

Approved

Minutes of the Meeting

COASTAL RIVERS BASIN BOARD MEETING

Southwest Florida Water Management District

Brooksville, Florida

June 14, 2007

The Coastal Rivers Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a regular meeting at 1:00 p.m., June 14, 2007, at the District's headquarters in Brooksville, Florida.

Board Members Present

Judith C. Whitehead, Chair Ex Officio
Dr. George W. Miskimen, Vice-Chair
Elaine H. Perry, Secretary
William Y. Bunch, Member
Samuel H. Lyons, Member
Randall S. Maggard, Member

Staff Members

Bruce Wirth	Lou Kavouras
Mark Hammond	Gregg Jones
Ken Weber	Will Miller
Eric Sutton	Eric DeHaven
Beth Putnam	Jimmy Brooks
Miki Renner	Doug Sanders

Recording Secretary

Phyllis Young

A list of others who were present and 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.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Ex Officio Judy Whitehead called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Ms. Young 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 no gubernatorial appointments or Senate confirmations concerning this Board had been received; therefore, Agenda Item 4 would be carried over to the next meeting. Since word on Dr. Miskimen's reappointment had not been forthcoming, he would participate in today's meeting, but would not vote. Ms. Kavouras noted a quorum was present without Dr. Miskimen. (CD 1/Track 1)

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

This item was deleted from the agenda, as noted above.

5. Consent Items:

- a. **April 12, 2006, Meeting Minutes** – For the record, Ms. Kavouras clarified that during election of officers at the April meeting, Sam Lyons was selected as the Basin Board's primary representative to the Citrus/Hernando County Waterways Restoration Council Technical Advisory Group; Ms. Perry was chosen as the alternate. This change will be reflected in the April minutes.

After consideration, **Mr. Maggard moved, seconded by Mr. Lyons, to approve Consent Item a, as amended, and Consent Items b and c, as follow:**

b. **Revised Operating Agreement between the District and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for the Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems Program and Revisions to District Procedure**

Recommend the Governing Board approve and authorize the Executive Director to sign the revised District/FDACS/FARMS Operating Agreement, Procedure 13-9, and the Funding Contract.

c. **Annual Calendar of Meeting Dates - Fiscal Year 2008**

Approve the FY2008 Basin Board meeting schedule, as presented. (CD 1/Track 1)

Motion carried. (CD 1/Track 1)

6. **Discussion Items:**

a. **Fiscal Year 2008 Budget Discussion and Approval of Proposed Millage Rate**

For FY2008 budget preparation, staff presented a preliminary budget and gathered direction from Board members at the April meeting. Members' input was incorporated into the budget, and a revised budget was presented for the Board's consideration at this meeting. Deputy Executive Director Bruce Wirth reminded the Board of two items requiring action: (1) tentative selection of FY2008 Cooperative Funding projects and (2) adoption of a proposed millage rate.

The State Legislature did not finish tax deliberations during its Regular Session, which ended May 4, 2007, and called a Special Session to be held June 12 through June 22 to address Governor Crist's desire to provide a measure of tax relief to citizens of the State. The Special Session was to consider a variety of approaches to mandate a rollback of ad valorem tax revenues, which could impact local governments and include independent special districts, such as the water management districts. Since the Basin Board would adopt its proposed millage rate before the Special Session ended, staff recommended the Basin Board adopt a proposed millage rate based on FY2008 project funding requirements and delegate authority to the Executive Director to reduce the millage rate for any mandated change in the amount of ad valorem taxes to be generated by the Basin Board.

Mr. Wirth highlighted the various elements of the budget, including changes made since the April meeting; he explained how Cooperative Funding projects would be affected by the millage rate and described the differences in this year's resolution on the proposed millage rate. Detailed information for all Cooperative Funding proposals submitted for consideration were included in the Projects section of the meeting notebook.

Dr. Miskimen interjected that the Basin's 0.235 millage rate had worked well for many years. The Board was fortunate, after lowering the millage rate to 0.205 for fiscal year 2007, that high property values allowed cooperative funding projects to be funded. This year, he said, is different due to huge uncertainties; growth is moving northward and the State as well as the public will have new requirements. He suggested the Board should consider what the real impacts of the millage rate are and whether the current millage rate is appropriate or should be changed. He went on to say the District has responsibilities that must be addressed, such as reclaimed water—issues that will need to be addressed in the northern counties in the near future. He stated that the Board's greatest mission is in the area of water quantity and quality and ended by stressing that the Board should strongly consider the future.

Mr. Wirth added that the Board has challenges relative to keeping pace. Chair Whitehead voiced her approval of the Basin Board's stewardship of the budget and said she is pleased with the projects that are funded.

For the record, Ms. Kavouras read the three-part staff recommendation:

1. Provide tentative selection of FY2008 Cooperative Funding projects.
2. Approve and adopt a required proposed millage rate of 0.205 for FY2008.
3. Approve Resolution No. 74 — Resolution Affirming the Required Proposed Millage Rate for Fiscal Year 2008.

After consideration, **Mr. Maggard moved, seconded by Ms. Perry, to approve the three-part staff recommendation, as presented. Motion carried.** (CD 1/Track 2)

7. **Reports:**

a. **Crystal River Ground Water Institute for Teachers™**

Raina O'Neil, Youth Education Coordinator, shared good news of this educational event, which was attended by 27 teachers from Pasco, Pinellas, and Hillsborough counties on May 31 through June 2 at Nature's Classroom and Crystal Springs Preserve. Goal of the *Ground Water Institute* program is to increase water resource awareness among teachers and students within their watershed, so they may be active participants in protecting those resources. Ms. O'Neil provided highlights of this successful program including partnering efforts with other agencies, plans for future Institutes, and teacher feedback.

This report was presented for the Board's information; no action was required. (CD 1/Track 2, 2:25 – Track 3)

b. **Report on Governing Board Activities**

Ms. Kavouras reported the Governing Board elected new officers at its May 29 meeting, as follow: Judy Whitehead, Chair; Neil Combee, Vice Chair; Todd Pressman, Secretary; Jennifer Closshey, Treasurer.

Chair Whitehead asked staff to play the pre-recorded highlights of the May Governing Board meeting. Ms. Kavouras narrated the brief recap, which included the lower Hillsborough River minimum flows and levels, an out-of-cycle request for funding from Mosaic Fertilizer, the District's policy regarding brackish water projects, Peace River/Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority projects, Peace River watershed events, and an update of the District's Strategic Plan.

Chair Whitehead encouraged Board members to provide input to the Strategic Plan. (CD 1/Tracks 4 & 5)

8. **Announcements:**

Ms. Kavouras brought members' attention to the announcements listed on the agenda.

Due to the Withlacoochee Basin Board meeting immediately preceding the Coastal Rivers Basin Board meeting and the possibility of needing more time for budget discussions at the August Basin Board meetings, Ms. Kavouras suggested delaying the start of the August 16 meeting until 2 p.m. Board members concurred. (CD 1/Track 7)

9. **Adjournment:**

The day's business being complete, Chair Whitehead adjourned the meeting at 2:02 p.m. (CD 1/Track 7)

******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 are ready to begin. These items did not require Board action at this time.

1. County Parcel Data Acquisition (B530) – Execution Notice
2. Design and Construction of South Brooksville Reuse System Phase II (L781) - Execution Notice
3. Pasco County State Road 52 East/West Regional Reclaimed Water Interconnect (H055) - Execution Notice
4. Pasco County Wet-Weather Reclaimed Water Storage Reservoir - Boyette (H056) - Execution Notice
5. Watershed Management Program Consulting Services for the Cardinal Lane Watershed Management Plan (L659) – Execution Notice
6. Watershed Management Program Consulting Services for the Center Ridge Watershed Management Plan (L661) – Execution Notice
7. Watershed Management Program Consulting Services for the Homosassa River North & South Watershed Management Plan (L662) – Execution Notice
8. Withlacoochee Master Regional Water Supply Planning & Implementation Program (Phases II & VII): Water Supply Feasibility Analyses and Northern District Modeling & Local Community Technical Support (H037) - Execution Notice