

Approved

Minutes of the Meeting

MANASOTA BASIN BOARD

Southwest Florida Water Management District

Sarasota, Florida

February 11, 2009

The Manasota Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a regular meeting on February 11, 2009, at 9 a.m., in the Sarasota Service Office, Sarasota, Florida.

Board Members Present

Albert G. Joerger, Co-Chair Ex Officio
Patricia M. Glass, Co-Chair Ex Officio
Frank E. Strelec, Vice Chair
J. Mac Carraway, Secretary
Elizabeth "Betsy" O. Benac, Member
Paul J. "Jack" Bispham, Member
Michael P. McCoy, Member
Dora Maria C. Thomas, Member

Staff Present

Bruce Wirth
Eric DeHaven
Dianne Davies
Lou Kavouras
Terri Behling
Randy Emberg

Via Video Conference: Beth Putnam

Recording Secretary: Phyllis Young

A roster of other attendees is filed in the permanent files of the Basin. Compact disks of the audio and copies of the materials and handouts, as set forth in full herein, are also filed in the permanent files of the Basin.

The numbers preceding the items listed below correspond with the published agenda.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Co-Chair Albert Joerger called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. Ms. Phyllis Young, Senior Administrative Assistant, Boards and Executive Services, called the roll and noted a quorum was present. (CD 1/ Track 1)

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Co-Chair Joerger led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. (CD 1/Track 1)

3. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda

Ms. Lou Kavouras, Deputy Executive Director, Outreach, Planning, and Board Services announced there were no additions or deletions to the agenda. (CD 1/Track 1:16:31)

4. Ceremony to Honor Former Co-Chair Ex Officio Tom Dabney

This item was tabled pending Mr. Dabney's arrival.

5. Oath of Office for Appointed/Re-Appointed Board Members

Ms. Young administered the Oath of Office to newly appointed Board Member Michael P. McCoy, who replaced Rick Meyers on the Board, for a term beginning December 5, 2008, and ending March 1, 2010. (CD 1/Track 1:16:31)

6. Consent Items:

After consideration, **Mr. Carraway moved, seconded by Mr. Strelec, to approve the Consent Items, as follow:**

- a. Minutes of the October 15, 2008, Meeting and Workshop – Approve the October minutes, as presented.

b. **Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems (FARMS) – ESDA, Inc. (H511), Manatee County**

1. **Approve the ESDA, Inc., FARMS Project funding amendment for a not-to-exceed project reimbursement of \$25,000, provided from 2003 State Appropriations;**
2. **Authorize the transfer of \$25,000 from the 2003 State Appropriations allocated to Fund 021 H017 Manasota Basin to H511 ESDA, Inc., FARMS project fund;**
3. **Authorize the Executive Director to sign the agreement.**

Motion carried unanimously. (CD 1/Track 1)

7. **Discussion Items:**

a. **Legislative Update**

Ms. Terri Behling, Community Affairs Program Manager for this Basin, presented a summary of the Special Session of the Florida Legislature, which began January 5, to address the State's \$2.3 billion budget deficit. She commented on challenges the State faces, the need for new approaches to address the budget, and partnerships that are a vital link in the process. Ms. Behling's report also included brief comments on the following:

- Impacts to the water management districts, including cuts to the Florida Forever program, the Water Management Lands Trust Fund, and the Water Protection and Sustainability Trust Fund;
- State issues to be considered: the Sunset Review, the permitting process, the Water Restoration Action Plan (WRAP) program, Springs Protection, Florida Friendly Landscaping; and
- Concerns on the Federal level: economic stimulus, private and tax credit bonds, and WRAP.

Mr. Wirth assured the Board that staff is continually reviewing the Basin budget, considering all factors, to ensure critical projects go forward. He also reported that the Governor had vetoed some reductions including the Florida Forever program and the Water Management Lands Trust Fund for the current year.

This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required. (CD 1/Track 1:16:32)

b. **Fiscal Year 2010 Cooperative Funding Initiative Requests**

Ms. Dianne Davies, Basin Planner, provided an overview of the Cooperative Funding Initiative (CFI) and applications received for the FY2010 budget year. She directed the Board's attention to the original applications, which were received in December and provided behind the *FY2010 CFI Applications* tab in the meeting notebook. She then provided a brief overview of this Basin's project submittals by area of responsibility and reviewed the Basin's strategic budget priorities for FY2010 that were set at the October 2008 planning workshop. Review of the original Cooperative Funding applications is the first step in the process of deciding which projects the Board will fund. 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, for final approval in July or August, depending on the Governor's timeframe for submitting the Governing and Basin Boards' budgets to Tallahassee.

Board members were encouraged to review the FY2010 project applications and be prepared to provide input at the April 15 Basin Board meeting.

This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required. (CD1/Track 1:16:43)

4. **Ceremony to Honor Former Co-Chair Ex Officio Tom Dabney**

Mr. Strelec presided over ceremonies to honor Mr. Tom Dabney, who was co-chair ex officio of the Basin Board from April 2000 to April 2008, and Dora Thomas, who served on the Board from May 2004 to February 2009. He thanked Ms. Thomas and Mr. Dabney for their dedicated service to the Basin and encouraged them to continue to be involved with Basin issues. (CD 1/Track 1:16:52)

8. **Reports:**

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

Mr. Carraway, the Basin Board's primary representative on the BBEC, brought the Board's attention to a report on the November 4, 2008, Basin Board Education Committee meeting, which was provided as an exhibit in the meeting notebook. He stated that education efforts of the District have very extensive reach within District boundaries and set an incredible example for water management district messaging, education, and technical aspects of educational materials that are prepared and presented. The products are outstanding and money well-spent, and the Basin anticipates those expenses each year. Mr. Carraway mentioned the Water Conservation Hotel and Motel Program (Water C.H.A.M.P.) as an excellent and impressive example of the success of education programs within the District. Also mentioned briefly were the Florida Water StarSM Gold Certification program, a 52 percent increase in demand for school grants, and 2009 Community Education Grants.

This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required. (CD 1/Track 17:03)

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

Ms. Kavouras presented a brief recap of the December 3, 2008, BBLRC meeting, which was held in conjunction with the Public Land Acquisition and Management Partnership Conference in Jacksonville. Board members were provided copies of a report containing highlights of the meeting; main topics were challenges and strategies of the Land Resources Department for 2009.

This item was provided for the Board's information; no action was required. (CD 1/Track 1:17:07)

c. **Sarasota Bay Estuary Program (SBEP) Policy Board**

Mr. Bispham, the Basin's representative on the SBEP Policy Board, gave a short report of the February 6 meeting, which was held at the South Florida Museum in Bradenton. He particularly mentioned a seagrass bed growth study, which is nearing completion. Preliminary results prove cleaner water in the bays means more seagrass growth.

This item was provided for the Board's information; no action was required. (CD 1/Track 1:17:08)

d. **Governing Board Activities**

Staff played pre-recorded highlights of the January 26 Governing Board meeting, which was held at the Brooker Creek Preserve and preceded a workshop with Tampa Bay Water's Board of Directors. Ms. Robyn Felix, Communications Manager, narrated the brief report.

Co-Chair Glass stated it is very important to be well informed of Tampa Bay Water. She further declared that drought is definite to some, but not so definite to others. The

District has done a good job in alerting the public about the drought, but all municipalities need to cooperate on this important issue. (CD 1/Track 1:17:10)

This item was provided for the Board's information; no action was required. (CD 1/Track 1:14:10)

9. **Announcements**

- Ms. Kavouras brought members' attention to announcements listed on the agenda.
- With regard to the Governor's "green" initiative, Ms. Kavouras offered the Board an option to receive the "Projects" portion of their meeting notebook on compact disk.
- Ms. Kavouras expressed appreciation to Ms. Thomas for her service on the Basin Board and especially for extending her tenure to accommodate the Board's ability to conduct business.
- Ms. Benac thanked cooperators for attending the meeting, encouraged them to stay involved, and expressed appreciation for everyone working together, cooperatively. (CD 1/Track 1:17:16)

10. **Adjournment**

Before closing the meeting, Co-Chair Joerger thanked Ms. Thomas for serving on the Basin Board. He further added that the District, as well as other volunteer organizations, is fortunate to have quality people like Ms. Thomas to serve. He adjourned the meeting at 9:55 a.m.

******INFORMATION ITEMS******

The items listed below were 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. These items did not require Board action.

1. Consulting Services for the Lake Hancock Lake Level Modification (H008) - Execution Notice
2. 2009 Community Education Grants in the Manasota Basin
3. FARMS – CFI USA, Inc. – Venus II Grove (H532), Manatee County
4. Citrus Irrigation Management to Increase Young Tree Growth and Productivity on Flatwoods and Ridge Soils (B264)
5. Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority Regional Integrated Loop System Phase 1A Interconnect Project (H069) - Execution Notice
6. Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority Regional Integrated Loop System Phase 3A Interconnect Project (H052) - Execution Notice
7. Sarasota County – GIS Dataset Development (L867) – Execution Notice
8. Sarasota County – NAVD88 Vertical Control Densification
9. United States Geological Survey Joint Funding Agreement for Minimum Flows and Levels Data Collection (B182) - Execution Notice