Data Acquisition (B530) – Execution Notice
4. Hillgrove and Stearns Stormwater Retrofit (L445) - Execution Notice