

Approved

Minutes of the Meeting

MANASOTA BASIN BOARD

Southwest Florida Water Management District

Sarasota, Florida

February 14, 2007

The Manasota Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a regular meeting on February 14, 2007, at 9:00 a.m. in the Sarasota Service Office, Sarasota, Florida.

Board Members Present

Thomas G. Dabney, Co-Chair Ex Officio
Elizabeth "Betsy" O. Benac, Vice Chair
Richard H. Meyers, Member
J. Mac Carraway, Secretary
Dora Maria C. Thomas
Paul J. "Jack" Bispham

Member Absent:

Frank E. Strelec, Member

Staff Members Present

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

Via Videoconference

Linda Pilcher
Lois Sorensen

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.

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

Co-Chair Dabney called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Ms. Young called the roll and noted a quorum was present. (CD 1/Track 1)

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

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

3. **Additions and Deletions to the Agenda**

Deputy Executive Director Lou Kavouras stated there were no additions or deletions to the agenda. (CD 1/Track 1)

4. **Consent Items:**

After consideration, Mr. Carraway moved, seconded by Mr. Meyers, to approve Consent Item 4a, as follows:

- a. **December 13, 2006, Meeting Minutes** - Approve the December minutes, as presented.

Motion carried unanimously. (CD 1/Track 1)

- b. **Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems – FDACS Revenue Contract in Support of the Clay Gully Tree Farm, L.L.P. Project – (H536)** - This item was deleted from the agenda.

5. **Discussion Items:**

a. **2006 Regional Water Supply Plan**

The legislatively mandated Regional Water Supply Plan (RWSP) is an assessment of projected water demands for all use sectors and potential sources of water to meet those demands over a 20-year planning period within the area required by the RWSP. Resource Conservation and Development Director Gregg Jones provided history of the RWSP, which shows sufficient alternative water sources exist in the planning region to meet water supply demand through 2025 and replace some current groundwater withdrawals causing hydrologic stress. Chapter 9 of the RWSP is the financial component, which addresses the cost of developing the projects necessary to meet the 2025 water supply demand.

In December 2006, the Governing Board approved the final draft of the RWSP, which was submitted to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, as required. The District is also required to present information in the RWSP to local governments and provide technical assistance to ensure consistency between local water supply planning efforts and those of the District.

Topics covered in the presentation included demand projections, water source quantities by source category, water supply options, proposed water supply projects, and funding allocations and assumptions. Assistant Finance Director Linda Pilcher addressed the Board via videoconference from the Brooksville office. Looking specifically at the Basin Board's future funding needs, Ms. Pilcher reviewed the Basin's existing Multi-Year Report, which is a budgeting tool designed to project Basin future resources and track multi-year funding commitments for a five-year planning horizon. She reviewed planned report improvements, including a graphical presentation of the report, and explained how the Basin's anticipated funding commitment for the future water supply and water resource development projects would be reflected in the report.

Discussion ensued on topics including the importance of the Board being able to fund long-term projects, the necessity of being vigilant with regard to the Basin's budget, population projections, reserves, and millage. Co-Chair Dabney thanked the Board and staff for this discussion. He and the Board agreed that, currently, no change of course was necessary.

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

b. **FY2008 Cooperative Funding Requests and Budget Considerations**

Basin Planner Dianne Davies presented this item to remind the Board of the Cooperative Funding process. Ms. Davies reviewed the fiscal year (FY) 2008 Cooperative Funding procedure and directed the Board to the original applications received in December, which were included behind the FY2008 Projects tab in the meeting notebook. She provided a brief overview of project submittals received and reviewed the District's project ranking process. Staff will return in April with initial project rankings and funding recommendations for the Board's consideration. The preliminary budget would be presented and the millage cap set at the June Basin Board meeting for final approval in August.

Board Members were encouraged to review the FY2008 project submittals and provide input at the April meeting. This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required.

Co-Chair Dabney voiced concern about the Cow Pen Slough and Dona Bay projects and their fitting into the Governing Board's policy to fund projects with regional benefits. Peace River/Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority (Authority) Executive Director Pat Lehman reported that the Authority partners are already in conversation regarding these projects and a workshop would be held next week to look into implementation of projects, how they would fit into the overall plan for the area, and how best to go forward.

An update of this issue will be provided at a future meeting. (CD 1/ Track 1)

6. **Reports:**

a. **Water Shortage Update**

Due to hydrologic conditions that had generally been below normal in the 16 counties served by the District and those conditions had improved only slightly as a result of December rain, Demand Management Coordinator Lois Sorensen reported that Executive Director David Moore signed Order SWF 07-02 to put Severe Water Shortage restrictions into effect. Before the Order was signed, a public hearing was held on January 9, 2007, so the Executive Director could receive testimony from staff and the general public regarding conditions and resulting impacts. At that time, the Executive Director determined that District action was necessary and all water users should be required to conserve water consistent with the modified "Phase II" restrictions recommended by staff. A copy of the Order, which included a summary of the new restrictions, was provided in the notebook as an exhibit to this report.

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

b. **Report on Governing Board Activities**

Co-Chair Dabney reported that the Governing Board approved the PR/MRWSA (Authority) Gap Plan, which would encompass seven million gallons of water per day to help meet needs while construction on the Authority's current plant and reservoir expansion projects is underway.

At this time, Co-Chair Dabney relinquished the gavel to Vice Chair Benac and left the meeting.

In conjunction with heightened water conservation efforts, Lou Kavouras reported that the Communications Department's media messaging had increased. Staff showed three water conservation ads being aired on television and radio and appearing on area billboards. Staff showed pre-recorded highlights of the January 30, 2007, Governing Board meeting. Ms. Kavouras narrated the brief recap of the meeting, which included the Water Shortage Order, conservation ads, water management strategies, a Water Conservation Summit to be held in March, the Peace River Cumulative Impact Study, and minimum flows and levels, among others.

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

7. **Announcements:**

Ms. Kavouras reminded members of the Ed Chance Memorial to be held on March 2, 2007, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Gilley Creek and Coker Prairie Tracts.

8. **Adjournment:**

Since there was no further business to come before the Board, Vice Chair Benac adjourned the meeting at 10:53 a.m. (CD 1/Track 3)

*****Information Items*****

The item(s) 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. The item(s) did not require Board action. Formal presentations were not given, but staff will make presentations and/or answer questions at the next Board meeting, if requested.

1. City of Anna Maria for Implementation of Best Management Practices (W226) - Execution Notice
2. Flatford Swamp Surface Water Monitoring Program (B092) - Execution Notice
3. Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) Data Dissemination and Education (B136) – Execution Notice
3. Myakka River Watershed Initiative (H048) - Execution Notice
4. Watershed Management Program – Maintenance of Watershed Parameters and Models (B206) – Execution Notice