

APPROVED

Minutes of the Meeting

ALAFIA RIVER BASIN BOARD

Southwest Florida Water Management District

Tampa Service Office

August 7, 2008

The Alafia River Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a regular meeting at 9.07 a.m., August 7, 2008, at the Tampa Service Office.

Board Members Present

James D. Selvey, Vice Chair
Stephen J. Bissonnette, Member
Cheryl E. Johnson, Member
J. C. Tort, Secretary

Board Member(s) Absent

Jennifer E. Closshey, Chair Ex Officio

Staff Members

David L. Moore	Eric DeHaven
Bruce C. Wirth	Will Miller
Lou Kavouras	Ralph Lair
Mike Holtkamp	Jennette Seachrist
Linda Pilcher	Trisha D. Neasman
Beth Putnam	Randy Emberg

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 Selvey called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. Ms. Sesler called the roll and noted a quorum was present.

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 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. (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. **Meeting Minutes of June 5, 2008**

Approve the June minutes, as presented.

- b. **Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems – Strawberry Red Ranch, LLC (H561), Hillsborough County**
- 1) Approve the Strawberry Red Ranch FARMS Project for a not-to-exceed project reimbursement of \$167,500, with \$41,875 provided by the Alafia River Basin, \$41,875 provided by the Governing Board, and \$83,750 provided from State Appropriations;
 - 2) Authorize the transfer of \$41,875 from fund 011 H017 Alafia River Basin FARMS funds, \$41,875 from fund 010 H017 Governing Board FARMS funds, and \$83,750 from the 2005 and 2008 State Appropriations allocated to fund 010 H017 FARMS funds, to H561 Strawberry Red Ranch FARMS project fund;
 - 3) Authorize the Executive Director to sign the agreement.
- c. **Board Encumbrances:**
- i. **Board Encumbrance for Medard Reservoir Rehabilitation Project (B189)**
Approve the encumbrance of \$1,597,969 from FY2008 funds, without a contract, to be used for the Medard Reservoir Rehabilitation Project during FY2009.
 - ii. **Board Encumbrance for Surface Water Improvement and Management Projects (W347, W395, and W398)**
 1. Approve the encumbrance of \$50,000, without a contract, for the Port Redwing Habitat Ecosystem Restoration Project to be used in FY2009 for construction activities.
 2. Approve the encumbrance of \$500,000, without a contract, for the Rock Ponds Ecosystem Restoration Project to be used for future construction activities.
 3. Approve the encumbrance of \$2,400,000, without a contract, for the Balm Boyette Habitat Restoration Project to be used in FY2009 design, permitting, and construction activities.
 - iii. **Board Encumbrance for the Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems (FARMS) Program (H017)**
Approve the encumbrance of up to \$76,675, or the remaining funds available, from the FY2008 budget for future year FARMS projects.
 - iv. **Board Encumbrance for the Lake Hancock Lake Level Modification Project (H008)**
Approve the encumbrance of \$2,329,624 without a contract, of which \$279,703 is from the Alafia River Basin Board, to be used in FY2009 for implementation of the Lake Hancock Lake Level Modification Project.
 - v. **Board Encumbrance for the Plant City Sydney Road Reclaimed Water Project – L816**
Approve the encumbrance of \$1,070,565 without a contract, for the Plant City Sydney Road Reclaimed Water Project.

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

Ms. Johnson entered the meeting at this time.

6. **Discussion Items:**

a. **Regional Reclaimed Water Partnership Project (H076)**

Mr. David L. Moore, Executive Director, said the purpose of this presentation was to provide the Alafia River Basin Board with an update on activities associated with the Regional Reclaimed Water Partnership Project that have occurred since the Basin Board's June 5, 2008 meeting.

This project investigation began one year ago. Mr. Moore said after careful consideration he believes a clear project pathway has been developed. There are three main components to this project. The first 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. The second element of the project is more innovative in concept and seeks to create opportunities for additional potable groundwater withdrawals in the project area through recharge of the Upper Floridan aquifer with reclaimed water in southern Hillsborough County and/or western Polk County. The third component is a commitment by all parties to continue to explore opportunities to maximize the beneficial use of reclaimed water in the region.

The benefits of the project include: maximum beneficial use of reclaimed water, furthers the District's legislative mandate to endeavor to ensure that there is available water supply to all reasonable and beneficial users, consistent with the Southern Water Use Caution Area Recovery Strategy, and eliminates nitrogen loading to Tampa Bay.

The project team now consists of representatives from the District, Hillsborough County, the City of Tampa, Tampa Electric Company (TECO), Mosaic, Lakeland, Plant City, Polk County, Tampa Bay Water, and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Other parties considering joining in are the cities of Mulberry and Temple Terrace. Mr. Moore said he was very pleased that this project was bringing together all of the regional parties for discussions.

The primary customer is TECO, and two options have been identified as the potential reclaimed water supply routes. The first option is to use reclaimed water from the City of Tampa's Howard F. Curren Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant, and the second option is to use a combination of reclaimed water from Hillsborough County's Valrico Wastewater Treatment Plant and the City of Lakeland, Polk County and possibly Plant City. These options require further cost analyses, which staff recommends the District cooperatively fund with TECO by contributing up to \$50,000. Upon completion, within an estimated timeframe of 90 days, the project team will have a clear path to move forward with the design and engineering for the identified route(s). The second element of the project is more innovative in concept and seeks to create opportunities for additional potable groundwater withdrawals in the project area through recharge of the Upper Floridan aquifer with reclaimed water in southern Hillsborough County and/or western Polk County. The first step in this element is to conduct a feasibility study to assess the potential to use reclaimed water for aquifer recharge in the project area. Staff recommended that the District take a leadership role and wholly fund the feasibility study, which is estimated to cost approximately \$500,000 and could be completed by March 31, 2009. A steering committee made up of local government utilities and other stakeholders will be utilized to provide input on the feasibility study. The Governing Board approved the expenditure of \$550,000, to cooperatively fund both of these feasibility studies, at its July 29, 2008 regular meeting.

District staff continues to facilitate project team meetings including the most recent one held on July 15, with attendees representing Hillsborough County, Tampa Electric Company, Mosaic, City of Tampa, City of Lakeland, Polk County, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Tampa Bay Water, Plant City, and the District. The Governance and Regulation/Recharge subcommittees also met regularly.

Mr. Selvey questioned whether the injection of reclaimed water in coastal areas would impede saltwater intrusion and whether the groundwater injection component could move forward without the industrial use. Mr. Moore stated the injection would help address saltwater intrusion and nothing would preclude using reclaimed water for recharge.

Mr. Bissonnette thanked Mr. Moore for his presentation and made complimentary remarks about the project. He also noted his comfort with the project and commented it seemed a more doable approach than the earlier WPI proposal. There was mention of the benefits for Lakeland and commendations for staff for looking outside the box but within the realm of possibility as well. This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required. (CD 1/Track 2)

b. **FY2009 Budget Discussion and Approval of Final Millage Rate and Budget**

Bruce Wirth, Deputy Executive Director, Division of Resource Management, noted the Board's ad valorem revenue for FY2009 is relatively close to the June projected amount. The Basin's proposed budget for FY2009 has been updated to reflect ad valorem revenue based on the proposed millage rate adopted by the Basin Board in June and the 2008 Certifications of Taxable Value received from the county Property Appraisers.

In June, the Basin Board adopted a proposed millage rate of 0.2163 mill for FY2009. This is the same millage rate that was adopted for FY2008. The Alafia River Basin Board has not increased the millage rate for the past 14 years. The millage rate was decreased from 0.2400 mill to 0.2163 mill for FY2008, in compliance with Section 200.185, F.S.

Mr. Bissonnette asked what the Board can do to address the potential shortfall projected for 2010 in the Multi-Year Project Commitments and Budget Projections Report. Ms. Pilcher stated that the projected shortfall is primarily due to an anticipated reduction in balances that will be available to fund the Basin's FY2010 budget compared to FY2009, and also to a potential increase in water supply and resource development project funding requirements in FY2010. This is related to a proposed project that does not represent a firm commitment at this time. Ms Pilcher then stated the best way to prepare for this is to take the action currently proposed by the Basin Board, which is to budget additional FY2009 funds for Water Supply and Resource Development reserves to offset future budget requirements. Mr. Wirth commented on the need to prioritize projects and to consider making project cost adjustments. Mr. Bissonnette then stated he would like to address the 2010 budget shortfall issue at the upcoming Planning workshop.

Mr. Lee Hoffman, City of Tampa, made some opening remarks and asked for funding consideration for the Tampa Riverwalk Kiosks Project (N023). Ms. Johnson stated she preferred static signage over electronic signage because the audience exposure to the message is greater. Mr. Tort voiced concern with the benefits being unclear for the Basin.

Ms. Kavouras read the three part staff recommendation into the record as follows:

1. Approve and adopt the required final millage rate of 0.2163 mill for FY2009.
2. Approve and adopt the final FY2009 budget.
3. Approve Resolution No. 82 -- Resolution Affirming the Required Final Millage Rate and Budget for Fiscal Year 2009.

Following consideration, **Mr. Bissonnette moved, seconded by Mr. Tort, to approve staff recommendations as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**
(CD 1/Track 2)

7. **Reports:**

a. **Basin Board Education Committee Meeting**

Ms. Cheryl Johnson provided an overview of the July 10, 2008, meeting held at the Tampa Service Office. The overview included reports regarding Water Program for Restaurant Outreach, landscape demonstration sites, Florida Water Starsm Gold Certification and sharing days. Water conservation initiatives underway with the motel/hotel (Water CHAMP) and restaurant (Water PRO) communities were highlighted. This item was for the Board's information; no action was required.

b. **Basin Board Land Resource Committee**

Will Miller, Land Use and Protection Manager, Land Resources Department, provided an overview of the Basin Board Land Resources Committee meeting held on July 10, 2008, at Nature's Classroom in Thonotosassa. Mr. Miller said Bo Rooks representing the Withlacoochee River Basin Board was elected Vice Chair. Staff provided the Committee with an overview of the Land Resources Department which included department structure, funding sources, partnerships, challenges and strategies. Staff reviewed the District's master recreation strategy, which is a joint effort between the Land Resources and Communications Departments. One topic of interest to the Board was the re-examination of conservation easements. Mr. Miller indicated work is underway to make them better. The next Committee meeting will be held in conjunction with the Public Land Acquisition and Management Conference, which will be held in Jacksonville on December 3-5. This item was for the Board's information; no action was required.

c. **Governing Board Activities**

A video was aired highlighting major milestones from the July 29 Governing Board meeting that was held at the Polk County Administration Building.

8. **Announcements:**

Ms. Kavouras called the Basin Board members' attention to the announcements in their information notebook. Travel authorizations have been prepared for those attending the Century Commission's Water Congress, to be held September 25-26, 2008, at the World Marriott, in Orlando. She said the next meeting will include a workshop at the end of the regular meeting scheduled for Thursday, October 2, 2008, at 9:00 a.m., in the Tampa Service Office. A save the date reminder postcard was mailed for the State of the Water Resources in West Central Florida, to be held Friday, November 21, 2008, in Tampa. The Public Land Acquisition and management Partnership Conference will be held December 3-5, 2008, at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront, in Jacksonville.
(CD 1/Track 3)

9. **Adjournment**

There was no further business to come before the Board; Vice Chair Selvey adjourned the meeting at 10:29 a.m.

****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. The items did not require Board action at this time.

1. Collection of Digital High Resolution Orthophotography and Elevation Data
2. Watershed Management Program – Maintenance of Watershed Parameters and Models Second Amendment (B206) – Execution Notice
3. Lake Wimauma – A Hydrologic Evaluation To Investigate The Minimum Lake Level (B262) - Execution Notice
4. Polk County Lake Bathymetric Mapping (L917) - Execution Notice
5. Polk County Comprehensive Water Supply Plan Joint Study – H072