

Approved

Minutes of the Meeting

PEACE RIVER BASIN BOARD

Southwest Florida Water Management District

Bartow, Florida

June 6, 2008

The Peace River Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a regular meeting on Friday, June 6, 2008, at 9:30 a.m., in the Bartow Service Office.

Board Members Present

C. A. "Neil" Combee, Jr., Co-Chair Ex Officio
H. Paul Senft, Jr., Co-Chair Ex Officio
Bryan K. Beswick, Co-Chair Ex Officio
J. "Ken" Harrison, Vice Chair
Rufus C. Lazzell, Secretary
James L. Hageman, Member
Paul G. Samuels, Member
Fred W. Trippensee, III, Member

Staff Present

Bruce Wirth	Linda Pilcher
Elaine Kuligofski	Roy Mazur
Eric DeHaven	Beth Putnam
Brian Armstrong	Chan Springstead
Terri Behling	Danny Kushmer
Randy Emberg	

Recording Secretary

Phyllis Young

Board Member Absent

Patricia Crisman, Member

A roster of other attendees, who signed in, 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 Combee called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Phyllis Young, the Board's administrative support, called the roll and noted a quorum was present. (CD 1/Track 1)

2. **Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence**

Co-Chair Combee 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**

Ms. Young stated Agenda Item 5, the Oath of Office, was deleted from the agenda since no appointments or re-appointments had been forthcoming from the Governor's office. (CD 1/Track 1)

4. **Ceremony to Honor Former Co-Chair Ex Officio Pat Symons**

Vice Chair Ken Harrison welcomed Ms. Symons to the meeting and presented her a plaque to commemorate her service to the Basin. Mr. Harrison shared some of the Board's accomplishments while Ms. Symons was the co-chair and commented that she was the first DeSoto County resident to serve on the Governing Board. He expressed his respect for Ms. Symons for her high ideals, consideration of others, objectivity, and ability to deal with people, and for volunteering her time to programs that help the community. He added she is a champion of rural communities and agriculture throughout the District. In turn, Ms. Symons briefly addressed the Board to express her appreciation for the opportunity to serve. She thanked Board members and staff for the honor of working with them and for their unwavering help and support through the years.

Co-Chair Combee added it had been an honor and a privilege to work with Ms. Symons, both on the Governing Board and the Basin Board. (CD 1/Track 1)

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

This item was deleted from the agenda.

6. **Consent Items:**

After consideration, Mr. Lazzell moved, seconded by Mr. Samuels, to approve the Consent Items below.

a. **Minutes of the April 4, 2008, Meeting** – Approve the April 2008 meeting minutes, as presented.

b. **Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems (FARMS)**

i. **Billy H. Haygood, Trustee, D Hancock Marital Trust – Hancock Grove Project Phase II, DeSoto County**

- 1) Approve the Billy H. Haygood, Trustee, D Hancock Marital Trust – Hancock Grove Phase II FARMS Project for a not-to-exceed project reimbursement of \$300,000, with \$75,000 provided by the Peace River Basin Board; \$75,000 provided by the Governing Board; and \$150,000 provided from 2008 State Appropriations;
- 2) Authorize the transfer of \$75,000 from Fund 020 H017 Peace River Basin Board FARMS funds; \$75,000 from Fund 010 H017 Governing Board FARMS funds; \$150,000 from the 2008 State Appropriations allocated to Fund 010 H017 FARMS funds, to 010 H516, Billy H. Haygood, Trustee, D Hancock Marital Trust – Hancock Grove Phase II project fund;
- 3) Authorize the Executive Director to sign the agreement.

ii. **Island Grove Agricultural Products Farm #6, DeSoto County, Orange-Co, LP, DeSoto County**

- 1) Approve the Island Grove Agricultural Products Farm #6 FARMS Project for a not-to-exceed project reimbursement of \$285,000, with \$71,250 provided by the Peace River Basin Board; \$71,250 provided by the Governing Board; and \$142,500 provided from State Appropriations;
- 2) Authorize the transfer of \$71,250 from Fund 020 H017 Peace River Basin Board FARMS funds; \$71,250 from Fund 010 H017 Governing Board FARMS funds; and \$142,500 from the 2008 State Appropriations allocated to Fund 010 H017 FARMS funds, to H556 Island Grove Agricultural Products Farm #6 FARMS project fund;
- 3) Authorize the Executive Director to sign the agreement.

iii. **Orange-Co, LP, DeSoto County**

- 1) Approve the Orange-Co, LP, project for a not-to-exceed project reimbursement of \$131,250, with \$32,813 provided by the Peace River Basin Board ; \$32,813 provided by the Governing Board; and \$65,625 provided from State Appropriations;
- 2) Authorize the transfer of \$32,813 from Fund 020 H017 Peace River Basin Board FARMS funds; \$32,813 from Fund 010 H017 Governing Board FARMS funds; \$9,888 from the 2007 State Appropriations allocated to Fund 020 H017 FARMS funds; and \$55,737 from the 2008 State Appropriations allocated to Fund 010 H017 FARMS funds, to H555 Orange-Co, LP, project fund;
- 3) Authorize the Executive Director to sign the agreement.

iv. **Landscaping, Sod, and Irrigation, Inc., DeSoto County**

- 1) Approve the Landscaping, Sod, and Irrigation, Inc., FARMS project for a not-to-exceed project reimbursement of \$127,500, with \$31,875 provided by

- the Peace River Basin Board; \$31,875 provided by the Governing Board; and \$63,750 provided from State Appropriations;
- 2) Authorize the transfer of \$31,875 from Fund 020 H017 Peace River Basin Board FARMS funds; \$31,875 from Fund 010 H017 Governing Board FARMS funds; and \$63,750 from the 2008 State Appropriations allocated to Fund 010 H017 FARMS funds, to H557 Landscaping, Sod, and Irrigation, Inc., FARMS project fund;
 - 3) Authorize the Executive Director to sign the agreement.
- c. **Annual Calendar of Meeting Dates – Fiscal Year 2009** – Approve the FY2009 Basin Board meeting schedule, as presented.

Motion carried unanimously. (CD 1/Track 1)

7. **Discussion Items:**

a. **District Environmental Stewardship Initiative Overview**

Elaine Kuligofski, Human Resources and Risk Management Director, addressed the Board to provide an overview of the District's Environmental Stewardship Initiative, which grew from Governor Charlie Crist's July 2007 action plan to reduce greenhouse gases and increase energy efficiency.

With direction from the Executive Sponsor of the Initiative Gene Schiller, Deputy Executive Director, Management Services Division, five District staff and a Governing Board sponsor have examined the District's entire operation to find ways the District may be able to achieve more efficiencies and reduce its carbon footprint. Ms. Kuligofski reported that the District supports the Governor's efforts with regard to environmental stewardship, adding that the plan fits well with the District's focus on sustainable growth and environmental responsibility. She provided information on evaluation, development, and implementation of project activities; Governing Board Policy 110-10, District Commitment to Superior Environmental Stewardship; departmental priorities and project examples; cooperation and exchange of ideas with other water management districts; and reporting requirements.

Ms. Kuligofski asked Board members, as leaders in the community, to inform staff of new products, services, ideas, etc., that might be appropriate for the District's use in becoming more energy efficient and in its efforts to reduce greenhouse gases.

This item was provided for the Board's information; no action was required. (CD 1/Track 2)

b. **Out-of-Cycle Funding Request for Polk's Nature Discovery Center Exhibits – SB54**

Communications Manager Beth Putnam addressed the Board to request funds for construction of two exhibits at Polk's Nature Discovery Center on the Circle B Bar Reserve in Polk County. Ms. Putnam gave a brief history of the education center and plans for construction of exhibits to enhance learning opportunities for Center visitors. The Peace River Basin Board allocated funding for one water systems exhibit in its FY2007 budget. Polk County then submitted a second request for development of a field trip program and two additional exhibits (one on the Green Swamp and one on central Florida lakes) during the FY2009 Cooperative Funding cycle and is planning a fourth exhibit. Polk County's exhibit designer offered to add \$100,000 of interactive features to enhance all four exhibits if they could be constructed at the same time. Doing so would enable all four exhibits to be completed in time for the Center's grand opening scheduled for November 1, 2008. Therefore, the District is being asked to provide funding for two additional exhibits; funding would be shared among three Basin

Boards, based on attendance projections, as follows: Alafia River - \$13,658; Hillsborough River - \$17,617; and Peace River - \$32,944. District costs for this project are 100 percent reimbursable through the Water Management Lands Trust Funds; there would be no impact on the Basin budget.

Funding for development of the field trip program would remain in the FY2009 budget, but reduced to \$44,666 for the three Basins: Alafia River - \$5,119; Hillsborough River, \$6,603; and Peace River - \$32,944.

Ms. Putnam showed sketches of the exhibits and briefly explained elements of each. She then read the staff recommendation.

After consideration, **Mr. Harrison moved, seconded by Mr. Lazzell, to authorize the transfer of \$87,892 from Reserves for Contingencies for the construction of two exhibits at Polk's Nature Discovery Center to educate visitors about water resources, and authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract for an amount not to exceed \$119,167, with the project to be funded through the Water Management Lands Trust Funds. Motion carried unanimously. (CD 1/Track 3)**

c. **Cooperative Funding Initiative Project Status Report - Water Partners, Inc., Reclaimed Water Project**

Executive Director David Moore addressed the Board to provide an in-depth report of this project, which involves a public-private partnership that will maximize the beneficial use of reclaimed water flows that are not currently being beneficially used by Hillsborough County and the City of Tampa. The project was submitted by Water Partners, Inc. (WPI), a not-for-profit, public-private partnership, whose members include Hillsborough County, Tampa Electric Company (TECO), and Mosaic Fertilizer (Mosaic). Other parties involved include the City of Tampa, the City of Lakeland, Polk County, Tampa Bay Water, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), and perhaps Plant City and Temple Terrace. Meetings are being held bi-weekly; four subcommittees (governance, regulatory, recharge, and engineering) have been formed to focus on the major project components. Mr. Moore emphasized that this is a high profile project of which all Board members need to be aware.

Mr. Moore provided background of the project, which is comprised of two major components: (1) a project to provide reclaimed water to industrial users and (2) a project to create opportunities for additional groundwater withdrawals in the Southern Water Use Caution Area (SWUCA) through recharge of reclaimed water in southeastern Hillsborough County and/or western Polk County. He briefly commented on four reasons the project has potential, estimated project costs, and the timeline. He used graphics to explain the various elements of the project and their relationship to each other.

During the presentation, the Board asked questions and participated in discussion on topics including level of treatment for reclaimed water, arsenic issues in other areas of the United States, de-oxygenation, deep well injection, quantities of reclaimed water not being used, additional treatment, coastal recharge, and groundwater credits.

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

d. **Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Discussion and Approval of Proposed Millage Rate**

Deputy Executive Director Bruce Wirth reminded the Board that a revised recap and resolution for this item had been placed at each Board member's seat at the dais. Mr. Wirth asked Assistant Finance Director Linda Pilcher to explain aspects of millage

rate options that would help the Board make a decision on the proposed FY2009 millage rate. He explained the timeframe for submitting the Basins' millage rates to the Governing Board and, ultimately, to the county Property Appraisers and the State, making it necessary for the Board to approve a proposed millage rate during the meeting.

Ms. Pilcher began by stating that the June 1 initial estimates of property values were provided by the county Property Appraisers after the meeting notebooks had been printed. She pointed out that staff will not be able to determine the amount the Basin's millage rate would generate in property tax revenue for FY2009 until actual property values are certified beginning July 1. Ms. Pilcher used a chart to explain various millage rate options and ad valorem revenue that might be generated for each option. She stated the staff recommendation is to hold the millage rate at the current FY2008 rate of 0.1827. Assuming a 10.34 percent reduction in property values, as currently estimated, the Basin would receive approximately \$500,000 less ad valorem revenue than shown in the proposed budget that was included in the meeting notebook. If the Board votes to hold its millage rate for FY2009 equal to the FY2008 rate, staff recommended the Board delegate authority to the Executive Director to administratively adjust the millage rate downward if it is determined in July that the FY2009 rolled-back rate or the Maximum Millage Rate is lower than the rate for FY2008. This would eliminate the need for a special July meeting.

After consideration, **Mr. Lazzell moved, seconded by Mr. Samuels, to approve parts two and three of the staff recommendation:**

- 2. Approve and adopt a required proposed millage rate of 0.1827 mill for Fiscal Year 2009.**
- 3. Approve Resolution No. 100 — Resolution Approving the Required Proposed Millage Rate for Fiscal Year 2009.**

Motion carried unanimously. (CD 1/Track 5)

Mr. Wirth continued the budget discussion by providing highlights of the budget, noting changes made since the April meeting and the tenuous prospect for Basin projects due to changes in property tax values for FY2009. He used graphs to show allocation of funds by the Basin's four areas of responsibility (AORs). Board members were directed to the Projects section of the meeting notebook for detailed information on all Cooperative Funding proposals submitted for consideration. (CD 1/Track 6)

Michael Stripling, Assistant Public Works Director for the City of Haines City, spoke to the Board about the City's Southern Area Reuse Transmission Extension project, N065, which is consistent with Basin priorities in that the reuse of reclaimed water is maximized to offset groundwater use. Mr. Stripling thanked the Board for its favorable consideration of the project.

City Manager for the Town of Dundee Charles Saddler addressed the Board to provide additional information on Project L553, Dundee Reclaimed Water Use System. He explained funding aspects and progress of related elements of the project, stating the project could not go forward with the approximate \$560,000 allocated in the FY2009 budget. Mr. Saddler told the Board that reuse lines are already in place and this project is part of a large master-planned utility project on which the Town has been working with the District. He requested the Board reconsider its allocation to the project. Staff will review this project and make a report at the August meeting.

Jeff Spence, Natural Resource Director for Polk County, spoke on the Saddle Creek Watershed Management Plan Implementation Phase II, Project N122, which was ranked "Medium." Since the project, which addresses flooding issues, is a continuation project, the County feels the ranking should be "1A." Mr. Spence provided background of the project and showed photos, before and after, of the completed Phase I project and areas to be improved during Phase II. He reported that Phase II is completely designed, fully permitted, and easements and rights-of-way acquired; the County's matching funds are available; and all work can be completed next year. He asked to confer with staff on projects submitted by the County in order to raise the ranking on this project even though the funding allocation for other County projects may be lowered in the process.

Bartow resident Kristi Patel suggested the Saddle Creek project might fit into a cumulative impact program, or some other program, that would open the potential for allocation from other sources.

Sue Woodbery, on behalf of Haines City, provided additional information on Project N072, Lake Eva Water Quality Improvement, which is designed to remove nutrient loading and clean up discharge from the historic and downtown areas of Haines City. She expressed the City's appreciation to the Board for allowing the project to go forward.

Mr. Wirth stated staff would continue to review the budget, incorporate the Board's input, and present a revised budget in August. During the August meeting, the Board will be required to affirm the proposed millage rate, and adopt a final FY2009 millage rate and budget for recommendation to the Governing Board.

After consideration, **Mr. Lazzell moved, seconded by Mr. Hageman, to approve part one of the staff recommendation to provide tentative selection of FY2009 Cooperative Funding projects. Motion carried unanimously.** (CD 1/Track 7)

e. **Fiscal Year 2010 Strategic Plan Update**

Mr. Wirth prefaced Planning Director Roy Mazur's update by stating the Strategic Plan is integral to the budget process; the issues, requirements, and priorities are laid out in the Plan.

Mr. Mazur addressed the Board to provide a progress report on the update to the Strategic Plan. He reviewed background of the Plan, goals for the 2010 update, and progress being made, emphasizing that the goal is not to re-write the Plan, but to refine it. Mr. Mazur's presentation included an explanation of the three-tiered approach of staff involvement, tasks to be accomplished, integration of the Plan throughout the District, and examples of success indicators.

As drafts of the updated Strategic Initiatives become available, they will be provided to Board members who may provide input to Mr. Mazur, Basin Planner Chan Springstead, or Deputy Executive Director Lou Kavouras, Outreach, Planning, and Board Services. Staff will send e-mail reminders to Board members as deadlines for comments approach. A production draft of the Plan will be generated in August and presented for approval to the October 2008 Governing Board. (CD 1/Track 8)

At this time, Co-Chair Combee passed the gavel to Co-Chair Senft and left the meeting.

8. **Reports:**

a. **Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program (CHNEP) Policy Committee**

A summary of the May 19, 2008, CHNEP meeting was provided to Board members. Representative Rufus Lazzell expressed thanks to Lizanne Garcia, Senior

Environmental Scientist in the SWIM section, for her continuing support and for keeping him informed on important CHNEP issues. He briefly mentioned a concern that the CHNEP Citizens and Technical Advisory Committees no longer have diverse membership and asked help to get good cross-section of the public to serve on those committees. (CD 1/Track 9)

b. **Governing Board Activities**

At Co-Chair Senft's request, staff played pre-recorded highlights of the May 27 Governing Board meeting, which was narrated by Communications Manager Robyn Felix. Highlights of the meeting included a ceremony to honor former Governing Board Members Tom Dabney, Heidi McCree, and Pat Symons, who were leaving the Board; an announcement that the District had, again, been presented an award for being the "Best Place to Work in Hernando County; election of officers; and a request from the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority for transition funding. (CD 1/Track 10)

9. **Announcements:**

Announcements were listed in the agenda.

Since the Basin Board approved a proposed millage rate during this meeting, the special meeting tentatively scheduled for July 18 will not be necessary; the next regularly-scheduled meeting is August 8.

10. **Adjournment**

Co-Chair Senft thanked everyone for attending, stated he looks forward to working with the Board and staff, and adjourned the meeting at 12:37 p.m. (CD 1/Track 10)

******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. The items did not require Board action.

1. FARMS – Sun Grown Citrus, LP – Block 23 Grove (H531) Polk County – Cancellation Notice
2. Interlocal Agreement with Polk County, Appraisals, Purchase/Sale Agreement and Resolution Requesting Funds for Acquisition of SWF Parcel No. 20-697-101 – Bowlegs Creek/Crooked Lake
3. Coral Creek Habitat Restoration Project (W553) - Execution Notice
4. Hardee County Watershed Management Program – First Amendment (L679) - Execution Notice
5. Polk County Watershed Management Plan - First Amendment (L672) - Execution Notice
6. Implementation of Best Management Practices at Twin Lakes (L902) - Execution Notice
7. Watershed Management Program Consulting Services in the Lake Hancock Watershed (H008) - Execution Notice