

APPROVED

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

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

Tampa Service Office

October 7, 2010

The Alafia River Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a regular meeting at 9:08 a.m. on October 7, 2010, 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

Recording Secretary

Dianna Brass

Staff Members Present

Lou Kavouras
Bruce Wirth
Eric DeHaven
Mark Hammond
Mike Holtkamp
Roy Mazur
Eric Sutton
Cori Cuttler
Manny Lopez
Jeremy McKay
Trisha Neasman
Beth Putnam
Virginia Sternberger

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 9:08 a.m. Ms. Dianna Brass, Administrative Supervisor, Boards and Executive Services, 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, noted that Item 4.c., Declaration of Surplus Lands – Chito Branch Reserve, had been deleted from the agenda. (Track 1)

4. **Consent Items:**

a. **Minutes of the August 5, 2010, Basin Board Meeting**

Approve the August minutes as presented.

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

i. **Alafia Berry Farms, LLC (H611), Hillsborough County**

- (1) Approve the Alafia Berry Farms, LLC, project for a not-to-exceed project reimbursement of \$60,000 with \$15,000 provided by the Alafia River Basin, \$15,000 provided by the Governing Board, and \$30,000 provided from State Appropriations;
- (2) Authorize the transfer of \$15,000 from fund 011 H017 Alafia River Basin Board FARMS funds, \$15,000 from fund 010 H017 Governing Board FARMS funds, and \$30,000 from State Appropriations allocated to fund 010 H017 FARMS funds, to H611 Alafia Berry Farms, LLC, project fund; and
- (3) Authorize the Executive Director to sign the agreement.

ii. **Porter Hare-Berry Patches, Inc. (H612), Hillsborough County**

- (1) Approve the Porter Hare-Berry Patches, Inc., project for a not-to-exceed project reimbursement of \$88,500 with \$44,250 provided by the Alafia River Basin Board and \$44,250 provided by the Governing Board;
- (2) Authorize the transfer of \$44,250 from fund 011 H017 Alafia River Basin Board FARMS funds and \$44,250 from fund 010 H017 Governing Board FARMS funds to the Porter Hare-Berry Patches, Inc., project fund; and
- (3) Authorize the Executive Director to sign the agreement.

c. **Declaration of Surplus Lands—Chito Branch Reserve, SWF Parcel No. 11-709-141S**

This item was deleted from consideration.

Following consideration, **Mr. Selvey moved, seconded by Ms. Johnson, to approve Consent Items 4.a. and b. Motion carried unanimously.** (Track 2)

5. **Discussion Items:**

a. **Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 Accomplishments**

Ms. Trisha Neasman, Basin Planner, referred to the Alafia River Basin Board FY2010 Accomplishments brochure provided to Board members. With the aid of slides, she reviewed completed projects and those that achieved significant milestones during FY2010. Ms. Neasman discussed how the projects relate to the District's strategic initiatives and the Basin Board's budget priorities. She discussed FARMS projects, the Avon Park Aquifer Storage and Recovery investigation, Medard Reservoir Structure Rehabilitation, Ekker Property Restoration, Lake Wimauma, the Peace River Karst Study and the status of the watershed management program. Mr. Mark Hammond, Resource Projects Department Director, responded to questions from Mr. Bissonnette regarding the Christina and Mulberry watersheds planning and data collection and said there is close coordination with the City and County to prevent duplication of efforts. Following discussion from the Board, staff will prepare a summary of properties within this District available for gopher tortoise relocation. Mr. Wirth addressed Mr. Selvey's comments relative to Lake Wimauma by saying it is not a water body that staff is likely to consider for augmentation. Chair Closshey questioned whether there is a summary of the lake water quality levels available for this Basin. Mr. Eric DeHaven, Resource Data and Restoration Department Director, advised that staff samples lakes within the District on a rotating basis including lakes within the Alafia River Basin. Staff is currently working on a publication summarizing this information, and a draft report will be available shortly. The Board agreed they would like this item to be included as a future agenda item. (Track 3)

At this time, Ms. Neasman introduced Ms. Virginia Sternberger, Senior Communications Coordinator, Communications Department, who is responsible for watershed education for the District. Watershed efforts focus on influencing residents to follow certain behaviors that can help protect the watershed, and one of the Basin's collaborative watershed education projects is L900, Lakes Education Action Drive (LE/AD). Ms. Sternberger introduced Ms. Johanna Martinez, LE/AD Executive Director, who presented an overview of the organization formed in 1985 to protect and preserve Polk County lakes. She discussed projects and accomplishments including lakeside signs, Project EAGLE cleanup efforts, Lakes Appreciation Month, Cardboard Boat Challenge and Lakes Festival, annual workshops, pet waste stations project and its quarterly newsletter, the *Lakes LE/ADer*. Board members were invited to attend the next annual workshop in Lakeland on Tuesday, October 12. Ms. Martinez extended her appreciation to the Alafia, Hillsborough and Peace River Basin Boards for grants that help support LE/AD watershed education efforts. Mr. Bissonnette commended Ms. Martinez for her

professionalism and noted that LE/AD is well respected in Polk County. Chair Closshey thanked Ms. Martinez for attending today and asked to be included on the mailing list for the newsletter. (Track 4)

Ms. Neasman continued her presentation describing a series of field trips scheduled for November. Relative to the Medard Reservoir embankment improvements, Mr. Selvey advised that ditch maintenance is needed on the southwest corner; Ms. Neasman will pass that along to appropriate staff. Mr. Bissonnette questioned the status of the property surrounding Medard; staff will research and include that information as part of the site tour. The Board requested an overview of Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) in general and the study results for the Avon Park Formation ASR project.

This item was presented for the Board's information, and no action was required. (Track 5)

b. **2012-2016 Strategic Plan Update**

Mr. Roy Mazur, P.E., Planning Director, gave an overview of staff accomplishments on the Strategic Plan update process. The goals of the 2012 update include revising the Natural Systems and Water Quality strategic initiatives, updating and graphically enhancing the Strategic Planning Scorecard and composing the final Strategic Plan document. An Annual Report will also be created and it along with the Strategic Plan will meet the statutory requirement allowing their use in lieu of a District Water Management Plan. Mr. Mazur listed several influential events and emerging issues that staff is tracking and the potential for adjustments in the Plan going forward. He reviewed the goals and timeframe for the Plan update, finalization of the Scorecard, and presentation of the Annual Report. Comments are welcomed on the content of these drafts by October 20, 2010. Following Mr. Selvey's request for information on the status of the SWUCA recovery strategy, Chair Closshey suggested an update at a future meeting.

This item was presented for the Basin Board's information; no formal action was required. (Track 6)

c. **Annual Update of the Long-Range Water Supply and Water Resource Development Funding Plan**

Mr. Bruce Wirth, Deputy Executive Director, Resource Management and Development, provided the annual update on the Basin's Long-Range Water Supply and Water Resource Development Funding Plan. He noted the completion of large alternative water supply projects which the Basin helped fund. The economic downturn has resulted in significant declines in projected water demands over the next 20 years, and no new similar large-scale projects are anticipated. Using graphs and charts, he reviewed historical use, projected demand and permitted quantities for utilities within Tampa Bay Water's (TBW) service area and for the City of Lakeland and Polk County through 2030.

Mr. Warren Hogg, Tampa Bay Water, addressed questions from the Board relative to the Alafia River permit, cooperative efforts with Polk County for future water supply, minimum flows and levels, and TBW's capacity for withdrawal from the river. The permit will go before the Governing Board for action, and Board members were requested to contact the appropriate Regulation staff to address their questions.

Mr. Wirth continued his presentation with a review of ongoing projects, potential future projects and removed projects with associated quantities, costs and schedules. He discussed the Board's expenditures and revenues and provided the assumptions used in evaluating the ability of the Basin to meet expenditure projections for alternative water

supply, conservation, cooperative funding, SWIM and Basin initiatives. Mr. Wirth concluded his remarks by saying the Basin appears in good financial shape to meet its commitments and readjustments will be made if necessary.

The Board participated in discussion and asked questions regarding per capita, conservation messaging, reserves, interest income, water management district versus local governments' budgets, funding of capital projects, millage and tax assessments. Mr. Wirth will follow up on questions from Mr. Bissonnette regarding expenditures for Project S034, Alafia River Corridor.

This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required. (Track 7)

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

6. **Report:**

a. **Governing Board Activities**

Ms. Kavouras reviewed topics of interest from the September Governing Board meeting: adoption of the final fiscal year 2011 millage rates and budget; Tampa Bay Water's Board chair and general manager addressed the Board on the desalination facility production; staff referral of individual water use permits to the Board for agency action as necessary; and the Dover/Plant City cold protection management plan update.

This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required. (Track 8)

7. **Announcements**

Mr. Eric DeHaven advised that on Thursday, October 28, at 10 a.m., the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration will hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Lost River Preserve Habitat Restoration Project site. This project was funded with federal stimulus money, Alafia River Basin Board, and SWIM state monies.

Ms. Kavouras referenced the announcements on the agenda and reminded the Board that the fourth *Get Outside!* event is scheduled for October 23 at the Potts Preserve in Citrus County. All Basin Board members are encouraged to attend any or all of the November Basin tours; further details will be provided shortly and RSVPs will be requested by October 15. She noted that additional Basin Accomplishments brochures are available. The scheduled November 4 Basin Board Education Committee is cancelled. The next Basin Board meeting is set for Thursday, December 2, 2010.

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 11:25 a.m. (Track 9)

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