

Approved

Minutes of the Meeting

Peace River Basin Board Southwest Florida Water Management District

Brooksville, Florida

April 6, 2007

The Peace River Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a regular meeting April 6, 2007, at 9:35 a.m., at the Bartow Service Office.

Board Members Present

Patsy C. Symons, Co-Chair Ex Officio
J. Kenneth Harrison, Vice Chair
Ann W. Dunlap, Secretary
Rufus C. Lazzell, Member
James L. Hageman, Member
Paul G. Samuels, Member
Fred W. Trippensee, III, Member

Staff Present

Lou Kavouras
Bruce Wirth
Gregg Jones
Mark Hammond
Mike Holtkamp
Eric Sutton
Brian Armstrong
Chan Springstead
Terri Behling

Via Video Conference

Lisann Morris
Beth Putnam

Board Members Absent

C. A. "Neil" Combee, Jr., Co-Chair Ex Officio

Recording Secretary

Annette Zielinski

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 9:35 a.m. Ms. Zielinski noted a quorum was present.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Co-Chair Symons led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

3. Oath of Office for Appointed/Re-Appointed Board Members

This item was deleted.

4. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda

Ms. Lou Kavouras, Deputy Executive Director, said Governor Crist has not made any announcements regarding appointments or re-appointments, therefore, Item 3 Oath of Office for Appointed/Re-Appointed Board Members, was deleted from today's agenda. (CD1/Track 1 – 00:00/02:00)

5. Consent Items

a. February 16, 2007, Meeting Minutes

Staff recommended approval of the February 16, 2007, meeting minutes.

b. Appraisal and Purchase/Sale Agreement – Lake Hancock Project

Recommend Governing Board accept the appraisal and approve the purchase/sale agreement.

Following consideration, **Mr. Lazzell moved, seconded by Mr. Harrison, to approve the Consent Items as presented. Motion carried unanimously.** (CD1/Track 1 – 02:00/02:08)

6. Discussion Items

a. Election of Officers and Committee Representatives

Election results were the following:

Vice Chair: J. Kenneth Harrison

Secretary: Rufus Lazzell

Basin Board Land Resources Committee:

Primary Representative: J. Kenneth Harrison

Alternate: Fred Trippensee

Basin Board Education Committee:

Primary Representative: Paul Samuels

Alternate: Fred Trippensee

Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program Policy Committee:

Rufus Lazzell

(CD1/Track 2 – 00:00/04:01)

b. Myakka River Watershed Initiative Update

Ms. Lisann C. Morris, Senior Professional Engineer, Resource Conservation and Development Department, reported via video conference. Ms. Morris said the purpose of this presentation was to provide an update on the Myakka River Watershed Initiative (MRWI) to further the Board's understanding of the important issues connected with the project.

Staff recommended initiating the MRWI under the Watershed Management Program (WMP). The scope of work included: data gathering, engaging stakeholders through the Myakka Comprehensive Watershed Management Group, developing a Geographic Information Systems geodatabase, developing an outreach strategy, and selecting the modeling tools for the water budget, water quality, and water quantity tasks. Development of the modeling tools will enable the District to evaluate various best management practices for alternative solutions to the issues. An internal and external stakeholder kick-off meeting was held on December 11, 2006, and February 14, 2007, respectively, to solicit sources of data and introduce the project. This presentation was for the Board's information; no action was required. (CD1/Track 3 – 00:00/11:02)

c. FY 2008 Budget Preparation

Mr. Bruce Wirth, Deputy Executive Director, reviewed a preliminary budget for fiscal year (FY) 2008 and asked Board members for direction concerning funding levels of the various budget categories, including prioritization of Cooperative Funding proposals and other Basin projects. In June, the Basin Board will be asked to vote on a proposed millage rate for FY2008, which will be used for the Truth in Millage noticing to taxpayers. First-time proposals, after staff review, were tentatively ranked as 1A, High, Medium, or Low priority. Mr. Wirth explained that the ranking was preliminary and based on a millage rate of 0.195 and an assumed eight percent increase in assessments. He briefly reviewed the new Cooperative Funding projects, reminded members that the budget process is in the beginning stages, and related that Board members could direct questions to the Project Manager, Ms. Kavouras, Basin Planner Chan Springstead, or him.

Topics of discussion during this presentation included funding priorities, the long-term financial forecast, challenges the Basin Board will face keeping pace with water demand, regionalism, funding from Senate Bill 444, and cooperative funding. Several members suggested the Governing Board reconsider funding a portion of the REDI projects because the Peace River Basin Board shares the heaviest burden. Ms. Dunlap suggested that Basin Board members attend the Governing Board meeting to explain their position.

Mr. Hageman said he would like staff to research the L914 Lakeland - Plumbing Retrofit Project and report back the details of this toilet rebate program.

Mr. Pat Lehman, Executive Director, Peace River/Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority (PR/MRWSA) updated the Peace River Basin Board on their water supply projects. Projects underway are a new water supply facility and bidding for a reservoir has begun. Mr. Lehman said they should be producing additional water supply and storing water by the year 2009. Basin Board members expressed their appreciation to Mr. Lehman for the update and recommended the use of maps or graphics during the next update of the PR/MRWSA projects. Mr. Lazzell requested information on the location of the Waste Water Treatment Plant - L853 and the construction schedule. (CD1/Track 4 – 00:00/80:18/CD1/Track 5 – 00:00/07:15)

7. **Reports:**

a. **Basin Board Education Committee**

Ms. Beth Putnam, Communications Manager, via teleconference, shared the highlights of the March 6, 2007, Basin Board Education Committee (BBEC) meeting, which was held in the District's Tampa Service Office. Topics included the introduction of the District's new Regional Building/Developer Florida Yards and Neighborhoods (FYN) specialist and two FYN coordinators who work to educate homeowner associations on Florida-friendly landscaping. Other topics included: the Children's Museum of Tampa, the District's Water C.H.A.M.P. program, and the Peace River Spanning the Watershed Events in April. Ms. Putnam said a joint meeting of the Basin Board Education and Basin Board Land Resources committees is planned for July 12.

b. **Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program Policy Committee**

Mr. Lazzell said the Committee had a very informative meeting. He commended Ms. Lizanne Garcia for her hard work on the management team and said that she served the Committee well. Mr. Lazzell said he had copies of meeting minutes for those interested parties. (CD1/Track 6 – 00:00/06:55)

c. **Basin Board Land Resources Committee**

Mr. Eric Sutton, Assistant Land Resources Director, Land Resources Department, provided a concise report of the March 22, 2007, Basin Board Land Resources Committee meeting, which was held at the Starkey Environmental Education Center in New Port Richey. Topics included the District's land acquisition and prescribed burn procedures, gopher tortoise relocation, and the Public Land Acquisition and Management Partnership Conference to be held December 5 – 7, in Sarasota. (CD1/Track 6 – 06:55/13:42)

d. **Report on Governing Board Activities**

Co-Chair Symons asked staff to play the pre-recorded highlights of the March 27, 2007, Governing Board meeting. Ms. Kavouras narrated the brief recap of the meeting, which included the Peace River Cumulative Impact Study, the Peace River Basin Resource Management Plan, lower Hillsborough River minimum flows and levels, declaration of April as "Water Conservation Month," and the Governor's "Plain Language" initiative. This report is also available online at watermatters.org under the Meetings and Events category. Ms. Symons reported that the Water Conservation Summit held on March 23, in Ocala, was a huge success and reinforced how important it is for the entire region to conserve water. (CD1/Track 6 – 13:42/26:42)

8. **Announcements**

Ms. Kavouras said the Environmental Advisory Committee encourages the Peace River Basin Board to increase its land holdings along the Peace River. Co-Chair Symons mentioned the upcoming events for the Peace River "Spanning the Watershed." Ms. Kavouras said other announcements were listed in the Basin Board packet.

9. **Adjournment**

Since there was no further business to come before the Board, Co-Chair Symons adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m. (CD1/Track 6 – 26:42/30:53)

★ ★ ★ 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 were ready to begin. The items did not require Board action at this time.

1. Lake Hancock Outfall Treatment Project Work Order Issuance (H014)
2. Long-Term Water Budget Analysis of Lake Starr, Polk County Florida (B243) - Execution Notice
3. Water Supply Flow Monitoring Project (H057) - Execution Notice

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