

## **APPROVED**

### Minutes of the Meeting

#### **NORTHWEST HILLSBOROUGH BASIN BOARD** Southwest Florida Water Management District

Tampa Service Office      April 3, 2008

The Northwest Hillsborough Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a regular meeting at 1:10 p.m., April 3, 2008, at the Tampa Service Office.

#### **Board Members Present**

Joseph W. J. Robinson, Vice Chair  
Mercy DiMaio, Secretary  
Susan Welsh, Member

#### **Absent Member**

Maritza Rovira-Forino, Chair Ex Officio  
Frank "Lester" Adams, Member

#### **Recording Secretary**

M. Frances Sesler

#### **Staff Members**

Lou Kavouras  
Bruce C. Wirth  
Mark Hammond  
Eric DeHaven  
Michael Molligan  
Mike Holtkamp  
Marty Kelly  
Ken Herd  
Jeannette Seachrist

Ralph Lair  
Veronica Craw  
Randy Emberg  
Maya Burke

#### **Via Teleconference**

Linda Pilcher

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**

Vice Chair Robinson called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. He stated, although a quorum was not present, the meeting would proceed since Ms. Welsh 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 Vice Chair Robinson.

#### 3. **Additions and Deletions to Agenda**

Ms. Kavouras stated that Agenda Item 4, Oath of Office for Appointed/Re-Appointed Board Member(s), was deleted from the agenda. The Governor has not made any decisions regarding this Board. (CD 1/Track 1)

#### 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 pending Ms. Welsh's arrival.

#### 6. **Discussion Items:**

##### b. **Tampa Bay Estuary program Update (W027)**

Ms. Jennette Seachrist, Program Manager for the SWIM Department, introduced Ms. Holly Greening, Executive Director, Tampa Bay Estuary Program (TBEP), who

provided a presentation outlining the successes and challenges with regard to Bay recovery, the contributions local agencies have made to this recovery, and the benefits the TBEP provides to the region. The Tampa Bay National Estuary Program was established in 1991 to assist the region in developing a comprehensive plan for the restoration and protection of Tampa Bay. The members decided to continue with the program and in 1998, through an Interlocal Agreement, formed the Tampa Bay Estuary Program (TBEP) (dropping the Federal designation) as a partnership of federal, state, and local agencies and governments including several private industries.

Ms. Welsh entered the meeting at this time.

These entities include the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the District, Hillsborough, Manatee, and Pinellas counties and the cities of St. Petersburg, Tampa, and Clearwater. The Interlocal Agreement identified a long term commitment to the program, which for the District requires annual funding approval at the Basin Board level. Since 1998, the District and other partners have completed numerous stormwater retrofit and habitat restoration projects toward achieving the goals of the Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan and the SWIM Plan. Ms. DiMaio inquired about TBEP's public information campaign about pet waste. She was specifically interested in where to obtain biodegradable plastic bags to use for pet waste disposal. Ms. Greening said she would send her information on where to obtain the bags. Vice Chair Robinson was pleased with the impressive results obtained with such small expenditures. He also expressed support for using the latest stormwater technology (interceptors) to continue to improve water quality in Tampa Bay. This item was for the Board's information; no action was required. (CD 1/Track 2)

5. **Consent Items:**

a. **February 7, 2008, Meeting Minutes**

Approve the February minutes as presented.

Following consideration, **Ms. DiMaio moved, seconded by Ms. Welsh, to approve Consent Item 5.a as presented. Motion carried unanimously.** (CD1/Track 3)

6. **Discussion Items** (continued)

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

(1) Vice Chair – **Ms. Welsh moved, seconded by Ms. DiMaio, that Vice Chair Robinson continue as Vice Chair for the coming year. Motion carried unanimously.**

(2) Secretary – **Ms. DiMaio moved, seconded by Vice Chair Robinson, that Ms. Welsh serve as secretary for the coming year. Motion carried unanimously.**

(3) Basin Board Education Committee – Ms. Welsh volunteered to serve as primary representative. The alternate position will be filled when new members are appointed.

(4) Basin Board Land Resources Committee – Vice Chair Robinson volunteered to continue as the primary representative, Ms. DiMaio will serve as alternate. (CD 1/Track 1)

c. **Consumer Fertilizer Task Force Report**

Veronica Crow, Environmental Manager, Resource Projects Department, provided the Board with a brief overview of the work of the Florida Consumer Fertilizer Task Force and a summary of its final report to the 2008 Florida Legislature.

The Final Report recommended support for the current Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) labeling rule (Rule 5E-1.003(2)) with the understanding that the rule will be reviewed and revised based on updated science by December 31, 2012. A model ordinance concerning the use of nonagricultural fertilizer was developed for use by local governments who chose to adopt it. The Task Force supported public education regarding fertilizer use based on the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences' six best practices for lawn care and they supported the continued support of ongoing research projects on fertilizer management. Finally, the Task Force recommended a dedicated funding source be provided for education and training by authorizing DACS to increase their tonnage fee on the sale of nitrogen and phosphorus.

The Final Report was adopted unanimously by the Task Force at its January 11, 2008 meeting and DACS was authorized to transmit the document to the Legislature on January 15, 2008. This item was for the Board's information; no action was required. (CD 1/Track 5)

d. **Tampa Bay History Center: Landscaping & Educational Signage Project (B282)**

Ralph Lair, Senior Community Affairs Coordinator, Community & Legislative Affairs Department, explained the purpose of this project and the circumstances that necessitated an out-of-cycle funding request.

Staff recommended the Basin Board approve the transfer of \$16,667, from its FY2008 contingencies for the Tampa Bay History Center Landscaping and Educational Signage Project, for a total project cost not to exceed \$50,000, and authorize the Executive Director to sign the agreement.

Vice Chair Robinson asked if the District and Basin would be identified as making a contribution. Mr. Lair said a logo would be placed on the signage.

Following consideration, **Ms. DiMaio moved, seconded by Ms. Welsh, to approve the staff's recommendation. Motion carried unanimously.** (CD 1/Track 6)

e. **Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Preparation:**

Deputy Executive Director Bruce Wirth gave highlights of the proposed budget with a series of presentations being made by staff or cooperators.

The Board heard the following project updates:

Mark Hammond, Director Resource Management, briefed the Board on New Development Reclaimed Water Distribution Initiative - B276. Vice Chair Robinson had concerns with the proposal. He was concerned about equity; he did not want one developer to wipe out the entire project's budget with one large development proposal, while existing customers have pipe in the ground but no money for hook-up. He took issue with helping developers at the expense of helping citizens.

Mr. Hammond also briefed the Board on Watershed Management Program/FEMA Map Modernization/WMP. Vice Chair Robinson sought examples of relevant projects. He expressed support for this effort since it was good for insurance, evacuation,

development, and property. Vice Chair Robinson also urged staff to make the best data available to private consultants.

Marty Kelly, Program Director, Resource Projects Department, briefed the Board on Lower Hillsborough River Recovery Strategy Implementation – H400. Vice Chair Robinson verified that the issues with Tampa Bay Water have been worked out. He also expressed strong support for the project.

Westshore Waterways Improvements Project – N030. Eric DeHaven Director Resource Data and Restoration Department, provided information on this funding request. The staff recommendation was to not fund the project because it was primarily for navigational dredging and will not have a measurable benefit on water quality or natural habitats in Tampa Bay. Vice Chair Robinson expressed strong disagreement with staff's recommendation. He asserted his belief that this project is not navigational dredging and will provide a water quality and stormwater benefit. He stated that these residents need relief and deserve the benefit of their tax dollars. He felt that the Basin Board's stormwater reserves are appropriate for this type of project. Ms. DiMaio expressed some skepticism about the residents' willingness to pay for these improvements and about the reoccurring nature of the problem. Ms. Welsh felt that the cost estimates provided by the City of Tampa for the project were exceptionally low. Mr. Wirth would like to get a legal opinion on the District's authority to dredge these canals and report back at the next Basin meeting.

South Tampa Area Reclaimed (STAR) Project – Phase II. Allison Ramoy, Senior Water Conservation Analyst, Resource Projects Department, spoke briefly on the project and introduced Ms. Sandra Anderson, City of Tampa Water Department, who provided a status and future plans of the project. Vice Chair Robinson confirmed that it was not too late to provide the ethanol plant with reclaimed water. He was also appreciative that the City was investigating the hook-up issue.

Tampa Riverwalk Kiosks Project N023 - Michael Molligan Communications Director, briefed the Board on this project. Vice Chair Robinson urged the City of Tampa to consider installing solar panels to power the high-tech kiosks.

Vice Chair Robinson asked about the amount of money in the stormwater implementation reserve. Mr. Wirth stated the amount for FY2008 was \$3.3 million, now showing \$5.7 million. Mr. Wirth said the funds are available if the Board wishes to fund all projects identified. (CD 1/Track 7)

7. **Reports:**

a. **Basin Board Education Committee Meeting**

Michael Molligan, Communications Director, briefed the Board on the evolution of Water C.H.A.M.P. and the District's expanding relationship with the restaurant industry. He also noted that the Basin Board Education Committee Report was included in the notebook.

b. **Governing Board Activities**

Due to time constraints, the Board decided to pass on viewing the video summarizing the March Governing Board meeting.

8. **Announcements:**

Ms. Kavouras noted that the announcements were listed on the agenda. She specifically reminded the Board of the upcoming Tampa Bypass Canal System Tour that is planned for April 23, and a tour of the Tampa Bay Water Facilities on May 30. She also reminded the Board members to mark their calendars for the upcoming Basin Board meetings June 5 and July 17.

9. **Adjournment:**

There was no further business to come before the Board; Vice Chair Robinson adjourned the meeting at 3:57 p.m. (CD 1/Track 8).