

Approved

Minutes of the Meeting

MANASOTA BASIN BOARD

Southwest Florida Water Management District

Sarasota, Florida

June 16, 2010

The Manasota Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a regular meeting at 9:05 a.m. on June 16, 2010, in the Sarasota Service Office.

Board Members Present

Albert G. Joerger, Co-Chair
Carlos M. Beruff, Co-Chair
J. Mac Carraway, Secretary
Elizabeth "Betsy" O. Benac, Member
Paul J. "Jack" Bispham, Member

Staff Present

Lou Kavouras
Brian Armstrong
Steve Blaschka
Steve Dicks
Jeremy McKay
Bill Orendorff

Bruce Wirth
Terri Behling
Dianne Davies
Manny Lopez
Lisann Morris
Jennette Seachrist

Board Members Absent

Michael P. McCoy, Member
Frank E. Strelec, Vice Chair

Via Video Conference

Beth Putnam
Daryl Pokrana

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.

The numbers preceding the items listed below correspond with the published agenda.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Co-Chair Albert Joerger called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. Ms. Phyllis Young, Senior Administrative Assistant, Boards and Executive Services, called the roll and noted a quorum was present.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Co-Chair Joerger led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

3. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda

Ms. Lou Kavouras, Deputy Executive Director, Outreach, Planning, Board Services, and Ombudsman, reported no additions or deletions to the agenda. However, in order to accommodate Board members' schedules, Agenda Item 6c, the budget discussion, would be taken as the first Discussion Item.

4. Basin Activities Report and Agenda Review

Ms. Dianne Davies, Basin Planner, reminded the Board that this agenda item is 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. She briefly commented on the 1) current update of the Regional Water Supply Plan, 2) the August 20 deadline for submitting Community Education Grant applications and the September 10 deadline for Splash! Mini-Grant applications, 3) the Walton/Longino acquisition, which will connect the regional corridor between the Peace and Myakka River watersheds, is anticipated to be finalized by July 30 and 4) the District's support of state and local government efforts regarding the Deepwater Horizon oil leak disaster in the Gulf of Mexico. (Track 2)

5. Consent Items:

After consideration, Mr. Carraway moved approval of the following Consent Items:

a. Minutes of the April 14, 2010, Meeting

Approve the April meeting minutes as presented.

- b. **Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority Regional Integrated Loop System Phase 3A Interconnect Project – First Amendment (H052)**
Recommend the Governing Board approve the first amendment to the agreement with the Authority for the Regional Integrated Loop System Phase 3A Interconnect and authorize the Executive Director to sign the amendment.
- c. **Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems (FARMS) – WFA Land Company, Inc., Reservoir Project (H605), Manatee County**
 1. Approve the WFA Land Company, Inc. Reservoir Project for a not-to-exceed project reimbursement of \$37,500 with \$9,375 provided by the Manasota Basin Board, \$9,375 provided by the Governing Board, and \$18,750 provided from State Appropriations;
 2. Authorize the transfer of \$9,375 from Fund 021 H017 Manasota Basin Board FARMS funds, \$9,375 from Fund 010 H017 Governing Board FARMS funds, and \$18,750 from the State Appropriations allocated to Fund 010 H017 FARMS funds, to the H605 WFA Land Company, Inc. Reservoir Project fund; and
 3. Authorize the Executive Director to sign the agreement.
- d. **Science and Environment Council of Sarasota County Science Curriculum Enhancement Program FY2010 Scope of Work (N181) – Change in Scope and No-Cost Time Extension**
Approve the change in scope, which would increase the potential number of students and teachers reached by this project from 404 to 832, and extend the project period to September 30, 2011, with no change in program costs.

Mr. Bispham seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. (Track 2)

6. **Discussion Items:**

At this time, the order of consideration changed.

c. **Fiscal Year 2011 Budget Discussion and Approval of Proposed Millage Rate and Budget**

Mr. Bruce Wirth, Deputy Executive Director, Resource Management Division, 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 property valuations would be approximately 11 percent below FY2010. A revised budget, based on final property values, will be presented for the Basin Board's consideration at the August 11 meeting. At that time, the Board will be required to adopt a final millage rate and budget for recommendation to the Governing Board and also approve final selection of FY2011 Cooperative Funding projects.

Mr. Wirth reported that no major changes had occurred to the proposed budget since the April meeting and the current funding line does not take in all "Medium" ranked projects. He provided highlights of the budget, noting changes that would allow the funding line to move into the "High" ranked projects, including 1) use of WMLTF dollars originally allocated to the Lake Hancock Outfall Treatment Project H014 to fund the District Land Management and Use category and 2) funding some projects at prior year levels to free additional funds for other Cooperative Funding projects.

In order to fund projects through the "Medium" ranking, approximately \$1.2 million additional dollars would be needed; to fund only the "High" ranked projects, approximately \$860,000. The Anna Maria Island Watershed Evaluation Project N215, in which the Board had shown favor, could be combined and, therefore, funded with the Manatee County Watershed Evaluation Project (N263), which was ranked "High."

Staff's recommendation was to fund projects through N215, Anna Maria Island Watershed Evaluation, which would include all projects through "Medium;" and require

an additional \$1.2 million, approximately. Mr. Wirth spoke of potential sources of funding dollars from the Basin's H100 Water Supply and Resource Development reserves or the Flatford Swamp Hydrologic Restoration/Implementation Project H089, which has dollars set aside that will not be used in FY2011. Ms. Lisann Morris, Senior Professional Engineer, Resource Projects Department, presented more information about that project later in the meeting.

Discussion ensued on topics including completion of projects during FY2011, Ware's Creek, the City of Bradenton reservoir expansion, and how far into the Cooperative Funding projects list the Board wishes to fund. (Track 3)

After consideration, **Mr. Carraway moved to use the Flatford Swamp Hydrologic Restoration/Implementation Project H089 funds, as a source of funding for "High" ranked projects. Motion was seconded by Ms. Benac.**

Mr. Wirth clarified that the motion, as stated by Mr. Carraway, did not include the three "Medium" ranked projects, nor did it include the Anna Maria Island Watershed Evaluation Project N215.

Subsequently, Ms. Benac recommended the Anna Maria Island Watershed Evaluation Project N215 be combined with the Manatee County Watershed Evaluation Project N263.

Mr. Carraway amended the motion to include Ms. Benac's recommendation to fund the Anna Maria Island Watershed Evaluation Project (N215) with the Manatee County Watershed Evaluation Project N263. (Track 4)

Mr. Jim Blucher, Vice Chair, City of North Port, and Mr. Steve Dupaski, McKim & Creed Engineering, addressed the Board to request special consideration for the City's Myakkahatchee Creek Water Treatment Plant River Bank Filtration/Reverse Osmosis Project N082. Mr. Blucher provided history and an update of the project, which was "Not Recommended" for the FY2011 budget year.

Mr. Wirth interjected that the Board had entered into a contract with North Port several years ago and provided \$1.4 million for the project; however, due to the changes in the situation, staff now recommends the Basin not continue that funding. Discussion ensued on various aspects of the project including quality of surface water, surplus of water in the North Port area, the Basin Board's policy to support regionalism, comparative cost of water, divergent water sources, back-up systems, and that North Port should not be considered solely.

After discussion and due to the intricacies of the project, Mr. Carraway suggested the Board hear more about this project in another setting, perhaps a workshop.

Ms. Benac cautioned that while using surface water for public supply is a good idea, the regional water supply includes all alternatives. She added that other governments have wanted to take on such projects "on their own," but it seems that would be opening a "Pandora's box," especially since funding is limited. She emphasized that this Basin Board supports regionalism and should continue that support.

The Board was in agreement regarding the motion and the amendment, as stated above.

On other points of the staff recommendation, **Ms. Benac moved, seconded by Mr. Carraway, to approve tentative selection of FY2011 Cooperative Funding projects through those ranked "High" and including the Anna Maria Island Watershed Evaluation Project N215. Motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Carraway moved to approve and adopt a required proposed millage rate of 0.1484 mill for FY2011. Mr. Bispham seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Benac moved approval of Resolution No. 77, Resolution Affirming the Required Proposed Millage Rate for Fiscal Year 2011. Mr. Carraway seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The Board decided to further discuss the North Port Myakkahatchee Creek Water Treatment Plant River Bank Filtration/Reverse Osmosis Project N082 during the August 11 Basin Board meeting.

Ms. Benac remarked that she is unsure about her seat on the Board and might not be on the Board for the August meeting. However, she spoke to emphasize the importance of taking this (the North Port project) in context of the Basin's regional water supply, other projects, and the interconnect and how it will function. She added that many projects, ready for funding, could accomplish that goal; the question is whether the North Port project is important in the overall context. (Tracks 5 & 6)

At this time, Ms. Benac excused herself and left the meeting.

a. **Myakka River Watershed Initiative (H048)**

Ms. Lisann Morris provided an update on this Initiative, with emphasis on hydrologic restoration alternatives developed for the District's Flatford Swamp property. She spoke of the makeup of the Watershed, its flows, topography, and alterations in several locations that were intended to manipulate flows and control flooding for agricultural and urban land uses. Unintended consequences of these alterations have resulted in changes to natural systems, increased flood stages, and loss of floodplain storage. The Myakka River Watershed Initiative (MRWI) began in 2006 when the Basin Board approved the Initiative to assess the alterations and develop a strategy for mitigation of water resource impacts within the watershed.

Flatford Swamp is a priority of the Initiative due to excessive tree die-off, which resulted from excess flows entering the Swamp from surrounding agricultural operations and prolonging the hydroperiod, not allowing the system to dry. Another basis for Flatford Swamp being a priority is pending legal actions. Ms. Morris used graphs to show monthly average excess flows, dry season water level differences, wet season water depths, and dry season frequency of inundation. She enumerated ways to remove the excess water from the Swamp, spoke of the pros and cons of storage, and reported on other promising uses for the excess water.

Other topics of brief discussion included the potential use of Horse Creek to move water to the Peace River, the quantity of water that might be removed, the arsenic issue, offset of groundwater use, and the potential for helping Manatee County meet a Minimum Flow and Level requirement.

In closing, Ms. Morris commented on the benefits to water supplies in the Southern Water Use Caution Area and the cost breakdown for this element of the Initiative.

Although Ms. Morris presented this item for the Board's information and requested no action at this meeting, she advised that she will address the Board again later this year with additional information, detail, and refined cost estimates regarding the alternatives included in this presentation. (Track 7)

b. **Geographic Information Systems Update**

Due to the absence of Ms. Benac and Messrs. McCoy and Strelec, the Board decided to postpone this item to the August 11 meeting.

7. **Reports:**

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

Mr. Bispham, the Board's representative on the SBEP Policy Board, commented on the May 28, 2010, meeting, which was held on Longboat Key. A major topic of discussion was the numeric nutrient criteria issue and the need for more time to develop criteria for estuaries. He suggested someone from the Federal government (Environmental Protection Agency) speak to the Board on this issue and that he will work to accomplish that. Mr. Carraway further suggested that staff has presented on these issues at the District's advisory committees and that in-house information is available. (Track 8)

b. **Governing Board Activities**

Co-Chair Beruff briefly commented on highlights of the May 25 Governing Board meeting including election of officers, an update on the Lake Hancock project, public workshops and other meetings to investigate goals and science-based solutions to occurrences such as the Dover frost/freeze event of January 2010, and hurricane preparedness. (Track 8/02:19)

These reports were presented for the Board's information; no action was required.

8. **Announcements**

Co-Chair Joerger reviewed announcements that were also listed on the agenda.

9. **Adjournment**

When there was no further business to come before the Board, Co-Chair Joerger adjourned the meeting at 11:02 a.m.