

APPROVED
Minutes of the Meeting

Withlacoochee River Basin Board
Southwest Florida Water Management District

Brooksville, Florida February 14, 2008

The Withlacoochee River Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a regular meeting February 14, 2008, at 9:00 a.m., at District Headquarters.

Board Members Present

Ronald Oakley, Chair Ex Officio
Seeth Trimpert, Vice Chair
Janey Baldwin, Secretary
Jack Dennis, Member
Patsy Nathe, Member
Albert Rooks, Member

Staff Present

Lou Kavouras
Bruce Wirth
Daryl Pokrana
Linda Pilcher
Eric Sutton

Beth Putnam
Miki Renner
Kathy Scott
Jimmy Brooks
Doug Sanders

Board Member Absent

Paul Mazak, Member

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 discs 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**

Chair Oakley called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Ms. Zielinski noted a quorum was present.

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

Chair Oakley led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

3. **Additions and Deletions to the Agenda**

Ms. Kavouras said there were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

4. **Consent Item:**

a. **December 13, 2007, Meeting Minutes**

Staff recommended approval of the December meeting minutes, as presented.

Following consideration, **Ms. Nathe moved, seconded by Ms. Baldwin, to approve Consent Item 4 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.** (CD1/Track 1 -00:00/02:01)

5. **Discussion Items:**

a. **Tampa Bay Regional Reclaimed Water Project**

Mr. Bruce Wirth, Deputy Executive Director, Resource Management Division, provided the Basin Board with an update on the Tampa Bay Regional Reclaimed Water Project (TBRRP) and the City of Tampa's plans to postpone moving forward on the project and instead focus on expanding the South Tampa Area Reuse Project (STAR). Based on the current position of the City and in light of Hillsborough County focusing its financial resources on a public/private partnership to bring its south county reuse to Tampa Electric Company in Polk County, the Regional Project is being postponed. The preliminary STAR Project Evaluation completed by consultants for the City in July 2007, is based on a conceptual plan and estimates the project will cost approximately \$40 million and take about eight years to construct. Supplying customers in the north Tampa part of its service area, consistent with original configuration of the Regional Project, is

something the City may consider in the future; however, the City has made clear it will devote its financial resources to the STAR project expansion first.

The Regional Project has been budgeted over several years by the six Basin Boards within the Tampa Bay Water service area based on population served by the project benefits. The rationale was that the project, served centrally by the Howard F. Curren Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant (HFC Plant), was expected to significantly contribute to meeting water supply needs of TBW member governments and others in the Tampa Bay area over the next 20 years. The project was estimated to cost \$213 million when originally proposed to the Basin Boards and the Governing Board. Since then, while no funds were budgeted in Fiscal Year (FY) 2008, the District's Long-Range Financial Plan was adjusted to reflect the latest estimate of \$223 million. Approximately \$37 million has been budgeted for the Regional Project to date, of which \$7 million has been expended for planning, design and construction of various parts of the project. Most notable has been the construction of Pasco County's reuse reservoir which will provide benefits regardless of whether HFC reuse is provided or not. During the FY2009 budget cycle, staff will present recommendations to the Basin Board for using the funds now available from the Regional Project for other projects.

This item was presented for the Board's information only; no action was required. (CD1/Track 2 - 00:00/24:36)

b. **State Board of Administration Local Government Investment Pool (SBA LGIP) Status**

Mr. Daryl F. Pokrana, Director, Finance Department, said he would provide an update and answer questions Board members might have regarding the Local Government Investment Pool, which was the topic of the January 22, 2008 letter written to all Basin Board members by Governing Board Treasurer Jennifer Closshey. Mr. Pokrana provided a brief summary of how the investment pool relates to the Withlacoochee River Basin Board. He said the Withlacoochee River Basin Board has \$5.7 million invested in the SBA LGIP; \$4.9 million of those funds are invested in Fund A which is considered less risky than Fund B. The Withlacoochee River Basin Board has \$800,000 in Fund B; \$320,000 was considered impaired but collectible. Mr. Pokrana said by June 2008, 80 percent of these funds will have matured and the District will be able to calculate any losses at that point. To minimize losses, the District has been liquidating funds as money has been becoming available from the SBA LGIP and reinvesting.

This item was presented for the Board's information only; no action was required. (CD 1/Track 3 – 00:00/07:07)

c. **Budget Update in View of the January 29 Special Election**

Ms. Linda Pilcher, Assistant Director, Finance Department, provided the Board with an update regarding the results of the Property Tax Exemption Amendment and its projected effect upon the Basin's budget. Ms. Pilcher reviewed the Amendment Provisions, the Assumptions and Variables, and the Basin's Preliminary FY2009 Ad Valorem Revenue Projection. For planning purposes, it is estimated that the FY2009 ad valorem revenue will be reduced five percent from the FY2008 rate. The final ad valorem values will not be known until July. Staff will be back in April to update the Board with any new developments.

Ms. Kavouras reminded Board members that July 24, 2008 has been added on the schedule of the Board meeting dates. As it stands now, Basin Board meetings are scheduled for three consecutive months: June, July, and August.

This item was presented for the Board's information only; no action was required.
(CD 1/Track 4 – 00:00/09:06)

d. **FY2009 Cooperative Funding Requests**

Mr. Doug Sanders, Staff Planner, Planning Department, provided an overview of the Cooperative Funding Initiative (CFI) and applications received for the FY2009 budget year. He reviewed the FY2009 Cooperative Funding procedure and directed the Board to the original applications, which were received in December and provided behind the *FY2009 CFI Applications* tab in the meeting notebook. Mr. Sanders also provided a brief overview of the Basin's project submittals and reviewed the District's project ranking process in light of recent changes to Governing Board CFI policy. Staff will return to the April meeting with 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. Final approval will occur in July or August, depending on the Governor's timeframe for submittal of the Governing and Basin Boards' budgets to Tallahassee.

The Board was encouraged to review the FY2009 project applications and be prepared to provide input at the April 7 Basin Board meeting.

This item was presented for the Board's information only; no action was required.
(CD 1/Track 5 – 00:00/05:26)

6. **Reports:**

a. **Report on Governing Board Activities**

At Chair Oakley's request, staff played the pre-recorded highlights of the January 29, 2008 Governing Board meeting. Ms. Robyn Hanke, Communications Manager, Communications Department, narrated the brief video, which included recent agreements regarding the Weeki Wachee lease, Marion County water restrictions, and restoration of Sawgrass Park in southern Pinellas County.

7. **Announcements:**

Ms. Kavouras said the Joint Governing and Basin Boards Workshop will be held Friday, February 22, 2008, at Nature's Classroom, in Thonotosassa. The Governing and Basin Boards will have lunch together beginning at noon. At 1 p.m., the Joint Governing and Basin Boards Workshop will convene. Tours of Nature's Classroom facility will begin at 10:30 a.m. for Basin Board members who wish to participate.

In addition to directing the Board's attention to announcements listed in the agenda, Ms. Kavouras said staff is moving forward with four community education grants for the Withlacoochee River Basin totaling just over \$11,000.

8. **Adjournment**

The day's business being complete, Chair Oakley adjourned the meeting at 10:00 a.m. (CD 1/Track 5 – 05:26/18:28)

★ ★ ★ 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. **2008 Community Education Grants in the Withlacoochee River Basin**
2. **Gum Swamp Watershed Management Plan (L954) – Execution Notice**
3. **Hernando County Maintenance of Watershed Parameters and Models (B206) - Execution Notice**
4. **Hernando County Reuse Feasibility/Reclaimed Water Master Plan (L959) - Execution Notice**
5. **Hernando County Ridge Manor/Hickory Hills Reclaimed Water Transmission Main (L960) - Execution Notice**
6. **Water Supply Flow Monitoring Project (H057) - Execution Notice**
7. **West Ocala Watershed Management Plan (L955) – Execution Notice**
8. **Withlacoochee River Watershed Initiative (H066)**

Attest:

Chairman