

# Approved

## Minutes of the Meeting

### **MANASOTA BASIN BOARD** Southwest Florida Water Management District

Sarasota, Florida

April 9, 2008

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

#### **Board Members Present**

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

#### **Staff Present**

Bruce Wirth	Lou Kavouras
Eric DeHaven	Mark Hammond
Jennette Seachrist	Michael Molligan
Eric Sutton	Veronica Crow
Lisann Morris	Alison Ramoy
Brian Armstrong	Dianne Davies
Terri Behling	Scott Harbison

#### **Members Absent**

Thomas G. Dabney, Co-Chair Ex Officio  
Elizabeth "Betsy" O. Benac, Member  
Richard H. Meyers, Member

#### **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**

Ms. Glass called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Ms. Young called the roll and noted a quorum was present. (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)

#### 5. **Consent Item:**

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

- a. **Minutes of the February 13, 2008, Meeting** – Approve the February minutes, as presented.

**Motion carried unanimously.** (CD 1/Track 1/09:42)

6. **Discussion Items**

a. **Election of Officers and Committee Representatives**

Election results were the following:

**Vice Chair:** Frank Strelec

**Secretary:** Mac Carraway

**Basin Board Land Resources Committee:**

Primary Representative: Frank Strelec

Alternate: Dora Thomas

**Basin Board Education Committee:**

Primary Representative: Mac Carraway

Alternate: Betsy Benac

**Sarasota Bay Estuary Program Policy Board**

Jack Bispham (CD 1/Track 1/09:42:45)

b. **Consumer Fertilizer Task Force Report**

Veronica Crow, Environmental Manager in the Resource Projects Department, prefaced her presentation by stating that improperly used fertilizer can run off lawns into rivers and spring systems, and ultimately into the Gulf of Mexico. Excess nutrients in that run-off can lead to low dissolved oxygen, fish kills, and other environmental degradation. Thus, the Florida Consumer Fertilizer Task Force was created within the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACCS) by the Florida Legislature in July 2007 to review and provide recommendations on the State's policies and programs regarding consumer fertilizers. Using the best available data and science, the 13-member Task Force developed recommendations on fertilizer use, application, training, education, research, and funding.

Ms. Crow's presentation included Task Force membership, the State legislative charge, timeline, recommendations, and correlation to House Bill 1267 and Senate Bill 2352, the "Protecting Urban and Residential Environments & Water Act."

(Task Force recommendations were included in the meeting notebook as Exhibit 2.)

Brief topics of discussion included ordinances already in place and responsibility for monitoring.

In closing, Ms. Crow stated that pending legislation on these issues is "proposed" and will likely change. This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required. (CD 1/ Track 1/09:47)

c. **Tampa Bay Estuary Program Update**

Jennette Seachrist, Manager of the Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Program, introduced Holly Greening, new Executive Director of the Tampa Bay Estuary Program (TBEP), who presented this update. She provided a brief history of the TBEP, which started in 1991 after Tampa Bay was identified as an estuary of Federal Significance and included in the National Estuary Program in 1990. The TBEP was established to assist the region in developing a comprehensive plan for the restoration and protection of Tampa Bay. Included in the update was information on the TBEP partners and their Interlocal Agreement, funding, goals, priority issues, and TBEP successes and challenges. Ms. Greening expressed appreciation for the District's participation in the Interlocal Agreement and contribution to Tampa Bay restoration and protection. She reminded the Board that their commitment to the Program requires annual funding approval.

Since 1998, the District and other partners have completed numerous stormwater retrofit and habitat restoration projects toward achieving goals of the TBEP comprehensive plan and the SWIM plan.

This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required. (CD 1/ Track 1/09:56)

d. **Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Preparation**

Deputy Executive Director Bruce Wirth began the budget discussion by making comments to orient members on their first look at a preliminary budget for fiscal year (FY) 2009. He emphasized the importance of their direction concerning funding levels of the various budget categories, including prioritization of Cooperative Funding proposals and other Basin projects. First-time cooperative funding proposals, after staff review, were tentatively ranked as 1A, High, Medium, or Low priority. Mr. Wirth explained that the cooperative funding project ranking was preliminary. He also explained that the budget was prepared assuming ad valorem revenue at five percent below FY2008. This is due to tax reform legislation enacted in 2007, the constitutional amendment approved in January 2008, and declining property values. In June, staff will provide an updated ad valorem revenue estimate to the Basin Board and present a revised budget, based on the Board's input and further investigation by staff. At the July meeting, the Basin Board will vote on a final FY2009 millage rate and budget for recommendation to the Governing Board. (CD 1/ Track 1/12:00)

Before Mr. Wirth's budget review, information was provided on several significant projects that were included for the Board's consideration in the FY2009 budget.

Mark Hammond, Resource Projects Director, began by reporting on the New Development Reclaimed Water Distribution Initiative (B276), which arose from the Governing Board's Reclaimed Water Task Force and was formed to address concerns about increasing the amount of reclaimed water and how much water was being offset by its use. The Initiative would be an incentive to developers to install distribution lines, during residential construction, that would facilitate the use of reclaimed water in new residential development, if the reclaimed water was available within five years and if no other alternative water sources were identified. District funding would be provided to developers through the Cooperative Funding Initiative. For this Basin, \$500,000 would be set aside, if the Board approves, for FY2009. Funding would be 50 percent of the average unit cost of \$1,200, or \$600 per home, which represents approximately 800 homes within this Basin and would offset 250,000 gallons of water per day. Mr. Hammond highlighted elements of the Initiative, including local government requirements for reclaimed lines in developments and retrofits. (CD 1/ Track 2/09:49)

The Watershed Management Program is a high priority of the District to obtain floodplain information that will help identify areas at-risk for flooding. With the heavy rains of the mid-1990s, the need for the Watershed Management Program was evident. Mr. Hammond used the Zephyrhills area of eastern Pasco County as an example of mapped flood zones compared to areas where flooding complaints were made by the public and local governments asked for assistance from the District to identify areas at risk for flooding. Mr. Hammond reviewed the Program goals and the relationship to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Map Modernization Process, which is integral to the Program. He closed by emphasizing the importance of prioritizing the watershed studies in order to get "ahead of the curve" and alleviate the need for costly new "fixes" in the future. (CD 1/Track 2/09:59)

An overview of the Environmental Education Centers was presented by Assistant Land Resources Director Eric Sutton, who reported on a task from the Governing Board strategic planning exercise in 2006, that staff evaluate the need for other education

centers the District might sponsor. Mr. Sutton explained the assessment process, which would find "gaps" in information to determine where environmental education centers would best serve the community. He reviewed the challenges in making a center successful and spoke briefly on the steps involved in the process. Funding, he added, would be from the Water Management Lands Trust Fund, which does not affect ad valorem. For the Board's consideration, \$2 million has been included in the Basin's FY2009 budget.

How the success of the centers is measured was briefly discussed. (CD 1/Track 3)

Alison Ramoy, Senior Water Conservation Analyst, Conservation Projects Section, provided background of Hillsborough/Mosaic Hopewell Reclaimed Water Recharge Project, which was submitted for FY2009 Cooperative Funding by Water Partners, Inc., a not-for-profit entity formed to facilitate the project, which would use reclaimed water from the City of Tampa and Hillsborough County. During discussion with the cooperators, staff noticed a definite distinction between the Hillsborough/TECO Reclaimed Project (NO93), which the Alafia River and Peace River Basin Boards are being requested to fund, and the Hillsborough/Mosaic Hopewell Reclaimed Water Project (N127), which is presented for the Manasota Basin Board's consideration in its tentative FY2009 budget. Ms. Ramoy stated that staff recognizes there are potential resource opportunities from the projects and has been working through details with the participants. However, there are issues that need to be resolved in order for staff to rank the projects. She elaborated on the outstanding issues that include water resource benefit, District funding, public-private partnership, service agreements, infrastructure costs, project operations, and alternatives. Ms. Ramoy reviewed estimated project costs and closed by introducing Mr. Bart Weiss, Hillsborough County Division Director for Strategic Water Management, who continued the presentation. (CD 1/ Track 4)

Mr. Weiss provided an in-depth report on the Hillsborough/Mosaic Hopewell Reclaimed Water Recharge Project, which, he said, would provide the most cost effective, alternative water supply by efficiently utilizing excess quantities of reclaimed water, while providing one of the most significant water quality improvement projects in the District's history. His report included project organization, benefits, relationship to SWUCA rules and restoration, use of funds, progress of the project, and funding. During the presentation, he addressed concerns about the project's benefit to Sarasota and Manatee counties and how Water Partners, Inc., is run. (CD 1/Track 4/09:46-Track 5/10:00)

An overview of the Dona Bay Watershed Implementation Plan was provided by Lisann Morris, Senior Professional Engineer in the Water Supply and Resource Development Section. Ms. Morris used graphics to show changes that had occurred in the watershed through the years, due to agricultural activities. She explained how the Dona Bay Watershed Management Plan was submitted by Sarasota County for FY2006 Cooperative Funding to help restore the area; the County received \$500,000 from the Basin. That project included a plan that would provide many benefits to the area: decrease freshwater flows to the estuary; 15 million gallon per day water supply; stabilize salinity in the upper Shakett Creek; rehydrate disturbed wetlands; decrease nitrogen loadings to bay; and decrease 100-year flood elevations. In June 2007 the original project ended, but the final document included a three-phased Implementation Plan, which Ms. Morris explained. Total estimated cost would be from \$175-177 million.

A FY2009 Cooperative Funding project for the Implementation Plan would also provide benefits similar to the Dona Bay Watershed Management Plan, but without the mechanism for a five mgd removal rate; nitrogen loading would be less than 38 percent with a three-phased approach. Ms. Morris explained aspects of that implementation

plan, for an estimated cost of \$175-177 million. Ms. Morris further reported on the benefits versus costs of the Dona Bay Watershed Implementation Project (L927), which was submitted for FY2009 Cooperative Funding. The benefits are not quite as great as the 2006 project, but the cost estimate is \$59 million, which includes prior funding from the Dona Bay Watershed Management Plan and approximately \$20 million for land costs incurred by Sarasota County.

In closing, Ms. Morris stated that staff is recommending the project not be funded, due to the project being primarily a potable alternative water supply project with many environmental benefits attached to it. Sarasota County is a member of the Peace River/Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority; therefore, according to the District's Cooperative Funding Policy, this project should be submitted through the Authority, who is currently reviewing it under their H063 Regional Resource Development Feasibility Study. (CD 1/Track 5/10:07)

Mr. Wirth continued the budget discussion by briefly reviewing the tentative budget and new Cooperative Funding projects. He reminded members that the budget process is in the beginning stages, State funding is unknown at this time, and staff continues to assess the real needs of cooperators. Questions should be directed to the Project Manager, Ms. Kavouras, Basin Planner Dianne Davies, or him. (CD 1/Track 5/10:18)

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

Pelican Cove Condominium resident Natalie Tierney thanked the Board for funding the Pelican Cove Stormwater Filtration Unit, W620, which will filter out sediments, leaves, grass clippings, etc., from stormwater flowing into Little Sarasota Bay. (CD 1/Track 5/10:49)

7. **Reports:**

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

Mac Carraway, primary representative to the BBEC, gave highlights of the March 11, 2008, meeting, which was held in the Tampa Service Office.

- The new Water Conservation Hotel and Motel Program (C.H.A.M.P.) Coordinator is Robin Grantham.
- A new addition to C.H.A.M.P. is outreach to restaurants through the Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association.
- More emphasis should be placed on creating Spanish language materials, including a web page, print ads, etc., and Spanish-speaking internal staff to provide guidance and review on how that material is translated and made available to our Spanish-speaking population.
- Use of focus groups for designing effective educational materials.

A full report on the March 11 meeting was included as Exhibit 3 in the meeting notebook. (CD 1/Track 6/09:41)

b. **Sarasota Bay Estuary Program Policy Board**

Basin Representative Jack Bispham gave a brief report on the March 14, 2008, Sarasota Bay Estuary Program (SBEP) Policy Board meeting. Included were the following:

- (1) The SBEP's possible move into a building next to the Mote Marine facility is "on hold" for the time being,
- (2) An initiative for going "blue:" clean water, oceans, and coasts; and
- (3) A white paper on the Sarasota Bay/Watershed hydrology: Exhibit 4 in the meeting notebook. (CD 1/Track 6/09:44)

c. **Governing Board Activities**

With Co-Chair Glass's approval, staff played pre-recorded highlights of the March 25, 2008, Governing Board meeting. Robyn Felix, Communications Manager, narrated the brief recap, which included the Oath of Office and welcome to new Governing Board member Paul Senft, the Governor's designation of April as Water Conservation Month, an emergency authorization for the Peace River/Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority to utilize aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) wellfields to meet regional water demands due to ongoing drought, acquisition of the Hamilton property as part of the Lake Hancock Lake Level Modification project, and renewal of the City of Lakeland's water use permit. (CD 1/Track 6/09:46)

8. **Announcements**

Ms. Kavouras updated the Board on recent Governing and Basin Board appointments, the addition of two seats to the Governing Board, and rearranging of counties the Governing Board's at-large seats represent.

She brought the Board's attention to announcements listed on the agenda and reported that the July 23 meeting is no longer tentative. (CD 1/Track 6/09:52)

9. **Adjournment**

When there was no further business to come before the Board, Co-Chair Glass adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m. (CD 1/Track 6/09:55)

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\*\*\*Information Items\*\*\*

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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.

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1. City of Anna Maria for Implementation of Best Management Practices, Phase II (W226) - Execution Notice
2. Bradenton/Palmetto/Manatee County Interconnect Study (L854) – Execution Notice
3. Flatford Swamp Surface Water Monitoring Program (B092) - Execution Notice
4. Terra Ceia Boat Ramp Agreement - Execution Notice