

APPROVED

Minutes of the Meeting

NORTHWEST HILLSBOROUGH BASIN BOARD
Southwest Florida Water Management District

Tampa Service Office

July 26, 2007

The Northwest Hillsborough Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a regular meeting at 10:45 a.m., July 26, 2007, at Tampa Service Office.

Board Members Present

Joseph W. J. Robinson, Vice Chair
Mercy DiMaio, Secretary
Frank "Lester" Adams, Member
Devon Higginbotham, Member

Absent Member(s)

Maritza Rovira-Forino, Chair Ex Officio
Susan Welsh, Member

Recording Secretary

M. Frances Sesler

Staff Members

Lou Kavouras
Bruce C. Wirth
Mark Hammond
Gregg Jones
Mike Holtkamp
Roy Mazur
Linda Pilcher
Maya Burke
Scott Harbison
Beth Putnam
Miki Renner

A list of others who attended and signed the attendance roster is filed in the permanent files of the Basin. Compact disks 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**

Pending the arrival of Vice Chair Robinson, Secretary DiMaio called the meeting to order at 10:45 a.m. Ms. Sesler called the roll and noted a quorum was present. (CD 1/Track 1)

2. **Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag**

The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was led by Secretary DiMaio.

3. **Additions/Deletions to Agenda**

Ms. Kavouras, Deputy Executive Director, stated there were two deletions from the agenda: Item 4, Oath of Office for Appointed/Re-Appointed Board Members, and Item 6a, Election of Officers and Committee Representatives.

(Mr. Robinson entered the meeting)

4. **Oath of Office for Appointed/Re-Appointed Board Members**

This item was deleted and deferred to the October meeting. (CD 1/Track 1)

Secretary DiMaio passed the gavel to Vice Chair Robinson who continued with the meeting.

5. **Consent Items:**

a. **June 7, 2007, Meeting Minutes**

Staff recommended approval of the June minutes as presented. (CD 1/Track 1)

b. **Board Encumbrances:**

(1) **Tampa Bay Regional Reclaimed Water and Downstream Augmentation Projects (H300-H310)**

Staff recommended the Board approve the encumbrance of \$552,407, without a contract, for the Tampa Bay Regional Reclaimed Water Project to be used in fiscal years 2007-2014.

(2) **Stormwater Implementation Reserves (Z969)**

Staff recommended the Board approve the encumbrance of \$2,364,238, without a contract for the Stormwater Implementation Reserves to be rolled into fiscal year (FY)2008 as amended.

Following consideration by the Board, **Mr. Adams moved, seconded by Ms. Higginbotham, to approve staff recommendations for Consent Items 5a and 5b. Motion carried unanimously.** (CD 1/Track 2)

6. **Discussion Items:**

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

This item was deleted from the agenda and will be considered at the October meeting.

b. **FY2008 Budget Discussion and Approval of Final Millage Rate and Budget for Governing Board Approval**

Bruce Wirth, Deputy Executive Director, Resource Management and Development, said today the Board will adopt its final FY2008 millage rate in compliance with the new tax reform legislation, House Bill 1B (HB 1B) which was signed into law on June 21, 2007, and adopt the final FY2008 budget for Governing Board approval. The Florida Department of Revenue has determined that the District and Basins must certify compliance with HB 1B when the proposed millage rates are certified to the county Property Appraisers by August 4.

Vice Chair Robinson heard discussion regarding the City of Tampa's Urban Lake Rescue project (L741) from members of the audience. Mr. Marlin Anderson; President of the Sunset Park Area Homeowner's Association submitted a letter and copies were given to the Basin Board members. He expressed concerns regarding Lake Kipling and the "husband and wife team" working on the project. He said Steven Seachrist is an engineer and manager of the project for the City of Tampa, and his wife Jeanette Seachrist, is project manager for the District. He questioned if this is a conflict of interest. Mr. Anderson said the maximum depth being considered by the City of Tampa for Lake Kipling is 4 feet, but according to a study done in 2002, it was determined that the original depth of the lake was 7.2 feet below sea level. The members of the association would like to see the lake brought back to its original depth as an estuary, so it can perform its functions and mix with the fresh water of the springs. Ms. Ellie Montague, Director of the Association, had concerns that the City was trying to downplay the importance of the estuary and is lacking in its obligations under the agreement to properly educate the public.

Mr. Myron A. Griffin, speaking on his own behalf, said he was not present representing any of the neighborhood associations or the committees that were formed. He spoke of Lake Roberta and the organic matter and muck that have made the lake into a very shallow bowl. He said he has asked for help from the City of Tampa, but only receive excuses.

Vice Chair Robinson acknowledged the letter given to the Board and suggested District staff along with the City of Tampa staff respond and be present for further discussion at the October meeting. He also requested that a map showing cross sections of Lake Kipling, Edna and Lake Roberta be provided. Mr. Wirth responded that this is the first time the letter is being presented to District staff. He said it is appropriate for the citizens to attend the meetings and will request the City of Tampa have staff present at the October meeting to address the issues and the project as a whole. Regarding the conflict of interest, Mr. Wirth said that Jeannette Seachrist is the manager of the SWIM section, and Shelley Sims, an engineer with the District, is the project manager. He does not believe there is a conflict of interest. After consideration and discussion on the issue, **Ms. DiMaio moved, seconded by Ms. Higginbotham, to have District staff meet with the citizens to better understand their concerns, and prepare a written response regarding the issues that pertain to the District and report back to the Board in October. Motion carried unanimously.** (CD 1/Track 2)

For the budget approval, Ms. Kavouras read the three part staff recommendation:

1. Approve and adopt the final required millage rate of 0.2421 for FY2008.
2. Approve and adopt the final FY2008 budget for Governing Board approval.
3. Approve Resolution No. 79 -- Resolution Affirming the Required FY2008 Final Millage Rate and Budget for Governing Board approval.

After consideration, **Ms. Higginbotham moved, seconded by Ms. DiMaio, to accept the three part recommendation. Motion carried unanimously.** (CD 1/Track 2)

7. **Announcements:**

- a. Joint Governing Board/Basin Board Workshop: Tuesday, September 11, 2007; time and location TBD
- b. Next Basin Board Meeting and Workshop: Tuesday, October 9, 2007, 9:00 a.m., Tampa Service Office
- c. The Springs Conference scheduled for October 10-12, 2007, Innisbrook Resort, in Tarpon Springs has been cancelled.
- d. Public Land Acquisition and Management Partnership Conference: December 5-7, 2007, Hyatt Regency, Sarasota
- e. Other

8. **Adjournment**

There was no further business to come before the Board; Vice Chair Robinson adjourned the meeting at 11:57 a.m.

The item(s) 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. Rocky Creek Lake Enhancement Project (B027) - Execution Notice
2. Dale Mabry: Neptune to Henderson Stormwater Improvements (L741) – Execution Notice
3. Tampa Plumbing Retrofit & Education Project (L742) - Execution Notice