

Approved

Minutes of the Meeting

COASTAL RIVERS BASIN BOARD MEETING Southwest Florida Water Management District

Brooksville, FL

August 14, 2008

The Coastal Rivers Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a regular meeting at 1:02 p.m. on August 14, 2008, at District Headquarters, Brooksville, Florida.

Board Members Present

Judith C. Whitehead, Chair Ex Officio
Elaine H. Perry, Secretary
William Y. Bunch, Member
John M. Nicolette, Member

Staff Present

Bruce Wirth	Lou Kavouras
Mike Heyl	Eric Sutton
Linda Pilcher	Beth Putnam
Mark Hammond	Dr. Marty Kelly
Veronica Crow	Jimmy Brooks
Doug Sanders	

Board Member Absent

Randall S. Maggard, Vice Chair
Samuel H. Lyons, Member

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.

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

Chair Ex Officio Judy Whitehead called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. Phyllis Young, the Board's administrative support, called the roll and noted a quorum was present.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

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

Co-Chair Whitehead spoke briefly of former Basin Board Member Dr. George Miskimen, who passed away suddenly on August 12. Dr. George, she said, had been a great asset to the Basin Board and would be missed in the community. A moment of silence followed. (CD 1/Track 1)

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

Deputy Executive Director Lou Kavouras, Outreach, Planning, and Board Services, announced that Agenda Item 4, the Oath of Office, was deleted from the agenda since no gubernatorial appointments or Senate confirmations concerning this Board had been received. (CD 1/Track 1)

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

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

5. **Consent Item:**

After consideration, **Ms. Perry moved, seconded by Mr. Nicolette, to approve the Consent Item below.**

- a. **Minutes of the June 12, 2008, Meeting** – Approve the June 12 meeting minutes, as presented. Motion carried unanimously. (CD 1/Track 1)

6. **Discussion Items:**

a. **Three Sisters Springs Partnership Concept and Status**

Assistant Land Resources Director Eric Sutton provided a status report and the potential role of the District in partnering with other agencies to protect Three Sisters Springs. His report included history of the project; potential acquisition of the parcel; an interagency partnership; potential partners and their roles, primary interest in protecting the property, and funding sources. While obtaining a grant from the Florida Communities Trust would be a milestone in the acquisition process, purchase of the land would not be assured until negotiations with owners are complete and federal funding is realized. Progress is being made to protect and restore natural system components through the Three Sisters Springs project, but significant challenges remain to be addressed. The District will stay involved with the project and assist where possible. (CD 1/ Track 2)

Mr. Norman Hopkins, Director of the Amy H. Remley Foundation and the Kings Bay Association, spoke favorably of the Three Sisters Springs preservation and acquisition project and asked the Board to back the project in whatever way necessary for the project to move forward. (CD 1/Track 3)

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

b. **Proposed Minimum Flow for Weeki Wachee River System (B116)**

Mike Heyl, Chief Environmental Scientist in the Resource Projects Department, provided an informational report on methodologies used to develop the recommended minimum flow for the Weeki Wachee River System. The report included history of the System, the timeline and process of setting the minimum flow, ecological factors, salinity and water quality, flow reduction, and sea life. The recommended minimum flow for the Weeki Wachee River system was presented to the Governing Board at its April 2008 meeting and has been submitted to an independent scientific peer review panel for evaluation. The Panel will conduct its review and report to the Governing Board at a future meeting. Following a favorable peer review report, staff will return to the Board with rule language to establish the minimum flow.

This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required. (CD 1/ Track 4)

ADD-ON Mr. Roger Hebert and Mr. George Nicholas addressed the Board requesting consideration for funding assistance for research on synthetic putting greens, which would be installed at Quail Ridge Golf and Country Club. Water savings could potentially be millions of gallons annually.

Board members asked questions and participated in discussion of the proposed project, but took no action on this out-of-cycle request. (CD 1/Track 5)

c. **FY2009 Budget Discussion and Approval of Final Millage Rate and Budget**

Deputy Executive Director Bruce Wirth, Division of Resource Management, reported that the Basin's proposed budget for FY2009 had been updated to reflect ad valorem revenue based on the proposed millage rate (0.1885) adopted by the Basin Board during the June meeting and the 2008 Certifications of Taxable Value received from county Property Appraisers, resulting in an additional decrease to ad valorem dollars of approximately \$248,140; adding unspent dollars and additional interest resulted in a decrease of \$189,176.

Mr. Wirth briefly highlighted significant changes to the budget since the June meeting, specifically noting the New Development Reclaimed Water Distribution Initiative, which the Board decided not to fund, and the cancelled Pasco County Timber Oaks project. Funds allocated to those projects were added to the Basin's H100, Water Supply and Resource Development Reserves, which was used to balance the Basin budget.

Ms. Kavouras read the three-part staff recommendation.

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

1. **Approve and adopt the required final millage rate of 0.1885 mill for FY2009.**
2. **Approve and adopt the final FY2009 budget.**
3. **Approve Resolution No. 77 -- Resolution Affirming the Required Final Millage Rate and Budget for Fiscal Year 2009.**

Motion carried unanimously. (CD 1/Track 6)

7. **Reports:**

a. **Basin Board Land Resources Committee**

Mr. Sutton provided an overview of the Basin Board Land Resources Committee meeting held July 10, 2008, at Nature's Classroom in Thonotosassa. Topics included land acquisition, extension of the Florida Forever program, conservation easements, and the District's master recreation strategy.

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

b. **Basin Board Education Committee**

A report on the July 10, 2008, Basin Board Education Committee meeting was included as an exhibit in the meeting notebook, as was a copy of the "Criteria for Staff Evaluation of Landscape Demonstration Projects," which were included in the brief report provided by Communications Manager Beth Putnam. She shared other highlights of the meeting including an update on the Water Conservation Hotel and Motel Program (Water CHAMP), the new restaurant outreach program (Water PRO), the Florida Water Starsm Gold Certification program, and Splash Mini-Grant Sharing Days.

This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required. CD 1/Track 7:15:31)

c. **Governing Board Activities**

Chair Whitehead briefly highlighted topics addressed at the July 29, 2008, Governing Board meeting. (CD 1/Track 8)

8. **Announcements:**

Ms. Kavouras brought the Board's attention to announcements listed on the meeting agenda.

9. **Adjournment**

The day's business being complete, Chair Whitehead adjourned the meeting at 2:25 p.m.

******Information Items******

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. This item did not require Board action at this time.

1. Collection of Digital High Resolution Orthophotography and Elevation Data