

APPROVED

Minutes of the Meeting

ALAFIA RIVER BASIN BOARD

Southwest Florida Water Management District

Tampa Service Office

July 26, 2007

The Alafia River Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a regular meeting at 1:36 p.m., July 26, 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
J. C. Tort, Member

Board Member Absent

Carol "Cammy" Hinton, Member

Staff Members

Lou Kavouras
Bruce C. Wirth
Mark A. Hammond
Gregg Jones
Eric DeHaven
Mike Holtkamp
Linda Pilcher
Rand Frahm

Rand R. Baldwin
Trisha D. Neasman
Kathy Scott
Scott Harbison
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 1:36 p.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 Ex Officio Closshey led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag followed by a moment of silence.

3. **Additions/Deletions to Agenda**

Lou Kavouras Deputy Executive Director, Outreach, Planning, and Board Services, stated there were two deletions from the agenda: Item 4, Oath of Office for Appointed/Re-Appointed Board Members; and Item 5.b(4), Donation of Land, Medard Reservoir, there has been no signed agreement received from the landowner.

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

This item was deleted and deferred to the October meeting.

5. **Consent Items:**

a. **June 7, 2007, Meeting Minutes**

Basin Board members were provided minutes of the June 7, 2007, meeting for review.

b. **Board Encumbrances:**

(1) **Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems (FARMS) Well Back Plugging Program (H015)**

- Approve the encumbrance of up to \$19,500, or the remaining dollars available, from the FY2007 Well Back Plugging Program budget for future well back plugging projects.
- (2) **Lake Hancock Lake Level Modification Project (H008)**
Approve the encumbrance of \$600,000, of which \$37,500 is from the Alafia River Basin Board, without a contract, to be used in FY2008 for implementation of the Lake Hancock Lake Level Modification Project.
- (3) **Medard Reservoir Structure Rehabilitation Project (B189)**
Approve the encumbrance of \$300,000 from FY2007 funds, without a contract, to be used for the Medard Reservoir Structure Rehabilitation Project.
- (4) **Medard Reservoir, SWF Parcel No. 11-100-148**
This item was deleted from the Agenda.
- (5) **Tampa Bay Regional Reclaimed Water and Downstream Augmentation Projects (H300-H310)**
Approve the encumbrance of \$430,043, without a contract, for the Tampa Bay Regional Reclaimed Water Project to be used in fiscal years 2007-2014.
- (6) **Surface Water Improvement and Management (W316, W386, and W395)**
1. Approve the encumbrance of \$50,000, without a contract for the Cockroach Bay Restoration project to be used in FY2008 for construction activities.
 2. Approve the encumbrance of \$50,000, without a contract for the Newman Branch Habitat Restoration Project to be used in FY2008 for maintenance and planting activities.
 3. Approve the encumbrance of \$500,000, without a contract for the Rock Pond Habitat Restoration Project to be used in FY2008 for construction activities.

Following consideration, **Mr. Selvey moved, seconded by Mr. Tort, to approve Consent Items; 5.a., and b. (1), (2), (3), (5) and (6). Motion carried unanimously.**

6. **Discussion Items:**

a. **Proposed Reclassification of the Alafia River and the Tampa Bypass Canal**

Ms. Trisha Neasman, Senior Planner, Planning Department, opened with brief introductory comments regarding Florida's Surface Water Classification System and how surface water classifications are changed. Ms. Neasman introduced Warren Hogg, of Tampa Bay Water (TBW), who gave detailed information and presented a resolution for Board action. Board discussion included Chair Ex Officio Closshey commenting on the need for a legal review of the resolution and asked the Board to defer action until its completion. Mr. Hogg commented on meetings with various groups and stated some are in full support and others, primarily agriculture and industry, still have concerns. There was also mention of meetings with affected local governments (i.e., Hillsborough, Polk, and Lakeland) and work underway to define the river segments for reclassification. Chair Closshey questioned differences between agriculture and industry's discharge requirements. Bob McConnell, TBW, stated agriculture is exempt from National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting, and, at the State level, it has a presumption of compliance with the implementation of certain practices. Chair Closshey then questioned whether agriculture's exemptions would increase the compliance burden for industry. Mr. McConnell stated each situation would have to be reviewed individually. Mr. Selvey questioned whether agriculture would continue to enjoy Class III exemptions and reasons for the reclassification and commented people along the river would not benefit. Mr. McConnell said there are no additional regulatory requirements for the most part, and Class I would protect the Alafia River watershed as it continues

to develop and change. Mr. Bissonnette raised concerns with how the City of Lakeland's discharge into the Alafia River's headwaters would be treated and the lack of information on the river segments proposed for reclassification; he questioned future opportunities to discuss the matter. It was decided that another discussion opportunity would exist in October, and TBW agreed to present additional support information at this time. Mr. Wirth advised that the District has never taken a position on a surface water reclassification due to the potential for conflicts with its responsibilities, and noted the district's ownership of the Tampa Bypass Canal. Mr. Tort followed with concerns on the regulation of farming. The discussion ended with Chair Closshey thanking TBW for the presentation and noting the opportunity to address the issue again in October. (CD 1/Track 2)

b. **Hillsborough County - South/Central Regional Reclaimed Water Project (H068)**

Gregg Jones, Director, Resource Conservation and Development Department, provided an overview and noted the purpose of his presentation was to request that the Alafia River Basin Board include \$125,000 for preliminary design and engineering work for the Hillsborough County and Mosaic Fertilizer Reclaimed Water Project (H068) in its FY2008 budget. Mr. Selvey questioned the pipeline to be funded. Mr. Jones explained the requested dollars would cover the engineering study to determine the feasibility of the project, and not the design and construction of a particular pipeline. Paula Dye, TBW Chief Environmental Planner, addressed TBW's water supply planning effort and the importance of reclaimed water development in addressing demand and expressed an interest in coordinating on the project. Mr. Bissonnette questioned the Governing Board's project concerns, and Chair Closshey noted staff has made considerable progress in addressing them. Mr. Bissonnette stated he is generally supportive of the request, but would like to consider it as part of the overall budget. The discussion concluded with the members agreeing to consider project funding as part of the budget discussion. (CD 1/Track 3)

c. **FY2008 Budget Discussion and Approval of Final Millage Rate and Budget for Governing Board Approval**

Bruce Wirth, Deputy Executive Director, Resource Management and Development, led the budget discussion. He reported the Board is in good financial shape, experiencing an almost four percent increase in funding for FY2008. Regarding the South/Central reclaimed water project, he suggested transferring funds from the Medard Structure Rehabilitation project (B189) to the project. He explained excess dollars were placed in the Medard fund to balance the budget. Chair Closshey questioned whether Tampa Bay Water (TBW) would like to participate in the funding for the South/Central project. Ms. Dye stated TBW has not been asked to participate and an in-house review of the project information would be necessary prior to any funding arrangement. Chair Closshey then asked Mr. Jones to add the issue to the list of project questions to be resolved prior to the completion of the contract. The discussion culminated with Mr. Bissonnette questioning the status of the City of Mulberry's reclaimed water project (L907). Mr. Wirth stated the project is still considered premature for funding purposes.

Chair Closshey asked if for some reason the project is not funded, would the \$125,000 automatically go back to the Medard fund. Mr. Wirth said that the Board would have two options, to redesignate and transfer into an account, or the money would be carried forward to FY2009.

After consideration, **Mr. Bissonnette moved, seconded by Ms. Johnson, to approve the allocation of \$125,000 for South Central Regional Reclaimed Water**

Project contingent upon the provisions as provided by Mr. Jones for approval. Motion carried unanimously. (CD 1/Track 4)

For the record, Ms. Kavouras read the staff recommendation:

1. Approve and adopt the final required millage rate of 0.2163 for FY2008.
2. Approve and adopt the final FY2008 budget for Governing Board approval which would include the \$125,000 reduction from the Medard Reservoir line item (B189), and
3. Approve Resolution No. 80 -- Resolution Affirming the Required FY2008 Final Millage Rate and Budget for Governing Board approval.

After consideration, **Ms. Johnson moved, seconded by Mr. Bissonnette, to accept staff's recommendations which included the \$125,000 reduction from the Medard Reservoir. Motion carried unanimously.**

7. **Announcements**

- a. Joint Governing Board/Basin Board Workshop: Tuesday, September 11, 2007; Tampa Service Office
- b. Next Basin Board Meeting and Workshop: Thursday, October 4, 2007, 9:00 a.m., Tampa Service Office
- c. Springs Conference scheduled for October 10-12, 2007, Innisbrook Resort, Tarpon Springs has been cancelled.
- d. Public Land Acquisition and Management Partnership Conference: December 5-7, 2007, Hyatt Regency, Sarasota
- e. Other

Ms. Johnson complimented the District's use of in-house resources for the Newman Branch project (W386). She also noted the project's ribbon cutting ceremony.

8. **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chair Closshey adjourned the meeting at 3:05 p.m.

****Information Items****

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.

1. Christina Watershed Management Plan (L702) - Execution Notice
2. Crop Coefficients and Water Use for Peppers in Southwest Florida (B238) – Execution Notice