

Approved

Minutes of the Meeting

PEACE RIVER BASIN BOARD

Southwest Florida Water Management District
Bartow, Florida February 4, 2011

The Peace River Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a regular meeting on Friday, February 4, 2011, at 9:32 a.m. in the District's Bartow Service Office.

Board Members Present

Bryan K. Beswick, Co-Chair
H. Paul Senft, Jr., Co-Chair
Rufus C. Lazzell, Secretary
Pat Crisman, Member
Gordon "Mac" Martin, Member
Paul G. Samuels, Member
Fred W. Trippensee III, Member

Staff Present

Lou Kavouras
Eric DeHaven
Dianne Davies
Danny Kushmer
Bruce Wirth
Terri Behling
Randy Emberg
Shelley Thornton

Via Video Conference

Mark Hammond
Beth Putnam

Board Members Absent

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

Recording Secretary

Phyllis Young

A list of others who attended and signed the attendance roster is filed in the permanent files of the Basin. Compact disks of the audio and copies of materials and handouts are also filed in the permanent files of the Basin.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Co-Chair Bryan Beswick called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. Ms. Phyllis Young, the Board's administrative support, called the roll and noted a quorum was present.

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

Ms. Pat Crisman provided an invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

3. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

Ms. Lou Kavouras, Deputy Executive Director, Outreach, Planning, Board Services and Ombudsman, reported no additions or deletions to the agenda.

4. Consent Items:

After consideration, **Mr. Lazzell moved approval of the following Consent Items:**

a. Minutes of the December 3, 2010, Basin Board Meeting

Approve the December minutes, as presented.

b. Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems (FARMS)

i. Clear Springs Enterprises LLC (H627), Polk County

1. Approve the Clear Springs Enterprises LLC project for a not-to-exceed project reimbursement of \$547,500 with \$159,560 provided by the Peace River Basin Board, \$159,561 provided by the Governing Board, and \$228,379 provided from State Appropriations;
2. Authorize the transfer of \$159,560 from Fund 020 H017 Peace River Basin Board FARMS funds, \$159,561 from Fund 010 H017 Governing Board FARMS

funds, and \$228,379 from State Appropriations allocated to Fund 010 H017 FARMS funds, to H627 Clear Springs Enterprises LLC project fund; and

3. Authorize the Executive Director to sign the agreement.
- ii. **Richard Worch Tangerine Groves (H629), Charlotte County**
1. Approve the Richard Worch Tangerine Grove project for a not-to-exceed project reimbursement of \$28,910, with \$7,227 provided by the Peace River Basin Board, \$7,228 provided by the Governing Board, and \$14,455 provided from State Appropriations to the Governing Board;
 2. Authorize the transfer of \$7,227 from Fund 020 H017 Peace River Basin Board FARMS funds, \$7,228 from Fund 010 H017 Governing Board FARMS funds, and \$14,455 from 2009 State Appropriations allocated to Fund 010 H017 FARMS funds, to H629 Richard Worch Tangerine Grove project fund; and
 3. Authorize the Executive Director to sign the agreement.

Mr. Samuels seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. (Track 1)

5. **Discussion Items:**

a. **Peace Creek Canal Watershed Management Plan (H034)**

Mr. Eric DeHaven, Director, Resource Data and Restoration, prefaced this two-part informational item by providing a significant events timeline of the District's involvement with the Peace Creek Canal, beginning with flooding issues, due to impacts of three hurricanes, in the fall of 2004. He introduced Commissioner J. P. Powell, City of Winter Haven, who briefly addressed the Board, stating it was an honor to attend the meeting and speak to the Board. He reported the City Commission believes the Sustainable Water Resource Management Plan is an important project and the Commission ratified a resolution to that effect. He then introduced Mr. Mike Britt, Director of Natural Resources for the City of Winter Haven, who presented the first part of the presentation. (Tracks 2 and 3)

Mr. Britt provided an in-depth report on the City of Winter Haven's Sustainable Water Resource Management Plan for the Peace Creek Watershed and how the City's Plan is connected to the District's Peace Creek Canal Watershed Management Plan (WMP). The primary objective of the City of Winter Haven's Plan is to proactively protect and enhance water resources for long-term human and environmental use through the creation of an interconnected network of lakes, canals, wetlands, aquifers, and nature parks. The District's WMP provides a method to evaluate the capacity of a watershed to protect, enhance, and restore water quality and natural systems, while achieving flood protection. Mr. Britt explained aspects of the geology and hydrology of the watershed, and the potential for future growth. He spoke of historical water functions, alterations, existing impacts, and changing circumstances within the watershed and shared the City's vision for use of 'natural infrastructure,' for water resource restoration in the middle/lower reaches, and for storage/conveyance in the headwaters/ridge areas. (Track 4)

Discussion ensued on topics including impacts from roads, funding, rain gardens, the possibility of attracting bio-industries, land "swaps," and reservoirs. (Track 5)

Ms. Shelley Thornton, Professional Engineer, Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Program, continued the presentation by explaining the goals,

tasks, and timeline of the District's Peace Creek Canal WMP, which includes evaluation of approximately 13,000 acres of lakes and wetlands and a model of the watershed that will identify projects to restore lost basin storage, improve water quality, provide flood protection benefits, and improve natural systems within the Peace Creek Watershed. Flood hazard information will ultimately be used by the District for Environmental Resource Permitting and, in the future, will be used to revise the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs).

Additionally, the Peace Creek Canal WMP will provide: 1) a Winter Haven Chain of Lakes lake management optimization analysis to define lake management levels for storage optimization and flood protection; 2) identification of Best Management Practices projects that will provide water quality treatment, enhancement of natural systems, and flood protection; and 3) the feasibility analysis of 17 ecological restoration sites within the Peace Creek Canal watershed. Identified BMP projects and ecological restoration sites will be incorporated into the Peace River integrated model, which will be useful in quantifying groundwater benefits.

In closing, Ms. Thornton commented on the project timeline; scheduled completion date is June 2012. (Tracks 6 and 7))

b. **FY2012 Cooperative Funding Process and Requests**

Ms. Dianne Davies, Basin Planner, provided a preview of the Cooperative Funding applications received for the fiscal year (FY) 2012 budget cycle and an overview of the annual Cooperative Funding Initiative (CFI) and budget process. The Board's attention was directed to the original CFI applications that were received in December 2010 and included behind the *FY2012 CFI Applications* tab in the meeting notebook.

Ms. Davies gave a brief overview of the Basin's project submittals by area of responsibility and some historic trends in proposed projects and cooperators. She reminded Board members of the importance of their review of the CFI applications, which is the first step in the process of deciding which projects the Basin will fund. Staff is available to answer questions, and cooperators may be invited to attend the April Basin Board meeting to answer questions and provide additional information. Staff will return to the April meeting with an analysis of how proposed projects correspond to Basin budget priorities, 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, for final approval in August.

Mr. Lazzell suggested tours of project sites would be helpful to Board members. In that regard, Mr. Senft suggested videos could also be an option. (Track 8)

6. **Report:**

a. **Governing Board Activities**

From the January 25 Governing Board meeting, Co-Chair Senft reported the Governing Board's approval for the District to abide by the first four executive orders issued by Governor Scott, specifically mentioning rulemaking and contracts over \$1 million. The Board also approved a 10-year permit for Tampa Bay Water to operate its consolidated wellfields. Co-Chair Beswick commented on the Board's decision 1) to delay increasing the water shortage level, 2) to focus this year's public service advertising campaign on water quality issues, 3) to move forward with a salary and benefits study as well as a workload and staff analysis, and 4) to direct staff on what steps to take to resolve issues regarding Tampa Bay Water's operation of its desalination facility.

This report was presented for the Board's information; no action was necessary.
(Track 9)

At this time, Mr. Lazzell recognized Mr. Pat Lehman, Executive Director of the Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority (Authority), and asked him to give an update on Authority projects. Mr. Lehman stated he was happy to report that public water supply is in good shape and expressed his thanks to the Basin and Governing Boards for the partnership that has allowed successful completion of projects beneficial to the entire region. He spoke briefly of completed projects and projects the Board can expect to see moving forward.
(Track 10)

7. **Announcements:**

Ms. Kavouras directed Board members to announcements listed on the agenda and reminded them that Friday, April 8, is the next Basin Board meeting. (Track 11)

Regarding the Tampa Bay Seawater Desalination Plant, Mr. Trippensee remarked that some (members of the public) have the impression the District is trying to back away from the original requirements for the Plant. He encouraged the Governing Board not to give up on the original intent of the agreement. Co-Chair Senft concurred with Mr. Trippensee and stated the expectations have not changed. (Track 12)

8. **Adjournment**

The day's business being complete, Co-Chair Beswick adjourned the meeting at 11:01 a.m.