

Approved
Minutes of the Meeting

COASTAL RIVERS BASIN BOARD MEETING

Southwest Florida Water Management District

Brooksville, Florida

April 15, 2010

The Coastal Rivers Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a regular meeting April 15, 2010, at 1:11 p.m., at District Headquarters.

Board Members Present

Ronald Oakley, Acting Chair
William Y. Bunch, Member
Richard Matassa, Member
Fritz Musselmann, Member

Staff Present

Bruce Wirth
Lou Kavouras
Roy Mazur
Michael Molligan
Randy Emberg
Colleen Kruk
Jason Mickel

Linda Pilcher

Beth Putnam

Joe Quinn

Miki Renner

Virginia Sternberger

Board Member Absent

Judith C. Whitehead, Chair

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, as set out in full herein, are also filed in the permanent files of the Basin.

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

Chair Oakley called the meeting to order at 1:11 p.m. Ms. Paige noted a quorum was present.

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

Chair Oakley 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, advised there were no additions or deletions to today's agenda. However, there will be a change of presenter for item 8.c. Jason Mickel will be the presenter instead of Roy Mazur.

4. **Oath of Office for Appointed Board Members**

Ms. Kavouras administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Fritz H. Musselmann, who replaces Randy Maggard, and to Mr. Richard "Rich" Matassa, who fills the current vacant position. Ms. Kavouras congratulated them on their appointments, and Chair Oakley welcomed them to the Board. (Track 1)

Ms. Kavouras explained to the audience that Chair Oakley was acting chair for the day in Chair Judy Whitehead's absence.

5. **Ceremony to Honor Former Basin Board Member Randy Maggard**

Chair Oakley reviewed the accomplishments of the Board in which Mr. Maggard participated and presented the plaque to him. Mr. Maggard gave a thank you speech, and Ms. Kavouras stated it had been a pleasure working with him. (Track 1)

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

Mr. Jason Mickel, Senior Planner, Northern District Planning Section, provided the Board a brief overview of relevant items on the agenda. He announced that as of February the Strategic Plan was completed and available online. He stated a hard copy could be requested. Mr. Mickel advised that the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority had finished its Water Supply Master Plan and would be holding a workshop to discuss

recommendations and solicit input in the Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council Board Room in Ocala on April 21, 2010 at 1:00 p.m.

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

7. **Consent Items:**

a. **Minutes of the October 13, 2009, Joint Meeting and Workshop**

Basin Board members were provided copies of the minutes for the October 13, 2009, joint meeting and workshop for review.

b. **Non-Exclusive License Agreement to Florida Gas Transmission (FGT) Company for a 36-inch Natural Gas Pipeline – Starkey Wilderness Preserve/Serenova Tract – SWF Parcel Number 15-010-058X**

Staff recommended to accept the appraisal of the proposed non-exclusive license agreement between the District and FGT; approve the license agreement between the District and FGT, SWF Parcel No. 15-010-058X; and authorize the Land Resources Director to execute the license agreement.

Following consideration, **Mr. Musselmann moved, seconded by Mr. Bunch, to approve Consent Items 7a and 7b as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

8. **Discussion Items:**

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

Election results were the following:

Vice Chair: William Bunch

Secretary: Fritz H. Musselmann

Basin Board Land Resources Committee:

Primary Representative: Richard Matassa

Alternate: William Bunch

Basin Board Education Committee:

Primary Representative: Fritz Musselmann

Alternate: William Bunch

Citrus/Hernando Waterways Restoration Council Hernando County Task Force Technical Advisory Group

Primary Representative: Richard Matassa

Alternate: Fritz Musselmann (Track 3)

b. **2010 Springs Awareness Week**

Ms. Virginia Sternberger, Senior Communications Coordinator, Communications Department, gave a presentation to inform Board members of the results of Springs Awareness Week, which occurred in Citrus and Marion counties from March 14–20, 2010. The primary goal of Springs Awareness Week was to educate homeowners and landscape professionals on the effects that over-fertilizing has on local springs and other water bodies. A new addition this year was a free soil analysis offered by the District through the University of Florida IFAS. The soil analysis determined whether your yard needed to be fertilized by measuring the phosphorus, PH levels, and other nutrients. The program had 118 participants. Other events included Florida Friendly classes and various springs and sinkhole educational tours. She said Lowes, Home Depot, Walmart and K-Mart each hosted an "Ask an Expert" table with master gardeners answering questions on Florida Friendly landscaping and proper fertilizing. (Track 4)

This item was presented for the Basin Board's information only and no action was required.

c. **2010 Regional Water Supply Plan Update**

Mr. Mickel stated staff had completed internal review of the 2010 updated Regional Water Supply Plan (Plan) and a draft Plan will be available for public comment tomorrow. After stakeholder input through public workshops, Basin Boards and the Advisory Committees, starting in May, it is anticipated the Regional Water Supply Plan will be presented to the Governing Board for their consideration in November 2010. Mr. Mickel informed the Board that the Plan had been divided into five volumes, an executive summary and one volume for each planning region, so individuals interested only in one area could obtain a copy of the part of the plan affecting them. He felt this would also be more cost effective than only producing large copies of the entire plan. (Track 5)

This item is presented for the Board's information; no action is required. Staff welcomes any input or direction on the draft Regional Water Supply Plan.

d. **Fiscal Year 2011 Budget Preparation**

Mr. Bruce C. Wirth, Deputy Executive Director, Division of Resource Management began the budget discussion with comments to orient Board members on their first look at a preliminary budget for fiscal year (FY) 2011. He emphasized the importance of the Board's direction on funding levels of the various budget categories, including prioritization of Cooperative Funding proposals and other Basin projects. He also reminded Board members that first-time cooperative funding proposals, after staff review, were tentatively ranked High, Medium, or Low priority. The budget was prepared assuming the millage rate will remain at 0.1885 mill and property valuations will decline by eight percent, which was estimated for planning purposes. Additionally, Mr. Wirth reported that no new State dollars are anticipated, i.e., Water Management Lands Trust Fund, Florida Forever (land acquisition funds), or Senate Bill 444 (Water Protection and Sustainability Trust Fund), etc. Any West Central Florida Water Restoration Action Plan (WRAP) monies, if allocated, will be shared among all responsible Basins. Prior year State funds are already allocated to projects. It is anticipated the Save Our Rivers land management and maintenance expenditures will be funded for FY2011 with prior year funds in the Water Management Lands Trust Fund. This will necessitate using a portion of the funds that had been previously set aside for the Lake Hancock Outfall Treatment project, with the final amount to be determined as the FY2011 budget request are finalized.

In June, staff will provide an updated ad valorem revenue estimate to the Basin Board, based on formal June 1 estimates of property value from county property appraisers, and will present a revised proposed budget, based on the Board's input and further investigation by staff. Also, the Board will be required to approve the Basin's proposed FY2011 millage rate and budget. In August, the Basin Board will vote on a final FY2011 millage rate and final budget for recommendation to the Governing Board. Mr. Wirth reviewed the line items and reminded Board members that their input/direction on projects is important to the budget process.

Mr. Musselmann asked why the contingency funds had been lowered from \$500,000 to \$400,000 and if the other Basin Boards had lowered their contingency funds. Mr. Wirth replied yes, the amount is usually based on five percent of the overall budget and the amount varied from basin to basin. Mr. Musselmann suggested keeping it at \$500,000 for emergencies, like expenses due to hurricanes.

Mr. Matassa asked if lowering the millage rate was considered. Mr. Wirth explained it was not because while the millage rate stayed the same, revenues had dropped due to the lowering of property values, and taxpayers were paying less money. (Track 6)

Mr. Mickel continued the budget discussion by directing members to a table (checklist) in the meeting notebook that showed current Cooperative Funding applications by FY2011 Basin budget priority. He highlighted projects in the current budget that show what types of projects address each priority and the trends that were observed during the current Cooperative Funding cycle. Mr. Mickel suggested that Board members use the checklist as a tool in evaluating the proposed budget and in identifying trends in funding.

Mr. Mickel announced that during the August Basin Board meeting, Mr. Joseph Quinn, the Board's new Staff Planner, will review and reaffirm the Basin's budget priorities with the Board, and adjustments will be made as necessary.

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

9. **Reports:**

a. **Basin Board Education Committee**

Mr. Michael Molligan, Director, Communications Department, stated the March 3, 2010 meeting included presentations on the Florida Water StarSM Gold, "Get Outside!" events, the "Skip a Week" campaign, and Education projects. He said discussion had centered on the cost of the projects and which were more cost effective in educating the public.

This item was presented for the Board's information only; no action was required. (Track 8)

b. **Basin Board Land Resources Committee and Land Use Stakeholders Joint Meeting**

Eric Sutton, Director, Land Resources Department stated an overview was enclosed in the Board's packet with information on the March 16, 2010, Basin Board Land Resources Committee and Land Use Stakeholders joint meeting. He announced the next meeting is July 16, 2010 in Lecanto with topics on hunting and ecosystem services.

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

c. **Governing Board Activities**

Chair Oakley reported a "Get Outside" Event was held on April 10, 2010 at Deep Creek Preserve, Arcadia. Ms. Kavouras stated there had been a large attendance and thanked staff for the great job they did coordinating the event.

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

10. **Announcements:**

a. Ms. Kavouras announced the Starkey Environmental Education Center had completed work on exhibits, and staff would like to have a ribbon cutting ceremony on Wednesday, June 9, 2010. She said the idea would be to have the Pinellas-Anclote Basin Board meeting at 9:00 a.m. and hold the Coastal Rivers Basin Board Meeting at 1:00 p.m. with the ribbon cutting ceremony held between meetings. Ms. Kavouras stated an email with details would follow.

b. Ms. Kavouras reminded the Board an email had been sent about the Tour of Tampa Bay SWIM Ecosystem Restoration Projects on April 23, 2010, and the deadline for the RSVP is tomorrow, April 16, 2010 at noon.

10. **Adjournment**

When there was no other business to come before the Board, Chair Oakley adjourned the meeting at 2:48 p.m. (Track 9)

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