

APPROVED

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

HILLSBOROUGH RIVER BASIN BOARD SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Tampa, Florida

February 3, 2009

The Hillsborough River Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a regular meeting at 9:00 a.m., on February 3, 2009, at the Tampa Service Office.

Board Members Present

Maritza Rovira-Forino, Co-Chair Ex Officio
Hugh Gramling, Co-Chair Ex Officio
Joe Robinson, Vice Chair
George Burt, Vice Chair
Susan Welsh, Secretary
Renee Benton, Secretary
Devon Higginbotham, Member

Board Member(s) Absent

Mercy DiMaio, Member
Gary Reckart, Member

Recording Secretary

M. Frances Sesler

Staff Members

Bruce C. Wirth
Lou Kavouras
Eric DeHaven
Mark Hammond
Eric Sutton
Miki Renner
Maya Burke
Cori Cuttler
Randy Emberg
Karen Morgan

Video Conference

Beth Putnam

A list of others who attended and signed the attendance roster is filed in the permanent files of the Basin. Compact discs of the audio and copies of materials and handouts, as set forth in full herein, are also filed in the permanent files of the District.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Pending Co-Chair Maritza Rovira-Forino's arrival; Co-Chair Hugh Gramling called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. Ms. Sesler called the roll and noted a quorum was present.

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

Co-Chair Gramling led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

3. Additions/Deletions to Agenda

Ms. Lou Kavouras, Deputy Executive Director, Outreach, Planning and Board Services, stated Agenda Item 4, Oath of Office for Appointed/Re-Appointed Board Member(s), is deleted from the agenda. The Governor has not named any new appointees to the Board. (CD 1/Track 1)

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

This item was deleted.

5. **Consent Items:**

- a. **Minutes of the October 7, 2008, Hillsborough River Basin Board Meeting and Workshop**
Staff recommended approval of the October minutes as presented.
- b. **Minutes of the December 2, 2008, Northwest Hillsborough Basin Board Meeting.**
Staff recommended approval of the December minutes as presented.
- c. **Appraisal and Land Exchange – Sweetwater Creek Watershed Project, SWF Parcel Nos. 14-042-170S and 14-042-171**
Staff recommended the Governing Board declare SWF Parcel No. 14-042-170S as surplus and as no longer needed for District purposes, accept the appraisal, approve the no cost exchange of lands with Berkshire Development, LLC, and; approve realignment of the existing access easement with Handy Road upon development of the property.
- d. **Declaration and Conveyance of Surplus Lands to Florida Department of Transportation, SWF Parcel No. 13-004-311S, and Conveyance of Access Easement, SWF Parcel No. 13-004-314X – Tampa Bypass Canal**
Staff recommended the Governing Board declare SWF Parcel No.13-004-311S surplus and convey the property to FDOT, convey access easement over SWF Parcel No. 13-004-314X to FDOT, accept the appraised value of \$1,385,600 for fee title to SWF Parcel No. 13-004-311S and \$240,000 for a permanent easement to SWF Parcel No. 13-004-314X; and include the \$1,625,600 in the Hillsborough River Basin's balance forward for Fiscal Year 2010 budget development.

Following consideration, **Ms. Benton moved, seconded by Mr. Robinson, to approve the Consent Items. Motion carried unanimously.** (CD 1/Track 1)

6. **Discussion Items:**

- a. **Merger of the Northwest Hillsborough and Hillsborough River Basins**
Ms. Kavouras and Maya Burke, Basin Planner, explained the details and logistics relative to the merger that became effective January 1, 2009. Ms. Kavouras said the Governing Board took final action on December 16 to merge the two Basin Boards by adopting Resolution No. 08-30 which modified the boundaries and combined the two Boards, and authorized the initiation of rulemaking which was necessary to change the legal description in the rules that defined the Basin boundaries. Ms. Kavouras said at this point there are two sets of officers for the Board. The February meeting is being chaired by Co-Chair Rovira-Forino; the April meeting will be chaired by Co-Chair Hugh Gramling, along with the respective vice chairs and secretaries serving alternately.

Attendance at the March committee meetings is welcomed by all representatives. A decision will need to be made, which of the two primaries will be the voting member if both representatives are present at the meetings. The scheduled meeting dates for the Board will be Thursdays at 1:00 p.m., in the Tampa Service Office. Ms. Kavouras said that the fiscal year 2009 budgets for the Hillsborough and Northwest Hillsborough Basins remain separate and will go forward separately. Ms. Benton indicated that she had a conflict with the proposed meeting days and time because of prior engagements. Ms. Kavouras said we will look at other options

to see what can be done. Mr. Gramling requested that future meetings begin at 1:30 p.m. rather than at 1:00 p.m. (CD 1/Track 1)

Ms. Burke emphasized that this merger is a coming together of equals, and one basin's set of priorities is no more relevant than the others. She said it is important to achieve consensus on one set of priorities to guide the Board through the 2010 budget cycle.

(Co-Chair Maritza Rovira-Forino entered the meeting at this time.)

Ms. Higginbotham asked how does staff utilize this information in ranking priorities or projects. Ms. Burke said that each basin planner reviews the applications as they come in to make sure they are consistent with the basin's priorities.

Following consideration, **Mr. Burt moved, seconded by Mr. Robinson, to approve a new set of merged FY2010 strategic budget priorities: Conservation Research and Education, Reclaimed Water, Monitoring and Recovery of Established MFLs, Flood Protection/Urban Stormwater Retrofits. Motion carried unanimously.**

Co-Chair Gramling passed the gavel to Co-Chair Rovira-Forino who apologized for being late and continued with the meeting. (CD 1/Track 1)

b. **Legislative Update**

Ms. Cori Cuttler, Community Affairs Program Manager, summarized the latest developments at the state and federal level. The budget deficit was approximately \$2.3 billion. The Florida Constitution requires a balanced state budget; therefore, cuts were taken across the board. This included areas of interest to the water management districts. Specifically, there were reductions to Florida Forever Trust Fund, the Water Management Lands Trust Fund and the Water Protection and Sustainability Trust Fund. The Governor vetoed some of the reductions including those from the Florida Forever Trust Fund and the Water Management Lands Trust Fund.

Ms. Cuttler said the upcoming Legislative Session is scheduled to begin March 3. She reviewed additional budget reductions that are anticipated along with discussion about potential new revenue sources. Substantive legislation that may be proposed this year includes springs protection and streamlining of the permitting processes along with the ongoing sunset review of the water management districts and other state agencies including the Department of Community Affairs. Mr. Burt requested that legislative updates be provided to board members prior to meeting dates. (CD 1/Track 1)

c. **Fiscal Year 2010 Cooperative Funding Initiative Requests**

Ms. Burke reviewed the Cooperative Funding process and advised the Board of the Cooperative Funding Initiative (CFI) applications received for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 budget cycle and the staff review process they undergo. Applications for the FY2010 Cooperative funding cycle were received in December and are provided to the Basin Board as they were received. Ms. Burke provided a brief overview of the project submittals, reviewed the Basin Board's Strategic Priorities, and the District's project ranking process. Staff will return to the April meeting with initial project ranking and funding recommendations for the Board's consideration. This process is an important part of the Basin Board's budget discussions for Fiscal Year 2010. This item was presented for the Board's information, no action was required.

7. **Reports:**

a. **Basin Board Education Committee Meeting**

Ms. Benton referred the members to Exhibit 5 in the notebook for the overview of the Basin Board Education Committee meeting held on November 4, 2008, at the Tampa Service Office. The overview included reports regarding the Communications Department's FY2008 final accomplishments, Youth Education Splash! Mini-grants, Water Conservation Hotel and Motel Program audit results, FY2009 Community Education Grants and the Partners in Watershed Education Conference and Awards Luncheon. This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required. (CD 1/Track 3)

b. **Basin Board Land Resources Committee Meeting**

Mr. Eric Sutton, Land Resources Director, provided the Board with an overview of the Basin Board Land Resources Committee meeting held Wednesday, December 3, 2008, in conjunction with the Public Land Acquisition and Management Partnership Conference. Co-Chair Rovira-Forino stated that the Land Resources Committee is very important and exciting. Ms. Kavouras said the next meeting will be held at the Polk Nature Center and encouraged everyone to attend. This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required. (CD 1/Track 4)

c. **Hillsborough River Interlocal Planning Board – Technical Advisory Committee**

Ms. Cutler gave a brief overview of the highlights from the January 6, 2009, meeting held at the Tampa Union Station, 601 N. Nebraska Avenue, Tampa. Marty Kelly gave a presentation updating the study requested by Temple Terrace regarding the health of the Middle River. The final version of the study will be presented to the Governing Board February 24, 2009. This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required.

d. **Governing Board Activities**

Co-Chair Gramling said the City of Temple Terrace has some issues regarding the Middle Hillsborough River. This is the area between the dam and Fletcher Avenue. Although specific requests or recommendations have not been made of what they would like, he believes they would like to see higher water level closer to the Fowler and Fletcher Avenue area. District staff has been meeting with the City of Temple Terrace on an ongoing basis. A gage has been installed at Fowler Avenue to receive additional data and help with their concerns. Both Co-Chair Gramling and Ms. Benton commended staff for working with the community. A three-minute video summarizing the January Governing Board meeting was aired.

Co-Chair Gramling proposed that the former Hillsborough River Basin committee representatives serve as the voting committee member at the March 16 meeting, election of officers will be held in April. This was the consensus of the Board.

Mr. Robinson requested additional information about the possibility of Tampa Bay Water exceeding its 90 (mgd) groundwater limit. Ms. Higginbotham wondered if the District's conservation messaging has been effective at reducing water consumption. Mr. Warren Hogg, with Tampa Bay Water, said they have seen a stabilization of the demands on the Tampa Bay Water system. Regular monthly meetings are held with the members so they can share their water conservation ideas that others may learn from and implement. Co-Chair Gramling said that the District is stepping up its messaging again this year by encouraging the skip a week program. Ms. Welsh commended staff for reducing the paper used to produce basin notebooks and

confirmed that staff members were able to recycle the notebooks once they are no longer needed. This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required. (Cd1/Track 5)

8. **Announcements:**

Ms. Kavouras reminded the Board of announcements that was listed in the notebook and encouraged everyone to attend. The next Basin Board meeting is scheduled for April 9, at 1:30 p.m., in the Tampa Service Office.

9. **Adjournment:**

There being no other business to come before the Board, Co-Chair Rovira-Forino adjourned the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

****Information Items****

The item(s) listed below are 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. The item(s) do not require Board action at this time.

1. Supplemental Utility Easement to Progress Energy Florida, Inc. for Additional Service to the Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative Tampa Downs Substation – Cypress Creek Preserve, SWF Parcel Number 13-500-390X
2. Temporary Construction Easement to Florida Department of Transportation for S.R. 39 – Hillsborough River Corridor, SWF Parcel Number 13-444-109X
3. United States Geological Survey Joint Funding Agreement for Minimum Flows and Levels Data Collection (B182) - Execution Notice
4. Agreement Between the Southwest Florida Water Management District and the United States Geological Survey for the Project "Factors Affecting Hydrologic Recovery of Wetlands in the Northern Tampa Bay Area" (B261) – Execution Notice
5. Recovery of the Lower Hillsborough River: Sulphur Springs Pool Upper Weir & Gates and Sulphur Springs Pumping Station Project (H400) - Execution Notice
6. Recovery of the Lower Hillsborough River: Sulphur Springs Run Lower Weir and Blue Sink Diversion Project (H401) - Execution Notice
7. Hillsborough County Lake and Stream Monitoring Program (K057) - Execution Notice
8. Watershed Management Program Consulting Services in the Polk County Watershed - Second Amendment (L672) - Execution Notice
9. Drew Park Stormwater Improvements (L828) - Execution Notice
10. Implementation of Best Management Practices at Hillsborough River State Park (W383) - Execution Notice
11. 2009 Community Education Grants in the Hillsborough River Basin