

**APPROVED**  
Minutes of the Meeting

**Coastal Rivers Basin Board**  
Southwest Florida Water Management District

Brooksville, Florida                      June 11, 2009

The Coastal Rivers Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a regular meeting June 11, 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  
Mark Hammond  
Michael Holtkamp  
Michael Molligan  
Jack Pepper  
Daryl Pokrana

Eric Sutton  
Maya Burke  
Doug Sanders  
Elaine Vergara

Recording Secretary  
Annette Zielinski

Board Member Absent

None

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, announced that there were no additions or deletions to the day's agenda.

4. **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.

5. **Consent Item:**

a. **Minutes of the April 16, 2009, Meeting**

Staff recommended approval of the April 16, 2009 minutes, as presented.

Following consideration, **Mr. Maggard moved, seconded by Mr. Lyons, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

6. **Discussion Items:**

a. **Memorandum of Agreement with Pasco County for the Exchange of Property – Weekiwachee Preserve, SWF Parcel Nos. 15-773-210**

Mr. Eric Sutton, Director, Land Resources Department, said the purpose of this item is to request the Governing Board approve a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with Pasco County for a no cost exchange of fee ownership of land with Pasco County that will

improve access for both the District and County related to their respective property ownerships. Mr. Sutton presented a location map of the parcels to be exchanged during his presentation.

The proposed District exchange parcel is an approximately 7.16-acre portion of a 750-acre parent tract obtained through a donation from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in December 2003. The 7.16 acres consists of a 180 foot wide strip that links District property to the west and the Pasco County park site with Old Dixie Highway. As such, it would provide the only means of physical and legal access to both the District property and the county park.

Staff recommended to:

- Declare SWF Parcel 15-773-209S as being no longer needed for conservation purposes (two-thirds majority required);
- Approve the MOA and exchange agreement and accept title;
- Convey SWF Parcel No. 15-773-209S to Pasco County, subject to the terms of the exchange agreement; and
- Designate the County exchange property, SWF Parcel No. 15-773-210, as having been acquired for conservation purposes.

Following consideration, **Ms. Perry moved, seconded by Mr. Nicolette, to approve the staff recommendation. Motion carried unanimously.**

b. **Status Report on Annutteliga Hammock Acquisition**

Ms. Elaine Vergara, Senior Land Acquisition Specialist, Land Resources Department, provided this status report to the Basin Board. She said the northern part of the project appears to be the most feasible and important because of connectivity to adjacent public lands. Staff has focused acquisition efforts to parcels in the northern area referred to as the Block 1 area prior to amending the original boundaries of the project. The Block 1 area is defined as north of Thrasher Avenue; Ms. Vergara used location maps to aid her in the description of what areas the District has purchased overall in Block 1. The recommendation from the Basin Board was for the Land Resources Director to proceed directly to the Governing Board with appraisals and purchase/sale agreements for parcels within the Block 1 area of Annutteliga Hammock which do not exceed the appraised value.

Since the April 2007 Basin Board meeting, over 106 acres of land have been acquired at a total cost of \$1,780,560. Two key issues were identified with this project from an acquisition standpoint: pursuing acquisition for parcels in the northern area and surplus/exchange of certain parcels no longer needed for conservation. In addition to utilizing standard cash transactions to assemble the parcels within Block 1, staff has also utilized the surplus/exchange of parcels in the southern portion of the project for parcels in the northern to further consolidate District ownership in the Block 1 area.

Moving forward, staff will continue with the acquisition of all parcels within the Block 1 area. However, the current real estate market changes are again playing a role in the acquisition of the subdivision lots one acre or smaller. The value of the parcels within this description of one acre or smaller has been greatly affected by the downturn in the market. Staff will continue to comply with the District's Land Acquisition Policy and Procedure as purchases will not exceed the appraised value, and staff will provide the Board with updates as parcels within this area are acquired.

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

c. **Fiscal Year 2010 Budget Discussion and Approval of Proposed Millage Rate**

Mr. Bruce C. Wirth, Deputy Executive Director, Division of Resource Management, said at today's meeting, the Basin Board will be requested to approve a proposed millage

rate for fiscal year (FY) 2010. The budget has been prepared with the initial assumption that the millage rate will be held at 0.1885 mill, consistent with FY2009, and ad valorem revenue will be 11.8 percent below FY2009. This percentage is based on an estimate of 2009 taxable property values from the county property appraisers. There will be no salary increases this year so the 3 percent overall cost savings has been added back to the proposed budget. During the Legislative Session this year no new money was allocated to the Lands Management Trust Fund (LMTF). Project costs and maintenance will be covered in FY 2010; however, if the LMTF is not funded by the Legislation again next year the District will have to look into alternative funding mechanisms.

A draft resolution was provided under the Budget tab affirming the proposed millage rate to be approved by the Basin Board on June 11, 2009 for FY2010.

Ms. Kavouras read the three-part staff recommendation before Chair Whitehead entertained a motion.

Staff recommended to:

- 1) Provide tentative selection of FY2010 Cooperative Funding projects.
- 2) Approve and adopt a required proposed millage rate of 0.1885 mill for FY2010.
- 3) Approve Resolution No. 78 – Resolution Affirming the Required Proposed Millage Rate for Fiscal Year 2010.

Following consideration, **Mr. Lyons moved, seconded by Ms. Perry, to approve the staff recommendation. Motion carried unanimously.**

7. **Report:**

a. **Governing Board Activities**

A written report of the Highlights from the May 20 Governing Board meeting was handed out at the meeting. Chair Whitehead pointed out that the meeting was held in Highlands County which was a first for the Governing Board. She said she felt it was important to take some of the Board meetings to various locations throughout the District. Chair Whitehead also noted that the Governing Board members had an opportunity to visit some of the on-going Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems (FARMS) projects located in the Highlands County region and the tours were very educational.

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

8. **Announcements:**

Ms. Kavouras noted the Basin Board Education Committee, will meet Tuesday, July 7, 2009, 9:30 a.m., at the Tampa Service Office. Ms. Perry is the Basin Board's Primary Representative on that Committee.

The Basin Board Land Resources Committee will meet Monday, July 13, 2009, 9:30 a.m., at the Green Swamp West Field Office, in Dade City. The Basin Board's Primary Representative is Mr. Maggard.

Ms. Kavouras announced that the Board will not need to meet July 16, 2009 as previously scheduled. The last meeting of the Fiscal Year will be August 13, 2009; to be held at Brooksville Headquarters and begin at 1:00 p.m.

9. **Adjournment**

When there was no other business to come before the Board, Chair Whitehead adjourned the meeting at 1:51 p.m.

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★ ★ ★ Information Items ★ ★ ★

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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. Budget Transfer Report
2. An Ecosystem-level Study of Florida's Major Spring Systems (B267) – Execution Notice
3. University of Florida Board of Trustees for Project Coast North (B678) – Execution Notice

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