

APPROVED

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

HILLSBOROUGH RIVER BASIN BOARD SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Tampa, Florida

February 11, 2008

The Hillsborough River Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a regular meeting at 9:09 a.m. on February 11, 2008, at the Tampa Service Office.

Board Members Present

Heidi B. McCree, Chair Ex Officio
George R. Burt, Vice Chair
Hugh M. Gramling, Secretary
Renee Benton, Member
Devon Higginbotham, Member

Member Absent

Gary P. Reckart, Member

Recording Secretary

Annette D. Zielinski

Staff Members Present

Bruce C. Wirth	Miki Renner
Lou Kavouras	Maya Burke
Mark Hammond	Ralph Lair
Eric DeHaven	Jennette Seachrist
Mike Holtkamp	
Roy Mazur	
Daryl Pokrana (<i>via video conference</i>)	
Linda Pilcher	
Kathy Scott	

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

Chair McCree called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m. Ms. Zielinski called the roll and noted a quorum was present.

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

Chair McCree led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

3. Additions/Deletions to Agenda

Ms. Kavouras said Item 4, Oath of Office for Newly Appointed Board Member, was deleted from the agenda.

4. Oath of Office for Newly Appointed Board Member

This item was deleted from the agenda.

5. Ceremony to Honor Former Basin Board Member Hung T. Mai

Chair McCree highlighted Mr. Mai's many contributions to the Hillsborough River Basin Board over his three terms of service from July 1999 to November 2007. Chair McCree said Mr. Mai was a very involved and active Basin Board member, and he made a difference with his dedication and insight to the many policy decisions that were put into place during his tenure. During his time on the Hillsborough River Basin Board, Mr. Mai served as its Vice Chair from April 2000 to June 2002. He also served on the Basin Board Education Committee and the Hillsborough River Interlocal Planning Board. Chair McCree thanked Mr. Mai for all his hard work and dedication to the Hillsborough River Basin Board and the District. (CD 1 /Track 1 – 00:00/08:09)

6. **Consent Items:**

a. **December 10, 2007, Meeting Minutes**

Staff recommended approval of the December 10, 2007, meeting minutes, as presented.

b. **Board Transfer from Stormwater Implementation Reserves for the Mayor's Beautification Program's Hillsborough River Litter Reduction Project**

Staff recommended approval to transfer \$21,565 from the Stormwater Implementation Reserves (Z969) to the Basin Initiative for Public Education (P268) to be used in FY2008 for the Mayor's Beautification Program's Hillsborough River Litter Reduction Project.

c. **Declaration of Cooperation of the Tampa Bay Nitrogen Management Consortium**

Staff recommended to:

- (1.) Approve the attached "Declaration of Cooperation of the Tampa Bay Nitrogen Management Consortium" and the "Tampa Bay Nitrogen Management Strategy, 2007 Update to the Reasonable Assurance Document."; and
- (2.) Recommend the Governing Board Chair execute the Declaration of Cooperation.

d. **River Garden Shoreline Restoration**

Staff recommended to:

- (1.) Authorize the transfer of \$30,000 from W312, Tampa Bay Habitat Restoration, to W381, River Garden Shoreline Restoration Project; and
- (2.) Authorize the Executive Director to approve and execute an amendment to the agreement.

Following consideration, **Mr. Gramling moved, seconded by Ms. Benton, to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.** (CD 1/Track 2 – 00:00/00:24)

7. **Discussion Items:**

a. **Pasco County Design and Construction of Wet-Weather Reclaimed Water Reservoir Land O' Lakes**

Ms. Kathy Scott, Manager, Conservation Projects, said this item was to request that the Basin Board approve an out-of-cycle funding request for Pasco County to increase the funding for the Wet-Weather Reclaimed Water Reservoir in Land O' Lakes. This request would increase the District's funding by \$2 million from \$2.18 million to \$4.18 million. The \$2 million increase in District funding is proposed to come from the Governing Board - \$1,000,000, Hillsborough River Basin Board - \$500,000, and the Pinellas-Anclote River and Coastal Rivers Basin Boards - \$250,000 each. Ms. Scott provided the Board with an update regarding the design challenges associated with Pasco County's wet-weather storage project in Land O' Lakes. Mr. Gramling sought assurance that Pasco County was comfortable with a less than 50-50 split and that would still be able to move forward given current budget constraints. Ms. Higginbotham and Mr. Burt asked if the cost increase was above and beyond normal cost estimates for similar projects. Ms. McCree wanted to know why geo-technical costs were not anticipated. Mr. Burt inquired about the value and percentage of ad valorem revenue Pasco County contributed to the Hillsborough River Basin Board.

Staff recommended to:

- (1.) Approve the transfer of \$500,000 from the Hillsborough River Basin Board's Water Supply and Resource Development reserves to the Pasco County Design and Construction of Wet-Weather Reclaimed Water Reservoir – Land O' Lakes Project;

- (2.) Recommend the Governing Board authorize staff to prepare an amendment increasing the total project cost not to exceed \$4.18 million, contingent upon approval of the other Basins, with the Basin Board's share not to exceed \$741,250; and
- (3.) Authorize the Executive Director to sign the amendment.

Following consideration, **Mr. Gramling moved, seconded by Ms. Benton, to approve the staff recommendation. Motion carried unanimously.** (CD 1/Track 3 – 00:00/19:19)

b. **Tampa Bay Regional Reclaimed Water Project**

Mr. Wirth provided the Basin Board an update on the Tampa Bay Regional Reclaimed Water Project (TBRRP) and the City of Tampa's plans to postpone moving forward on the project and instead focus on expanding the South Tampa Area Reuse Project (STAR).

The Regional Project has been budgeted over several years by the six Basin Boards within the Tampa Bay Water service area based on population served by the project benefits. The rationale was that the project, served centrally by the Howard F. Curren (HFC) Plant, was expected to significantly contribute to meeting water supply needs of Tampa Bay Water member governments and others in the Tampa Bay area over the next 20 years. The project was estimated to cost \$213 million when originally proposed to the Basin Boards and the Governing Board. Since then, while no funds were budgeted in FY2008, the District's Long-Range Financial Plan was adjusted to reflect the latest estimate of \$223 million. Approximately \$37 million has been budgeted for the Regional Project to date, of which \$7 million has been expended for planning, design and construction of various parts of the project. Most notable has been the construction of Pasco County's reuse reservoir which will provide benefits regardless of whether HFC Plant reuse is provided or not. During the FY2009 budget cycle, staff will present recommendations to the Basin Board for using the funds now available from the Regional Project for other projects.

Ms. McCree voiced her concern about offset and cost estimates and the impact on the District's image in terms of lobbying efforts for federal funds. She also urged the Board to maintain the big picture and advocated "keeping it in the watershed." Mr. Gramling described the decision to withdraw the project "troubling." He expressed concerns regarding premature requests for funds that compete with other projects that may actually come to fruition. He also requested that the TBRRP funds not be promised to the City of Tampa's STAR project. Ms. Higginbotham and Mr. Burt inquired about the length and purpose of the proposed pipeline to Polk County and whether or not another waste water treatment plant is more closely located.

This item was for the Board's information only; no action was required. (CD 1/Track 3 – 19:19/50:47)

c. **Tampa Bypass Canal Operation and Maintenance**

Mr. Michael L. Holtkamp, Director, Operations Department, provided the Basin Board with an overview of the operation and maintenance of the Tampa Bypass Canal (TBC) this was requested by the Basin Board at its July 2007 meeting.

The TBC system, which includes the 16,000-acre Lower Hillsborough Flood Detention Area (LHFDA), is the Basin Board's largest asset. The TBC system which began in the mid-1960s was constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as part of the federally authorized Four River Basins, Florida Project for the purpose of providing flood

protection to the cities of Temple Terrace and Tampa by diverting flood flows from the Hillsborough River around the two cities to McKay Bay. The TBC is approximately 14 miles long; in addition to the nine major flood control structures, the TBC system also receives secondary drainage through 81 culverts along its length. The Hillsborough River Basin Board is the sole entity for funding the operation and maintenance of the TBC. The Operations Department budgets for major repairs and maintenance.

Mr. Burt and Ms. McCree asked about the relationship between operation and maintenance of the TBC and meeting the Hillsborough River Minimum Flow and Level. Ms. Benton inquired about the status of discussions with Temple Terrace regarding a middle river monitoring program. Mr. Wirth said monitoring will be enhanced to measure the effects on the reservoir. Ms. Benton requested periodic reports on the progress. Ms. Higginbotham and Mr. Gramling both had several budget concerns. All of the Board members expressed an interest in participating in a structures tour of the Basin.

This item was presented for the Board's information only; no action was required. (CD 1/Track 4 – 00:00/29:22)

d. **State Board of Administration Local Government Investment Pool (SBA LGIP) Status**

Mr. Daryl F. Pokrana, Director, Finance Department, was available (via video conferencing) to answer questions Board members might have regarding the Local Government Investment Pool, which was the topic of the January 22, 2008 letter written to all Basin Board members by Governing Board Treasurer Jennifer Closshey. Mr. Pokrana provided a brief summary of how the investment pool relates to the Hillsborough River Basin Board.

Mr. Burt asked if there were any repurchase agreements; Mr. Pokrana said there were no repurchase agreements.

This item was presented for the Board's information only; no action was required. (CD 1/Track 4 – 29:22/35:46)

e. **Budget Update in View of the January 29 Special Election**

Ms. Linda Pilcher, Assistant Director, Finance Department, provided the Board with an update regarding the results of the Property Tax Exemption Amendment and its projected effect upon the Basin's budget. Ms. Pilcher reviewed the Amendment Provisions, the Assumptions and Variables, and the Hillsborough River Basin Preliminary FY2009 Ad Valorem Revenue Projection. For planning purposes it is estimated that the FY2009 Ad Valorem Revenue will be reduced five percent from the FY2008 rate. The final ad valorem values will not be known until July. Staff will be back in April to update the Board with any new developments.

This item was presented for the Board's information only; no action was required. (CD 1/Track 4 – 35:46/45:18)

f. **FY2009 Cooperative Funding Requests**

Ms. Maya Burke, Planner, Planning Department, provided an overview of the Cooperative Funding Initiative (CFI) and applications received for the FY2009 budget year. She reviewed the FY2009 Cooperative Funding procedure and directed the Board to the original applications, which were received in December and provided behind the *FY2009 CFI Applications* tab in the meeting notebook. Ms. Burke also provided a brief overview of the Basin's project submittals and reviewed the District's project ranking process in light of recent changes to Governing Board CFI policy. Staff will return to the

April meeting with initial project rankings and funding recommendations for the Board's consideration. The preliminary budget will be presented and the millage cap set at the June Basin Board meeting and for final approval in July or August, depending on the Governor's timeframe for submittal of the Governing and Basin Boards' budgets to Tallahassee.

The Board was encouraged to review the FY2009 project applications and be prepared to provide input at the April 7 Basin Board meeting.

This item was presented for the Board's information only; no action was required. (CD 1/Track 5 – 00:00/06:13)

8. **Reports:**

a. **Hillsborough River Interlocal Planning Board - Technical Advisory Committee**

Ms. Benton updated the Board on the status of quorum issues at the Hillsborough River Interlocal Planning Board. The Technical Advisory Committee is looking into the possibility of teleconferencing to deal with quorum issues. These issues will be further discussed at its next meeting.

b. **Report on Governing Board Activities**

Chair McCree requested staff to play the pre-recorded highlights of the January 29 Governing Board meeting. Ms. Robyn Hanke, Communications Manager, Communications Department, narrated the brief video, which included recent agreements regarding the Weeki Wachee lease, Marion County water restrictions, and restoration of Sawgrass Park in southern Pinellas County.

Chair McCree said Tampa Bay Water's Warren Hogg expressed thanks to the Board for supporting the desalination plant. She noted the desalination plant held a dedication ceremony January 26, 2007. The plant has reported that it is currently operating at 18 - 19 mgd and should be running at 25 mgd by spring.

Chair McCree said after the Governing Board meeting at Nature's Classroom on February 26, 2008, the Governing and Basin Boards will have lunch together beginning at 12 noon. At 1 p.m., the Joint Governing and Basin Boards Workshop will convene. Tours of Nature's Classroom will begin at 10:30 a.m. for Basin Board members who wish to participate. (CD 1/Track 5 – 06:13/15:13)

9. **Announcements:**

In addition to directing the Board's attention to announcements listed in the agenda, Ms. Kavouras said staff is moving forward with nine community education grants for the Hillsborough River Basin totaling just over \$23,000.

10. **Adjournment**

The day's business being complete, Chair McCree adjourned the meeting at 11:10 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) did not require Board action at this time. Formal presentations were not made, but staff will make presentations and/or answer questions at the next Board meeting, if requested.

1. **2008 Community Education Grants in the Hillsborough River Basin**
2. **Automated Citrus Irrigation Management to Reduce Water Consumption (B256) – Execution Notice**
3. **City of Lakeland Plumbing Retrofit Project (L914) – Execution Notice**
4. **City of Lakeland Pre-Rinse Spray Valve Retrofit Project (L915) – Execution Notice**
5. **Determining Specific Irrigation Volumes and Frequencies and Fertilization Rates for Strawberry Cultivars (B254) – Execution Notice**
6. **Reducing Nursery and Landscape Water Use by Genetically Altering Nandina Plants (B257) – Execution Notice**
7. **River Tower Shoreline Restoration (W387) – Execution Notice**
8. **Tampa Bay Estuary Program Non-Federal Funding for Federal Fiscal Year 2008 Annual Work Plan (W027) - Execution Notice**

Attest:

Chairman

The District does not discriminate based on disability. Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation under the ADA should contact the Executive Department at (352) 796-7211 or 1-800-423-1476 (Florida only), extension 4610; TDD only, 1-800-231-6103 (Florida); fax (352) 754-6874/SunCom 663-6874.