

Approved

Minutes of the Meeting

PINELLAS-ANCLOTE RIVER BASIN BOARD
Southwest Florida Water Management District

Gulfport, Florida

July 25, 2007

The Pinellas-Anclote River Basin Board of Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a regular meeting at 9:10 a.m. on July 25, 2007, in Gulfport City Hill, Gulfport, Florida.

Board Members Present

Sallie Parks, Co-Chair Ex Officio
Todd Pressman, Co-Chair Ex Officio
Terry England, Secretary
Rodney Fischer, Vice Chair
Mitch Hammer, Member
Janet Hoppe, Member
Chet Renfro, Member

Staff Present

Bruce Wirth
Gregg Jones
Linda Pilcher
Miki Renner
Scott Harbison

Lou Kavouras
Mark Hammond
Mike Holtkamp
Raina O'Neil

Recording Secretary

Phyllis Young

Member Absent

Kathryn Starkey, Member

A list of others who were present and signed the attendance roster is filed in the permanent files of the Basin. Compact disks of the audio and copies of the materials and handouts, as set out in full herein, are also filed in the permanent files of the Basin.

1. **Call to Order**

Co-Chair Ex Officio Sallie Parks called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. Ms. Young called the roll and noted, for the record, that all members were present. (CD 1/Track 1)

2. **Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call**

Co-Chair Parks led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. (CD 1/Track 1)

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

Lou Kavouras, Deputy Executive Director, Outreach, Planning, and Board Services, stated there were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

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

Ms. Young administered the Oath of Office to Ms. Hoppe, who was re-appointed to the Board, and to Mr. Renfro, who was recently appointed to the Board. (CD 1/Track 1)

5. **Consent Items:**

After consideration, **Mr. Fischer moved, seconded by Ms. Hoppe, to approve the Consent Items, as follow:**

a. **June 6, 2007, Meeting Minutes** - Approve the June 2007 minutes, as presented.

b. **Board Encumbrances:**

i. **Lake Tarpon Outfall Canal Restoration Project**

Approve the encumbrance of \$3,499,565 from FY2007 funds, without a contract, to be used for the restoration of the Lake Tarpon Outfall Canal and secondary drainage system.

ii. **Sawgrass Lake Restoration Project**

Approve the encumbrance of \$7,437,997, without a contract, for the Sawgrass Lake Restoration Project to be used for project activities in FY2008.

iii. **Tampa Bay Regional Reclaimed Water and Downstream Augmentation Projects**

Approve the encumbrance of \$1,742,815, without a contract, for the Tampa Bay Regional Reclaimed Water Project to be used in fiscal years 2007-2014. (CD 1/Track 1)

6. **Discussion Items:**

a. **Response of the Governing Board to the Basin Board's Request to Revisit Its Funding Policy Regarding Brackish Groundwater Desalination Projects**

At the Basin Board's request, Gregg Jones, Resource Conservation and Development Director, reported that the Governing Board will revisit its long-standing position not to provide funding for brackish groundwater desalination projects at its July 31 meeting. Mr. Jones noted concern expressed by some Governing Board members that criterion to consider funding these projects should be examined and a formal policy written on the Governing Board's position. Subsequently, staff prepared changes to the Governing Board's Cooperative Funding Initiative Policy and Procedure; Mr. Jones provided specifics of changes/additions to those documents that are consistent with the District's goal of providing financial incentive to develop projects that otherwise may not be built because of cost considerations. He also explained the difference between being able to issue a permit for brackish water projects and the Governing Board's position not to fund such projects.

Discussion ensued on this topic, including comments from Board Members, Mr. Jake Varn, and the City of Tarpon Springs. Aspects of including this project in the budget were considered during Agenda Item 6b, which followed. (CD 1/Track 2)

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

Deputy Executive Director Bruce Wirth, Division of Resource Management and Development, reported on the outcome of recent tax reform legislation, House Bill (HB) 1B, which was signed into law June 21, 2007, and which provides maximum millage rates for local governments and independent special districts, including water management districts, for fiscal year (FY) 2008 and future years. Ad valorem revenue for FY2008 will be equal to prior year revenue (FY2007) adjusted for new construction, additions and deletions, then reduced by three percent. Consistent with HB 1B, the Pinellas-Anclote River Basin millage rate for FY2008 was set at 0.3701. Mr. Wirth also explained several millage override provisions included in HB 1B that were not considered by the Board.

Mr. Wirth further reported that all FY2008 Cooperative Funding project proposals being considered were included in the budget. Projects not recommended for funding were tentatively removed from the budget, but were shown in the Budget Comparison Report. He highlighted the various elements of the budget and explained changes made to the current projects list considering the new millage rate. Detailed information for all Cooperative Funding proposals submitted for consideration was included in the Projects section of the meeting notebook.

Mr. Glenn Greer, Director of Utility Engineering for Pasco County, briefly addressed the Board stating the County was in agreement on delaying four Pasco County projects that were mentioned in Mr. Wirth's presentation. The projects, he added, will be resubmitted during the next Cooperative Funding cycle.

Members participated in discussion of funding, or not funding, brackish water projects, particularly the Tarpon Springs project, and how the Basin's FY2008 budget might accommodate the project.

After consideration, **Mr. Fisher moved, seconded by Mr. England, to approve the budget with the understanding that the Tarpon Springs Alternative Water Supply Project (L825), \$4.1 million, would be moved into the FY2008 budget; potential funding would be the Basin's H100 Water Supply and Resource Development reserve; and, prior to going forward, the issue would be brought back to the Basin Board once the Governing Board acts on this issue. The motion included approval and adoption of the final required millage rate of 0.3701 for FY2008 and approval of Resolution No. 82, Resolution affirming the required FY2008 final millage rate and budget for Governing Board approval.**

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Wirth clarified that the actual yearly dollar amount needed for the Tarpon Springs project, if approved, would be determined after staff conferred with the City of Tarpon Springs. Under the context of the Board's action, he added, there should be no concern to the Governing Board of how the project was included in the Basin's budget. (CD 1/ Track 3)

7. **Announcements:**

- Ms. Kavouras reminded Board members that the October 3 meeting would be followed by the annual planning workshop.
- She also announced that the Springs Conference had been postponed. (CD/Track 4)

8. **Adjournment:** The day's business being complete, Co-Chair Parks adjourned the meeting at 10:26 a.m. (CD 1/Track 4)

******Information Items******

The items 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. Budget Transfer Report
2. Dunedin Stormwater Quality Retrofit-Coastal Watershed (L404) – Completion Notice
3. Gulfport - 49th Street Drainage Improvements (W222) - Execution Notice
4. City of Clearwater Skycrest Reclaimed Water Project (L695) - Execution Notice
5. Implementation of Best Management Practices in the Stevensons Creek Watershed Management Program – Second Amendment (K394) - Execution Notice
6. Implementation of Best Management Practices in the Stevensons Creek Watershed – Spring Branch (L701) - Execution Notice
7. Watershed Management Program Consulting Service in the Brooker Creek Watershed – Second Amendment (L066) - Execution Notice