

Approved

Minutes of the Meeting

MANASOTA BASIN BOARD

Southwest Florida Water Management District

Sarasota, Florida

June 10, 2009

The Manasota Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a regular meeting on June 10, 2009, at 9:04 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

Staff Present

Lou Kavouras
Mark Hammond
Terri Behling
John Ferguson
Jennette Seachrist

Bruce Wirth
Brian Armstrong
Dianne Davies
Jeremy McKay

Via Video Conference

Daryl Pokrana
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.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Co-Chair Joerger called the meeting to order at 9:04 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, reported that Agenda Item 4, the Oath of Office, was deleted from the agenda since no appointments for this Basin Board had been forthcoming. (CD 1/Track 1)

4. Basin Activities Report and Agenda Review

Ms. Dianne Davies, Basin Planner, reminded the Board that this agenda item will be part of each Basin Board agenda, providing an opportunity for the Basin Planner to give an overview of relevant items on the agenda, information items, and other topics of interest. Ms. Davies' announced the first development application submitted under the Sarasota County Comprehensive Plan Amendments—Sarasota 2050 overlay. Other topics were the ongoing drought, four information items that did not require Board action, and the budget. This item was presented for the Board's information, to help the Board better understand how the items relate to the Board's Strategic Budget Priorities, the Strategic Plan, or other Board concerns. (CD 1/Track 1:16:59)

5. Consent Item:

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

- a. **Minutes of the April 15, 2009, Meeting** – Approve the April minutes, as presented.
(CD 1/Track 2)

6. **Discussion Items:**

- a. **Status of the Water Supply Development within the Peace River/Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority Region and its Impact on the Fiscal Year 2010 Budget**

Mr. Wirth prefaced this presentation by explaining that the information provided would assist the Board in making decisions regarding the FY2010 budget. He introduced Mr. Pat Lehman, Executive Director of the Peace River/Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority (PRMRWSA), to provide an update on issues that would affect cooperative projects. Mr. Brian Armstrong, Manager of the Water Supply and Resource Development section of the Resource Projects Department, would report on five specific Authority projects that are impacted by reduced demand. (CD 1/Track 2)

Mr. Lehman began by speaking on options for public water supply: local systems or regional systems and the need to adapt to changing conditions, including reduced development, reduced construction, and reduced ad valorem. He commented on the Authority's Strategic Plan, its 20-year vision, regional transfers of water, projected water demands, and potential sources of water to meet the demand. Demand over the past four years increased, but has come down from the wild increase that was of high concern in recent years. Lower demand has lessened the need for the Authority's next large project.

Mr. Lehman continued by reviewing the Authority's planning process, recommended program to reach its goals, and the current process for determining potential partners. Regional cooperation is already being sought through Memorandums of Understanding with Sarasota County (the Dona Bay project) and DeSoto County, the City of Punta Gorda, Englewood Water District, and the City of Venice for brackish groundwater projects. He gave details of the City of Punta Gorda Water Supply Master Plan and City of North Port Water Supply Options. (CD1/Track 3)

Mr. Armstrong presented information and a summary of five projects that are impacted by significant reduction in demand by the Authority's member governments and are included in the Basin's proposed FY2010 budget. Those projects included:

- H051 - PRMRWSA Integrated Loop System Phase 2 Interconnect
- H079 - PRMRWSA Regional Resource Development Phase 1
- H087 - City of Punta Gorda Reverse Osmosis Facility
- H088 - Dona Bay Water Supply Development and Management Project
- N082 - City of North Port Myakkahatchee Creek Water Treatment Plant RBF/RO Reliability Project

Co-Chair Glass suggested a graphic depiction of all Authority options would be helpful--a table or timeline to show when projects might come on-line.

Mr. Armstrong added that these issues will be part of the budget discussion during the August 12 Basin Board meeting.

Discussion topics during this presentation included pooling of unused water, cost comparisons for the various projects, timing of bringing projects on-line, the possibility of using excess water for environmental purposes, and the Board's financial leverage in funding these projects. (CD 1/Track 4)

b. **Fiscal Year 2010 Budget Discussion and Approval of Proposed Millage Rate**

Mr. Wirth presented an update to the preliminary budget provided at the April meeting. The Board's input from that meeting was incorporated into a proposed budget, which assumed the millage rate would remain at 0.1484 and ad valorem revenue would be 15 percent below fiscal year (FY) 2009. A revised budget, based on final property values, will be presented for the Board's consideration at the August 12 Basin Board meeting. At that time, the Board will be required to approve its final 2010 millage rate and budget for recommendation to the Governing Board, including selection of FY2010 Cooperative Funding projects.

Mr. Wirth continued by providing highlights of the budget and explaining the various funding lines that were included in the budget. The first funding line identified the last project that the Basin Board could fully fund at its existing millage rate; three additional funding lines were added to show how the funding lines would change if \$1 million, \$2 million, and \$3 million, respectively, of H100 Water Supply and Resource Development reserves were used to meet FY2010 funding requirements. He used graphs to show allocation of funds by the Basin's four areas of responsibility. Board members were directed to the Projects section of the meeting notebook for detailed information on all Cooperative Funding proposals submitted for consideration.

Board members participated in discussion of possibly using of some of the Basin's H100 Water Supply and Resource Development reserves to help fund projects. Other topics of discussion included the importance of cost/benefit analyses, life of projects, potential additional ad valorem, level of assurance between cooperators and the District, and whether the Board would be able to sustain the 50/50 split on cooperative projects.

After consideration, **Mr. Bispham moved, seconded by Ms. Benac, to approve and adopt a required proposed millage rate of 0.1484 mill for FY2010. Motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Bispham then moved, seconded by Mr. McCoy, to approve Resolution No. 74, resolution affirming the required proposed millage rate for fiscal year 2010. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bispham moved, seconded by Mr. McCoy, to authorize staff to use \$1 million from H100 reserves to enable more projects to be funded.

Ms. Benac noted that an additional \$1 million would take in only one additional project, with a small amount left for the next lower project. She commented that staff should scrutinize the "big-ticket" projects for possible savings and put those funds toward smaller projects, such as "Florida Yards and Neighborhoods" and "Around the Bend Nature Tours." She emphasized that she was not saying some of those big-ticket projects may not be needed in the future, but projects that get a "big bang for the buck" should not be forgotten in these hard economic times. Mr. Bispham voiced his agreement.

Motion carried unanimously. (CD 1/Track 5)

In closing this discussion, Mr. Carraway reiterated the importance of preserving the Board's ability to live up to assurances it has given cooperators and suggested that discussion of the share percentage of projects be included in a future workshop. (CD 1/Track 6)

8. **Reports:**

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

Mr. Bispham, the Board's representative on the SBEP Policy Board, reminded the group that this Basin funds SBEP activities. As promised, Mr. Mark Alderson, Executive Director of the SBEP, addressed the Board to provide a brief report on the comeback of the Bay. Estuary Program Directors and Mr. Alderson will be present at the August Basin Board meeting to give a full report on SBEP projects.

Mr. Bispham provided copies of University of Florida/Institute of Food and Agricultural Science (IFAS) "Frequently Asked Questions about Landscape Fertilization for Florida-Friendly Landscaping Ordinances."

b. **Governing Board Activities**

Board members had been provided a written report of the May 20 Governing Board meeting, which was held in the Highlands County Government Center, Sebring. During the meeting, Mr. Todd Pressman was elected Governing Board chair; Mr. Ron Oakley, vice chair; Mr. Hugh Gramling, secretary; and Ms. Sallie Parks, treasurer.

These reports were presented for the Board's information; no action was required. (CD 1/Track 6)

9. **Announcements**

- Co-Chair Joerger brought members' attention to announcements listed on the agenda.
- Additionally, he reported that a July Basin Board meeting will not be necessary and reminded Board members to remove that meeting from their calendars.

With regard to the *WateReuse Study of Reclaimed Water and Surface Water Quality* report, which was recently sent to the Board, Ms. Benac stated that was very good information and asked that the Board continue discussion with local governments on how that information might affect regulations that are in place – based on science. Ms. Kavouras replied that staff is planning a presentation on that topic for the August 12 meeting; elected officials will be invited to participate.

10. **Adjournment** – When there was no further business to come before the Board, Co-Chair Joerger adjourned the meeting at 11:41 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. City of Venice Plumbing Rebate and Retrofit Project (N086) - Withdrawal Notice
2. Sarasota Implementation of Best Management Practices at Hudson Bayou (W618) - Completion Notice
3. City of North Port Myakkahatchee Creek Water Treatment Facility RBF/RO Reliability Project (N082) - Execution Notice
4. Manatee County Indoor Water Conservation Project (N115) - Execution Notice

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