

**APPROVED
MEETING SUMMARY**

**Environmental Advisory Committee
Southwest Florida Water Management District
December 8, 2008**

The Environmental Advisory Committee of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a regular meeting at 1:15 p.m., December 8, 2008, at the Tampa Service Office, 7601 Highway 301 North, Tampa, Florida.

Committee Members Present

Gregory Nowaski, Chair, Control Growth Now, Inc.
Al Cheatham, Vice Chair, Charlotte County COC
Dwayne Carlton, Ocala/Marion County COC
Holly Greening, Tampa Bay Estuary Program
Eileen Hart, Keystone Civic Association
Dave Kandz, St. Petersburg Audubon Society
Carl Keeler, Izaak Walton League
Wade Matthews, Sarasota Audubon Society
Keith Renish, Heartland Environmental
Betsy Roberts, Env Confederation of SW FLA
Bob Upcavage, Native Plant Society

Staff Members Present

Lou Kavouras, Facilitator
April Davis
Sylvia Durell
Granville Kinsman
Joanne McClellan
Jennette Seachrist

Governing Board Member

None

Recording Secretary

Teri Hudson

Approved minutes from previous meetings can be found on the District's Web site at (www.WaterMatters.org).

The numbers preceding the items below correspond with the published agenda.

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chair Greg Nowaski called the meeting to order. He welcomed members, staff, and interested persons attending and asked for member introductions. Mr. Bob Upcavage was introduced as a new primary member representing the Native Plant Society, with Mr. Ron Chicone, Jr. serving as alternate.

2. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda

Lou Kavouras, Deputy Executive Director, Outreach, Planning and Board Services, stated that Granville Kinsman will present Item 4, *Hydrologic Conditions/Drought Update*, instead of Lois Sorensen. Item 5, *Enhanced Water Conservation Measures for Water Use Permitting Update*, will be covered under Item 6, *Other Rulemaking*.

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Summary

A motion was made by Mr. Carlton and seconded by Mr. Keeler to approve the September 8, 2008 meeting summary as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Hydrologic Conditions/Drought Update

Granville Kinsman, Hydrologic Data Manager, stated the rainfall deficit continues to expand. There is a steady decline in hydrologic indicators. The forecast shows drier-than-normal conditions. Mr. Kinsman stated the seasonal declines expect to be greater than normal producing a very dry winter and spring. The water supply resource impacts the Tampa Bay area is experiencing may now spread to other parts of the District. There were questions and discussion among the committee members regarding the more restrictive water restrictions for Pasco, Pinellas, and Hillsborough Counties. Their concerns were addressed by Ms. Kavouras and Mr. Kinsman.

5. Enhanced Water Conservation Measures for Water Use Permitting Update

This item was covered under Item 6, Other Rulemaking.

6. Other Rulemaking

Lou Kavouras provided the following rulemaking update. 1) There will be a public workshop scheduled in January for Enhanced Water Conservation Measures for Water Use Permitting. Ms. Kavouras will email committee members the rule language and the date of the workshop. 2) There are several rulemaking items that will be going forward to the Governing Board's December 16th meeting: Year-Round Water Conservation Measures; Protection of the Bald Eagle (Ms. Kavouras will email the proposed rule language to committee members); Minimum and

guidance levels for Lake Anoka in Highlands County; and the requirement from JAPC to make the FARMS program a rule.

7. SWIM Overview

Jennette Seachrist, SWIM Program Manager, stated the Florida Legislature created SWIM in 1987 and identified specific water bodies that would fall under SWIM, ten of which are located within our District. The focus of the District's SWIM Program has been to implement projects that restore degraded habitats and reduce pollution entering the water bodies. To date the SWIM Program has completed over 240 projects for its' 10 priority water bodies, which have resulted in over 3,000 acres of restored habitat and water quality treatment of over 47,000 acres of watershed. The SWIM Program and its' projects have been awarded 39 environmental excellence awards. Ms. Seachrist presented examples of various projects the District's SWIM Program has completed over the past 20 years. There was discussion among the committee members regarding the continued funding of this program. There was a question from a committee member requesting information as to whether the District has been consulted by DEP in regard to Midnight Pass being re-opened. Ms. Seachrist will check to see if the FDEP has requested input from the District on the Midnight Pass permit review.

8. Resource Data Capability of WMIS

Granville Kinsman provided a brief overview of hydrologic data access using WMIS and GIS. Mr. Kinsman demonstrated how WMIS could be used to search for sites at which data have been collected or permits issued, as well as download hydrologic, water-quality, and atmospheric data and permit-related information.

9. Orthophoto Program

April Davis, GIS Analyst 3, provided a brief history of the Orthophoto program and how orthophotos have become completely integrated into the District's business processes. She demonstrated various types of mapping including baseline maps, aerial maps and a refined orthophoto map that is a valuable tool when generating accurate measurements. Committee members complimented Ms. Davis and thanked her for a very informative presentation.

10. Water Star Program

Sylvia Durell, Senior Communications Coordinator, provided information regarding the Florida Water Star Gold Program which is a voluntary certification program that positively impacts indoor and outdoor water use. Ms. Durell explained the process to obtain certification. This program can benefit builders, developers, new homebuyers, and water management districts. Ms. Durell introduced Susan Douglas as the District's Florida Water Star Gold Certification Program Coordinator. There was discussion among committee members regarding the District possibly developing this type of program for individual homeowners, and constraints experienced due to Homeowners Association rules.

11. State of the Water Resource Workshop

Greg Nowaski, Environmental Advisory Committee Chair, said the November 21 Workshop was informative and particularly enjoyed the presentation on the process of wastewater to potable water in Orange County, California and the future financing of land preservation. Suggestions for future workshops would be to allow time for committee input on agenda topics, allow for more dialogue and interaction between presentations, and possibly choose a date not too close to a holiday. Ms. Kavouras added the workshop will not be held every year, possibly every 2-3 years with the intention to re-connect with former Governing, Basin Board and advisory committee members.

12. Remaining FY2009 EAC Meetings

The remaining FY2009 EAC meetings are for 1:00 p.m. in the District's Tampa Service Office on March 9, 2009, June 8, 2009, and September 14, 2009.

13. Development of Agenda Topics for the March 9, 2009 Meeting

- Rulemaking updates
- Legislative Preview
- Elections/Policy Review
- Springs Protection Ordinance (Dwayne Carlton)
- DOT Mitigation
- Land Management/Land Acquisition Annual Update
- 2010 Update of Regional Water Supply Plan

- 2009 Annual Demand Projections for Environmental Restoration
- MFL Update
- FEMA Map Modernization
- Regional Reclaimed Water Project

14. Announcements and Other Business

Ms. Kavouras announced two Basin Board appointments. Mr. Michael P. McCoy of Bradenton has been appointed to the Manasota Basin Board, and Mr. William J. Bachschmidt of Inglis has been appointed to the Withlacoochee River Basin Board. Mr. Al Cheatham asked a DOT mitigation question regarding when US 17 was widened to four lanes in Charlotte County, a swale was created in the median, and Al thinks the swale was likely put there to handle runoff. About three or four weeks ago DOT started filling in the median and installing irrigation and plant material. Mr. Cheatham would like to know if DOT is required to modify their roadway stormwater system due to reduced capacity of the median swale. Ms. Kavouras will contact appropriate District Staff to address Mr. Cheatham's question.

15. Adjournment

There being no further discussions, the meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.