

Approved

Minutes of the Meeting

PEACE RIVER BASIN BOARD

Southwest Florida Water Management District

Bartow, Florida

February 8, 2008

The Peace River Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a regular meeting on February 8, 2008, at 9:37 a.m., in the Bartow Service Office.

Board Members Present

Patsy C. Symons, Co-Chair Ex Officio
C. A. "Neil" Combee, Jr. , Co-Chair Ex Officio
J. Kenneth Harrison, Vice Chair
Rufus C. Lazzell, Secretary
James L. Hageman, Member
Paul G. Samuels, Member
Fred W. Trippensee, III, Member
Patricia Crisman, Member

Staff Present

Bruce Wirth
Eric DeHaven
Chan Springstead
Danny Kushmer
Lou Kavouras
Brian Armstrong
Terri Behling
Scott Harbison

Via Video Conference

Daryl Pokrana
Linda Pilcher

Recording Secretary

Phyllis Young

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 and Roll Call**

Co-Chair Symons called the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m. Ms. Young called the roll and noted a quorum was present. (CD 1/Track 1)

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Co-Chair Symons led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag, followed by a moment of silence. (CD 1/Track 1)

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

Deputy Executive Director Lou Kavouras, Outreach, Planning and Board Services, stated there were no additions or deletions to the agenda. However, copies of revised recaps for Agenda Items 4c and 5a, with the changes highlighted, had been provided to Board members and were available at the sign-in table. (CD 1/Track 1)

4. **Consent Items:**

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

- a. **Minutes of the December 14, 2007, Meeting** – approve the December 2007 meeting minutes, as presented.
- b. **Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems – TRB Groves, LLC - Phase III, Charlotte County**
 1. **Approve the TRB Groves, LLC, Phase III, FARMS Project for a not-to-exceed project reimbursement of \$750,000 with \$187,500 provided by the Peace River Basin, \$187,500 provided by the Governing Board, \$128,316 provided from 2007 State Appropriations to the Peace River Basin, and \$246,684 provided from 2008 State Appropriations to the Governing Board;**

2. **Authorize the transfer of \$187,500 from Fund 020 H017 Peace River Basin FARMS funds, \$187,500 from Fund 010 H017 Governing Board FARMS funds, \$128,316 from the 2007 State Appropriations allocated to Fund 020 H017 FARMS funds, and \$246,684 from the 2008 State Appropriations allocated to Fund 010 H017 FARMS funds, to 010 H501, TRB Groves project fund;**
 3. **Authorize the Executive Director to sign the agreement.**
- c. **Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems – S.Y. Hartt & Son, Inc., Highlands County**
1. **Approve the S. Y. Hartt & Son, Inc. FARMS Project for a not-to-exceed project reimbursement of \$70,000, with \$17,500 provided by the Peace River Basin Board, \$17,500 provided by the Governing Board, and \$35,000 provided from State Appropriations;**
 2. **Authorize the transfer of \$17,500 from Fund 020 H017 Peace River Basin Board FARMS funds, \$17,500 from Fund 010 H017 Governing Board FARMS funds, and \$35,000 from the 2007 State Appropriations allocated to Fund 020 H017 Peace River Basin Board State Appropriations, to H549 S. Y. Hartt & Son, Inc. FARMS project fund;**
 3. **Authorize the Executive Director to sign the agreement.**

Motion carried unanimously. (CD 1/Track 1/5:58)

5. **Discussion Items:**

a. **Polk County Comprehensive Water Supply Plan – Funding Request**

Water Supply and Resource Development Section Manager Brian Armstrong presented this agenda item to request an anticipated out-of-cycle funding request from Polk County to develop a Comprehensive Water Supply Plan. During Financial Engine presentations to the Board over the past two years, staff reported that approximately 45 million gallons of water per day would need to be developed to provide Polk County's water needs over the next 20-25 years. This Comprehensive Water Supply Plan is the first step to identify projects to meet those needs. Mr. Armstrong commented on the purpose, duration, and costs of the Plan, as well as potential supplies, partners, and project coordination.

The total project cost is estimated at \$955,318 of which the District will participate at 50 percent. Possible funding by the South Florida Water Management District would reduce the District's contribution by that amount.

After consideration, **Mr. Lazzell moved, seconded by Mr. Harrison, to approve the staff recommendation, as follows:**

1. **Approve the transfer of \$186,287 from the Peace River Basin Board's Water Supply and Resource Development Reserve funds for the Polk County Comprehensive Water Supply Plan;**
2. **Recommend the Executive Director enter into an agreement with Polk County for the Comprehensive Water Supply Plan for a total cost of \$955,318, with the District's share not to exceed \$477,659, to be divided among the Governing Board, the Alafia River Basin Board, and the Peace River Basin Board.**

**Motion carried unanimously. (CD 1/Track 2)
, seconded by Terry England,**

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

Finance Director Daryl Pokrana spoke to the Board via video conference from District Headquarters in Brooksville to answer questions Board members might have regarding the Local Government Investment Pool, which was the topic of a memo written to all

Basin Board members on January 22 by Governing Board Treasurer Jennifer Closshey. Board members had no questions for Mr. Pokrana; he did, however, provide a brief summary of how the investment pool relates to the Peace River Basin Board.

This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required. (CD 1/ Track 3)

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

Linda Pilcher, Assistant Finance Director, provided the result and potential effects of the Special Election on the proposed constitutional amendment, (*Amendment No. 1, Property Tax Exemptions; Limitations on Property Tax Assessments*), which passed on January 29. Ms. Pilcher spoke on provisions of the amendment, assumptions, and variables that would affect the Basin's budget. For planning purposes, she provided a preliminary look at FY2009 ad valorem revenue, estimating a five percent reduction from FY2008, which is a reduction of \$463,000 to the Basin budget. Updates on these issues will be presented at Basin Board meetings throughout the fiscal year.

Topics of discussion on this agenda item included withdrawal of projects due to tax cuts, consideration of funding options that might not have been used in the past, the percent of project costs the Board funds, and State funding.

This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required. (CD 1/ Track 4)

d. **Fiscal Year 2009 Cooperative Funding Requests**

Basin Planner Chancey Springstead provided an overview of the Cooperative Funding Initiative (CFI) and applications received for the FY2009 budget year. Mr. Springstead reviewed the FY2009 Cooperative Funding procedure and directed the Board to the original applications, which were received in December and provided behind the *FY2009 CFI Applications* tab in the meeting notebook. He provided a brief overview of the Basin's project submittals and reviewed the District's project ranking process in light of recent changes to Governing Board CFI policy. Staff will return to the April meeting with initial project rankings and funding recommendations for the Board's consideration. The preliminary budget will be presented and the millage cap set at the June Basin Board meeting, and for final approval in July or August, depending on the Governor's timeframe for submittal of the Governing and Basin Boards' budgets to Tallahassee.

The Board was encouraged to review the FY2009 project applications and be prepared to provide input at the April 4 Basin Board meeting.

This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required. (CD 1/ Track 5)

At this time, several members of the public addressed the Board regarding land acquisitions around Lake Hancock that are part of the Lake Level Modification project. Mr. Bruce Lahey, Ms. Patsy Mitchell, and Ms. Diane Allen, each in turn, voiced their dismay that what they understood about the appraisal and purchase price process, as discussed at a meeting with Lake Hancock landowners in August 2006, was not being followed. They felt they were being treated unfairly, that communications with the landowners was very poor, and wanted the District to resolve the issues. Many members of the public attended to support the three speakers, often showing their support with applause.

Co-Chair Symons expressed her concern about this situation, stating staff would be working with the landowners to resolve the issues. She thanked everyone for attending and emphasized that this issue would not be dropped.

Board members requested an update on this issue at the next meeting. (CD 1/Track 6)

6. **Report:**

a. **Governing Board Activities**

At Co-Chair Symons' request, staff played pre-recorded highlights of the January 29 Governing Board meeting. Robyn Hanke, Communications Manager, narrated the brief recap, which included recent agreements regarding the Weeki Wachee lease, Marion County water restrictions, and restoration of Sawgrass Park in southern Pinellas County. (CD 1/Track 7)

7. **Announcements:**

In addition to directing the Board's attention to announcements listed on the agenda, Ms. Kavouras made several comments, as follow:

- After the Governing Board meeting at Nature's Classroom on February 26, 2008, the Governing and Basin Boards will have lunch together beginning at 12 noon. At 1 p.m., the Joint Governing and Basin Boards Workshop will convene. Tours of Nature's Classroom will begin at 10:30 a.m. for Basin Board members who wish to participate.
- Information on the Basin's Community Education Grants is included with the Information Items at the end of the Summary Agenda.
- The Governor's Office is asking the Board's help in finding applicants to fill Governing and Basin Board positions that are currently open or will be open after March 1, 2008.

8. **Adjournment**

Co-Chair Symons encouraged Board members to attend the joint workshop, thanked everyone for attending, and adjourned the meeting at 10:57 a.m.

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

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. The item(s) did not require Board action.

1. 2008 Community Education Grants in the Peace River Basin
2. Reducing Nursery and Landscape Water Use by Genetically Altering Nandina Plants (B257)
3. Alligator Creek Habitat Restoration, Project 16 (W511) - Execution Notice
4. Automated Citrus Irrigation Management to Reduce Water Consumption (B256) – Execution Notice
5. City of Lakeland Plumbing Retrofit Project (L914) – Execution Notice
6. City of Lakeland Pre-Rinse Spray Valve Retrofit Project (L915) – Execution Notice