

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

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

Tampa, Florida

April 7, 2011

The Hillsborough River Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a regular meeting at 1:30 p.m. on April 7, 2011, at the Tampa Service Office.

Board Members Present

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

Board Members Absent

None

Staff Members Present

Lou Kavouras  
Bruce Wirth  
Eric DeHaven  
Mark Hammond  
David Rathke  
Mike Holtkamp  
Eric Sutton  
Maya Burke

Steve Blaschka  
Ed Craig  
Cori Cuttler  
Randy Emberg  
Tamara McBride  
Beth Putnam  
Jennette Seachrist

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 1:30 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 of one addition to the agenda: Rocky Creek Lake Enhancement Project Land Acquisition, SWF Parcel No. 14-009-104P. This item is similar to and will be discussed with Item 6.b. Item 4 was deleted; Ms. Higginbotham was unable to attend today and her recognition will be rescheduled to a future meeting. A change in presenters was noted for Item 6.d.; Mr. Rathke will present the Legislative Update.

4. Ceremony to Honor Former Basin Board Member Devon Higginbotham

This item was deferred to a future meeting.

5. Consent Item

a. Minutes of the February 10, 2011, Basin Board Meeting

Approve the February minutes as presented.

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

## 6. Discussion Items

### a. Election of Officers and Selection of Committee Representatives

Chair Gramling stated that in accordance with Section 373.0693, Florida Statutes, the Board must elect a vice chair and secretary. Mr. Burt advised that he is leaving the Board and therefore not eligible for consideration. **Mr. Nicolette moved to retain Ms. Gilmore as the Vice Chair. Mr. Burt seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

**Ms. Gilmore nominated Mr. Nicolette for the vacant Secretary position. Mr. Burt seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

Ms. Gilmore agreed to continue to serve as the Basin Board Education Committee primary representative. Mr. Nicolette will continue as the Board's primary representative to the Basin Board Land Resources Committee and the Hillsborough River Interlocal Planning Board Technical Advisory Committee. (Track 2)

### b. Rocky Creek Lake Enhancement Project Land Acquisition, SWF Parcel No. 14-009-114 and 113

#### Add-On Rocky Creek Lake Enhancement Project Land Acquisition, SWF Parcel No. 14-009-104P

Mr. Eric Sutton, Land Resources Director, discussed three proposed acquisitions related to the Rocky Creek Lake Enhancement Project. Staff is recommending that the Board concur with the Governing Board's action relative to SWF Parcels 14-009-114 and 113:

- Acceptance of the appraisal and approval of the purchase of a house and approximately 0.87 acres on Lake Pretty Drive for project construction, which has been negotiated for a total cost of \$450,000 with the owners, Cecil and Rachel Crabb; and
- Acceptance of the appraisal and approval of the purchase of the fee simple interest in Lake Pretty Drive for project construction which has been negotiated for a total cost of \$3,000 with the owner, Geiger Real Estate Corporation.
- Approval of budget transfers to the Rocky Creek Lake Enhancement Project (S063) for land acquisition: \$309,577 from Hillsborough River Basin reserves restricted to land acquisition (Z964); and \$143,423 from Hillsborough River Basin reserve funds (H100).

Relative to SWF Parcel No. 14-009-104P, staff recommendation is for the Board to recommend the Governing Board:

- Accept the appraisal and approve the purchase of a perpetual easement on approximately 0.41 acres, which has been negotiated for a total of \$5,500 with the owner, Hillsborough County School Board.
- Approve a budget transfer of \$5,500 from Hillsborough River Basin Reserve funds (H100) to the Rocky Creek Lake Enhancement Project (S063) for land acquisition.

Following Mr. Sutton's presentation, staff addressed questions and comments from Board members regarding the Governing Board action, surplus of the property once the project is completed, negotiated costs versus the appraised value, timing constraints to acquire available property, easements, potential use of eminent domain, market conditions, and project design. Chair Gramling spoke in support of the project; he said he was familiar with the negotiations with landowners and that staff chose the most feasible alternative. He said much of the costs will be recouped once the project is completed and the land is surplus. **Mr. Nicolette moved, seconded by Mr. Burt, to approve the staff recommendations listed above with the caveat that the property**

**be surplusd as soon as economically feasible.** Ms. Gilmore acknowledged staff's efforts to get the best agreement in this uncertain market and wanted it on the record that this Board is sensitive to appropriate expenditure of taxpayers' dollars. The question was called and the motion carried unanimously. (Track 3)

c. **Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 Basin Initiatives for Public (P268) and Youth (P259) Water Resources Education**

Ms. Beth Putnam, Communications Manager, provided a comprehensive overview of programs and projects included in the Public (P268) and Youth (P259) Water Resources Education Basin Initiatives proposed for the FY2012 Basin budget. She referenced the budget section of the Board's meeting notebook and explained the cost breakdowns by programs for Basin-specific and Districtwide education projects. In summary, Ms. Putnam cited statistics on the accomplishments of these initiatives which inform and encourage citizen participation on the benefits of water resource protection and conservation. Board members were provided a newly published brochure on *Education and Outreach* and the *Hillsborough River Basin Board FY2010 Accomplishments* brochure.

This item was provided for the Board's information; no action was required. (Track 4)

d. **Legislative Update**

Mr. David Rathke, Community and Legislative Affairs Department Director, briefly reviewed federal issues concerning the budget and the FARM bill which is important to the water management districts and agriculture. He provided more in-depth information on issues of state concern: the Governor's executive order suspending rulemaking and a 90-day hold on contracts over \$1 million pending review; expedited permitting; sustainable water use permits; House Select Committee on Water Policy related to surplus lands and approval of budget transfers; numeric nutrient criteria; and urban redevelopment. Mr. Rathke discussed legislative proposals expressly requested by the water management districts: regulation of well pump depth in the Dover/Plant City area; coordination of watering restrictions in counties divided by water management districts' boundaries; and Basin Board clarification to include the Governing Board member serving as chair to be counted in the Basin Board quorum and vote amongst other matters. He described several proposals by the House and Senate to address the state's significant budget deficit including potentially rolling the five water management districts' budgets into the general appropriations of the state, changing the districts' fiscal year to match the state, and reducing the districts' ad valorem collections. Mr. Rathke concluded his presentation stating that the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability will conduct two studies of the five water management districts, one on fleet operations and one an analysis of staffing and salary.

This item was presented for information only; no action was required. (Track 5)

e. **Fiscal Year 2012 Budget Preparation**

Mr. Bruce Wirth, Deputy Executive Director, Resource Management, referenced Mr. Rathke's previous discussion on the Governor's direction and legislative proposals that will affect ad valorem collections and the Basin Boards structure. He explained four millage rate options and their associated budgetary impacts that were presented to the Governing Board for consideration at its March meeting. He emphasized there is much uncertainty on the percentage of revenue reduction required, although staff anticipates clear direction by the end of the legislative session to allow a refined budget plan for Board action in June.

Mr. Wirth reviewed the preliminary budget by projects and indicated that the Hillsborough River Basin is well positioned to fund projects due to its large reserves. Ms. Gilmore questioned whether there is an acceptable level of reserves from Tallahassee's view. Mr. Wirth indicated that it may be that a large reserve is perceived as taxing too much; however, this is an anomaly. The Governor's proposed 25 percent reduction will force cutting into reserves and spending down. To Ms. Gilmore's request for the Governing Board's perspective, Chair Gramling said that the majority of the Governing Board supports the Basin Board structure and values the input of local representation. He said the Governing Board is trying to work in a logical manner through the legal impediments to meet the Governor's request.

This item was presented for information only; no action was required. (Track 6)

## 7. **Reports**

### a. **Basin Board Education Committee (BBEC)**

The BBEC meeting held on March 3 at the Tampa Service Office included presentations on (1) Partner Spotlight - Youth Education and Schools, (2) Community Education Grants, (3) FY2012 Cooperative Funding Projects, and (4) FY2011 "Florida-Friendly Fertilizer" Advertising Campaign. Ms. Gilmore said that Florida Progress Energy indicated that it will no longer be able to continue granting free use of its properties, and specifically, the Cross Bar education center has significant operating costs associated with maintaining the property. The committee discussed how it could contribute to keep the facility open for education programs. Ms. Gilmore handed out copies of Florida Friendly publications. She praised the Communications Department staff for the quality of work on the publications it produces and its use of District employees in the water conservation ad campaigns to maximize budget. (Track 7)

### b. **Basin Board Land Resources Committee (BBLRC)**

Mr. Nicolette advised that the BBLRC meeting was held on March 15 at Polk's Nature Discovery Center at Circle B Bar Reserve in Lakeland. A ceremony recognizing the achievements of Mr. Al Bellotto, land conservation supporter and agricultural advocate was held. An overview of stakeholders' initiatives included a number of topics such as a master recreation study, windshield experience, hunting evaluation, and the *Get Outside!* Campaign. Informative discussions on surplus lands and the land acquisition program were also held. It was noted that the Revenue Generation on District Lands Report is available. Mr. Nicolette commended Land Resources staff on its efforts working with stakeholders and promoting the accessibility of the various properties to the public. (Track 8)

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

Ms. Cori Cuttler, Community Affairs Program Manager, reported that the March 29 TAC meeting conflicted with the Governing Board meeting and she was unable to attend. However, she reviewed the draft TAC minutes which recorded that an update was provided on the Tampa River Walk, a project that the Communications Department has assisted with over time. (Track 9)

### d. **Governing Board Activities**

Chair Gramling provided highlights from the March Governing Board meeting. Topics of interest included the Governor and DEP proposals regarding the water management districts' budgets; operation of the Tampa Bay Water desalination facility; Lake Pretty property acquisition; direction to staff to develop a map of lands that may be considered

for surplus and/or less than fee ownership; declared April as Water Conservation Month; and continued Strategic Planning initiatives discussion. (Track 10)

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

8. **Announcements**

Ms. Kavouras reminded Board members of the next Basin Board meeting on June 2 at the Tampa Service Office. All Board members are invited to attend the Lost River Preserve Dedication Ceremony at Cockroach Bay Aquatic Preserve in Ruskin on Saturday, April 16. Mr. Jim Selvey of the Alafia River Basin Board will represent the District at this event.

9. **Adjournment**

No further business was brought before the Board. Chair Gramling adjourned the meeting at 3:04 p.m. (Track 11)

***Per Resolution 11-10, Basin Boards were merged into the District effective June 1, 2011. The Basin Boards did not meet again and, therefore, the April meeting minutes were not formally approved.***