

APPROVED
Minutes of the Meeting

Coastal Rivers Basin Board
Southwest Florida Water Management District

Brooksville, Florida

April 16, 2009

The Coastal Rivers Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a regular meeting April 16, 2009, at 1:00 p.m., at District Headquarters.

Board Members Present

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

Staff Present

Lou Kavouras
Bruce Wirth
Eric DeHaven
Mark Hammond
Michael Holtkamp
Roy Mazur
Michael Molligan
Linda Pilcher

Brian Armstrong
Veronica Crow
Danny Kushmer
Beth Putnam
Miki Renner
Doug Sanders
Virginia Sternberger

Board Member Absent

None

Recording Secretary

Annette Zielinski

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

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

Chair Whitehead called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Ms. Zielinski noted a quorum was present.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag**

Chair Whitehead 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, reported that Agenda Item 4, the Oath of Office, was deleted from the agenda since no appointments for this Basin Board had been forthcoming from the Governor's office.

Ms. Kavouras said there is one addition to the day's agenda and that is an Analysis of Spring Protection Zones, which will be presented as the first Discussion Item, by Mr. Norman Hopkins.

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

This item was deleted.

5. **Basin Activities Report and Agenda Review**

Mr. Doug Sanders, Basin Planner, reported that this agenda item will be added to each Basin Board agenda providing an opportunity for the Basin Planner to give an overview of relevant items on the agenda, information items, and other topics of interest. Mr. Sanders presented this informational item, explaining how the items relate to the Board's Strategic Budget Priorities, the Strategic Plan, or other Board concerns.

6. **Consent Item:**

a. **Minutes of the February 12, 2009, Meeting**

Staff recommended approval of the February 12, 2009 minutes, as presented.

Following consideration, Ms. Perry moved, seconded by Mr. Maggard, to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carried unanimously. (CD1/Track 1 - 00:00/13:45)

7. **Discussion Items:**

Add-On Item

Analysis of Spring Protection Zones

Mr. Norman Hopkins, Director, The Amy H. Remley Foundation, said Ms. Remley had inspired him to study the waters of Crystal River and Kings Bay. Using piezometric flow charts Mr. Hopkins explained the contours and fracture sets that make up Florida's groundwaters. The maps illustrate that the groundwater flows in Citrus County come from both the Southeast and from the Northeast. Studying Kings Bay he has come to realize the waters are seriously stressed. He said increased saltiness promotes chaetomorpha blooms and areas are denuded of submersed aquatic vegetation. He encouraged protection of these waters and hopes the aquifer springshed water will not be pumped any harder in the future.

This item was presented for the Basin Board's information; no action was required. (CD1/Track 2 - 00:00/39:56)

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

Mr. Lyons moved to retain the officers and committee representatives as they currently stand. Mr. Maggard seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Chair Whitehead heard public comment at this time.

Mr. Al Grubman, representing TOOFAR, said he was very grateful that Mr. Lyons attended the last Citrus/Hernando Waterways Restoration Council Hernando County Task Force Technical Advisory Group meeting; his participation is very much appreciated. (CD1/Track 3 - 00:00/02:55)

b. **Water Shortage Actions and Drought Messaging**

Mr. Michael Molligan, Communications Director, reported on current hydrologic conditions and recent emergency and water shortage actions the District has taken in response to the severe rainfall deficit. He used graphics to depict how the severity of the drought has worsened over the past 36 months and spoke of concerted efforts throughout the District to find alternative water sources and reduce existing demand for water. Public service advertising is being used extensively to promote water conservation.

This item was presented for the Basin Board's information; no action was required. (CD1/Track 4 - 00:00/29:10)

c. **FY2009 Springs Awareness Week**

Ms. Virginia Sternberger, Senior Communications Coordinator, Communications Department, presented the results of Springs Awareness Week, which occurred in Citrus and Marion counties from March 14–21, 2009.

As part of the Crystal River/Kings Bay/Rainbow River Watershed Education Project (W466), District staff organized Springs Awareness Week. The goal of Springs Awareness Week was to educate homeowners and landscape professionals of the effects that over-fertilizing has on local springs and other water bodies. The week included a variety of educational events, springshed tours, workshops for homeowners and landscape professionals, and outreach at local retail establishments. Springs Awareness Week cooperators included Rainbow Springs State Park and the master gardener programs and UF/IFAS Florida Yards & Neighborhoods programs in Citrus and Marion counties.

In addition to the special events, Communications and Community and Legislative Affairs staff coordinated with government representatives to have March 14–21, 2009, declared as Springs Awareness Week by the Coastal Rivers and Withlacoochee River Basin Boards, the Boards of County Commissioners of Citrus and Marion counties, and the cities of Crystal River and Dunnellon.

The total cost of Springs Awareness Week was \$3,300. The Coastal Rivers Basin Board contributed \$495, the Withlacoochee River Basin Board contributed \$1,155 and SWIM contributed \$1,650. Approximately 10,000 people participated in the Springs Awareness Week events. Additional awareness was generated by media coverage in the *Citrus County Chronicle*, *Riverland News* and the *Ocala Star-Banner*.

This item was presented for the Basin Board's information; no action was required. (CD1/Track 5 - 00:00/13:18)

d. **Fiscal Year 2010 Budget Preparation**

Mr. Bruce C. Wirth, Deputy Executive Director, Division of Resource Management, said the Coastal Rivers Basin Board has an opportunity to review its budget for funding levels of the various budget categories, including prioritization of Cooperative Funding proposals and other Basin projects. The preliminary budget assumes the millage rate will remain at 0.1885 mill and produce \$4,089,590 in ad valorem revenue, 10 percent below FY2009. This revenue estimate is for planning purposes and is based on preliminary estimates of taxable value obtained from the county Property Appraisers and the Legislature's Office of Economic and Demographic Research, March 4, 2009.

For the June Basin meeting, staff will provide an updated estimate of ad valorem revenue for FY2010, based on the June 1 estimates of taxable property value that are provided by the county Property Appraisers. However, these estimates generally do not specify the amount that is new construction. New construction is required to calculate the maximum millage rate (i.e., maximum millage rate adopted with simple majority vote) and the rolled-back rate (i.e., rate that would generate the same level of revenue as FY2009 plus taxes on new construction) prescribed under Section 200.065, Florida Statutes. Any millage rate higher than the rolled-back rate would constitute a tax increase. As experienced for FY2009, it is anticipated that the Basin's current millage rate, if maintained for FY2010, would be lower than these two rates due to declining property values.

The preliminary Budget Comparison Report for FY2010 was provided to the Basin Board members prior to the meeting. The format separately identifies the portion of the budget that will be funded by outside revenue sources from the portion of the budget that will be funded from ad valorem based revenue sources (i.e., property taxes, balance from prior year and interest). The "Millage Rate Requirements" column, to the right of each project that is funded through the ad valorem based portion of the budget, indicates the funding source as Balance from Prior Year and Interest Earnings or the millage rate required to fund the budget through that project. The Projects section includes detailed information for all Cooperative Funding proposals submitted for consideration. Project managers have reviewed and provided a staff recommendation for each proposal. Mr. Wirth said questions on projects should be directed to the Project Manager, Mr. Sanders, Ms. Kavouras, or him.

Chair Whitehead encouraged Board members to contact staff to answer questions on projects and to provide direction to staff on developing the Basin's tentative budget, which would be presented at the June 2009 meeting. (CD1/Track 6 - 00:00/26:04)

e. **2011–2015 Strategic Plan Update**

Mr. Roy Mazur, Planning Director, addressed the Board to provide a progress report on the latest update to the Strategic Plan (Plan), which is replacing the District Water

Management Plan. He reviewed background of the Plan, goals for the 2011 update, and progress being made, emphasizing that the goal is not to re-write the Plan, but to fine-tune existing content. Mr. Mazur's presentation included an explanation of the three-tiered approach of staff involvement and an Annual Work Plan Report, which is statutorily required when a District Water Management Plan is replaced.

Updates to the Strategic Plan will be provided periodically to the Advisory Committees, Basin Boards, and Governing Board, with approval anticipated by the Governing Board in October 2009. (CD1/Track 6 - 26:04/36:04)

8. **Reports:**

a. **Joint Basin Board Education Committee/Basin**

Ms. Beth Putnam, Communications Manager, Communications Department, reported the major focus of the joint meeting was to discuss ways to inform the public about District-owned property and opportunities the public has to use those properties. Integral to the process is informing the public of water issues and conservation--the education element. A full report of the joint meeting was included as an exhibit in the meeting notebook.

This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required. (CD1/Track 6 - 36:04/40:15)

b. **Governing Board Activities**

Chair Whitehead said Board members had been provided a written report of the March 31 Governing Board meeting, which was held at District headquarters in Brooksville. Main topics of discussion were a land exchange with the Sunwest Acquisition Corporation and enactment of Phase IV water restrictions in the Tampa Bay area.

This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required.

9. **Announcements:**

- Chair Whitehead brought members' attention to announcements listed on the agenda.
- Ms. Kavouras announced a Tampa Bay Water Regional Water Shortage Management Workshop on May 5, 2009, at the Tampa Convention Center.
- Ms. Kavouras noted that it may not be necessary to convene for a Basin Board meeting on July 16, 2009 as currently planned. She will keep Basin Board members informed as the budget season progresses.

10. **Adjournment**

When there was no other business to come before the Board, Chair Whitehead adjourned the meeting at 3:20 p.m. (CD1/Track 6 – 40:15/44:48)

★ ★ ★ Information Items ★ ★ ★

The items 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 were ready to begin. These items did not require Board action at this time.

1. City of New Port Richey Midwest/Northwest Reclaimed Water Distribution System (L812) – Cancellation Notice
2. Evaluation of Different On-Farm Blueberry Systems to Improve Irrigation Efficiency (B263)
3. Pasco County Ultra-Low Volume Toilet Rebate Program – Phase II (N114) - Execution Notice

Attest:

Chairman

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) 796-721 or 1-800-423-1476 (FL only), ext. 4702; TDD (FL only) 1-800-231-6103; or email ADACoordinator@swfwmd.state.fl.us.