

APPROVED

Minutes of the Meeting

NORTHWEST HILLSBOROUGH BASIN BOARD Southwest Florida Water Management District

Tampa Service Office

August 7, 2008

The Northwest Hillsborough Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a regular meeting at 1:02 p.m., August 7, 2008, at the Tampa Service Office.

Board Members Present

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

Absent Member

Frank "Lester" Adams, Member

Recording Secretary

M. Frances Sesler

Staff Members

David L. Moore
Bruce C. Wirth
Lou Kavouras
Linda Pilcher
Eric DeHaven
Ralph Lair
Beth Putnam
Maya Burke
Randy Emberg

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 1:02 p.m. Ms. Sesler, the Board's administrative support, called the roll and noted a quorum was present.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was led by Chair Rovira-Forino.

3. **Additions and Deletions to Agenda**

Ms. Kavouras stated that Item 4, Oath of Office for Appointed/Re-Appointed Board Member(s), was deleted from the agenda; the Governor has not named any new appointees to the Board.

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

This item was deleted from the agenda. (CD 1/Track 1)

5. **Consent Items:**

a. **Meeting Minutes of June 5, 2008**

Approve the June minutes as presented.

b. **Board Encumbrances:**

Rocky Creek Lake Enhancement Project (B027)

Approve the Board encumbrance of \$500,000 without a contract to be used in FY2009 for Phase III (construction) of the Rocky Creek Lake Enhancement Project.

c. **Stormwater Implementation Reserves (Z969)**

Approve the encumbrance of \$3,378,757, without a contract, for the Stormwater Implementation Reserves to be used in FY2009.

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

6. **Discussion Items:**

a. **Regional Reclaimed Water Partnership Project (H076)**

Mr. David L. Moore, Executive Director, said the purpose of this presentation was to provide the Hillsborough River Basin Board with an update on activities associated with the Regional Reclaimed Water Partnership Project that have occurred since the Basin Board's June 9, 2008 meeting.

This project investigation began one year ago. Mr. Moore said after careful consideration he believes a clear project pathway has been developed. There are three main components to this project. The first is a traditional reclaimed water supply project consisting of transmission pipelines and storage to provide reclaimed water to industrial users from one or more domestic wastewater treatment facilities. The second element of the project is more innovative in concept and seeks to create opportunities for additional potable groundwater withdrawals in the project area through recharge of the Upper Floridan aquifer with reclaimed water in southern Hillsborough County and/or western Polk County. The third component is a commitment by all parties to continue to explore opportunities to maximize the beneficial use of reclaimed water in the region.

The benefits of the project include: maximum beneficial use of reclaimed water, furthers the District's legislative mandate to endeavor to ensure that there is available water supply to all reasonable and beneficial users, consistent with the Southern Water Use Caution Area Recovery Strategy, and eliminates nitrogen loading to Tampa Bay.

The project team now consists of representatives from the District, Hillsborough County, the City of Tampa, Tampa Electric Company (TECO), Mosaic, Lakeland, Plant City, Polk County, Tampa Bay Water, and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Other parties considering joining in are the cities of Mulberry and Temple Terrace. Mr. Moore said he was very pleased that this project was bringing together all of the regional parties for discussions.

The primary customer is TECO, and two options have been identified as the potential reclaimed water supply routes. The first option is to use reclaimed water from the City of Tampa's Howard F. Curren Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant, and the second option is to use a combination of reclaimed water from Hillsborough County's Valrico Wastewater Treatment Plant and the City of Lakeland, Polk County and possibly Plant City. These options require further cost analyses, which staff recommends the District cooperatively fund with TECO by contributing up to \$50,000. Upon completion, within an estimated timeframe of 90 days, the project team will have a clear path to move forward with the design and engineering for the identified route(s). The second element of the project is more innovative in concept and seeks to create opportunities for additional potable groundwater withdrawals in the project area through recharge of the Upper Floridan aquifer with reclaimed water in southern Hillsborough County and/or western Polk County. The first step in this element is to

conduct a feasibility study to assess the potential to use reclaimed water for aquifer recharge in the project area. Staff recommended that the District take a leadership role and wholly fund the feasibility study, which is estimated to cost approximately \$500,000 and could be completed by March 31, 2009. A steering committee made up of local government utilities and other stakeholders will be utilized to provide input on the feasibility study. The Governing Board approved the expenditure of \$550,000, to cooperatively fund both of these feasibility studies, at its July 29, 2008 regular meeting.

District staff continues to facilitate project team meetings including the most recent one held on July 15, with attendees representing Hillsborough County, Tampa Electric Company, Mosaic, City of Tampa, City of Lakeland, Polk County, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Tampa Bay Water, Plant City, and the District. The Governance and Regulation/Recharge subcommittees also met regularly.

Chair Rovira-Forino asked if this project is consistent with the Board policy regarding projects submitted by an entity other than a regional water supply authority. Mr. Moore said the Governing Board policy deals with potable alternative water supply projects and this is reclaimed water, therefore, the policy does not apply to a reclaimed project. Ms. Welsh verified that the District would not be responsible for the long term operation and maintenance of this project. Mr. Moore said TECO will own, operate and maintain. Mr. Robinson asked if Tampa Bay Water (TBW) had any objections to what was presented. Mr. Moore said TBW was present at all meetings and had no objections to the plans presented. Mr. Robinson had many questions ranging from details about the proposed transmission lines to the policy regarding groundwater credits and the potential impact upon the Alafia River. He also indicated that the Lakeland power plant could use water much more efficiently in their cooling towers. Mr. Robinson expressed serious concern about the District entering into a cooperative water supply agreement with a private corporation like TECO. He was specifically interested in ensuring that TECO comply with the District's diversity initiative, and asked that a representative from TECO be present at the next meeting.

Mr. Moore updated the Board about recent events regarding the C.W. Bill Young reservoir. He said Tampa Bay Water (TBW) wants to fill the reservoir only half way this year to allow for further investigation of cracks in the soil cement. Then next spring, the plan would be to lower the reservoir to allow for additional investigation. Concerns have been raised about TBW's ability to hold its pumping to the 90 million gallons daily (mgd) target. Ms. DiMaio also noted that local residents were not supportive of the reservoir and a good public relations campaign will be an important component of the repair process. She asked if anyone was at fault. Mr. Moore said at some point he suspects there will be litigation. Chair Rovira-Forino said there is an aggressive mode to fix the problem and the public will be kept apprised of the action being taken. Mr. Robinson encouraged TBW to learn lessons before constructing a second reservoir and urged the District to protect itself against any potential liability in the future. He also went on record as a professional engineer expressing concerns about the structural failure of the reservoir walls. Mr. Moore said the District does not have any liability issues associated with the reservoir. This item was presented for the Board's information, no action was required. (CD 1/Track 2)

b. **FY2009 Budget Discussion and Approval of Final Millage Rate and Budget**

Bruce Wirth, Deputy Executive Director, Division of Resource Management, noted the Board's ad valorem revenue for FY2009 is relatively close to the June projected amount. The Basin's proposed budget for FY2009 has been updated to reflect ad valorem revenue based on the proposed millage rate adopted by the Basin Board in June and the 2008 Certifications of Taxable Value received from the county Property Appraisers.

In June, the Basin Board adopted a proposed millage rate of 0.2421 mill for FY2009. This is the same millage rate that was adopted for FY2008. The Northwest Hillsborough Basin Board has not increased the millage rate for the past 14 years. The millage rate was decreased from 0.2680 mill to 0.2421 mill for FY2008, in compliance with Section 200.185, F.S. Chair Rovira-Forino and Mr. Robinson noted that the Board is well-positioned to address water resource issues and commended staff on the conservative budget approach they have taken.

Ms. Kavouras read the three part staff recommendation into the record as follows:

1. Approve and adopt the required final millage rate of 0.2421 mill for FY2009.
2. Approve and adopt the final FY2009 budget.
3. Approve Resolution No. 81 -- Resolution Affirming the Required Final Millage Rate and Budget for Fiscal Year 2009.

Following consideration, **Ms. Welsh moved, seconded by Mr. Robinson, to approve the three part staff recommendation. Motion unanimously approved.** (CD 1/ Track 3)

7. **Report:**

a. **Basin Board Education Committee Meeting**

Beth Putnam, Communication Manager, provided an overview of the Basin Board Education Committee meeting held on July 10, 2008, at the Tampa Service Office. The overview included reports regarding Water Program for Restaurant Outreach, landscape demonstration sites, Florida Water StarSM Gold Certification and sharing days. Ms. Putnam said the Community Education Grant proposals are due August 22, and asked that all interested group(s) be directed to the District's website. All information is available online. Chair Rovira-Forino expressed excitement and affection for the new Water PRO program. This item was for the Board's information; no action was required.

b. **Basin Board Land Resource Committee**

Mr. Robinson provided an overview of the Basin Board Land Resource Committee meeting held on July 10, 2008, at Nature Classroom. Mr. Robinson said that Bo Rooks of the Withlacoochee River Basin Board now serves as Vice Chair of the Basin Board Land Resource Committee. He offered the Board several insights about how District land might be utilized for various alternative energies including solar farms or as a source of biofuel. Mr. Robinson said that a write-up of the meeting was included in the Board packet. Chair Rovira-Forino expressed her appreciation for having the reports in writing. This item is for the Board's information; no action is required.

c. **Governing Board Activities**

Ms. Kavouras said Mr. Moore's presentation, at today's meeting, covered the highlights of the July Governing Board meeting; therefore, staff did not request to view the wrap-up video. (CD 1/Track 4)

8. **Announcements:**

Ms. Kavouras called the Basin Board members' attention to the announcements in their information notebook. Travel authorizations have been prepared for those attending the Century Commission's Water Congress, to be held September 25-26, 2008, at the World Marriott, in Orlando. She said the next meeting will include a workshop at the end of the

regular meeting scheduled for Thursday, October 9, 2008, at 9:00 a.m., in the Tampa Service Office. A save the date reminder postcard was mailed for the State of the Water Resources in West Central Florida, to be held Friday, November 21, 2008, in Tampa. The Public Land Acquisition and management Partnership Conference will be held December 3-5, 2008, at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront, in Jacksonville.

9. **Adjournment:**

There was no further business to come before the Board; Chair Rovira-Forino adjourned the meeting at 2:47 p.m.