

Approved

Minutes of the Meeting

MANASOTA BASIN BOARD

Southwest Florida Water Management District

Sarasota, Florida

April 11, 2007

The Manasota Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a regular meeting on April 11, 2007, at 9:00 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 Designee
Elizabeth "Betsy" O. Benac, Vice Chair
Frank E. Strelec, Member
Dora Maria C. Thomas
Paul J. "Jack" Bispham

Members Absent:

Richard H. Meyers, Member
J. Mac Carraway, Secretary

Staff Members Present

Bruce Wirth	Lou Kavouras
Will Miller	Eric DeHaven
Dianne Davies	Lisann Morris
Brian Armstrong	Stephanie Dunham
Randy Emberg	Terri Behling

Via Videoconference

Beth Putnam

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)

Co-Chair Ex Officio Tom Dabney welcomed Palmetto Mayor Larry Bustle and newly appointed Governing Board Member and Manasota Basin Board Co-Chair Ex Officio Designee Pat Glass, who will be sworn in at the April 24 Governing Board meeting. (CD 1/Track 1)

3. **Oath of Office for Appointed/Re-appointed Board Members**

This item was deleted from the agenda.

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

Lou Kavouras, Deputy Executive Director, Outreach, Planning, and Board Services, stated no gubernatorial appointments or Senate confirmations concerning this Board had been forthcoming; therefore, Agenda Item 3 was deleted from the agenda. (CD 1/Track 1)

5. **Consent Items:**

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

- a. **February 14, 2007, Meeting Minutes** - Approve the February minutes, as presented.

- b. **Land Management Plan – Deer Prairie Creek Preserve - Recommend the Governing Board approve the Land Management Plan for SWF Parcel No. 21-808-127X.**

Motion carried unanimously. (CD 1/Track 1)

6. **Discussion Items:**

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

Since Basin Board appointments and/or confirmations had not been received, the Board decided to postpone elections to the June meeting.

- b. **Myakka River Watershed Initiative Update**

After a presentation to the Basin Board in March 2006, staff recommended beginning the Myakka River Watershed Initiative, under the Watershed Management Program, to evaluate the capacity of the Myakka River Watershed to protect, enhance, and restore water quality and natural systems, while achieving flood protection. Lisann Morris, Senior Professional Engineer in the Resource Conservation and Development Department, presented an update of this Initiative, including the scope of work, elements of the work orders, development of modeling tools, and budget estimates. Stakeholder kick-off meetings were held in December 2006 and February 2007 to introduce the project and seek sources of data.

This update was presented for the Board's information; no action was required. Other updates will be provided periodically. (CD 1/Track 1)

- c. **Fiscal Year 2008 Budget Preparation**

Deputy Executive Director Bruce Wirth reviewed a preliminary budget for FY2008 and asked the Board for direction concerning funding levels of the various budget categories, including prioritization of Cooperative Funding proposals and other Basin projects. In June, the Board will be asked to vote on a proposed millage rate for FY2008, which would be used for the Truth in Millage noticing to taxpayers. First-time proposals, after staff review, were tentatively ranked as 1A, High, Medium, or Low priority. Mr. Wirth explained that the ranking was preliminary and based on an assumed eight percent increase in assessments. He briefly reviewed the new Cooperative Funding projects, reminded members that the budget process is in the beginning stages, and related that Board members could direct questions to the Project Manager, Basin Planner Dianne Davies, Ms. Kavouras, or him.

Topics of discussion included encumbered/unspent funds and the District's policy regarding carryover of funds earmarked for projects, suspended projects, allocations for Surface Water Improvement and Management projects, potential Senate Bill 444 funds, the Wares Creek project, Peace River/Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority (PR/MRWSA) projects, and completion of the Mote Marine project. (CD 1/Track 1)

Palmetto Mayor Bustle, Seth Kohn, City of Bradenton, David Farabee, representing Aqua Utilities, Elizabeth Wong from the City of North Port, and Sarasota County's Theresa Connor, in turn, addressed the Board requesting the Board's favorable consideration of their cooperative funding projects. (CD 1/Track 2)

7. **Reports:**

- a. **Basin Board Education Committee**

Via video-conference from the Brooksville office, Communications Manager Beth Putnam shared highlights of the March 6, 2007, Committee meeting, including introduction of the

District's new Regional Building/Developer consultant for Florida Yards and Neighborhoods (FYN) and two FYN coordinators who work to educate homeowner associations about Florida-friendly landscaping. She also shared news of an award-winning compact disk, *Watershed and You*, which was part of a Science and Environmental Council of Sarasota project funded by the Basin Board. In closing, Ms. Putnam announced a joint meeting of the Basin Board Education and Basin Board Land Resources committees scheduled for July 12 at the new Tampa Electric Center in Nature's Classroom, Hillsborough County. This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required. (CD 1/Track 3)

b. **Basin Board Land Resources Committee**

Primary representative to the Basin Board Land Resources Committee Frank Strelec gave a brief report on the March 22 meeting, including the District's land acquisition and prescribed burn procedures, gopher tortoise relocation, Land Use Management Plans, and the Public Land Acquisition and Management Partnership Conference to be held in September. This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required. (CD 1/Track 3)

c. **Sarasota Bay Estuary Program Policy Committee**

Interim Representative Jack Bispham's comments on the recent Policy Committee meeting included a Mote Marine project on fish movement, restoration of fish habitat, and numbers of fish and additional research on Red Tide. This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required. (CD 1/Track 3)

d. **Report on Governing Board Activities**

This report was deferred to the next meeting.

7. **Announcements:**

Pat Lehman, Executive Director, PR/MRWSA, extended an invitation to the May 11 groundbreaking ceremony for the Peace River Facility expansion, which will double its capacity to 48 million gallons per day.

Ms. Kavouras reminded members of the announcements listed in the agenda, particularly Volunteer Appreciation Day on Saturday, April 14. (CD 1/Track 3)

8. **Adjournment:**

Since there was no further business to come before the Board, Co-Chair Dabney adjourned the meeting at 11:30 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.

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1. City of Bradenton Toilet Fill Tube Retrofit Pilot Project (L606) - Execution Notice
 2. Englewood Reuse Transmission - Stillwater Project (L652) - Execution Notice
 3. Manatee County Rain Sensor Installation Project (L509) - Execution Notice
 4. City of Palmetto Reclaimed Water Aquifer Storage and Recovery Project (L608) - Execution Notice

5. Sarasota Bay National Estuary Program Non-Federal Funding for FFY2006 Annual Work Plan (W612) - Execution Notice
6. Sarasota County – NAVD88 Control Densification (L617) - Execution Notice
7. Tampa Bay Estuary Program Non-Federal Funding for Federal Fiscal Year 2006 Annual Work Plan (W027) - Execution Notice
8. U.S. Geological Survey Minimum Flows and Levels Data Collection (B182) - Execution Notice
9. Water Supply Flow Monitoring Project (H057) - Execution Notice