

# APPROVED

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING

### HILLSBOROUGH RIVER BASIN BOARD SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Tampa, Florida

August 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 August 11, 2008, at the Tampa Service Office.

#### Board Members Present

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

#### Member Absent

Gary P. Reckart, Member

#### Recording Secretary

Annette D. Zielinski

#### Staff Members Present

David L. Moore  
Bruce C. Wirth  
Lou Kavouras  
Eric DeHaven  
Marty Kelly  
Will Miller  
Beth Putnam  
Ralph Lair  
Maya Burke

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 Gramling 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 Gramling 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 Governing Board Member Heidi McCree

Chair Gramling honored former Governing Board Member Heidi McCree and presented her with a plaque commemorating her years of service as the Hillsborough Basin Board's Chair Ex Officio. Mr. Gramling said Ms. McCree inspires many with her commitment to public service.

#### 6. Consent Items:

##### a. June 9, 2008, Meeting Minutes

Staff recommended approval of the June 9, 2008, meeting minutes, as presented.

##### b. Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems – Balaban Farms, LLC, (H559)

Staff recommended to:

- (1) Approve additional funding for the Balaban Farms, LLC FARMS Project for a not-to-exceed amount of \$547,500, an increase of \$235,000 from the original approved amount of \$312,500, with \$58,750 provided by the Governing Board, \$58,750 provided by the Hillsborough River Basin, and \$117,500 provided from 2008 State Appropriations;
- (2) Authorize the transfer of \$58,750 from fund 013 H100 Hillsborough River Basin WSRD reserves, \$58,750 from fund 010 H017, Governing Board FARMS funds, and \$117,500 from the 2008 State Appropriations allocated to fund 010 H017 FARMS funds, to H559 Balaban Farms project fund; and
- (3) Authorize the Executive Director to execute the agreement.

c. **Board Encumbrances:**

(1) **Tampa Bypass Canal (B630)**

Staff recommended approval of the encumbrance of \$175,000 from FY2008 funds, without a contract, to be used for the replacement of deteriorated culverts along the Tampa Bypass Canal.

(2) **Stormwater Implementation Reserves (Z969)**

Staff recommended approval of the encumbrance of \$2,544,636, without a contract, for the Stormwater Implementation Reserves to be used in FY2009.

Following consideration, **Ms. Benton moved, seconded by Mr. Burt, to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.**

7. **Discussion Items:**

a. **Regional Reclaimed Water Partnership Project (H076)**

Mr. David L. Moore, Executive Director, said the purpose of this presentation was to provide the Hillsborough River Basin Board with an update on activities associated with the Regional Reclaimed Water Partnership Project that have occurred since the Basin Board's June 9, 2008 meeting.

This project investigation began one year ago. Mr. Moore said after careful consideration he believes a clear project pathway has been developed. There are three main components to this project. The first is a traditional reclaimed water supply project consisting of transmission pipelines and storage to provide reclaimed water to industrial users from one or more domestic wastewater treatment facilities. The second element of the project is more innovative in concept and seeks to create opportunities for additional potable groundwater withdrawals in the project area through recharge of the Upper Floridan aquifer with reclaimed water in southern Hillsborough County and/or western Polk County. The third component is a commitment by all parties to continue to explore opportunities to maximize the beneficial use of reclaimed water in the region.

The benefits of the project include: maximum beneficial use of reclaimed water, furthers the District's legislative mandate to endeavor to ensure that there is available water supply to all reasonable and beneficial users, consistent with the Southern Water Use Caution Area Recovery Strategy, and eliminates nitrogen loading to Tampa Bay.

The project team now consists of representatives from the District, Hillsborough County, the City of Tampa, Tampa Electric Company (TECO), Mosaic, Lakeland, Plant City, Polk County, Tampa Bay Water, and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Other parties considering joining in are the cities of Mulberry and Temple Terrace. Mr. Moore said he was very pleased that this project was bringing together all of the regional parties for discussions.

The primary customer is TECO, and two options have been identified as the potential reclaimed water supply routes. The first option is to use reclaimed water from the City of Tampa's Howard F. Curren Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant, and the second option is to use a combination of reclaimed water from Hillsborough County's Valrico Wastewater Treatment Plant and the City of Lakeland, Polk County and possibly Plant City. These options require further cost analyses, which staff recommends the District cooperatively fund with TECO. Upon completion, within an estimated timeframe of 90 days, the project team will have a clear path to move forward with the design and engineering for the identified route(s). The second element of the project is more innovative in concept and seeks to create opportunities for additional potable groundwater withdrawals in the project area through recharge of the Upper Floridan aquifer with reclaimed water in southern Hillsborough County and/or western Polk County. The first step in this element is to conduct a feasibility study to assess the potential to use reclaimed water for aquifer recharge in the project area. Staff recommended that the District take a leadership role and wholly fund the feasibility study, which is estimated to cost approximately \$500,000 and could be completed by March 31, 2009. A steering committee made up of local government utilities and other stakeholders will be utilized to provide input on the feasibility study. The Governing Board approved the expenditure of \$550,000, to cooperatively fund both of these feasibility studies, at its July 29, 2008 regular meeting.

District staff continues to facilitate project team meetings including the most recent one held on July 15, with attendees representing Hillsborough County, Tampa Electric Company, Mosaic, City of Tampa, City of Lakeland, Polk County, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Tampa Bay Water, Plant City, and the District. The Governance and Regulation/Recharge subcommittees also met regularly.

Mr. Moore updated the Board about recent events regarding the C.W. Bill Young reservoir. He said Tampa Bay Water (TBW) wants to fill the reservoir only half way this year to allow for further investigation of cracks in the soil cement. Then next spring, the plan would be to lower the reservoir to allow for additional investigation. Concerns have been raised about TBW's ability to hold its pumping to the 90 million gallons daily (mgd) target. Ms. Higginbotham wanted to know if these cracks were occurring in the same locations as those located last year. Mr. Moore said he believed they were. Mr. Burt inquired about liability and the possibility of litigation. Mr. Moore said the District does not have any liability issues associated with the reservoir.

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

**b. Lower Hillsborough River Recovery Strategy Implementation - Update**

Martin H. Kelly, Ph.D., Minimum Flows and Levels Program Director, said the purpose of his presentation was to provide an update to the Board regarding the implementation of the various projects outlined in the recovery strategy needed to meet the adopted minimum flow for the Lower Hillsborough River (LHR) and reporting requirements related to implementation of the recovery strategy. He reviewed the progress on individual projects and outlined the various phases that have been implemented to date, and summarized progress on various elements currently underway.

As outlined in the recovery strategy, projects to be jointly funded by the District and the City of Tampa and their timelines for implementation are as follows: (1) Sulphur Spring Weir Modifications and Pump Station, October 1, 2010; (2) Blue Sink Project, October 1, 2011; (3) Transmission Pipe Line, October 1, 2013; and (4) Investigation of Storage Options, October 1, 2016. In addition, the District was to construct three temporary pump stations to transfer water from the Tampa Bypass Canal to the base of the Hillsborough River Dam, and to explore the feasibility of developing and implementing a project to transfer water from Morris Bridge Sink to the base of the dam.

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

c. **FY2009 Budget Discussion and Approval of Final Millage Rate and Budget**

Mr. Bruce C. Wirth, Deputy Executive Director, Division of Resource Management, said the Basin's proposed budget for FY2009 has been updated to reflect ad valorem revenue based on the proposed millage rate adopted by the Basin Board on June 9, 2008, and the 2008 Certifications of Taxable Value received from the county Property Appraisers.

In June, the Basin Board adopted a proposed millage rate of 0.2547 mill for FY2009. This is the same millage rate that was adopted for FY2008. The Hillsborough River Basin Board has not increased the millage rate for the past 13 years. The millage rate was decreased from 0.2850 mill to 0.2547 mill for FY2008, in compliance with Section 200.185, Florida Statutes. Mr. Wirth reviewed the proposed budget for FY2009 and the changes that have been made since the June meeting.

Complete budget information was provided in the Basin Board's information notebook, which included the following: Budget Progress Report for the nine months ended June 30, 2008; Multi-Year Project Commitments and Budget Projections Report, tabular and graphical presentations; Budget Comparison Report for FY2009; final millage rate and budget resolution; and detailed project descriptions for each project considered in the proposed budget.

Ms. Kavouras read the three part staff recommendation into the record.

Staff recommended to:

- (1) Approve and adopt the required final millage rate of 0.2547 mill for FY2009,
- (2) Approve and adopt the final FY2009 budget, and
- (3) Approve Resolution No. 145 -- Resolution Affirming the Required Final Millage Rate and Budget for Fiscal Year 2009.

Following consideration, **Ms. Benton moved, seconded by Ms. Higginbotham, to approve the aforementioned staff recommendation. Motion carried unanimously.**

8. **Reports:**

a. **Basin Board Land Resources Committee (BBLRC)**

Mr. Will Miller, Land Use and Protection Manager, Land Resources Department, provided highlights of the July 10, 2008, Basin Board Land Resources Committee meeting held at Nature's Classroom. Mr. Bo Rooks, who serves as a member on the Withlacoochee River Basin Board, was elected as Vice Chair of the BBLRC. The BBLRC heard presentations on the following topics: updates on land acquisitions, progress on the Lake Hancock project, the continuation of the Florida Forever Program, and a master recreation strategy plan.

Ms. Higginbotham inquired about the possibility of the District opening up District lands to provide additional hunting opportunities for feral hogs. Mr. Miller said a report regarding this subject matter is due out any day. He believes there is a great possibility that the District will be opening up hunting on some of its lands this coming spring. He said the District works closely with Game and Fish Commission to monitor and manage wildlife populations.

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

b. **Basin Board Education Committee (BBEC)**

Ms. Devon Higginbotham, Primary Representative, Basin Board Education Committee, discussed the BBEC's meeting held on July 10, 2008, at the Tampa Service Office and referred members to the written overview of the meeting in their packets. The overview included reports regarding the following: Water Conservation Hotel and Motel Program,

Water Program for Restaurant Outreach, Landscape Demonstration Projects Funding Criteria, Florida Water Star<sup>sm</sup> Gold Certification and Splash Mini-Grant Sharing Days.

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

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

Mr. Ralph Lair, Community Affairs Program Manager, Community and Legislative Affairs Department, said the Committee's last two meetings were cancelled; therefore, he had nothing new to report at this time.

d. **Governing Board Activities**

Chair Gramling said representatives from the University of Florida attended the July Governing Board meeting and presented informative research results regarding turfgrass irrigation. Chair Gramling said Mr. Moore's presentation at today's meeting covered the highlights of the July Governing Board meeting; therefore, he will not request staff to play the wrap-up that is previously recorded.

9. **Announcements**

Ms. Kavouras called the Basin Board members' attention to the announcements in their information notebook. Travel authorizations have been prepared for those attending the Century Commission's Water Congress to be held September 25-26, 2008 at the World Marriott in Orlando. She said the next Basin Board's meeting will include a workshop at the end of the regular meeting to be held on Tuesday, October 7, 2008, 9:00 a.m., in the Tampa Service Office. A save-the-date reminder postcard was mailed for the "State of the Water Resources in West Central Florida" to be held Friday, November 21, 2008, in Tampa. The Public Land Acquisition and Management Partnership Conference will be held December 3-5, 2008, at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront in Jacksonville.

9. **Adjournment**

Since there was no further business to come before the Board, Chair Gramling adjourned the meeting at 11:56 p.m.

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★ ★ ★ Information Items ★ ★ ★

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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. Collection of Digital High Resolution Orthophotography and Elevation Data
2. Polk County Lake Bathymetric Mapping (L917) - Execution Notice
3. Watershed Management Program – Maintenance of Watershed Parameters and Models - Second Amendment (B206) – Execution Notice

Attest:

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Chairman

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