

DRAFT

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

**ALAFIA RIVER BASIN BOARD
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

Tampa Service Office

April 7, 2011

The Alafia River Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a regular meeting at 9:04 a.m. on April 7, 2011, at the Tampa Service Office.

Board Members Present

Jennifer E. Closshey, Chair
James D. Selvey, Vice Chair
Stephen J. Bissonnette, Secretary
Cheryl E. Johnson, Member

Board Members Absent

None

Staff Members Present

Lou Kavouras
Bruce Wirth
Eric DeHaven
Mark Hammond
Mike Holtkamp
David Rathke
Eric Sutton
Steve Blaschka
Veronica Crow

Cori Cuttler
Randy Emberg
Trisha Neasman
Beth Putnam
Jennette Seachrist
Randy Smith

Recording Secretary
Dianna Brass

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 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 9:04 a.m. Ms. Dianna Brass, the Board's administrative support, 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.

3. **Additions and Deletions to the Agenda**

Ms. Lou Kavouras, Deputy Executive Director, Outreach, Planning, Board Services and Ombudsman, said that there were no additions or deletions to the agenda. A change of presenters was noted for Item 5.f.; Mr. David Rathke will provide the Legislative Update.

4. **Consent Item:**

Staff recommended approval of the following item:

a. **Minutes of the December 2, 2010, Basin Board Meeting**

Approve the December minutes as presented.

Following consideration, **Mr. Selvey moved, seconded by Mr. Bissonnette, to approve Consent Item 4.a. Motion carried unanimously.** (Track 1)

5. **Discussion Items:**

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

Chair Closshey stated that each year the Board elects a vice chair and secretary in accordance with Section 373.0693, Florida Statutes, and designates its representatives to the Basin Board Education Committee and Basin Board Land Resources Committee.

Following consideration, **Ms. Johnson moved, seconded by Mr. Selvey, to retain the current slate of officers and committee representatives. Motion carried unanimously.** (Track 2)

b. **Budget Transfer Request for the Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems (FARMS) Program (H017)**

Mr. Eric DeHaven, Resource Data and Restoration Department Director, discussed Items 5.b. and 5.c. concurrently. Staff recommended the Board transfer funds from four completed Surface Water and Improvement and Management projects and funds from the Water Resource Supply and Development Reserves (WRSD) to the Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems (FARMS) Program to bridge a shortfall in budgeted FARMS Program funds in the Alafia River Basin. The Board was then requested to approve the use of the transferred funds to support the five FARMS projects outlined in Item 5.c. Following discussion, Mr. DeHaven reviewed the following staff recommendations:

1. Authorize the transfer of \$25,000 from W347 The Kitchen Ecosystem Restoration, \$97,255 from W374 Ruskin Inlet/Marsh Creek Ecosystem Restoration, \$121,202 from W385 Ekker Property Restoration (Tampa Bay), and \$8,019 from W357 Apollo Beach Habitat Restoration projects for a combined total of \$251,476 to H017 FARMS Program for use in implementing FARMS projects in FY2011.
2. Authorize the transfer of \$239,551 from H100 WSRD funds to H017 FARMS Program for use in implementing FARMS projects in FY 2011.

c. **Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems (FARMS) Program**

i. **Sewell Farms, LLC (H633), Hillsborough County**

1. Approve the Sewell Farms, LLC project for a not-to-exceed project reimbursement of \$92,480 with \$46,240 provided by the Alafia River Basin Board and \$46,240 provided by the Governing Board;
2. Authorize the transfer of \$46,240 from fund 011 H017 Alafia River Basin Board FARMS funds, and \$46,240 from fund 010 H017 Governing Board FARMS funds, to H633 Sewell Farms, LLC project fund; and
3. Authorize the Executive Director to sign the agreement.

ii. **San-Way Farms, Inc. (H634), Hillsborough County**

1. Approve the San-Way Farms, Inc. project for a not-to-exceed project reimbursement of \$165,868 with \$82,934 provided by the Alafia River Basin Board and \$82,934 provided by the Governing Board;
2. Authorize the transfer of \$82,934 from fund 011 H017 Alafia River Basin Board FARMS funds and \$82,934 from fund 010 H017 Governing Board FARMS funds to H634 San-Way Farms, Inc, project fund; and
3. Authorize the Executive Director to sign the agreement.

iii. **Sizemore Farms, Inc. – English Creek (H635), Hillsborough County**

1. Approve the Sizemore Farms, Inc. – English Creek project for a not-to-exceed project reimbursement of \$395,182 with \$197,591 provided by the Alafia River Basin Board and \$197,591 provided by the Governing Board;
2. Authorize the transfer of \$197,591 from fund 011 H017 Alafia River Basin Board FARMS funds and \$197,591 from fund 010 H017 Governing Board FARMS funds, to H635 Sizemore Farms, Inc. – English Creek project fund; and
3. Authorize the Executive Director to sign the agreement.

iv. **Astin Farms, Inc. – South Farm and Karpee Road Site (H636), Hillsborough County**

1. Approve the Astin Farms - South Farm and Karpee Road Farm projects for a not-to-exceed project reimbursement of \$263,240 with \$131,620 provided by the Alafia River Basin Board and \$131,620 provided by the Governing Board;

2. Authorize the transfer of \$131,620 from fund 011 H017 Alafia River Basin Board FARMS funds and \$131,620 from fund 010 H017 Governing Board FARMS funds to H636 Astin Farms, Inc. project fund; and
 3. Authorize the Executive Director to sign the agreement.
- v. **Sydney Farms, Inc. – Donini Farm (H638), Hillsborough County**
1. Approve the Sydney Farms, Inc. - Donini Farm project for a not-to-exceed project reimbursement of \$110,500 with \$55,250 provided by the Alafia River Basin Board and \$55,250 provided by the Governing Board;
 2. Authorize the transfer of \$55,250 from fund 011 H017 Alafia River Basin Board FARMS funds, \$55,250 from fund 010 H017 Governing Board FARMS funds to 010 H638 Sydney Farms, Inc. - Donini Farm project fund; and
 3. Authorize the Executive Director to sign the agreement.

Mr. DeHaven advised that once the Board approves the five projects today, there will be no money in the Basin's FARMS budget. Staff will investigate and report back to the Board before the June meeting relative to Chair Closshey's question of whether the Governing Board can advance money to the Basin Boards to fund any potential out-of-cycle FARMS requests. In response to questions from the Board, Mr. DeHaven described best management practices and techniques utilized for frost/freeze protection and elaborated on the costs/benefits calculations on the five projects.

Ms. Johnson declared a business relationship concerning Item 5.c. i., iv. and v. and stated she is filing a conflict of interest form. Following consideration, **Mr. Bissonnette moved, seconded by Mr. Selvey, to approve the staff recommendations as outlined above in Items 5.b. and 5.c.** Motion carried with Ms. Johnson abstaining from voting.

Mr. DeHaven introduced Mr. Ed Craig, the new FARMS Program Manager, who replaced Mr. Bill Orendorff. Chair Closshey welcomed Mr. Craig and noted that FARMS projects are a very important aspect of the Alafia River Basin Board. (Track 3)

d. **Summary of Water Quality Data for Lakes in the Alafia River Basin**

Mr. Randy Smith, Environmental Scientist, Resource Projects Department, provided a summary of water quality data available for lakes in the Alafia River Basin in response to the Board's October 2010 request. Water quality samples are collected by the District, Florida LAKEWATCH and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. It was noted that the Basin Board has contributed funding to LAKEWATCH, one of the largest lake monitoring programs in the nation. The Alafia River Basin has approximately 19 named lakes and the Medard Reservoir within its boundaries. Mr. Smith reviewed those lakes for which data is available and explained the different types of lakes. Carlton Lake, Lake Wimauma and Scott Lake are the three major natural lakes in the Basin. He discussed the Florida Trophic State Index (TSI), a tool used to rate the health of lakes, and using slides, reviewed the TSI scores of Wimauma Lake and Lake Scott over time. He advised that Lake Wimauma has some of the best water quality in the basin and that the minimum level is scheduled to be set for this lake later this year. Following questions and discussion among Board members, Chair Closshey thanked Mr. Smith for the informative presentation.

This item was provided for information only, and no action was required. (Track 4)

e. **Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 Basin Initiatives for Public (P268) and Youth (P259) Water Resources Education**

Ms. Beth Putnam, Communications Manager, provided a comprehensive overview of programs and projects included in the Public (P268) and Youth (P259) Water Resources

Education Basin Initiatives proposed for the FY2012 Basin budget. She referenced the budget section of the Board's meeting notebook and explained the cost breakdowns by programs for Basin-specific and District-wide education projects. Mr. Selvey noted that he recently attended an event at the Florida Aquarium and suggested staff consider a partnership with the Aquarium to include lake-type exhibits. In summary, Ms. Putnam cited statistics on the accomplishments of the education initiatives which inform and encourage citizen participation on the benefits of water resource protection and conservation. Board members were provided copies of the *Alafia River Basin Board FY2010 Accomplishments* brochure and a newly published brochure, *Education and Outreach*, which describe the programs offered and the numbers reached through the P268 and P259 programs.

This item was provided for the Board's information; no action was required. (Track 5)

f. **Legislative Update**

Mr. David Rathke, Community and Legislative Affairs Department Director, briefly reviewed federal issues concerning the budget and the FARM bill which is important to the water management districts and agriculture. He provided more in-depth information on issues of state concern: the Governor's executive order suspending rulemaking and a 90-day hold on contracts over \$1 million pending review; expedited permitting; sustainable water use permits; House Select Committee on Water Policy related to surplus lands and approval of budget transfers; numeric nutrient criteria; and urban redevelopment. Mr. Rathke discussed legislative proposals expressly requested by the water management districts: regulation of well pump depth in the Dover/Plant City area; coordination of watering restrictions in counties divided by water management districts' boundaries; and Basin Board clarification to include the Governing Board member serving as chair to be counted in the Basin Board quorum and vote, amongst other matters. He described several proposals by the House and Senate to address the state's significant budget deficit including potentially rolling the five water management districts' budgets into the general appropriations of the state, changing the districts' fiscal year to match the state, and reducing the districts' ad valorem collections. He reported that the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability will conduct two studies of the five water management districts, one on fleet operations and one on staffing and salary analysis. Mr. Rathke elaborated on several of the proposed legislative items in response to a number of questions from Board members. Chair Closshey reminded the Board that this is a snapshot in time and the legislative session will conclude prior to the next Basin Board meeting when more definitive information will be available. She expressed her appreciation to Mr. Rathke for the presentation.

This item was presented for information only; no action was required. (Track 6)

g. **Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 Budget Preparation**

Mr. Bruce Wirth, Deputy Executive Director, Resource Management, expanded on Mr. Rathke's previous discussion of the Governor's direction and legislative proposals that will affect ad valorem collections and the Basin Boards structure. He explained four millage rate options and their associated budgetary impacts that were presented to the Governing Board for consideration at its March meeting. He emphasized there is much uncertainty on the percentage of revenue reduction required, although staff anticipates clear direction by the end of the legislative session to allow a refined budget plan for Board action in June. To Board members' concern regarding possibly consolidating or eliminating Basin Boards, Chair Closshey said that Governing Board members are appreciative and respectful of the Basin Board input and that the Boards have proven effective.

(Ms. Johnson left the meeting at this time.)

Mr. Wirth reviewed the preliminary budget by projects and explained the funding line based on a 25-percent reduction in ad valorem as requested by the Governor and one based on existing millage rate and a five-percent reduction in taxable property values. Mr. Wirth agreed with Mr. Selvey's suggestion that projects should be prioritized based on completing ongoing projects, those under contract or construction, and if cuts are necessary, new projects would be withdrawn. Chair Closshey said it is the responsibility of the Board to review and prioritize every project and program. Mr. Bissonnette commented that the analysis of Cooperative Funding Initiative projects by budget priority provided to the Board was very helpful, that most of the projects are coming to fruition and present an opportunity to inform others of what the Basin Board has been able to accomplish.

This item was presented for information only; no action was required. (Track 7)

6. **Reports:**

a. **Basin Board Education Committee**

Ms. Beth Putnam, Communications Manager, referred Board members to the summary of the March 3 BBEC meeting provided in the Board's information notebook. She advised that representatives from the school districts were present at that meeting and were appreciative of the Youth Education programs. Ms. Putnam provided Board members copies of the *Florida-Friendly Landscaping Guide to Plant Selection & Landscape Design*. (Track 8)

b. **Basin Board Land Resources Committee (BBLRC)**

Mr. Bissonnette advised that the BBLRC meeting was held on March 15 at Polk's Nature Discovery Center at Circle B Bar Reserve in Lakeland. He said the venue is a regional attraction and extremely well done. A ceremony recognizing the achievements of Mr. Al Bello, land conservation supporter and agricultural advocate, was held. An overview of stakeholders' initiatives included a number of topics such as a master recreation study, windshield experience, hunting evaluation, and the *Get Outside!* Campaign. Informative discussions on surplus lands and the land acquisition program were also held. It was noted that the *Revenue Generation on District Lands Report* is available. (Track 9)

c. **Governing Board Activities**

Chair Closshey provided highlights from the March 29 Governing Board meeting. Topics of interest included the Governor and DEP proposals regarding the water management districts' budgets; operation of the Tampa Bay Water desalination facility; Lake Pretty property acquisition; declaration of April as Water Conservation Month; renewal of the City of Bushnell water use permit; continued Strategic Planning initiatives discussion; and an update on the Workload and Staffing Analysis. (Track 10)

These reports were presented for the Board's information; no action was required.

7. **Announcements**

Mr. Selvey announced that Hernando County Utilities is holding an all day Community Education Grant event, Water World, on Friday, May 6, at the Sand Hill Boy Scout Reservation in Brooksville. Ms. Kavouras said all Board members are invited to attend the Lost River Preserve Dedication Ceremony at the Cockroach Bay Aquatic Preserve on Saturday, April 16; Mr. Selvey will represent the District at the dedication. She advised that the next Basin Board meeting is set for Thursday, June 2, 2011, at 9:00 a.m. in the Tampa Service Office. Ms. Closshey indicated she will not be available to attend the June 2

meeting; Ms. Kavouras noted that the meeting date may have to be rescheduled once directions from Tallahassee are received.

8. **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Mr. Selvey moved, seconded by Mr. Bissonnette, to adjourn the meeting.** Hearing no objection, Chair Closshey adjourned the meeting at 11:38 a.m. (Track 11)

Per Resolution 11-10, Basin Boards were merged into the District effective June 1, 2011. The Basin Boards did not meet again and, therefore, the April meeting minutes were not formally approved.

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