

# Approved

## Minutes of the Meeting

### COASTAL RIVERS BASIN BOARD MEETING

Southwest Florida Water Management District

Weeki Wachee, FL

February 14, 2008

The Coastal Rivers Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a regular meeting at 1 p.m. on February 14, 2008, in the Springs Coast Environmental Education Center, Weeki Wachee, Florida.

#### **Board Members Present**

Judith C. Whitehead, Chair Ex Officio  
William Y. Bunch, Member  
Samuel H. Lyons, Member  
Randall S. Maggard, Member  
John M. Nicolette, Member Designate

#### **Staff Present**

Bruce Wirth  
Daryl Pokrana  
Carl Wright  
Eric Sutton  
Beth Putnam  
Lou Kavouras  
Linda Pilcher  
Mark Hammond  
Miki Renner  
Doug Sanders

#### **Board Member Absent**

Elaine H. Perry

#### **Recording Secretary**

Phyllis Young

A list of others who signed the attendance roster is filed in the permanent files of the Basin. Compact disks of the audio and copies of the materials and handouts, as set forth in full herein, are also filed in the permanent files of the Basin.

*The numbers preceding the items listed below correspond with the published agenda.*

#### 1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**

Chair Ex Officio Judy Whitehead called the meeting to order at 1 p.m. Phyllis Young, the Board's administrative support, called the roll and noted a quorum was present. (CD 1/Track 1)

#### 2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair Whitehead led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. (CD 1/Track 1)

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

Deputy Executive Director Lou Kavouras, Outreach, Planning, and Board Services, stated there were no additions or deletions to the agenda. (CD 1/Track 1)

#### 4. **Ceremony to Honor Former Basin Board Member Dr. George Miskimen**

Chair Whitehead recognized former Basin Board Member Dr. George Miskimen and thanked him for his dedication to the Board and resolving issues in the Basin. She presented him a plaque and shared some of the Board's accomplishments while he was a member.

Dr. George briefly addressed the meeting, saying it had been an honor to participate on the Board. He thanked the Board and staff for their cooperation, professionalism, and hard work. (CD 1/Track 2)

At this time, the order of consideration was changed awaiting the arrival of Mr. Nicolette.

6. **Consent Item:**

After consideration, **Mr. Maggard moved, seconded by Mr. Lyons, to approve the Consent Item, as follows:**

- a. **Minutes of the October 2, 2007, Meeting and Workshop – approve the October minutes, as presented.**

**Motion carried unanimously.** (CD 1/Track 1)

7. **Discussion Items:**

Before beginning his presentation, Deputy Executive Director Bruce Wirth took a moment to thank Dr. George and his wife Millie, who accompanied him to Basin Board meetings and events. He told the meeting that Dr. George is one of the special Board members, based on his background and guidance through the years. He went on to say that Mrs. Miskimen was like another Board member, always there for support. (CD 1/Track 3)

- a. **Changes to the Governing Board's Cooperative Funding Initiative Policy 130-4**

Mr. Wirth provided an overview and status of changes to the Cooperative Funding Initiative Policy 130-4. In April 2007, the Pinellas-Anclote River Basin Board requested the Governing Board revisit its "long-standing" position on funding brackish groundwater desalination projects. During discussion of this issue at the May 2007 Governing Board session, it was noted that the District did not have a formal written policy regarding the Board's position. Mr. Wirth highlighted actions taken and input gathered that resulted in the Governing Board directing staff to incorporate five recommendations into the proposed policy changes. An exhibit to this item, which showed the recommended final changes in a strikethrough/underline format, was provided in the information notebook for this meeting. The Governing Board approved the changes at its December 18, 2007, meeting.

Other brief discussions during this presentation included incentive-based funding, tiered prioritization of projects, and the multi-jurisdictional aspect of projects.

This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required. (CD 1/Track 3)

During this presentation, Mr. Nicolette arrived.

- b. **Withlacochee Regional Water Supply Authority Update (WRWSA)**

Mr. Wirth reminded Board members of their request at the October 2007 planning workshop to ask Mr. Jack Sullivan, Executive Director of the Withlacochee River Water Supply Authority (WRWSA), to provide the Board an update on WRWSA water supply issues and activities in the region. He welcomed Mr. Sullivan and gave the podium to him. (CD 1/Track 4)

Mr. Sullivan gave background on the planning and progress of the WRWSA's long-term master water supply program. Since the northern District is an area of high growth, it will be beneficial to plan for future water resources development. Mr. Sullivan's report covered areas of local concern, aspects of setting Minimum Flows and Levels, and current and future activities to ensure availability of water. His report also included demand projections, potential water supply projects, potential project sites, and a summary of the next steps to accomplish their goals. He thanked the District for its

assistance and asked for continued help on projects that would help meet water demands into the future.

This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required. (CD 1/Track 5)

Mr. Al Grubman, resident of Inverness and president of Too Far, addressed the Board in opposition to costly projects he believed would not replace the future need for desalination plants. He expressed concern for taking water from the Withlacoochee River, particularly upstream of the Tsala Apopka lakes and at the outflow/inflow on Lake Panasoffkee, and reducing the flow at Trilby. He ended by stating that desalination, in the long run, would be the better source. (CD 1/Track 6)

c. **Tampa Bay Regional Reclaimed Water Project**

Mr. Wirth also provided an update on this project instead of Kathy Scott, Conservation Projects Manager, to tell the Board of the City of Tampa's plans to postpone moving forward on this project and instead focus on expanding the south Tampa Area Reuse Project (STAR). He enumerated the goals of TBRRP that would be an efficient use of reclaimed water flows at Tampa's Howard F. Curren Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant: reduce the use of traditional water supplies for non-potable needs, increase the beneficial use of wet-weather reclaimed water flows, and help restore natural systems in Pasco and Hillsborough counties. Mr. Wirth reported that Tampa Bay Water's decision in October 2006 to move forward with expansion of its enhanced surface water system without the downstream augmentation component led the City of Tampa to pursue its STAR expansion, which supports more industrial and commercial users, instead of going forward with the TBRRP. He emphasized that the TBRRP may be considered in the future and stated the District is disappointed this project is not going forward, since the value of supplying reclaimed water to the north is greater than supplying it to the south.

A chart, which showed funds available for other projects due to exclusion of the TBRRP, was included in the summary agenda for this meeting. The Coastal Rivers Basin Board will realize approximately \$1.2 million. During the FY2009 budget cycle, staff will present recommendations to the Basin Board for redirecting those funds.

This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required. (CD 1/Track 7)

5. **Oath of Office for Appointed/Re-Appointed Board Members**

Ms. Young administered the Oath of Office to newly-appointed Basin Board Member John Nicolette and Basin Board Member Randy Maggard, who was reappointed to the Board.

After the ceremony, Mr. Nicolette expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to serve on the Basin Board, told the Board a little of his background, and stated he has a great concern for water resources. (CD 1/Track 8)

6. **Discussion Items** (continued)

d. **Pasco County Design and Construction of Wet-Weather Reclaimed Water Reservoir – Land O' Lakes**

Mr. Wirth gave this presentation for Carl Wright, Senior Water Conservation Analyst, to request out-of-cycle funding for this project. He provided background of the project, which will store 100 million gallons of Pasco County's surplus reclaimed water to meet dry-season demand. Due to the project's regional aspect, initial funding partners were

the Alafia River, Coastal Rivers, Hillsborough River, Northwest Hillsborough, Pinellas-Anclote River, and Withlacoochee River Basin Boards and the Governing Board. Additional funding is being requested from the Governing Board and the three Basins that will benefit from the project: Coastal Rivers, Hillsborough River, and Pinellas-Anclote River.

Mr. Wirth explained an unanticipated price increase, primarily a result of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection mandated sub-surface grouting, as well as an expansion of the areas within the reservoir to be lined.

During this presentation, Board members and staff briefly discussed how the total amount of the project could be justified, Pasco County's need to go forward with the project, and use of abandoned mines for reservoirs.

After consideration, **Mr. Maggard moved, seconded by Mr. Bunch, to approve the staff recommendation, as follows:**

1. **Approve the transfer of \$250,000 from the Coastal Rivers Basin Board's Water Supply and Resource Development reserves to the Pasco County Design and Construction of Wet-Weather Reclaimed Water Reservoir – Land O' Lakes Project.**
2. **Recommend the Governing Board authorize staff to prepare an amendment increasing the total project cost not to exceed \$4.18 million, contingent upon approval of the other Basins, with this Basin Board's share not to exceed \$327,200; and authorize the Executive Director to sign the amendment.**

**Motion carried with Mr. Lyons voting nay. (CD 1/Track 9)**

e. **City of Brooksville Construction of US 41 South Service Area Reuse System**

Mr. Wright gave a report on background and progress on this project that would provide reclaimed water to irrigate the golf course, common areas, and individual residences at the Southern Hills Plantation development. The project would provide 1.68 million gallons per day (mgd) of reclaimed water and offset one mgd. Mr. Wright introduced Mr. Tom Mountain of Coastal Engineering, who reported on the reuse system and explained why an extension of the completion date was being requested. Due to lower than expected home construction, resulting in less wastewater flows and less demand for reclaimed water irrigation, Hampton Ridge Developers, LLC, are requesting a three-year extension. Delay in construction of the Wastewater Treatment Plant improvements until they are needed will allow both the Developer and the City to better manage their finances and make the capital investment at a more desirable time. Mr. Mountain further explained that the bond with the City of Brooksville will be amended to ensure the amount of the project as well as the completion date are accurate.

After consideration, **Mr. Lyons moved, seconded by Mr. Maggard, to approve the staff recommendation, as follows:**

**Authorize an amendment extending the complete construction date by three years from April 30, 2009, to April 30, 2012, and extending the contract period by three years from December 31, 2009, to December 31, 2012, and authorize the Executive Director to sign the amendment, contingent upon District receipt of an updated construction bond, which will remain in effect, as a minimum, through the revised contract period date.**

**Motion carried unanimously. (CD 1/Track 10)**

f. **State Board of Administration Local Government Investment Pool (SBA LGIP)**

**Status**

Finance Director Daryl Pokrana was present at this meeting to answer questions Board Members might have regarding the Local Government Investment Pool, which was the topic of the January 22 memo written to all Basin Board members by Governing Board Treasurer Jennifer Closshey. No questions were forthcoming from the Board; Mr. Pokrana did, however, provide a brief summary of how the investment pool relates to the Coastal Rivers Basin Board.

This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required. (CD 1/ Track 11)

g. **Budget Update in View of the January 29 Special Election**

Linda Pilcher, Assistant Finance Director, provided the result and potential effects of the Special Election on the proposed constitutional amendment, (*Amendment No. 1, Property Tax Exemptions; Limitations on Property Tax Assessments*), which passed on January 29. Ms. Pilcher spoke on provisions of the amendment, assumptions, and variables that would affect the Basin's budget. For planning purposes, she provided a preliminary look at FY2009 ad valorem revenue, estimating a five percent reduction from FY2008, which is a reduction of \$252,217 to the Basin budget. Updates on these issues will be presented at Basin Board meetings throughout the fiscal year.

This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required. (CD 1/ Track 12)

h. **Fiscal Year 2009 Cooperative Funding Requests**

Basin Planner Doug Sanders provided an overview of the Cooperative Funding Initiative (CFI) and applications received for the FY2009 budget year. He reviewed the FY2009 Cooperative Funding procedure and directed the Board to the original applications, which were received in December and provided behind the *FY2009 CFI Applications* tab in the meeting notebook. Mr. Sanders also provided a brief overview of the Basin's project submittals and reviewed the District's project ranking process in light of recent changes to Governing Board CFI policy. Staff will return to the April meeting with initial project rankings and funding recommendations for the Board's consideration. The preliminary budget will be presented and the millage cap set at the June Basin Board meeting, and for final approval in July or August, depending on the Governor's timeframe for submittal of the Governing and Basin Boards' budgets to Tallahassee.

The Board was encouraged to review the FY2009 project applications and be prepared to provide input at the April 10 Basin Board meeting.

In anticipation of the need for a Basin Board meeting in July, Ms. Kavouras asked Board members to reserve July 24 on their calendars.

This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required. (CD 1/ Track 13)

7. **Reports**

a. **Basin Board Education Committee**

Beth Putnam, Communications Manager, directed Board members to a summary of the November 13, 2007, Basin Board Education Committee meeting, which was Exhibit 5 in the meeting notebook. She briefly mentioned the drought communications plan, media

messaging, and the Basin's Community Education Grants that were included with the Information Items at the end of the Summary Agenda.

This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required. (CD 1/Track 14)

b. **Governing Board Activities**

Chair Whitehead gave highlights of issues from the January 29 Governing Board meeting including the updated Strategic Plan, drought/conservation signage, Marion County water restrictions, Weeki Wachee agreements, Statewide consistency on common issues, the possibility of a Statewide water conference, the ribbon cutting/check presentation ceremony at the desalination plant, and disposition of Governing Board positions and appointments. (CD 1/Track 15)

Tampa Bay Water's Warren Hogg expressed thanks to the Board for supporting the desalination plant and reported the plant is currently operating at 18-19 mgd and should be running at 25 mgd by spring.

This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required. (CD 1/Track 15)

8. **Announcements:**

In addition to directing the Board's attention to announcements listed in the agenda, Ms. Kavouras made comments, as follow:

- Relative to Board appointments, the Governor's Office is asking the Board's help in finding applicants to fill Governing and Basin Board positions that are currently open or will be open after March 1, 2008.
- After the Governing Board meeting at Nature's Classroom on February 26, 2008, the Governing and Basin Boards will have lunch together beginning at 12 noon. At 1 p.m., the Joint Governing and Basin Boards Workshop will convene. Tours of Nature's Classroom will begin at 10:30 a.m. for Basin Board members who wish to participate.
- The memorial service to honor former District employee John Parker would begin at 3:30 p.m., immediately following this meeting. (CD 1/ Track 16)

9. **Adjournment:**

The day's business being complete, Chair Whitehead adjourned the meeting at 3:26 p.m.

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\*\*\*\***Information Items**\*\*\*\*

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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. These item(s) did not require Board action at this time.

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1. West Pasco Improvements Project (H030)
2. 2008 Community Education Grants in the Coastal Rivers Basin

3. Interlocal Agreement with Pasco County, Appraisals and Purchase/Sale Agreement – Weekiwachee Preserve, SWF Parcel No. 15-773-143
4. Crystal River Stormwater Utility Study (L951) – Execution Notice
5. Double Hammock Creek Watershed Evaluation and Management Plan/Pasco County (L841) – Execution Notice
6. Hernando County Maintenance of Watershed Parameters and Models (B206) – Execution Notice
7. Hernando County Reuse Feasibility/Reclaimed Water Master Plan (L959) – Execution Notice
8. Lower Coastal Watershed Evaluation and Management Plan/Pasco County (L842) – Execution Notice
9. Pasco County Ultra-Low Volume Toilet Rebate Program (L843) – Change in Scope
10. Pithlachascotee-Anclote Conservation Effort (L738) – Execution Notice
11. Weeki Wachee Springs Stormwater Project (SB16) – Execution Notice