

Approved

Minutes of the Meeting

PEACE RIVER BASIN BOARD

Southwest Florida Water Management District

Bartow, Florida

April 9, 2010

The Peace River Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a regular meeting on Friday, April 9, 2010, at 9:32 a.m., in the District's Bartow Service Office.

Board Members Present

Ken Harrison, Vice Chair
Rufus C. Lazzell, Secretary
Pat Crisman, Member
Paul G. Samuels, Member
Fred W. Trippensee, III, Member

Board Members Absent

Bryan K. Beswick, Co-Chair
C. A. "Neil" Combee, Jr., Co-Chair
H. Paul Senft, Jr., Co-Chair

Staff Present

Lou Kavouras
Eric DeHaven
Roy Mazur
Randy Emberg
Manny Lopez
Mehrshad Nourani
Jennette Seachrist

Bruce Wirth
Mark Hammond
Anthony Andrade
Danny Kushmer
Will Miller
Beth Putnam
Chan Springstead

Via Video Conference: Linda Pilcher

Recording Secretary: Phyllis Young

A roster of other attendees is filed in the permanent files of the Basin. Compact disks of the audio and copies of 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

In the absence of the co-chairs, Vice Chair Ken Harrison welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. Ms. Phyllis Young, Senior Administrative Assistant, Boards and Executive Services, called the roll and noted a quorum was present.

2. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation

Mr. Lazzell led the pledge of allegiance to the American Flag and provided an invocation. (0:01:17)

3. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

Ms. Lou Kavouras, Deputy Executive Director, Outreach, Planning, and Board Services, reported no additions or deletions to the agenda. However, she clarified a portion of Consent Item 5.b.ii, the Bethel Farms Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems (FARMS) project. On Page 5 of 17 in the Summary Agenda, Part 1 of the staff recommendation, the "\$60,000 provided from State Appropriations" is divided: \$45,451 from the Basin Board's allocation and the remaining \$14,549 from the Governing Board's allocation from those State Appropriations. (0:02:20)

4. Basin Activities Report and Agenda Review

Mr. Chancey Springstead, Basin Planner, reminded the Board that this agenda item is part of each Basin Board meeting agenda, providing an opportunity for the Basin Planner to give an overview of relevant items on the agenda, information items, and other topics of interest.

He briefly commented on the April 10 "Get Outside!" event in DeSoto County, the update to the Regional Water Supply Plan, and cooperators who attended the meeting to provide additional information about Cooperative Funding applications. (0:03:53)

5. **Consent Items:**

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

a. **Minutes of the February 5, 2010, Meeting**

Approve the February minutes, as presented.

b. **Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems**

i. **OrangeCo, LP– Bermont Grove (H593), Charlotte County**

(1) Approve the OrangeCo, LP – Bermont Grove project for a not-to-exceed project reimbursement of \$75,000 with \$18,655 provided by the Peace River Basin Board, \$18,655 provided by the Governing Board, \$37,690 provided from State Appropriations;

(2) Authorize the transfer of \$18,655 from Fund 020 H017 Peace River Basin Board FARMS funds; \$18,655 from Fund 010 H017 Governing Board FARMS funds; \$4,041 from the State Appropriations allocated to Fund 020 H017 FARMS funds; and \$33,649 from the State Appropriations allocated to Fund 010 H017 FARMS funds, to H593, OrangeCo, LP project fund; and

(3) Authorize the Executive Director to sign the agreement.

ii. **Bethel Farms, Ltd., Phase II (H601) DeSoto County**

(1) Approve the Bethel Farms Phase II project for a not-to-exceed reimbursement of \$120,000, with \$30,000 provided by the Peace River Basin Board, \$30,000 provided by the Governing Board, and \$60,000 provided from State Appropriations;

(2) Authorize the transfer of \$30,000 from Fund 020 H017 Peace River Basin Board FARMS funds, \$30,000 from Fund 010 H017 Governing Board FARMS funds, and \$60,000 from the State Appropriations allocated to 010 H017 FARMS funds to H601 Bethel Farms Phase II project fund; and

(3) Authorize the Executive Director to sign the agreement.

iii. **Ben Hill Griffin, Inc. (H602) Polk County**

(1) Approve the Ben Hill Griffin, Inc., project for a not-to-exceed project reimbursement of \$10,000 with \$2,500 provided by the Peace River Basin Board, \$2,500 provided by the Governing Board, and \$5,000 provided from State Appropriations;

(2) Authorize the transfer of \$2,500 from Fund 020 H017 Peace River Basin Board FARMS funds, \$2,500 from Fund 010 H017 Governing Board FARMS funds, and \$5,000 from the State Appropriations allocated to Fund 010 H017 FARMS funds to H602 Ben Hill Griffin, Inc., project fund; and

(3) Authorize the Executive Director to sign the agreement.

Motion carried unanimously. (0:05:28)

6. **Discussion Items:**

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

Ms. Kavouras facilitated election of officers and selection of committee representatives; results were the following:

Vice Chair: Ken Harrison

Secretary: Rufus Lazzell

Basin Board Education Committee:

Pat Crisman, primary

Fred Trippensee, alternate

Basin Board Land Resources Committee:

Ken Harrison, primary

Fred Trippensee/Paul Samuels, alternates

Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program Policy Committee:

Rufus Lazzell (0:05:50)

b. **Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority – Water Resources/Supply Report**

Mr. Bruce Wirth, Deputy Executive Director, Resource Management, introduced Mr. Pat Lehman, Executive Director of the Authority, who spoke of the completion of the treatment facility expansion project and the new six billion gallon reservoir. Additionally, he reported excellent water quality, the availability of 12 million gallons per day of Authority “pool water” supply, diminishing water demand projections, and the changing economic climate. He commented on an interconnected regional system, water supply production and production capacity, customer demand projections, and regional supply development options/partnerships. He stressed the importance of working together to solve issues, to have open minds in exploring options that will provide a sustainable water supply that will work with the environment, will be safe, and the best economic option for consumers. (0:07:10)

Mr. Lazzell expressed appreciation to Mr. Lehman and the Authority for their work to ensure adequate, quality water supply for the area. Vice Chair Harrison reiterated those sentiments. (0:21:30)

Mr. David Gore, resident of Polk County, briefly addressed the Board regarding reuse water within the Authority system, asking what percentage of reclaimed water is not being used. Mr. Wirth responded that Authority member governments may provide reclaimed water to their customers, but the Authority does not provide reclaimed water. He added that an annual reuse report is available and will be provided to Mr. Gore.

This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required. (0:26:19)

c. **2010 Regional Water Supply Plan Update**

Mr. Roy Mazur, Director, Planning Department, began by stating that each water management district is statutorily required to initiate a District-wide water supply assessment that describes water demands and identifies potential sources of water to meet demand over a 20-year planning period. These updates are required every five years. The draft 2010 Plan has been updated and will be available for public comment this month through various means including public workshops, Basin Board meetings, Advisory Committee meetings, and the District's website (www.watermatters.org). Comments are due to the Planning Department by July 16, 2010, with the expectation that the Plan will be complete and ready for submittal to the Governing Board for approval in the November/December 2010 timeframe. Mr. Mazur briefly commented on the area covered by the Plan, the four separate volumes of the Plan that cover each of the four planning regions, and streamlining of the update process.

This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required. However, Mr. Mazur emphasized that Board members' input is appreciated. (0:29:23)

d. **Fiscal Year 2011 Budget Preparation**

Mr. Wirth began the budget discussion with comments to orient Board members on their first look at a preliminary budget for fiscal year (FY) 2011. He emphasized the importance of the Board's prioritization of Cooperative Funding proposals since the funds requested for project applications far exceed the Basin's resources. He continued by reminding Board members that first-time cooperative funding proposals, after staff review, were tentatively ranked High, Medium, or Low priority. He further stated that the budget was prepared assuming the millage rate will remain at 0.1827 mill and property valuations will decline by 11 percent, which is estimated for planning purposes. Additionally, Mr. Wirth reported that no new State dollars, i.e., Water Management Lands Trust Fund, Florida Forever (land acquisition funds), or Senate Bill 444 (Water Protection and Sustainability Trust Fund), etc., are anticipated. Any West Central Florida Water Restoration Action Plan (WRAP) monies, if allocated, will be shared among all responsible Basins. Prior year State funds are already allocated to projects.

In June, staff will provide an updated ad valorem revenue estimate to the Basin Board, based on formal June 1 estimates of property value from county property appraisers, and present a revised, proposed budget, based on the Board's input and further investigation by staff. At that meeting, the Board will be required to approve the Basin's proposed millage rate for FY2011. During the August meeting, the Basin Board will vote on a final FY2011 millage rate and budget for recommendation to the Governing Board.

Mr. Wirth spoke briefly of the Basin's contingency reserves and H100 Water Supply and Resource Development reserves, reviewed the preliminary budget, and commented on the likelihood that funding levels for many projects will need to be lowered. He reminded Board members that staff continues to assess the real needs of the cooperators, the budget process is in the beginning stages, and once again, the Board faces a challenging budget year. He also emphasized the importance of the Basin Board's water resource projects going forward. Board members input and direction, he stated, are vital to the budget process; questions or comments on projects may be directed to the Project Manager, Mr. Springstead, Ms. Kavouras, or him. (0:42:14)

Mr. Springstead continued by directing members to a table in the meeting notebook that showed current Cooperative Funding Applications by FY2011 Basin budget priority. He highlighted projects in the current budget that meet the Basin's budget priorities and encouraged members to use the chart and handouts as tools in evaluating the budget. In closing, Mr. Springstead added that the Basin planners will review each Basin's budget priorities during the August Basin Board meetings, and adjustments will be made, as necessary.

In response to requests from Board members, the following cooperators addressed the Board to present their project(s) and respond to questions: (1:19:09)

- Mr. Duke Clem, Water Policy Manager for Polk County Natural Resources Division: Project N024, Northwest Regional Utilities Service Area (NWRUSA) Reclaimed Water Storage and Pumping Station (1:27:04)
- Mr. Mike Britt, Natural Resources Division Director, City of Winter Haven: (1) Project N075, the City's Northern Reuse Service Area Reclaimed Main Extension and (2) Project N286, Winter Haven Reclaimed Water Recharge Feasibility Study (1:30:03)
- Mr. Tom Moran, Public Works Director, City of Lake Wales: Project N240, Lake Wales Best Management Practice Implementation (1:32:58)
- Ms. Valerie Wade, Assistant to the City Manager and City Clerk, City of Lake Alfred: Project N282, Lake Alfred Watershed Management Plan (1:35:50)

- Ms. Denna Ware, Assistant to the City Manager, City of Fort Meade: Project N282, Lake Alfred Watershed Management Plan (1:37:21)
- Mr. Curtis Porterfield, Lakes Biologist, Polk County: Project N307, Inwood Water Quality Stormwater Retrofit (1:41:55)
- Ms. Corinne Burgess, Natural Resource Specialist, Highlands County: Project N329, Mobile Irrigation Lab for Highlands County Soil and Water Conservation District (1:51:55)
- Mr. Julian DeLeon, Director of Public Works, City of Avon Park: Project N331, Lake Tulane BMP Implementation (1:55:58)
- Ms. Hillary Swain, Executive Director, Archbold Biological Station, accompanied by Highlands County Commissioner Barbara Stewart and Highlands County School Board Member Andy Tuck: Project N272, Environmental Education Center on Lake Wales Ridge (1:57:41)

Additionally, Mr. Bernard Milosky, Charlotte County Utilities, thanked the Board for its support and requested favorable consideration for Phase 3 of the County's N328 Toilet Replacement Project (2:14:39)

Again, Mr. David Gore addressed the Board regarding water management/regulation and aquifer recharge. He provided members a handout that explained his views. (2:16:42)

During this presentation, discussion ensued on topics including the Dundee Reclaimed Water Use System, Tampa Electric's Regional Reclaimed Water Partnership Initiative, the Punta Gorda reservoir, and nutrient standards.

This item was presented to aid Board members in providing direction to staff on developing the Basin's tentative FY2011 budget; no action was required.

7. **Reports:**

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

Mr. Lazzell, the Basin's representative on the CHNEP Policy Committee, began by praising the support staff continues to provide to educate him on the issues and attend the CHNEP meetings to guide and assist him. He specifically recognized Ms. Jennette Seachrist, Surface Water Improvement and Management Program Manager, who was in the audience. He then gave a brief report of the February 19 CHNEP meeting, speaking of the make-up of the CHNEP Citizen's Advisory Committee and the importance of the entire scope of CHNEP issues.

Mr. Wirth interjected that staff appreciates Mr. Lazzell's efforts with regard to the CHNEP. (2:23:15)

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

Ms. Crisman, primary representative on the BBEC, directed members to a written report of the March 3 meeting, which was included as an exhibit in the meeting notebook. She briefly spoke of the February 27 "Get Outside" community event at the Hampton Tract, which is part of the larger Green Swamp Wilderness Preserve. Although the weather was inclement, attendance was good. (2:29:51)

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

Mr. Trippensee, primary BBLRC representative, reported that the March 16 meeting was the first of a series of joint meetings of the BBLRC and Land Use Stakeholders that will

be held for one year in an effort to expand the feedback process, allow sharing of information on competing environmental and private interests, keep citizens involved, encourage utilization of District facilities, and obtain more public input.

A written summary of the March 16 meeting was included as an exhibit in the meeting notebook. The next BBLRC meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 14, 2010, in the Lecanto Government Center. (2:30: 26)

d. **Governing Board Activities**

Ms. Kavouras advised Board members of Mr. Todd Pressman's recent reappointment to the Governing Board and Mr. Jeffrey Adams' appointment to take Ms. Sallie Parks' seat on Governing Board.

She further reported that the primary topic of the March Governing Board meeting was the January 2010 frost/freeze event and how to handle such events in the future. (2:31:08)

These reports were presented for the Board's information; no action was required.

9. **Announcements**

Ms. Kavouras brought attention to announcements listed on the agenda and reminded members of upcoming "Get Outside!" events.

10. **Adjournment**

When there was no further business to come before the Board, Vice Chair Harrison adjourned the meeting at 12:10 p.m.