

APPROVED

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

HILLSBOROUGH RIVER BASIN BOARD SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Tampa, Florida

December 10, 2007

The Hillsborough River Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a regular meeting at 9:01 a.m. on December 10, 2007, at the Tampa Service Office.

Board Members Present

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

Members Absent

Renee Benton, Member
Gary P. Reckart, Member

Recording Secretary

Annette D. Zielinski

Staff Members Present

Bruce C. Wirth
Lou Kavouras
Beth Putnam
Eric DeHaven
Kendra Antoine
Ralph Lair
Miki Renner
Maya Burke
Scott Harbison

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 9:01 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 stated there were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

4. Oath of Office for Appointed Board Member

Ms. Kavouras read the Oath of Office swearing in the newly appointed Hillsborough River Basin Board member, Ms. Devon Higginbotham. Chair McCree welcomed Ms. Higginbotham to the Board, and said she and the other Basin Board members were happy to welcome her on board.

5. Consent Items:

a. October 15, 2007 Meeting and Workshop Minutes

Staff recommended approval of the October meeting and workshop minutes, as presented.

b. **Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems, Spring Valley Tree Farm, Inc.**

Staff recommended to:

- (1) Approve the Spring Valley Tree Farm, Inc. FARMS Project for a not-to-exceed project reimbursement of \$46,250 with \$11,563 provided by the Hillsborough River Basin, \$11,563 provided by the Governing Board, and \$23,125 provided from State Appropriations;
- (2) Authorize the transfer of \$11,563 from fund 013 H017 Hillsborough River Basin FARMS funds, \$11,563 from fund 010 H017 Governing Board FARMS funds, and \$23,125 from the 2005 and 2008 State Appropriations allocated to fund 010 H017 Governing Board State Appropriations, to H544 Spring Valley Tree Farm, Inc. FARMS project fund; and
- (3) Authorize the Executive Director to sign the agreement.

Following consideration, **Mr. Gramling moved, seconded by Mr. Burt, to approve the Consent Items referenced above. Motion carried unanimously.** (CD 1/Track 1 – 00:00/03:55)

6. **Discussion Items:**

a. **FY2009 Strategic Budget Priorities**

Ms. Maya Burke, Basin Planner, Planning Department, recommended that the Board add two items to their existing priorities: Conservation and the Hillsborough River. Chair McCree and Mr. Gramling noted the appropriateness of these revisions. The Hillsborough River Basin Board's FY2009 Strategic Budget Priorities are as follows: Alternative Water Supply Development, Watershed Management, Flood Protection, Public and Youth Education, Conservation, and the Hillsborough River.

Following consideration, **Mr. Gramling moved, seconded by Mr. Burt, to approve the staff recommendation. Motion carried unanimously.** (CD 1/Track 2 – 00:00/03:56)

This item was taken out of order to accommodate scheduling.

c. **FY2007 Hillsborough River Watershed Awareness Week Overview**

Ms. Kendra Antoine, Senior Communications Coordinator, Communication Department, provided an overview of activities held during Hillsborough River Watershed Awareness week. Chair McCree and Mr. Gramling praised the effort, especially with respect to the Watershed Leadership Workshops. Ms. Higginbotham questioned the effectiveness of explaining the watershed concept to the public; she wondered how well the concept has been received. Ms. Antoine said that she thinks the awareness events have been extremely helpful to the public in grasping the fact that they live in a watershed area and that their actions directly affect the health of the watershed.

This presentation was for the Board's information; no action was required. (CD 1 /Track 3 – 00:00/10:23)

b. **Changes to the Governing Board's Cooperative Funding Initiative Policy 130-4**

Mr. Wirth provided an overview and status of changes to the Cooperative Funding Initiative Policy 130-4. In April 2007, this Basin Board requested the Governing Board revisit its "long-standing" position on funding brackish groundwater desalination projects. During discussion of this issue at the May 2007 Governing Board session, it was noted that the District did not have a formal written policy regarding the Board's position. Mr. Wirth highlighted actions taken and input gathered during the past several months that resulted in the Governing Board directing staff to incorporate five recommendations into the proposed policy changes. An exhibit to this item, which showed the recommended final changes in a strikethrough/underline format, was provided in the information notebook for this meeting.

This topic will be part of the December 18, 2007, Governing Board agenda; staff's recommendation is adoption of the changes to the Governing Board's Cooperative Funding Initiative Policy 130-4.

Other brief discussions during this presentation included the prioritization of projects, multi-jurisdictional aspect of projects, consideration of smaller entities, the prospect that some governments may consider going forward with projects "on their own," and the relationship between Tampa Bay Water and local governments.

Mr. Gramling wondered if the policy conflicts with Local Sources First legislation. Mr. Wirth said that Local Sources First was not set up with political boundaries in mind. He does not feel these policy changes are in conflict with Local Sources First but rather an economic incentive at bringing these groups together. Chair McCree said, when these groups come together conjunctively and share supplies, she sees this as contributing to the concept of Local Sources First. Mr. Burt expressed concerns about the cost of water and expanding profit margins for utilities. Ms. Higginbotham sought assurance that the policy was not so rigid as to exclude good, new ideas for alternative water supplies. Chair McCree said that the intent of these policy changes is to set funding priorities and not to stifle any good ideas.

This presentation was for the Board's information; no action was required. (CD 1 /Track 4 – 00:00/50:03)

Chair McCree passed the gavel to Vice Chair Burt to administer the remainder of the meeting.

7. **Reports:**

a. **Basin Board Education Committee Meeting**

Ms. Higginbotham said the report was included in the Basin Board information notebook. She said she was very impressed that the District was targeting the youth and educating them early regarding the importance of protecting our water resources.

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

Ms. Kavouras gave a brief report on the Basin Board Land Resources Committee meeting held immediately following the Public Land Acquisition and Management Partnership Conference in Sarasota on December 7. Hillsborough River Basin Board Members, Ms. Higginbotham and Mr. Burt, attended the committee meeting. Mr. Burt expressed thanks to Mr. Eric Sutton and District staff for their part in making the conference a success. Mr. Burt said that Mr. Sutton presented Land Resources' strategies for the upcoming year and Mr. Kevin Love gave a report outlining the challenges the control burn section has faced during this drought period.

c. **Hillsborough River Interlocal Planning Board**

Mr. Ralph Lair, Senior Community Affairs Coordinator, Community and Legislative Affairs, said the Board has been having quorum issues and this has tied up progression on docking projects. Mr. Lair plans to suggest teleconferencing for their next meeting. He is also working on balancing the power homeowner associations' have over homeowners with regard to watering restrictions. Diligent individual homeowners who are adhering to the watering restrictions, in some cases, are falling victim to strict homeowner associations who are enforcing the aesthetic ideal.

d. **Report on Governing Board Activities**

At Vice Chair Burt's request, staff played pre-recorded highlights of the November 26 Governing Board meeting. Robyn Hanke, Communications Manager, narrated the brief recap, which included the Sarasota/Manatee area water emergency, conservation lands in the Carlton Preserve, the Lake Hancock Lake Level Modification project, Peace River/Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority Expansion projects, Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems (FARMS) projects, the Land Acquisition Volunteer of the Year, and presentation of an Audubon Society award to Land Resources Director Fritz Musselmann.

8. **Announcements**

- a. Next Basin Board Meeting: Monday, February 11, 2008, 9:00 a.m., Tampa Service Office
- b. Joint Governing and Basin Boards Workshop: Friday, February 22, 2008, Nature's Classroom, Thonotosassa
- c. Other

9. **Adjournment**

The day's business being complete, Vice Chair Burt adjourned the meeting at 10:37 a.m. (CD 1/Track 5 – 00:00/26:09)

★ ★ ★ 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. Determining Specific Irrigation Volumes and Frequencies and Fertilization Rates for Strawberry Cultivars
2. Hillsborough County and City of Tampa Duck Pond Best Management Practices Implementation (L423) – Execution Notice
3. Lake Zephyr Watershed Implementation of Best Management Practices; Zephyr Creek Conveyance (L765) – Execution Notice

Attest:

Chairman