

APPROVED

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

ALAFIA RIVER BASIN BOARD SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Tampa Service Office

August 6, 2009

The Alafia River Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a regular meeting at 9:02 a.m., August 6, 2009, at the Tampa Service Office.

Board Members Present

J. C. Tort, Secretary
Cheryl E. Johnson, Member
Stephen J. Bissonnette, Member

Board Members Absent

Jennifer E. Closshey, Chair
James D. Selvey, Vice Chair

Staff Members

Bruce C. Wirth
Lou Kavouras
Eric DeHaven
Mark Hammond
Mike Holtkamp
Linda Pilcher
Jeanette Seachrist
Jill Hood

Trisha Neasman
Randy Emberg

Video Conference

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.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Secretary J. C. Tort called the meeting to order at 9:02 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

Secretary Tort led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

3. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda

Ms. Lou Kavouras, Deputy Executive Director, Outreach, Planning and Board Services, stated there were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

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

Ms. Kavouras administered the Oath of Office to Ms. Cheryl Johnson and Mr. Steve Bissonnette who were re-appointed to the Basin Board.

5. Basin Activities Report and Agenda Review

Ms. Trisha Neasman, Basin Planner, provided a brief overview of relevant items on the agenda, those provided as information, and other upcoming topics of interest. Ms. Neasman also reminded the Board of the "kick off" for the Get Outside campaign that is scheduled for September 26, 2009, in conjunction with National Public Lands Day. She noted that an update for the Strategic Plan is underway. The latest draft was given to the Board members for review. Ms. Neasman asked that all comments be submitted to the PlanningDepartment@watermatters.org.

On October 2, 2008, the Alafia River Basin Board held its annual planning workshop for the purposes of reviewing recent accomplishments, identifying emerging issues, and setting strategic budget priorities for Fiscal Year 2010. The priorities provide guidance to District staff and the Basin Board's cooperators in identifying and scoping projects for potential Basin Board funding. The following set of strategic budget priorities were agreed on at the workshop:

- Alternative Water Supply and Reuse with Multi-jurisdictional Cooperation
- Education, Projects and Programs Targeted to Decrease Per Capita Water Use
- Maintenance and Improvement of Medard Reservoir
- Public and Youth Education

Ms. Neasman said the priorities have served the Board well, and staff believes the Basin Board's issues and concerns have not changed substantially from the previous year. Therefore, staff is recommending the Board reaffirm their Strategic Budget Priorities for the coming fiscal year.

Following consideration, **Ms. Johnson moved, seconded by Mr. Bissonnette, to reaffirm the Basin Board's strategic budget priorities for the upcoming fiscal year 2010-2011.** Motion carried unanimously. (CD 1/Track 1)

6. **Consent Items:**

a. **Minutes of the June 4, 2009 Meeting**

Approve the June meeting minutes as presented.

b. **Board Encumbrances:**

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

Approve the encumbrance of up to \$75,000, or the remaining funds available, from the FY2009 budget to be used for future years FARMS projects.

ii. **Lake Hancock Lake Level Modification Project H008**

Approve the encumbrance of \$500,000 (of which \$250,000 is from the General Fund, \$62,500 is from the Alafia River Basin, \$125,000 is from the Peace River Basin, and \$62,500 is from the Manasota Basin Boards), without a contract, to be used in FY2010 for implementation of the Lake Hancock Lake Level Modification Project.

iii. **Upper Peace River Resource Development (H024)**

Approve the encumbrance of \$181,357, (of which \$91,929 is from the General Fund, \$21,732 is from the Alafia River, \$45,964 is from the Peace River, and \$21,732 is from the Manasota Basin Boards), without a contract, for the Upper Peace River Resource Development project.

iv. **Medard Reservoir Rehabilitation Project (B189)**

Approve the encumbrance of \$602,031 from FY2009 funds, without a contract, to be used for the Medard Reservoir Rehabilitation Project during the beginning of FY2010.

c. **Stewart Middle School Shoreline Restoration (W399)**

Authorize a budget transfer of \$25,000 from Tampa Bay Habitat Restoration (W312) project and \$50,000 from the Tampa Bay SWIM Plan Implementation (W020) project to the Stewart Middle School Shoreline Restoration Project (W399) to support the expanded construction and restoration area.

d. **Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems – Tornello Landscape Corporation (H587), Hillsborough County**

- 1) Approve the Tornello Landscape Corporation project for a not-to-exceed project reimbursement of \$50,000 with \$12,500 provided by the Alafia River Basin, \$12,500 provided by the Governing Board, \$9,416 provided from 2005 State Appropriations to the Alafia River Basin Board, and \$15,584 provided from 2009 State Appropriations to the Governing Board;

- 2) Authorize the transfer of \$12,500 from fund 011 H017 Alafia River Basin FARMS funds, \$12,500 from fund 010 H017 Governing Board FARMS funds, \$9,416 from the 2005 State Appropriations allocated to fund 011 H017 FARMS funds, and \$15,584 from the 2009 State Appropriations allocated to fund 010 H017 FARMS funds, to H587, Tornello Landscape Corporation, project fund, and encumber these funds into FY2010 in the event a contract is not executed prior to FY2009 year end;
- 3) Authorize the Executive Director to sign the agreement.

e. **Annual Calendar of Meeting Dates – Fiscal Year 2010**

Approve the FY2010 Basin Board meeting schedule.

Following consideration, **Ms. Johnson moved, seconded by Mr. Tort, to approve Consent Items 6a, b, c, d and e as presented.** Motion carried unanimously. (CD1/Track 2)

7. **Discussion Items:**

a. **Status of the Southern Water Use Caution Area Recovery Strategy**

Ms. Jill Hood, Hydrologist Evaluation Section, gave an update on the resource monitoring in the Southern Water Use Caution Area (SWUCA). This request was made by Mr. Selvey who was not able to attend the meeting. Staff offered to sit down with Mr. Selvey, at a later date if needed. Staff provided the Board with the annual update and status of the District's efforts to monitor the recovery of water levels and flows in the SWUCA. Staff also provided an update on a major component of the SWUCA Recovery Strategy to implement a series of water resource development projects to restore minimum flows to the upper Peace River, as requested by the Board at the June 2009 meeting.

The purpose of the SWUCA Recovery Strategy is to provide a plan for reducing the rate of saltwater intrusion, and restore low flows to the upper Peace River and lake levels by 2025. The strategy has six basic components: conservation, alternative water supply development, resource recovery projects, land use transitions, permitting, monitoring and reporting. The success of the SWUCA Recovery Strategy will be determined through continued monitoring of the resource. The District uses an extensive monitoring network to assess actual versus anticipated trends in water levels, flows, and saltwater intrusion. The District conducts an assessment of the cumulative impacts of the factors affecting recovery.

The upper Peace River Resource Development project is anticipated to provide the remaining minimum flow requirements. The project involves evaluating mined lands between Bartow and Zolfo Springs that can be utilized as a reservoir to store water to be released during the dry season to help meet the minimum flows. This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required. (CD 1/Track 3)

b. **Fiscal Year 2010 Budget Discussion and Approval of Final Millage Rate and Budget**

Mr. Bruce Wirth, Deputy Executive Director, gave an overview of the proposed budget for FY2010. The Basin's proposed budget for FY2010 has been updated to reflect ad valorem revenue based on the proposed millage rate adopted by the Basin Board on June 4, 2009, and the 2009 Certification of Taxable Value received from the county property appraisers.

In April, the preliminary budget was presented to the Alafia River Basin Board for discussion and initial direction regarding the funding levels of the various budget categories, including prioritization of Cooperative Funding and other Basin projects. The

direction received from the Basin Board at the meeting was incorporated into the budget and a revised budget was presented to the Basin Board in June.

In June, the Basin Board adopted a proposed millage rate of 0.2163 mill for FY2010, same as FY2009. Staff reviewed the proposed budget for FY2010, focusing on the changes that have been made since June, and seek final direction regarding the allocation of resources. Staff recommended approval of a final FY2010 millage rate and budget. Ms. Kavouras read the three part staff recommendation as follows:

1. Approve and adopt the required final millage rate of 0.2163 mill for FY2010.
2. Approve and adopt the final FY2010 budget.
3. Approve Resolution No. 85 -- Resolution Affirming the Required Final Millage Rate and Budget for Fiscal Year 2010.

Following consideration, **Ms. Johnson moved, seconded by Mr. Bissonnette, to accept staff's recommendations in the FY2010 budget discussion, and approve the final millage rate and budget. Motion carried unanimously.** (CD 1/Track 4)

At this time the Chair heard from Mr. Thomas Behrens, President of the Shadow Run Dam Corporation, who submitted a speaker card. Mr. Behrens was interested in knowing how Lake Grady and the Shadow Run Dam fit into the strategic plan of the District. Mr. Wirth stated he is very familiar with the project and would be happy to talk with Mr. Behrens after the meeting. Because of his unfamiliarity with the area, Mr. Bissonnette asked if maps or other information would be provided to the Board members to let them know the circumstances. Ms. Kavouras assured Mr. Bissonnette that information would be sent via email.

8. **Reports:**

a. **Basin Board Education Committee Report**

Ms. Kavouras said of items 8a and 8b that a summary of the Basin Board Education Committee report and the Basin Board Land Resources Committee were included in the notebook behind Exhibits 3 and 4. The members could read them at their leisure.

b. **Basin Board Land Resources Committee Report**

BBLRC Report was provided as Exhibit 4 as stated above.

c. **Governing Board Activities**

Ms. Kavouras said Ms. Closshey apologized for not being able to attend the meeting. The July Governing Board meeting was held at the Polk County Administration Building in Bartow, Florida. Topics of discussion included the Polk County Master Water Supply Plan and hydrologic conditions. The Board voted to extend the Phase IV restrictions in the Tampa Bay Area for irrigation. Some of the hardship components of that phase have been lifted, such as pressure washing, car washing, etc. The Phase IV restrictions will be extended until the end of August and will be revisited by the Governing Board at its next meeting.

Secretary Tort asked the status of the reservoir. Mr. Warren Hogg, with Tampa Bay Water, said as of yesterday, the reservoir has a total of 6.5 billion gallons of water stored. Ms. Johnson asked the maximum capacity of the reservoir now with the repair work being done. Mr. Hogg said the work that was done over the winter and spring was completed in May. An agreement with the Department of Environmental Protection was

reached and confirmed that the reservoir was safe to fill up to full elevation, which would allow for 15 to 15.5 billion gallons of water. (CD 1/Track 4)

9. **Announcements:**

Ms. Kavouras said that the next Basin Board meeting is scheduled for October 15 at the Weedon Island Preserve. It will be a joint meeting among the Alafia River Basin, Pinellas-Anclote River Basin, and the Hillsborough River Basin Boards. The Boards represent Hillsborough, Pasco and Pinellas Counties and have many shared interests and issues. The Boards will discuss issues of mutual concern. In the afternoon there will be a field trip to view some sea grasses and restoration projects near the Weedon Island area.

Also, a joint Governing and Basin Board Workshop will be held December 15, 9:00 a.m., at TECO Center at Nature's Classroom, in Thonotosassa. There will not be any December meetings for the Basin Boards.

The Public Land Acquisition and Management Partnership Conference will not be held this year.

10. **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Secretary Tort adjourned the meeting at 10:02 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. The items did not require Board action at this time.

1. Development of Landscape Fertilizer Best Management Practices – Phase 1 (N013) - Execution Notice
2. Fish Hawk Creek Preserve Habitat Restoration Project - Phase 2 (W315) - Execution Notice