

# Approved

## Minutes of the Meeting

### MANASOTA BASIN BOARD

Southwest Florida Water Management District

Sarasota, Florida

June 11, 2008

The Manasota Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a regular meeting on June 11, 2008, at 9:07 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  
Dora Maria C. Thomas, Member  
Paul J. "Jack" Bispham

#### **Member Absent**

Richard H. Meyers, Member

#### **Staff Present**

David Moore	Bruce Wirth
Lou Kavouras	Eric DeHaven
Elaine Kuligosfski	Brian Armstrong
Dianne Davies	Terri Behling
Randy Emberg	

#### **Via Video Conference**

Linda Pilcher	Roy Mazur
Beth Putnam	

**Recording Secretary:** Phyllis Young

A roster of others who signed in 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**

Mr. Joerger called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. Ms. Young 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**

Since no gubernatorial appointments or Senate confirmations concerning this Board had been received, Deputy Executive Director Lou Kavouras stated 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 Items, as follow:**

a. **Minutes of the April 9, 2008, Meeting** – Approve the April minutes, as presented.

b. **Appraisals and Purchase/Sale Agreement – Lower Manatee River Floodway Project**  
Recommend the Governing Board accept the appraisals, approve the Purchase/Sale Agreement, and designate SWF Parcel 21-602-110 as having been acquired for conservation purposes.

- c. **Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems – WFA Land Company, Inc., - Manatee County**
- 1) **Approve the WFA Land Company, Inc., project for a not-to-exceed project reimbursement of \$135,000 with \$33,750 provided by the Manasota Basin Board, \$33,750 provided by the Governing Board, and \$67,500 provided from 2005 State Appropriations;**
  - 2) **Authorize the transfer of \$33,750 from Fund 010 H017 Governing Board FARMS funds; \$33,750 from Fund 021 H017 Manasota Basin Board FARMS funds; \$67,500 from the 2005 State Appropriations allocated to Fund 021 H017 Manasota Basin Board FARMS funds, to H558 WFA Land Company, Inc., project fund;**
  - 3) **Authorize the Executive Director to sign the agreement.**
- d. **Annual Calendar of Meeting Dates – Fiscal Year 2009 – Approve the Basin Board FY2009 meeting schedule, as presented.**

**Motion carried unanimously. (CD 1/Track 1)**

6. **Discussion Items**

a. **District Environmental Stewardship Initiative**

Human Resources and Risk Management Director Elaine Kuligofski addressed the Board to provide an overview of the District's Environmental Stewardship Initiative, which grew from Governor Charlie Crist's July 2007 action plan to reduce greenhouse gases and increase energy efficiency.

With direction from the Executive Sponsor of the Initiative Gene Schiller, Deputy Executive Director, Management Services Division, five District staff and a Governing Board sponsor (Initiative Team) have examined the District's entire operation to find ways the District may be able to achieve more efficiencies and reduce its carbon footprint.

Ms. Kuligofski reported that the District supports the Governor's efforts with regard to environmental stewardship, adding that the plan fits well with the District's focus on sustainable growth and environmental responsibility. She provided information on evaluation, development, and implementation of project activities; Governing Board Policy 110-10, District Commitment to Superior Environmental Stewardship; departmental priorities and project examples; cooperation and exchange of ideas with other water management districts; and reporting requirements.

Ms. Kuligofski asked Board members, as leaders in the community, to inform staff of new products, services, ideas, etc., that might be appropriate for the District's use in becoming more energy efficient and in its efforts to reduce greenhouse gases.

In response to a question from Ms. Benac regarding the District's stand on low impact design standards, Ms. Kavouras reported that Regulation Program Director Clark Hull had recently given a report on low impact development to the Environmental Advisory Committee and would be asked to provide a report to this Board.

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

b. **Cooperative Funding Initiative Project Status Report - Water Partners, Inc., Reclaimed Water Project**

Executive Director David Moore addressed the Board to provide an in-depth report of this project, which involves a public-private partnership that will maximize the beneficial use of reclaimed water flows that are not currently being beneficially used by Hillsborough County and the City of Tampa. The project was submitted by Water Partners, Inc. (WPI), a not-for-profit, public-private partnership, whose members include Hillsborough County, Tampa Electric Company (TECO), and Mosaic Fertilizer (Mosaic). Other parties involved include the City of Tampa, the City of Lakeland, Polk County, Tampa Bay Water, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), and perhaps Plant City and Temple Terrace. Meetings are being held bi-weekly; four subcommittees (governance, regulatory, recharge, and engineering) have been formed to focus on the major project components. Mr. Moore emphasized that this is a high profile project of which all Board members need to be aware.

Mr. Moore provided background of the project, which is comprised of two major components: (1) a project to provide reclaimed water to industrial users and (2) a project to create opportunities for additional groundwater withdrawals in the Southern Water Use Caution Area (SWUCA) through recharge of reclaimed water in southeastern Hillsborough County and/or western Polk County. He briefly commented on four reasons the project has potential, estimated project costs, and the timeline. He used graphics to explain the various elements of the project and their relationship to each other.

During the presentation, the Board asked questions and participated in discussion on topics including potential for reservoirs to create energy, coastal recharge, groundwater credits, the recharge permit, and potential for use of reclaimed water by agricultural operations.

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

c. **Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Discussion and Approval of Proposed Millage Rate**

Deputy Executive Director Bruce Wirth began by briefing the Board on the timeframe for submitting the Basins' millage rates to the Governing Board and, ultimately, to the county Property Appraisers and the State, making it necessary for members to approve a proposed millage rate during the meeting.

Assistant Finance Director Linda Pilcher, who appeared via video conference, explained aspects of millage rate options that would help the Board make a decision on the proposed FY2009 millage rate. To assist the Board in determining the FY2009 proposed millage rate, she informed the Board that the June 1 estimates were used to project ad valorem revenue under several millage rate options. She used a chart to help clarify the various millage rate options and ad valorem revenue that might be generated for each option. The staff recommendation is to hold the millage rate at the current FY2008 rate of 0.1484 mill. Based on an estimated reduction in property values, the Basin's ad valorem budget would need to be reduced by \$1.2 million from the proposed budget presented in the meeting notebook. If the Board votes to hold its millage rate for FY2009 equal to the FY2008 rate, as recommended by staff, the Board would also be asked to delegate authority to the Executive Director to administratively adjust the millage rate downward if it is determined in July that the FY2009 rolled-back rate or the Maximum Millage Rate is lower than the rate for FY2008. This would eliminate the need for a special July meeting.

After consideration, **Mr. Bispham moved, seconded by Ms. Benac, to approve parts two and three of the staff recommendation, as follow:**

2. **Approve and adopt a required proposed millage rate of 0.1484 mill for Fiscal Year 2009.**
3. **Approve Resolution No. 71 — Resolution Approving the Required Proposed Millage Rate for Fiscal Year 2009.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Wirth continued the presentation by providing highlights of the budget, noting changes made since the April meeting and considering the June 1 estimates of taxable property values for FY2009. He included several possible options to compensate for the potential shortfall Ms. Pilcher mentioned during her presentation. Board members were directed to the Projects section of the meeting notebook for detailed information on all Cooperative Funding proposals submitted for consideration.

In closing, Mr. Wirth stated that the Board's input would be incorporated into a revised budget, which would be presented at the next meeting. During that meeting, the Board will be required to adopt a final FY2009 millage rate and budget for recommendation to the Governing Board, and approve final selection of FY2009 Cooperative Funding projects.

For the record, Co-Chair Joerger disclosed that his wife is on the Board of Gulf Coast Strategic Investments, Inc.

Board members asked questions and briefly discussed topics including incentive-based funding, multi-year projects, allocation of future funding, Basin Initiative funding, and the Dona Bay project.

Mr. Carraway suggested the Board might consider foregoing the approval of "Medium" ranked projects and bank those dollars for future high-priority projects. Mr. Wirth added that this is the type of discussion that needs to occur during the Basin Board's October planning workshop and emphasized the importance of Board members' input during those sessions.

At the Board's request, Theresa Connor, Sarasota County Director of Environmental Services, thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak and gave a status report on the Dona Bay Watershed Implementation project (L927), which, at the time of the meeting, was "Not Ranked." Staff was encouraged to open dialogue with Sarasota County regarding potential cooperative funding for the project.

After consideration, **Mr. Carraway moved, seconded by Ms. Benac, to approve tentative selection of FY2009 Cooperative Funding projects.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

As a matter of record, **Mr. Carraway moved, seconded by Mr. Bispham, that staff work with Sarasota County to discuss the Dona Bay project and the Board be updated on project planning that has occurred since the last evaluation.**

**Subsequently, Ms. Benac asked the motion be amended to include the Peace River/Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority as one of the participating parties. Mr. Carraway agreed to the amendment, as did Mr. Bispham.**

**The motion, as amended, carried unanimously. (CD 1/Track 3:11:39)**

d. **Fiscal Year 2010 Strategic Plan Update**

Planning Director Roy Mazur addressed the Board via videoconference to give a progress report on the update to the Strategic Plan. He reviewed background of the Plan, goals for the update, and progress being made, emphasizing that the goal is not to re-write the Plan, but to refine it. Mr. Mazur's presentation included an explanation of the three-tiered approach of staff involvement, tasks to be accomplished, integration of the Plan throughout the District, and examples of success indicators.

As drafts of the updated Strategic Initiatives become available, they will be provided to Board members who may provide input to Mr. Mazur, Basin Planner Dianne Davies, or Ms. Kavouras. Staff will send e-mail reminders to Board members as deadlines for comments approach. A production draft of the Plan will be generated in August and presented for approval to the October 2008 Governing Board.

This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required. (CD 1/Track 4)

During this presentation, Co-Chair Joerger passed the gavel to Co-Chair Glass and left the meeting.

7. **Report:**

a. **Governing Board Activities**

Co-Chair Glass and Ms. Kavouras briefly commented on topics of consideration during the May 27, 2008, Governing Board meeting. (CD 1/Track 4:11:06)

8. **Announcements**

Board members will be notified as soon as possible whether the July 23 meeting will be held. Ms. Kavouras requested they keep that date on their calendars until then.

The location of the July 10 Basin Board Land Resources Committee meeting has been changed to Nature's Classroom. (CD 1/Track 4:11:07)

9. **Adjournment**

The day's business being complete, Co-Chair Glass adjourned the meeting at 12:26 p.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. Watershed Management Program Consulting Services in the Lake Hancock Watershed (H008) - Execution Notice
2. Aqua Utilities Reuse Expansion – Eastern Lakewood Ranch (L874) – Execution Notice
3. Implementation of Best Management Practices for Coastal Basin Beach Road (W617) - Execution Notice
4. Englewood Reuse Transmission - Park Forest Phase 1 Project (L869) - Execution Notice
5. Robinson Preserve Environmental Restoration (W393) - Execution Notice
6. Sarasota Bay Habitat Restoration (W616) - Execution Notice
7. Venice Hatchett Creek Stormwater Facility (W558) - Execution Notice