

APPROVED

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

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

Tampa, Florida

February 10, 2011

The Hillsborough River Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a regular meeting at 2:40 p.m. on February 10, 2011 at the Tampa Service Office.

Board Members Present

Hugh Gramling, Chair  
Renee Gilmore, Vice Chair  
George Burt, Member  
John Nicolette, Member

Board Members Absent

None

Staff Members Present

Lou Kavouras  
Bruce Wirth  
Kurt Fritsch  
Eric DeHaven  
Mark Hammond  
Mike Holtkamp  
Eric Sutton

Maya Burke  
Cori Cuttler  
Randy Emberg  
Jennette Seachrist  
Shelley Thornton

Recording Secretary

Dianna Brass

A list of others who attended and signed the attendance roster is filed in the permanent files of the Basin. Compact disks of the audio and copies of materials and handouts are also filed in the permanent files of the District.

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**

Chair Hugh Gramling called the meeting to order at 2:40 p.m. Ms. Dianna Brass, the Board's administrative support, 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 and Deletions to the Agenda**

Ms. Lou Kavouras, Deputy Executive Director, Outreach, Planning, Board Services and Ombudsman, advised there were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

4. **Consent Item**

a. **Minutes of the December 2, 2010 Basin Board Meeting**

Approve the December minutes as presented.

Following consideration, **Mr. Nicolette moved, seconded by Ms. Gilmore, to approve Consent Item 5.a. Motion carried unanimously.** (Track 1)

5. **Discussion Item**

a. **McKay Bay Dredge Hole Restoration Project (W309)**

Ms. Jennette Seachrist, Surface Water Improvement and Management Program Manager, provided a follow up to the presentation at the Board's December meeting on an expedited feasibility study for the McKay Bay Dredge Hole Restoration Project. She reviewed the results of the sediment suitability analysis and the approach to perform design, permitting and construction through an agreement with the Tampa Port Authority. Ms. Seachrist advised that the project schedule is aggressive with

construction anticipated to begin in September. Staff should know by the Board's April meeting if additional funds above the \$2.4 million for construction of the project are needed. Staff recommended the Board (1) approve the agreement with the Tampa Port Authority for feasibility, design, and permitting of the McKay Bay Dredge Hole Restoration Project for an amount not to exceed \$250,000, and (2) authorize the Executive Director to execute the agreement.

Following consideration, **Mr. Nicolette moved, seconded by Mr. Burt, to approve the staff recommendation as presented. Motion carried unanimously.** (Track 2)

At this time, Chair Gramling recognized Mr. Kurt Fritsch, Acting Deputy Executive Director, Management Services, succeeding Mr. Gene Schiller who recently retired. Mr. Fritsch previously served as the Inspector General reporting to the Governing Board.

b. **Fiscal Year 2012 Cooperative Funding Process And Requests**

Ms. Maya Burke, Staff Planner, provided an overview of the Cooperative Funding applications received for the fiscal year (FY) 2012 budget cycle, the staff review process they undergo including the annual Cooperative Funding and budget process overview. The original Cooperative Funding Initiative applications that were received in December 2010 are included in the meeting notebook.

Ms. Burke discussed the Basin's project submittals by area of responsibility and historic trends in proposed projects and cooperators. She reminded Board members of the importance of their review of the Cooperative Funding applications, which is the first step in the process of deciding which projects the Basin will fund. Staff is available to answer questions, and cooperators may be invited to attend the April Basin Board meeting to answer questions and provide additional information. Staff will return to the April meeting with an analysis of how proposed projects correspond to Basin budget priorities, initial project rankings and funding recommendations for the Board's consideration. The preliminary budget will be presented and the tentative millage rate set at the June Basin Board meeting, for final approval in August. Chair Gramling requested that Board members also rank the projects and be ready to actively participate in determining what projects the Board would like to fund.

There was brief discussion relative to the Governor's proposed budget and uncertainty about the intent of the 25 percent decrease in all water management districts' budgets and how that may affect the District and Basin Boards. Mr. Wirth said staff is seeking clarification and will provide information as soon as received. Ms. Gilmore questioned potential impacts from the Governor's Executive Order that requires Governor's Office review of contracts totaling \$1 million or more. Mr. Wirth said staff took the initiative and explained the value of the cooperative funding projects, and subsequently this District's contracts were excluded from that review.

This item was provided for the Board's information; no action was required. (Track 3)

6. **Reports**

a. **Hillsborough River Interlocal Planning Board Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)**

Ms. Cori Cuttler, Community Affairs Program Manager, reported that the Committee's January agenda included an update on the Sulphur Springs Weir project/permit related to the manatee issue, a review of dock permits, and review of work being conducted by Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) over the river. The TAC members are

concerned about the manatees and that the Army Corp of Engineers' permit to FDOT did not convey strong enough manatee protection language. The Corp's staff insist the appropriate standard language is included in the permit. The citizen TAC members are considering forming volunteer manatee watch teams to monitor construction in the river during manatee season.

b. **Governing Board Activities**

Chair Gramling provided highlights from the December Governing Board meeting: the Board ratified the decision for the District to follow the Governor's four executive orders; approved a ten-year permit for Tampa Bay Water's consolidated wellfields; delayed increasing the water shortage level; chose water quality (appropriate fertilizer use) as the focus of this year's public service advertising campaign; delayed finalizing the Regional Water Supply Plan; approved moving forward with a salary and benefits study; named an ad hoc committee to select the consultant for the workload and staff analysis; and provided direction to staff on steps to assist in resolving issues with Tampa Bay Water for operation of its desalination facility.

These reports were presented for the Board's information; no action was required.

7. **Announcements**

Ms. Kavouras reminded Board members of the next Basin Board meeting on April 7 at 1:30 p.m., and the Basin Board Education Committee on March 3 at 9:30 am., both meetings scheduled in the Tampa Service Office. The location for the March 15, 1:00 p.m., Basin Board Land Resources Committee has changed to the Polk County Nature Discovery Center in Lakeland.

Ms. Kavouras informed the Board that the Tampa Service Office Building 2 is the first government building in the state to receive certification in the Florida Water Star<sup>SM</sup> program and only the second commercial building so certified since the program was expanded to include commercial and institutional buildings. She reviewed the criteria to qualify for certification and noted that the St. Johns River Water Management District performed the certification process. The program also includes 74 homes spanning eight of the District's 16 counties. Board members congratulated staff and Ms. Susan Douglas, the project manager, for the success of the program.

8. **Adjournment**

No further business was brought before the Board. Chair Gramling adjourned the meeting at 3:20 p.m. (Track 4)