

DRAFT
Minutes of the Meeting

PEACE RIVER BASIN BOARD
Southwest Florida Water Management District

Bartow, Florida

April 8, 2011

The Peace River Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a regular meeting on Friday, April 8, 2011, at 9:32 a.m. in the District's Bartow Service Office.

Board Members Present

H. Paul Senft, Jr., Co-Chair
Bryan K. Beswick, 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
Dianne Davies
Danny Kushmer

Bruce Wirth
Randy Emberg

Via Video Conference

Beth Putnam

Recording Secretary

Phyllis Young

Board Members Absent

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

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 Paul Senft 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. (Track 1)

2. **Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag**

Mr. Martin 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 February 2, 2011, Basin Board Meeting**

Approve the February minutes, as presented.

b. **Non-Exclusive Easements to Verizon Florida LLC for a Fiber Optic Communication Line and to the City of Bartow Electric Department for an Electric Transmission Line - Lake Hancock Lake Level Modification Project, SWF Parcel Nos. 20-503-242X and 20-503-245X**

Authorize conveyance of the non-exclusive utility easements for SWF Parcel Nos. 20-03-242X and 20-503-245X to Verizon Florida LLC and the City of Bartow Electric Department. (Track 2)

5. **Discussion Items:**

a. **Election of Officers and Selection of Committee Representatives**

Co-Chair Senft facilitated election of officers and selection of committee representatives. Mr. Trippensee was elected to fill the vice chair position. Board members agreed that other officers and representatives would retain their positions.

Vice Chair: Fred Trippensee

Secretary: Rufus Lazzell

Basin Board Education Committee:

Pat Crisman, primary

Fred Trippensee, alternate

Basin Board Land Resources Committee:

Mac Martin, primary

Fred Trippensee and Paul Samuels, alternates

Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program Policy Committee:

Rufus Lazzell (Track 2/0:01:21)

b. **Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 Basin Initiatives for Public (P268) and Youth (P259) Water Resources Education**

Ms. Beth Putnam, Communications Manager, presented this agenda item via video-conference from the Brooksville office. She presented a comprehensive report of programs and projects included in the Public (P268) and Youth (P259) Water Resources Education Basin Initiatives proposed for the FY2012 Basin budget. She referenced the budget section of the Board's meeting notebook and explained the cost breakdowns by program for Basin-specific and Districtwide education projects. The report included program components for each initiative, a synopsis and results of each component, and statistics on accomplishments that resulted from these initiatives. Ms. Putnam closed by emphasizing the importance of the initiatives to inform the public of water issues and to solicit participation in water conservation and protection. Board members were provided a new brochure, *Education and Outreach*, and a copy of the *Peace River Basin Board FY2010 Accomplishments*.

Co-Chair Senft inquired about local elected officials' attendance at the Polk County Water School, which the District co-funds every other year with the Polk County Cooperative Extension Service. Ms. Putnam will e-mail that information to the Board.

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

c. **Legislative Update**

Mr. Danny Kushmer, Community Affairs Program Manager, Community and Legislative Affairs (CLA) Department, provided an update of Federal budget issues and the FARM bill, State concerns, legislative proposals requested by the water management districts, and proposals by the House and Senate to address the State's significant budget deficit. He also reported that the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability will conduct two studies of the five water management districts: one on fleet operations and the other a staffing and salary analysis.

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

d. **Fiscal Year 2012 Budget Preparation**

Mr. Bruce Wirth, Deputy Executive Director, Resource Management Division, referred to Mr. Kushmer's report regarding legislative proposals and the Governor's request for the water management districts to levy no more than 75 percent of the ad valorem taxes

levied in FY2011 with the amount to be held at that level for a two-year period. Due to the uncertainty of ad valorem revenue, Mr. Wirth could not provide a refined budget during this meeting. (Track 5)

Following a review of the Basin's preliminary budget and new Cooperative Funding Initiative (CFI) projects, Mr. Wirth presented various millage rate options and associated budgetary impacts, considering direction received from the Governing Board at the March 29 meeting. He reminded Board members that questions on projects should be directed to the Project Manager, Basin Planner Dianne Davies, Ms. Kavouras, or him. (Track 6)

In closing, Mr. Wirth added that staff anticipates direction by the close of the legislative session on May 6 that will allow a refined, preliminary budget to be presented to the Basin Board during the June 3 meeting. At that time, the Board will be requested to adopt a proposed millage rate for recommendation to the Governing Board and to approve tentative selection of FY2012 CFI projects. (Track 7)

This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required.

Mr. Pat Lehman, Executive Director of the Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority, addressed the Board with regard to the possibility that the District's Basin Boards might be eliminated. He commented on the District's history of using taxpayer dollars wisely, success of the Basin Board structure, and the Authority Board's opposition to elimination or consolidation of the Basin Boards. He emphasized that those in power in Tallahassee need to be shown what the Basin Boards have been responsible for through the years and that Basin dollars have, and are, going to good use. Co-Chair Senft expressed appreciation for the Authority's support and suggested a message to Tallahassee might be more productive if sent by members of the public supply community. (Track 8)

6. **Reports:**

a. **Basin Board Education Committee (BBEC)**

Ms. Pat Crisman, the Board's primary representative on the BBEC, shared highlights of the March 3 meeting, which was held in the Tampa Service Office. A written report was provided as an exhibit in the meeting notebook. Topics included the District's Partner Spotlight, Community Education Grants, CFI proposals received by the Communications Department, and the "Florida Friendly Fertilizer" advertising campaign. Copies of the new *Florida-Friendly Landscaping Guide to Plant Selection & Landscape Design* were also provided to the Board. (Track 9)

b. **Basin Board Land Resources Committee (BBLRC)**

Mr. Mac Martin, the Board's primary representative on the BBLRC, gave a brief report of the March 15 meeting that was held jointly with Land Use Stakeholders at Polk's Nature Discovery Center in Lakeland. A written report was provided as an exhibit in the meeting notebook. Mr. Al Bellotto was recognized and presented a commemorative plaque in recognition of his achievements as a supporter of land conservation, as a pioneer in Central Florida's agricultural industry, and as an advocate for agriculture. The Committee heard a review of initiatives discussed at previous BBLRC and Land Use Stakeholders meetings, discussed surplus lands, and received a Land Acquisition Program overview. (Track 10)

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

Mr. Rufus Lazzell, the Board's representative on the CHNEP Policy Committee, commented briefly on the draft FY2012 CHNEP Work Plan that was discussed during

the March 18 Policy Committee meeting, which was held in Venice. Once again, he praised staff for supporting his efforts with the Committee. (Track 11)

At this time, Co-Chair Senft recognized Mr. Jim Hageman, former Peace River Basin Board member, who was in the audience. Mr. Hageman is Executive Director of the Cultural Center of Charlotte County where the June 3 meeting will be held.

d. **Governing Board Activities**

Board members were provided written highlights of the March 29 Governing Board meeting. In addition to the reduction in ad valorem and Basin Board issues, the co-chairs mentioned other topics of consideration during the March Governing Board session, as follow: Tampa Bay Water's operation of its desalination facility, the City of Bushnell's water use permit, acquisition of property on Lake Pretty, continued strategic planning, the Workload and Staffing Analysis, and declaration of April 2011 as Water Conservation Month. (Track 12)

Reports were provided for the Board's information; no action was required.

7. **Announcements:**

Ms. Davies reported that a Notice of Intent to do scoping for the Area-wide Mining Environmental Impact Study (AEIS) for Continued Phosphate Mining in the Central Florida Phosphate District had been announced. Co-Chair Senft encouraged interested Board members or other interested parties to provide suggestions to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on what should be included in the study. Deadline for comments is April 25. For more information and to submit comments, visit <http://www.phosphateaeis.org/>. In the future, the website will be used to post draft and final AEIS documents.

The next Basin Board meeting is Friday, June 3, 2011, 9:30 a.m. in the Cultural Center of Charlotte County, Port Charlotte. (Track 13)

8. **Adjournment**

When there was no further business to come before the Board, Co-Chair Senft thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 11:22 a.m.

Per Resolution 11-10, Basin Boards were merged into the District effective June 1, 2011. The Basin Boards did not meet again and, therefore, the April 2011 meeting minutes were not formally approved.