

DRAFT
Minutes of the Meeting

COASTAL RIVERS BASIN BOARD MEETING
Southwest Florida Water Management District

Brooksville, Florida

April 14, 2011

The Coastal Rivers Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a regular meeting on April 14, 2011, at 1:00 p.m., at District Headquarters.

Board Members Present

Judith C. Whitehead, Chair
William Y. Bunch, Vice Chair
Richard Matassa, Secretary
Fritz Musselmann, Member

Staff Present

Bruce Wirth
Lou Kavouras
Kurt Fritsch
Mark Hammond
David Rathke
Cara Martin

Beth Putnam
Joe Quinn
Miki Renner

Recording Secretary
Tahla Paige

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 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. Paige called the roll and 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, Board Services and Ombudsman, advised there were no additions or deletions to today's agenda.

4. **Consent Item:**

a. **Minutes of the February 3, 2011, Basin Board Meeting**

Basin Board members were provided copies of the minutes for the February 3, 2011, meeting for review.

Following consideration, **Mr. Musselmann moved, seconded by Mr. Bunch, to approve the February 3, 2011, minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

5. **Discussion Items:**

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

Following consideration, **Mr. Musselmann moved, seconded by Mr. Bunch, for all Board members to remain in their current Vice Chair, Secretary and Committee Representative positions. Motion carried unanimously.** (Track 1)

b. **Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 Basin Initiatives for Public (P268) and Youth (P259) Water Resources Education**

Ms. Beth Putnam, Communications Manager, provided two brochures to Board members: a new brochure, *Education and Outreach*, and the Coastal Rivers Basin Board's FY2010

Accomplishments. She presented a report on programs and projects included in the Public (P268) and Youth (P259) Water Resources Education Basin Initiatives proposed for the FY2012 Basin budget. She referenced the budget section of the

Board's meeting notebook and explained the cost breakdowns by program for Basin-specific and District-wide education projects. This comprehensive report included a synopsis of program components and accomplishments for each initiative. Ms. Putman expressed appreciation for Mr. Musselmann's input, through the Basin Board Education Committee, during creation of the *Education and Outreach* document, which outlines the District's education programs. She stated extra copies were available for the Board members. Ms. Putnam closed by emphasizing the importance of the initiatives to inform the public of water issues and to solicit participation in water conservation and protection.

This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required. (Track 2)

c. **Legislative Update**

Mr. David Rathke, Director, Community and Legislative Affairs Department, presented an update including Federal legislation, State concerns, Legislative proposals requested by the water management districts, and proposals by the House and Senate to address the State's significant budget deficit. He said the only active Federal legislation is the FARMS bill. Mr. Rathke reviewed Executive Order 11-01, noting part of the order required a representative from each State agency, and that he was appointed the liaison for the District to the Governor's Office for regulatory activities and rule-making. Mr. Rathke also reported that the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability may conduct a study of fleet operations and a staffing and salary analysis of the five water management districts.

Chair Whitehead asked for verification that the bill currently in Legislature would require all budget transfers to have Legislative approval. Mr. Bruce Wirth, Deputy Executive Director, Resource Management Division, referred confirmed that as he interpreted the bill, all transfers would require approval and passage of the bill would slow down the process of transferring funds for projects.

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

d. **Fiscal Year 2012 Budget Preparation**

Mr. Wirth referred to Mr. Rathke's report regarding legislative proposals and the Governor's request for the water management districts to levy no more than 75 percent of the ad valorem taxes levied in FY2011 with the amount to be held at that level for a two-year period. He said Tallahassee indicated the Basin Boards are perceived as an unnecessary expense. Mr. Wirth expressed concern for possible future loss of funding for cooperative projects. (Track 4)

Following a review of the Basin's preliminary budget and new Cooperative Funding Initiative projects, Mr. Wirth presented estimated funding reductions due to lower property values and/or possible millage rate changes and the associated budgetary impacts to projects. Due to the uncertainty of ad valorem revenue, Mr. Wirth could not provide a refined budget during this meeting.

In closing, Mr. Wirth stated that staff anticipates direction, by the close of the Legislative Session on May 6, that will allow a refined, preliminary budget to be presented to the Basin Board during the June 9 meeting. The Board will then be asked to adopt a proposed millage rate for recommendation to the Governing Board and approve tentative selection of FY 2012 Cooperative Funding Initiative Projects.

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

6. **Reports:**

a. **Basin Board Education Committee**

Ms. Putnam gave an overview of the March 3 meeting. At the meeting, Ms. Laura Hill, Pasco County Schools was introduced to the Committee, and Ms. Hill stated the education of students on water resources issues in Pasco County would not be as comprehensive without the District's funding. Ms. Putnam also distributed copies of the University of Florida's new publication *The Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Guide to Plant Selection and Landscape Design*. The District is distributing this guide through the Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ programs it supports

throughout the District and through online ordering.

b. **Basin Board Land Resources Committee**

Mr. Matassa gave an overview of the March 15 meeting. He stated Mr. Al Belloto, who received an achievement award as a supporter of land conservation, gave an interesting presentation of how land use had evolved over the years. Mr. Matassa stated a CD of the history of Green Swamp was available to be heard while taking a driving tour of the swamp. He added other highlights of the meeting included discussion on surplus lands, the Land Acquisition Program, and hunting. Ms. Kavouras noted that a publication on "Revenue Generation on District Lands" was provided in the Board's meeting packet.

c. **Governing Board Activities**

Chair Whitehead provided highlights of the March 29 Governing Board meeting including (1) issues raised by the Governor and the Department of Environmental Protection that affect the water management districts' budgets, (2) operation of the Tampa Bay Water desalination facility, (3) renewal of the City of Bushnell's water use permit, (4) acquisition of Lake Pretty property, (5) declaration of April as Water Conservation Month, (6) continued discussion of Strategic Planning Initiatives, and (7) an update on the Workload and Staffing Analysis.

These items were presented for the Board's information; no action was required.

Mr. Musselmann requested a brief presentation on springs within the District and options to help protect them for the next Basin Board meeting.

7. **Announcements:**

Ms. Kavouras announced that the Hernando County Task Force Meeting scheduled for May 2 has been cancelled. She informed the Board members they are invited to Hernando County's Water World Seminar on May 6 at 8:00 a.m. The Basin Board meeting is scheduled for June 9 at 1:00 p.m.

8. **Adjournment**

There being no other business to come before the Board, Chair Whitehead adjourned the meeting at 2:42 p.m.

Per Resolution 11-10, Basin Boards were merged into the District effective June 1, 2011. The Basin Board did not meet again and, therefore, the April 2011 meeting minutes were not formally approved.