

APPROVED

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

ALAFIA RIVER BASIN BOARD SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Tampa Service Office

December 2, 2010

The Alafia River Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a regular meeting at 9:07 a.m. on December 2, 2010, at the Tampa Service Office.

Board Members Present

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

Board Members Absent

Cheryl E. Johnson, Member

Staff Members Present

Lou Kavouras
Bruce Wirth
Eric DeHaven
Mark Hammond
Mike Holtkamp
Eric Sutton
Steve Blaschka

Cori Cuttler
Don Ellison
Randy Emberg
Trisha Neasman
Jennette Seachrist

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 9:07 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, said that there are no additions or deletions to the agenda.

4. Basin Activities Report and Agenda Review

Ms. Trisha Neasman, Basin Planner, provided an overview of items relevant to the Board. She said the November 19 Medard Basin Tour, which Ms. Johnson attended, was informative. Attendees walked the re-armored berm and spillway, viewed the video surveillance and automatic gates and experienced the siren. She showed photographs from the tour including the stilling basin and control structure. She said that Hillsborough County Parks Department staff also made a presentation during the site visit. Mr. Bissonnette indicated that he has been to the Medard property in the past and previously inquired about whether the mined property to the west of the structure has been considered for storm attenuation. Mr. Michael Holtkamp, Operations Director, said staff had studied this issue. With the aid of slides, he described the property and provided the history of ownership. There is no evidence to support acquisition of the property; however, he said staff will research further to confirm the historic action and decision making from 2002-2003. Chair Closshey suggested that staff provide an update at a future meeting. Mr. Holtkamp addressed questions from Mr. Selvey regarding the CSX bridge structure and maintenance. Mr. Selvey noted that the maintenance issue in the outfall structure he reported at the last meeting has been well handled.

Ms. Neasman pointed out that two of today's agenda items, 6.a., Aquifer Storage and Recovery, and 6.b., Surface Water Improvement and Management, are both projects supported by the 2012 Budget Priorities and initiatives in the Strategic Plan.

This item was presented for the Board's information only. (Track 1)

5. **Consent Items**

Staff recommended approval of the following items:

a. **Minutes of the October 7, 2010, Basin Board Meeting**

Approve the October 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 \$40,500 with \$20,250 provided by the Alafia River Basin, \$20,250 provided by the Governing Board;
- (2) Authorize the transfer of \$20,250 from fund 011 H017 Alafia River Basin FARMS funds, \$20,250 from fund 010 H017 Governing Board FARMS funds to H017 Alafia Berry Farms, LLC project fund; and
- (3) Authorize the Executive Director to execute the agreement.

ii. **Blues Berry Farm, LLC (H620) Hillsborough County**

- (1) Approve the Blues Berry Farm LLC project for a not-to-exceed project reimbursement of \$58,500 with \$29,250 provided by the Alafia River Basin Board and \$29,250 provided by the Governing Board;
- (2) Authorize the transfer of \$29,250 from fund 011 H017 Alafia River Basin Board FARMS funds and \$29,250 from fund 010 H017 Governing Board FARMS funds to H620 Blues Berry Farm, LLC, project fund; and
- (3) Authorize the Executive Director to execute the agreement.

iii. **Brookdale Farms, LLC (H625), Hillsborough County**

- (1) Approve the Brookdale Farms LLC project for a not-to-exceed project reimbursement of \$117,000 with \$58,500 provided by the Alafia River Basin Board and \$58,500 provided by the Governing Board;
- (2) Authorize the transfer of \$58,500 from fund 011 H017 Alafia River Basin Board FARMS funds and \$58,500 from fund 010 H017 Governing Board FARMS funds to H625 Brookdale Farms, LLC, project fund; and
- (3) Authorize the Executive Director to execute the agreement.

iv. **Ennis Strawberry Farm (H619), Hillsborough County**

- (1) Approve the Ennis Strawberry Farm project for a not-to-exceed project reimbursement of \$23,250 with \$11,625 provided by the Alafia River Basin and \$11,625 provided by the Governing Board;
- (2) Authorize the transfer of \$11,625 from fund 011 H017 Alafia River Basin FARMS funds and \$11,625 from fund 010 H017 Governing Board FARMS funds, to H619, Ennis Strawberry Farm project fund; and
- (3) Authorize the Executive Director to execute the agreement.

v. **Mathis Farms, Inc. (H622), Hillsborough County**

- (1) Approve the Mathis Farms, Inc. project for a not-to-exceed project reimbursement of \$123,900 with \$61,950 provided by the Alafia River Basin Board, and \$61,950 provided by the Governing Board;

- (2) Authorize the transfer of \$61,950 from fund 011 H017 Alafia River Basin Board FARMS funds, and \$61,950 from fund 010 H017 Governing Board FARMS funds to the H622 Mathis Farms, Inc. project fund; and
 - (3) Authorize the Executive Director to execute the agreement.
- vi. **Peacock-Meek Farms (H623), Hillsborough County**
- (1) Approve the Peacock-Meek project for a not-to-exceed project reimbursement of \$33,750 with \$16,875 provided by the Alafia River Basin and \$16,875 provided by the Governing Board;
 - (2) Authorize the transfer of \$16,875 from fund 011 H017 Alafia River Basin FARMS funds and \$16,875 from fund 010 H017 Governing Board FARMS funds to H623 Peacock-Meek project fund; and
 - (3) Authorize the Executive Director to execute the agreement.
- vii. **Peacock-Register Farms (H624), Hillsborough County**
- (1) Approve the Peacock-Register project for a not-to-exceed project reimbursement of \$24,000 with \$12,000 provided by the Alafia River Basin and \$12,000 provided by the Governing Board;
 - (2) Authorize the transfer of \$12,000 from fund 011 H017 Alafia River Basin FARMS funds and \$12,000 from fund 010 H017 Governing Board FARMS funds to H624 Peacock-Register project fund; and
 - (3) Authorize the Executive Director to execute the agreement.
- c. **Declaration of Surplus Lands—Chito Branch Reserve, SWF Parcel No. 11-709-141S**
Recommend the Governing Board declare SWF Parcel No. 11-709-141S surplus.
- d. **Polk County Southwest Reclaimed Water Service Area Carter Road Reclaimed Water Project - First Amendment (N156)**
Approve the first amendment to the agreement with Polk County for the Polk County SWRUSA Carter Road Reclaimed Water Project to modify the scope of work, reduce the project costs, proportionately reduce the District's funding commitment, extend the customer connection date; and authorize the Executive Director to execute the amendment.

Following consideration, **Mr. Selvey moved, seconded by Mr. Bissonette, to approve the aforementioned Consent Items 5.a., b., c. and d. Motion carried unanimously.**
(Track 2)

6. **Discussion Items**

a. **Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Arsenic Issue Update (H046)**

Mr. Don Ellison, Senior Professional Geologist, Resource Projects Department, provided an update and status of the District's ongoing efforts to address the metals mobilization issue that is impeding the development of Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) projects throughout the country. He described ASR as the storage of treated surface water or reclaimed water in the aquifer for future use. Excess water obtained during wet periods is injected through a well and stored in the aquifer until it is needed and withdrawn during the dry periods. All water injected into an aquifer that is considered to be an Underground Source of Drinking Water is required to meet all drinking water standards (DWS). With the aid of slides, he provided an overview of ASR projects. Currently, there are 12 projects in the District that have been constructed and that are providing up to 52 million gallons per day (mgd) of water supply during the dry season.

Mr. Ellison noted the current practice of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is to ensure that ASR facilities are in full compliance with the DWS at all times prior to issuing an operational permit. He advised that only one of these 12 projects has been granted an operational permit; five are in the construction phase of development and six have been cancelled or placed on hold indefinitely due to the uncertainty resulting from the arsenic mobilization issue. Though the constructed ASR projects that provide potable water do not yet have operational permits, these projects have safely provided over 20 billion gallons of water to the public while meeting all applicable DWS.

Mr. Ellison discussed the District's emergence as one of the national leaders in the advancement of both ASR technology and research. The Governing Board's past commitment to funding research to identify the sources and mechanisms causing the mobilization of arsenic in the aquifer has been instrumental in the development of possible solutions, such as the nationally recognized City of Bradenton Pre-treatment Degasification Pilot Study. The pilot study is nearing completion of the first full-scale cycle test and preliminary results are promising. The recovery portion of the cycle test is anticipated to continue until early 2011, and results will be available in March 2011. Though degasification is showing promise at this time, there are technical issues that will need to be solved in order to make it more functional and economical.

Mr. Selvey questioned whether the District could benefit monetarily through a patent process. Mr. Ellison indicated that this is uncertain but the research and development is considered publicly-owned since it is publicly funded. Chair Closshey asked that Ms. Kavouras raise this issue with the Governing Board. She thanked Mr. Ellison for the informative presentation and his dedication to this cutting edge technology. Mr. Bissonnette was also complimentary and requested an update in the Spring/Summer timeframe. Mr. Selvey expressed his appreciation of staff work and said he is a strong proponent of the ASR system.

This item was presented for information only, and no action was required. (Track 3)

b. **Overview of the Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Program**

Ms. Jennette Seachrist, P.E., SWIM Program Manager, provided an update on the staffing, completed and ongoing projects, funding, and trends associated with the District's SWIM Program. She discussed the establishment of the SWIM Act in 1987 which required the five water management districts to identify and select a list of priority water bodies of statewide significance within their boundaries, and develop programs to preserve or improve them. The District adopted ten SWIM priority water bodies which include Tampa Bay, Rainbow River, Banana Lake, Crystal River/Kings Bay, Lake Panasoffkee, Charlotte Harbor, Lake Tarpon, Lake Thonotosassa, Winter Haven Chain of Lakes, and Sarasota Bay.

The District's SWIM Program has completed more than 250 water quality improvement and habitat restoration projects which are providing treatment to over 50,000 acres of watershed and improvement to more than 6,000 acres of impacted habitat. In its 23 year history, the SWIM Program and these projects received 49 environmental excellence awards. One of the keys to success of the SWIM Program has been the District's Basin Boards and its partnerships with local governments. Funding or in-kind services from state and federal agencies have also benefited the program; however, no state funds were appropriated for fiscal year 2011.

Mr. Bissonnette questioned whether the Governing Board considered contributing to future SWIM projects to offset the decreased state funding. Chair Closshey said this

presentation was heard by the Governing Board last month and there was no specific discussion to that effect. Chair Closshey requested that Ms. Seachrist provide the Basin Board with this information since SWIM is a Basin-driven prioritized program.

Ms. Seachrist noted that the 2009 Annual Report of program accomplishments was updated in June 2010 and provided in the Board's packet and is also available on the website. In response to Chair Closshey's question, Ms. Seachrist said staff have inspected SWIM restoration sites and have not seen any effects from the BP gulf oil spill.

This item was presented for the Basin Board's information; no formal action was required. (Track 4)

7. Reports

a. Basin Board Land Resources Committee (BBLRC)

Mr. Eric Sutton, Land Resources Director, advised that the BBLRC met jointly for the third time with the Land Use Stakeholders group on November 18. Topics included the 2011 Florida Forever Work Plan, a lengthy discussion on expansion of hunting on District lands, *Get Outside!* Phase 2, and potential for sale and consumption of alcohol on cooperatively managed lands for special events. The Committee agreed to continue the joint meetings with the understanding that modifications will be made concerning allocation of time for individual speakers. Ms. Kavouras advised that Ms. Johnson attended the BBLRC meeting on behalf of the Alafia River Basin Board. The next BBLRC meeting is scheduled for March 15. (Track 5)

b. Governing Board Activities

Chair Closshey reported that at its November meeting the Governing Board approved implementation of a Phase I water shortage effective December 1. The Board delayed action on the frost-free management strategy rules to provide additional time for stakeholders' input, approved the 2012-2016 Strategic Plan, and heard presentations on the SWIM and the mitigation banking programs. (Track 6)

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

8. Announcements

Ms. Kavouras advised that the next Basin Board meeting is set for Thursday, February 10, 2011, at 9:00 a.m. in the Tampa Service Office.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Mr. Bissonnette moved, seconded by Mr. Selvey, to adjourn the meeting.** Hearing no objection, Chair Closshey adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m. (Track 7)