

Approved

Minutes of the Meeting

MANASOTA BASIN BOARD Southwest Florida Water Management District

Sarasota, Florida

February 13, 2008

The Manasota Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a regular meeting February 13, 2008, at 9:08 a.m. in the Sarasota Service Office, Sarasota, Florida.

Board Members Present

Thomas G. Dabney, Co-Chair Ex Officio
Patricia M. Glass, Co-Chair Ex Officio
Elizabeth "Betsy" O. Benac, Member
J. Mac Carraway, Secretary
Dora Maria C. Thomas, Member
Paul J. "Jack" Bispham

Members Absent

Richard H. Meyers, Member
Frank E. Strelec, Vice Chair

Staff Present

Bruce Wirth Lou Kavouras
Eric DeHaven Dianne Davies
Scott Harbison

Via Video Conference

Daryl Pokrana
Linda Pilcher

Recording Secretary

Phyllis Young

A list of others who were present and signed the attendance roster 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

Since Mr. Dabney was delayed, Co-Chair Glass called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. Ms. Young called the roll and noted a quorum was not present; however, Board Member Betsy Benac was expected to arrive around 9:30. (CD 1/Track 1)

2. Pledge of Allegiance

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

3. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda

Since no gubernatorial appointments or Senate confirmations concerning this Board had been received, Deputy Executive Director Lou Kavouras stated that Agenda Item 4 was deleted from the agenda. (CD 1/Track 1)

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

This item was deleted from the agenda, as stated above. (CD 1/Track 1)

At this time, the order of consideration was changed awaiting the arrival of Ms. Benac.

6. Discussion Items:

- a. **State Board of Administration Local Government Investment Pool (SBA LGIP) Status**

Finance Director Daryl Pokrana spoke to the Board via video conference from District Headquarters in Brooksville to answer questions Board Members might have regarding the Local Government Investment Pool, which was the topic of the January 22 memo written to all Basin Board members by Governing Board Treasurer Jennifer Closshey. No questions were forthcoming from the Board; Mr. Pokrana did, however, provide a brief summary of how the investment pool relates to the Manasota Basin Board.

This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required. (CD 1/Track 2)

During this presentation, Ms. Benac arrived.

5. **Consent Items:**

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

- a. **Minutes of the December 12, 2007, Meeting** – approve the December meeting minutes, as presented.
- b. **Declaration of Cooperation of the Tampa Bay Nitrogen Management Consortium**
 1. **Approve the "Declaration of Cooperation of the Tampa Bay Nitrogen Management Consortium" and the "Tampa Bay Nitrogen Management Strategy, 2007 Update to the Reasonable Assurance Document."**
 2. **Recommend the Governing Board Chair execute the Declaration of Cooperation.**

Motion carried unanimously. (CD 1/Track 3)

6. **Discussion Items** (continued)

b. **Budget Update in View of the January 29 Special Election**

Via video conference from District Headquarters, Linda Pilcher, Assistant Finance Director, provided the result and potential effects of the Special Election on the proposed constitutional amendment, (*Amendment No. 1, Property Tax Exemptions; Limitations on Property Tax Assessments*), which passed on January 29. Ms. Pilcher spoke on provisions of the amendment, assumptions, and variables that would affect the Basin's budget. For planning purposes, she provided a preliminary look at FY2009 ad valorem revenue, estimating a five percent reduction from FY2008, which is a reduction of \$607,991 to the Basin budget. Updates on these issues will be presented at Basin Board meetings throughout the fiscal year.

This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required. (CD 1/Track 3/10:11)

c. **Fiscal Year 2009 Cooperative Funding Requests**

Basin Planner Dianne Davies provided an overview of the Cooperative Funding Initiative (CFI) and applications received for the FY2009 budget year. Ms. Davies reviewed the FY2009 Cooperative Funding procedure and directed the Board to the original applications, which were received in December and provided behind the *FY2009 CFI Applications* tab in the meeting notebook. She provided a brief overview of the Basin's project submittals and reviewed the District's project ranking process in light of recent changes to Governing Board CFI policy. 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, and for final approval in July or August, depending on the Governor's timeframe for submittal of the Governing and Basin Boards' budgets to Tallahassee.

The Board was encouraged to review the FY2009 project applications and be prepared to provide input at the April 4 Basin Board meeting.

This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required.

During this presentation, Co-Chair Dabney arrived. (CD 1/ Track 4)

7. **Report:**

a. **Governing Board Activities**

With Co-Chair Glass's approval, staff played pre-recorded highlights of the January 29 Governing Board meeting. Robyn Hanke, Communications Manager, narrated the brief recap, which included recent agreements regarding the Weeki Wachee lease, Marion County water restrictions, and restoration of Sawgrass Park in southern Pinellas County. (CD 1/Track 4/10:42)

Regarding projects and difficult financial times, Mr. Dabney said it would be helpful for the Board to know which projects are actually going to be completed this year and which are still in a "holding" pattern. He reminded Board members that they had requested to be actively involved in approving extensions on project funding, so extensions are not just an automatic rollover into the next year. With the budgets as they are now, with less money to spend and more priorities to fund, the Board may not be as inclined to "roll" those projects. (CD 1/Track 4/10:47:05)

Ms. Glass mentioned that instead of a long list of "clearing house" matters, the "dire" projects be "singled out," so the Board gets a good picture of what the real needs of the Authority, local governments, or other entities are. (CD 1/ Track 4/10:49:10)

To a question from Ms. Thomas, Charlie Hunsicker, Director of Lands Management for Manatee County, gave a brief update on the Wares Creek project. He thanked the Board for supporting the project and shared good news that the project cost will be less than anticipated. (CD 1/ Track 4/10:51:00)

8. **Announcements**

In addition to directing the Board's attention to announcements listed in the agenda, Ms. Kavouras made several comments, as follow:

- After the Governing Board meeting at Nature's Classroom on February 26, 2008, the Governing and Basin Boards will have lunch together beginning at 12 noon. At 1 p.m., the Joint Governing and Basin Boards Workshop will convene. Tours of Nature's Classroom will begin at 10:30 a.m. for Basin Board members who wish to participate.
- Information on the Basin's Community Education Grants is included with the Information Items at the end of the Summary Agenda.
- The Governor's Office is asking the Board's help in finding applicants to fill Governing and Basin Board positions that are currently open or will be open after March 1, 2008. (CD 1/Track 4/10:54:28)

Pat Lehman, Executive Director of the Peace River/Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority, gave a brief update on the Authority's new reservoir and the facility expansion. He showed the Board an aerial photograph of progress on the reservoir and, in closing, expressed the Authority's appreciation to the Board and to the District for its partnership. (CD 1/Track 4/ 10:55:45)

After discussion of the many openings on the Governing and Basin Boards, **Mr. Carraway moved, seconded by Ms. Benac, that the Board draft a letter expressing the Board's interest in an expeditious resolution of open appointments on the Manasota Basin Board and Board seats that will be eligible for re-appointment soon.**

Mr. Dabney added "**and expressing concern about the Basin Board's ability to do business with these vacancies.**" Mr. Carraway approved of the addition.

Motion carried unanimously. (CD 1/Track 4/11:01)

9. **Adjournment**

When there was no further business to come before the Board, Co-Chair Glass adjourned the meeting at 10:35 a.m. (CD 1/Track 4/11:10:38)

******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. 2008 Community Education Grants in the Manasota Basin
2. Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems – CFI-USA, Inc. – Venus Grove. (H532) Manatee County – Cancellation Notice
3. Automated Citrus Irrigation Management to Reduce Water Consumption (B256) – Execution Notice
4. Maintenance of Watershed Plans/Sarasota County (L019) - Execution Notice
5. Neal Preserve Environmental Restoration (W602) - Execution Notice
6. Reducing Nursery and Landscape Water Use by Genetically Altering Nandina Plants (B257) – Execution Notice
7. Sarasota County Implementation of Best Management Practices for Hudson Bayou, Water Quality Improvements (W618) - Execution Notice
8. Sarasota Bay National Estuary Program Non-Federal Funding for Federal Fiscal Year 2008 Annual Work Plan (W612) - Execution Notice
9. Sarasota County NAVD88 Control Densification (L617) - Execution Notice
10. Tampa Bay Estuary Program Non-Federal Funding for Federal Fiscal Year 2008 Annual Work Plan (W027) - Execution Notice
11. Water Supply Flow Monitoring Project (H057) - Execution Notice