

APPROVED

Minutes of the Meeting

NORTHWEST HILLSBOROUGH BASIN BOARD Southwest Florida Water Management District

Tampa Service Office February 7, 2008

The Northwest Hillsborough Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a regular meeting at 1:06 p.m., February 7, 2008, at the Tampa Service Office.

Board Members Present

Maritza Rovira-Forino, Chair Ex Officio
Joseph W. J. Robinson, Vice Chair
Mercy DiMaio, Secretary
Susan Welsh, Member

Staff Members

Bruce C. Wirth Ralph Lair
Mark Hammond Randy Emberg
Eric DeHaven Maya Burke
Michael Molligan
Eric Sutton
Linda Pilcher
Miki Renner
Kathy Scott
Jeannette Seachrist

Via Teleconference

Daryl Pokrana

Absent Member

Frank "Lester" Adams, Member

Recording Secretary

M. Frances Sesler

A list of others who attended and signed the attendance roster is filed in the permanent files of the Basin. Compact discs of the audio and copies of materials and handouts, as set forth in full herein, are also filed in the permanent files of the District.

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

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**

Chair Rovira-Forino called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m. She stated, although a quorum was not present, the meeting would proceed since Mr. Robinson was expected momentarily. Any items needing a vote would be heard later in the meeting. Ms. Sesler, the Board's administrative support, called the roll and noted a quorum was not present.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was led by Chair Rovira-Forino. (CD 1/Track 1)

3. **Additions and Deletions to Agenda**

Ms. Sesler stated that Agenda Item 4, Oath of Office for Appointed/Re-Appointed Board Member(s), was deleted from the agenda. Chair Rovira-Forino reemphasized to Board members that there are vacant positions on Alafia River, Hillsborough River and Northwest Hillsborough Basin Boards. She asked the Board to encourage anyone that might be interested to submit an application to the Governor's Office.

4. **Oath of Office for Appointed/Re-Appointed Board Member(s)**

This item was deleted from the agenda.

At this time, the order of consideration was altered while waiting for Mr. Robinson's arrival.

6. **Discussion Items:**

a. **Urban Lakes Rescue Project**

Mark Hammond, Director of the Resource Projects Department, provided an update on the Urban Lakes Rescue Project, in response to concerns raised by several residents at the Board's July 26, 2007, meeting. The Board was provided an update on this item at its October 9, 2007, meeting and a copy of the District's letter to the residents responding to their concerns. The Board had asked staff to provide another update at its December meeting (which was cancelled).

Mr. Robinson entered the meeting at this time.

Mr. Hammond said that the citizens were very appreciative of the response to their letter, and also the Board's interest in the project. The citizens would like more to be done at Lake Kipling. Mr. Hammond said if the City wanted to come for additional cooperative funding in the future to further projects at Lake Kipling, the District would be supportive of some of those projects. Mr. Hammond provided elevations and a schedule of work being done as requested by Mr. Robinson. Mr. Robinson thanked staff and was appreciative of staff's diligence, and reiterated his support for using the stormwater reserve fund to continue to support the City's efforts in this area. **This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required.** (CD 1/Track 1)

5. **Consent Items:**

a. **October 9, 2007, Meeting & Workshop Minutes**

Approve the October minutes as presented.

b. **Declaration of Cooperation of the Tampa Bay Nitrogen Management Consortium**

Staff recommended approval of the "Declaration of Cooperation of the Tampa Bay Nitrogen Management Consortium" and the "Tampa Bay Nitrogen Management Strategy, 2007 Update to the Reasonable Assurance Document," and recommend the Governing Board Chair execute the Declaration of Cooperation.

Following consideration, **Mr. Robinson moved, seconded by Ms. Welsh, to approve Consent Items 5a and 5b, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.** (CD 1/Track 1)

6. **Discussion Items** (continued)

b. **Tampa Bay Regional Reclaimed Water Project**

Bruce Wirth, Deputy Executive Director, provided the Basin Board an update on the Tampa Bay Regional Reclaimed Water Project (TBRRP) and the City of Tampa's plans to postpone moving forward on the project and instead focus on expanding the South Tampa Area Reuse Project (STAR). It has been the Governing Board's intent to encourage the use of reclaimed water flows at Tampa's Howard F. Curren Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant (HFC Plant) since 2000, when the Board was presented with an overview of reclaimed water in the Tampa Bay area showing less than 40 percent utilization of available flows at the plant. For much of the project, Tampa Bay Water had been the lead agency due to the downstream augmentation portion of the Regional Project, wherein surplus reclaimed water would be discharged downstream of structures on the Hillsborough and Palm Rivers in exchange for fresh water withdrawals upstream. In October 2006, the Tampa Bay Water Board voted to move forward with expansion of its enhanced surface water system without the downstream augmentation component.

In September 2007 the City of Tampa requested, in a letter to the District, that funds budgeted by the District to assist the City with its share of the Regional Project be used, instead, to support its STAR Project expansion. The letter clearly stated Tampa's intent to pursue the expansion of the STAR project first, as a means to use the flows available at the HFC Plant. The STAR expansion has a reduced residential element, instead focusing on serving reclaimed water to industrial and commercial water customers and, where opportunity may exist, potential interconnections to Hillsborough County's reclaimed water system. The preliminary STAR Project Evaluation based on a conceptual plan and completed by consultants for the City in July 2007, estimates the project will cost approximately \$40 million and take about eight years to construct. The City has made clear it will devote its financial resources to the STAR project expansion first. Mr. Wirth said since the Northwest Hillsborough Basin Board has been so heavily involved, he asked the City to give a more in-depth report to the Board in April.

Based on the current position of the City and in light of Hillsborough County focusing its financial resources on a public/private partnership to bring its south county reuse to TECO in Polk County, the Regional Project is being postponed. Mr. Wirth said the basis of the City's decision is not to go forward with TBRRP at this time. **This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required.** (CD 1/Track 2)

c. **State Board of Administration Local Government Investment Pool (SBA LGIP) Status**

Governing Board Treasurer Jennifer Closshey has written a letter to the members of each Basin Board regarding the status of the SBA LGIP and the District's investment in the SBA LGIP through January 22, 2008. Daryl F. Pokrana, Finance Director, via satellite from the Brooksville office, gave an update on the status of those funds and how the Basin would be affected. Ms. DiMaio asked how much money had been withdrawn from the fund. Mr. Pokrana said that \$100 million had been drawn from the account. **This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required.** (CD 1/Track 3)

d. **Budget Update in View of the January 29 Special Election**

Linda Pilcher, Assistant Finance Director, provided an update on the result of the January 29, 2008, Special Election on the proposed constitutional amendment, (*Amendment No. 1, Property Tax Exemptions; Limitations on Property Tax Assessments*); and discussed the anticipated impact on ad valorem property tax revenue for FY2009. Ms. Pilcher noted that the effects of Amendment 1 will not be known until July when values are certified. She stated that staff will continue to update the Board and will be back for the April meeting. **This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required.** (CD 1/Track 3)

e. **Changes to the Governing Board's Cooperative Funding Initiative Policy 130-4**

Bruce Wirth provided an overview and status of changes to the Cooperative Funding Initiative (CFI) Policy 130-4. As a result of input obtained from the advisory committees at a joint meeting in August 2007 and from Governing Board members and other interested parties, further changes to the policy were made that strengthened the District's commitment to regional water supply authorities and regional water supply development. These changes were presented to the Governing Board at its meeting in October 2007. During that meeting, the Board again indicated that it is committed to taking a regional approach toward funding water supply and resource development projects. A copy of the proposed policy, with changes, was given to each Basin Board member. **This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required.** (CD 1/Track 3)

f. **FY2009 Cooperative Funding Requests**

Maya Burke, Planner, Planning Department, provided a brief overview of the project submittals received and reviewed the District's project ranking process. Ms. Burke advised the Board of the Cooperative Funding applications received for FY2009 budget cycle and the review process they undergo. She noted that a large percentage of the applications were received online.

Applications for the FY2009 Cooperative Funding cycle were received in December and were provided to the Basin Board members behind the FY2009 CFI applications tab in the meeting notebook. Ms. Burke said that staff will return to the April meeting with initial project ranking and funding recommendations for the Board's consideration. (CD 1/Track 4)

7. **Reports:**

a. **Basin Board Education Committee**

Michael Molligan, Communications Director, provided an overview of the Basin Board Education Committee meeting held November 13, 2007, at the Tampa Service Office. His overview included reports on FY2008 media messaging, Water CHAMP, Florida Yards & Neighborhoods (FYN) community association outreach, Community Education Grants, teacher training, and the Watershed Education Resource Box for kindergarten through third-grade students. Mr. Molligan also reported on a St. Petersburg homeowners association whose collaboration with local water conservation efforts (e.g., FYN program etc.) resulted in significant water savings, the ongoing grassroots messaging effort, upcoming advertising, and drought messaging. The next committee meeting is March 11.

b. **Basin Board Land Resources Committee**

The committee meeting was held December 7, 2007, in Sarasota following the Public Land Acquisition and Management Partnership (PLAM) Conference. Eric Sutton, Assistant Land Resources Director, provided an overview of the committee's meeting discussions. Mr. Robinson congratulated Mr. Sutton and other staff for their excellent work coordinating the PLAM conference. He expressed concern regarding the controlled burn associated with the accident on I-4 but was pleased to know that the District was not involved. He was concerned, however, regarding the invasive Old World Climbing Fern. Mr. Sutton said that the District has the financial resources, skills, and abilities to deal with the fern. Mr. Sutton commented on the importance of partnerships to land acquisitions and the public relations effort for the upcoming Starkey prescribed burn. He thanked everyone for supporting the land conference. (CD 1/Track 4)

c. **Governing Board Activities**

A pre-recorded video was played highlighting major milestones at the Governing Board's January meeting. Chair Rovira-Forino thanked the Board members and expressed how important it is to attend the meetings and continue to serve its constituents.

8. **Announcements:**

Ms. Sesler noted that the announcements were listed on the agenda.

9. **Adjournment:**

There was no further business to come before the Board. Chair Rovira-Forino adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m. (CD 1/Track 4)

****Information Items****

The item(s) listed below are 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) do not require Board action at this time.

1. 2008 Community Education Grants in the Northwest Hillsborough Basin
2. Tampa Bay Estuary Program Non-Federal Funding for Federal Fiscal Year 2008 Annual Work Plan (W027) - Execution Notice

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