

APPROVED
Minutes of the Meeting

Withlacoochee River Basin Board
Southwest Florida Water Management District

Brooksville, Florida

February 23, 2007

The Withlacoochee River Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a regular meeting February 23, 2007, at 9:00 a.m., at District Headquarters.

Board Members Present

Jerry Rice, Chair Ex Officio
Seeth Trimpert, Vice Chair
Janey Baldwin, Secretary
Jack Dennis, Member
Paul Mazak, Member
Patsy Nathe, Member
Bo Rooks, Member

Board Members Absent

None

Staff Present

Lou Kavouras
Bruce Wirth
Gregg Jones
Brian Armstrong
Beth Putnam
Miki Renner
Doug Sanders
Ken Weber
Lois Sorensen

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 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**

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

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

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

3. **Additions/Deletions to Agenda**

Ms. Lou Kavouras, Deputy Executive Director, stated there were no additions or deletions to today's agenda. She brought to the Board's attention a handout regarding the Withlacoochee River Watershed Initiative Project Work Plan Timeline which was accidentally omitted from the packet.

4. **Consent Items**

a. **December 14, 2006, Meeting Minutes**

Staff recommended approval of the December 14, 2006, meeting and workshop minutes. Ms. Trimpert asked that the portion, of the minutes, regarding the blueberry farm tour, be expanded to more accurately capture Mr. Doug Sanders' substantial role in setting up the tour.

b. **Approval of Amendment to the Construction Agreement with Subaqueous Services, Inc. for the Lake Panasoffkee Restoration Project**

Staff recommended approval of amending the agreement with Subaqueous Services, Inc. to increase the contract amount by \$20,763 to compensate the contractor for fuel surcharge costs imposed by Sumter Electric Cooperative through April 30, 2006.

Following consideration, **Ms. Trimpert moved, seconded by Ms. Nathe, to approve the Consent Items as presented. Motion carried unanimously.** (CD1/Track 1 – 00:00/03:24)

5. **Discussion Items**

a. **Blueberry Production**

Dr. Jeffrey Williamson, Professor, Horticultural Sciences Department, University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, provided an overview of blueberry production in Florida. Florida blueberry production was ranked fourth in the United States in crop value (\$32,760,000) in the year 2006. He explained the pine-bark blueberry growing system designed for Florida soils. There are over 3,000 acres in production; yielding over six million pounds of blueberries in the state. The average berry price for the last seven years has varied from \$4.00 to \$5.00+ per pound. Blueberry production is one of the few agricultural commodities that can compete with increasing land values and development. Dr. Williamson also discussed fertilization and container methodologies.

This item was presented for the Basin Board's information only, no action was required. (CD1/Track 2 – 00:00/26:01)

b. **Citrus County Brentwood Reclaimed Water Transmission Project (L768)**

Mr. Gregg Jones, Director, Resource Conservation and Development, said this item was to request the Basin Board approve a change in the scope of work for one project, and to inform the Basin Board that a related project is no longer needed and will be cancelled. As originally proposed, this project was for the design, permitting, and construction of 7,900 linear feet of 16-inch and 18,500 linear feet of 24-inch reclaimed water transmission main to interconnect the Brentwood Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) with the Meadowcrest WWTP to facilitate proposed service to Black Diamond Ranch (Water Use Permit #8785). The project also included design and construction of a three million gallon ground storage tank, engineering services, a pump station, instrumentation, and related appurtenances sufficient to allow bidirectional flow management between the Brentwood and Meadowcrest facilities. Citrus County has reevaluated its needs and has determined that a reclaimed water storage tank is not needed at the Brentwood WWTP. An existing reclaimed water storage pond at Black Diamond was constructed with adequate capacity to handle any variances, thereby negating the need for ground storage tanks at the two WWTPs. Additionally, the County would like to change the scope of work to reduce the length of 24-inch pipeline and increase the length of 16-inch pipeline from what was originally proposed. Thus, a related project to construct a ground storage tank at the Meadowcrest WWTP (L766) will be withdrawn and \$186,757 returned to the Basin budget.

An agreement has not yet been executed because a draft agreement was undergoing the District's review process when Citrus County requested the change in scope. Due to the uncertainty of construction costs, the County did not request a reduction in the project's budget. When bids are received, any excessive funding will be liquidated back to the Basin Board's general fund.

Staff recommended the Withlacoochee River Basin Board approve a change in the project's scope of work to eliminate design and construction of the three million gallon ground storage tank.

Ms. Trimpert asked if it was Citrus County's intent to reduce the cost factor in this project by \$186,757 and keep the money for cost overruns. Mr. Jones said that was correct. Ms. Trimpert said she would prefer the County to come back and go through the same process as anyone else and request funds for cost overruns. She said she was uncomfortable letting the County keep the money. Mr. Jones pointed out that the County could not simply keep the money; once the bids came in, and money was

leftover, it would have to be returned. Mr. Dennis and Ms. Baldwin concurred with Ms. Trimpert's point of view.

Ms. Trimpert moved, seconded by Mr. Dennis, to reduce the funding by \$186,757 for the Meadowcrest Waste Water Treatment Plant (L766), due to their withdrawal of the storage tank, and leave the possibility open for Citrus County to come back if they have increased costs at a future date.

Ms. Trimpert amended her motion to put the \$186,757 into contingency reserves, in the event Citrus County does come back to the Board with cost overruns. Mr. Dennis, as the second, accepted the amendment.

Mr. Rooks said he does not think the long-term goal of this project has changed in any way, only the storage method has changed.

Following consideration, the amended motion carried; Mr. Rooks voted in opposition. (CD1/Track 4 – 00:00/17:21)

c. **Marion County Water Resource Assessment and Management Study (WRAMS)**

Mr. Troy Kuphal, Water Resources Manager, Marion County Planning Department, provided an update to the Marion County 50-Year Water Study. He said this was a three-year project initiated in 2004, supported by a three-way partnership with SWFWMD/Withlacoochee Basin Board, SJRWMD, and Marion County Board of County Commissioners. The study's goal was to identify long-term water needs and how to meet them, while protecting the natural environment. The final report is expected to be complete in April 2007.

The study found that the distribution of new growth, driven mostly by large, vested development, is very widespread, presenting significant water management challenges. Marion County relies heavily on groundwater. Over the next 50 years water demands will exceed 200 million gallons per day and would require over 175 (million gallons daily) mgd of groundwater, which is a 130 percent increase. Based on groundwater modeling, future withdrawals would cause a small but very widespread drop in aquifer levels. To meet demands beyond 2025, Marion County will need to diversify to include groundwater, conservation, reuse and surface water.

The study included several action recommendations: the development and implementation of aggressive conservation and reclaimed water programs; initiate steps necessary for development of surface water; and update the comprehensive plan, land development codes, future population, and water demand projections. Board members commended Mr. Kuphal for his work. (CD1/Track 3 – 00:00/35:39)

d. **2006 Regional Water Supply Plan**

Mr. Gregg Jones, Director, Resource Conservation and Development, provided an overview of the approved 2006 Regional Water Supply Plan (RWSP). The RWSP is an assessment of projected water demands for all use sectors and potential sources of water to meet those demands over a 20-year planning period within the area required by the RWSP. Legislation passed in 1997 requires the water management districts to complete a RWSP for areas with water supply shortfalls and to update it every five years. The 2006 RWSP is the result of technical investigation, and collaboration with local governments, water suppliers and other stakeholders.

The 2006 RWSP addresses the water supply needs for a ten-county area (the Planning Region) that extends from Pasco County in the north to Charlotte County in the south. A RWSP is required in this area because stresses to the hydrologic system resulting from

groundwater withdrawals, require that future water supply demands be met largely by alternative sources (sources other than fresh ground water).

This presentation showed that the Withlacoochee River Basin is well positioned to generate its share of the funding for the development of currently identified projects and costs that will help meet water supply demand in the Basin through 2025.

This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required. (CD1/Track 5 – 00:00/09:36)

e. **Proposed Northern District Water Use Management Strategies**

Mr. Ken Weber, Water Use Program Director, Regulation Performance Management presented the Basin Board with water resource protection strategies proposed for the six northern District counties; Levy, Marion, Sumter, Citrus, Hernando and Lake. The six counties that make up the northern portion of the District have historically been rural counties with relatively low demand for water, especially as compared to the southern ten counties in the District. Over the past several years, the region has experienced significant growth. These are areas where the rate of growth has accelerated beyond what was previously anticipated to occur and where the pattern of development has resulted in substantial water demands. The anticipated impacts of meeting these future demands with ground water are sufficient to cause concern over the potential effects to environmental features. At its January 30, 2007 meeting, the Governing Board set a series of recommendations in motion that are intended to prevent harm to the resources from occurring.

Mr. Weber reviewed the recommendations the Governing Board approved: (1) authorize the hosting of a water conservation summit in partnership with the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) targeting Citrus, Hernando, Lake, Levy, Marion and Sumter counties; (2) initiate rulemaking to expand the Southern Water Use Caution Area per capita requirements Districtwide; (3) authorize staff to initiate a public process to receive input as to whether to declare all or portions of Marion and Sumter counties a Water Use Caution Area (WUCA). The public process would be conducted in partnership with the SJRWMD, and staff would receive input from the Withlacoochee River Basin Board and representatives of appropriate District advisory committees. Staff would return to the Governing Board no later than the April meeting with a recommendation relative to declaring a Water Use Caution Area; (4) authorize staff to initiate a public process to receive input as to whether to expand the Northern Tampa Bay Water Use Caution Area into those portions of Pasco and northern Hillsborough counties not currently in the Northern Tampa Bay Water Use Caution Area. As part of the public process, staff would receive input from the Coastal Rivers, the Hillsborough River and Withlacoochee River Basin Boards and representatives of appropriate District advisory committees. Staff would return to the Governing Board no later than the April meeting with a recommendation relative to expanding the Water Use Caution Area; and (5) authorize staff to initiate a public process to receive input as to whether to declare all or portions of Citrus and Hernando counties a WUCA. As part of the public process, staff would receive input from the Coastal Rivers and Withlacoochee River Basin Boards and representatives of appropriate District advisory committees. Staff would return to the Governing Board no later than the July meeting with a recommendation relative to declaring a Water Use Caution Area.

The upcoming Water Conservation Summit to be held March 23, 2007, in Ocala was discussed as an excellent opportunity to expand discussions on the Northern District Strategies topic. Ms. Kavouras provided some details and told Basin Board members who are interested in attending to let staff know.

After Mr. Weber's presentation Board members shared their thoughts and questions with him. Mr. Mazak said he thought the Sumter southern boundary was too far south; he said there is much more water use in the northern part of Sumter County. Ms. Nathe said she has some of the same concerns for northeast Pasco County, which according to the county's revised Comprehensive Plan, is marked as a rural, low development area. Ms. Nathe said she does not want the agricultural users to be unduly restricted. Ms. Trimper said she, too, was concerned about agriculturalists. She thinks more regulations should be placed on local governments and developers to ensure a lessening of impacts from residential communities. Ms. Baldwin said she feels that a WUCA in Hernando County would be premature. She said the residents of Hernando County need to be educated before accepting a WUCA. Mr. Rooks thought local governments could do more to help reduce water use, such as intense conservation programs, implementing restrictions locally before going to a WUCA. Mr. Rooks said he thought agricultural users were easier to regulate, therefore the most impacted by regulators. Chair Rice pointed out that the Basin Board needs a full understanding of what a WUCA is and the process to get there. Ms. Kavouras said staff will be spending time with the Basin members to help them get a better understanding of the WUCA process and to keep in mind these are preventive steps in the decision making process.

This item was for the Basin Board's information and discussion, and no action was required. (CD1/Track 6 – 00:00/47:31)

f. **Approval of Agreement and Transfer of Funds for Tampa Bay Water's System Configuration II Project (H065)**

Mr. Jones presented the System Configuration II Project; first, he reminded the Board members why it was important to support this Tampa Bay Water project. He continued explaining that many of the elements that would have been necessary for downstream augmentation would also be necessary for the System Configuration II Project. He reviewed the project configuration and benefits and provided an in-depth report of funding elements including funds already budgeted for the original Reclaimed Water and Downstream Augmentation Project, potential State and federal grants, and funding to be requested.

Tampa Bay Water has determined that necessary regional potable water supply needs to meet the 2011 projected demands will exceed their existing permitted water supply system. In order to meet these additional demands, Tampa Bay Water has decided to move forward with the System Configuration II project. As presented in previous Basin discussion items and past budget development cycles on the "Tampa Bay Regional Reclaimed Water Project (H300-H310)," Tampa Bay Water originally proposed to meet the 2011 supply needs through the downstream augmentation component of the TBRRAP project. The downstream augmentation component was eliminated from the project based on permitting difficulties and results from the District's Minimum Flow and Level (MFL) work on the lower Hillsborough River and Tampa Bypass Canal. However, many of the elements that would have been necessary for downstream augmentation, such as expansion of the surface water treatment plant and Tampa Bypass Canal intakes, will also be necessary for the System Configuration II project.

Development of the System Configuration II Project will provide the pumpage, transmission, and treatment capacity to produce an additional 25 mgd of alternative sources to the regional system that will enable future demands to be met using non-groundwater sources. This will ensure that recovery of natural systems impacted by groundwater withdrawals in the region can be achieved.

Staff recommended that Basin Board: (1) recommend the Governing Board approve the agreement with Tampa Bay Water to construct the System Configuration II Project for a total amount of \$232,000,000, with the District's share not to exceed \$116,000,000, and the Withlacoochee River Basin's share not to exceed \$526,232; (2) approve the transfer of \$62,682 of Basin funds previously budgeted for the Tampa Bay Regional Reclaimed Water and Downstream Augmentation Project to the System Configuration II Project; (3) approve the transfer of \$75,000 of Water Protection and Sustainability Program trust funds previously budgeted for the Tampa Bay Regional Reclaimed Water and Downstream Augmentation Project to the System Configuration II Project subject to adoption of a future resolution by the Governing Board; and (4) recommend the Governing Board authorize the Executive Director to execute the agreement.

Following consideration, **Ms. Baldwin moved, seconded by Mr. Dennis, to approve the staff recommendation. Motion carried; Ms. Trimpert voted in opposition.** (CD1/Track 7 – 00:00/27:09)

g. **FY2008 Cooperative Funding Requests**

Mr. Doug Sanders, Planning Department, presented this item to remind the Board of the Cooperative Funding process. Mr. Sanders reviewed the FY2008 Cooperative Funding procedure and directed the Board to copies of the original applications received in December 2006, which were included behind the FY2008 Projects tab in the meeting notebook. He provided a brief overview of project submittals received and reviewed the District's project ranking process. Staff will return in April with initial project rankings and funding recommendations for the Board's consideration. The preliminary budget would be presented and the millage cap set at the June Basin Board meeting for final approval in August.

Board members were encouraged to review the FY2008 project submittals and provide input at the April meeting. This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required. (CD1/Track 8 – 00:00/04:50)

6. **Reports:**

a. **Water Shortage Update**

Due to hydrologic conditions that had generally been below normal in the 16 counties served by the District and those conditions had improved only slightly as a result of December rain, Demand Management Coordinator Lois Sorensen reported that Executive Director David Moore signed Order SWF 07-02 to put Severe Water Shortage restrictions into effect. Before the Order was signed, a public hearing was held on January 9, 2007, so the Executive Director could receive testimony from staff and the general public regarding conditions and resulting impacts. At that time, the Executive Director determined that District action was necessary and all water users should be required to conserve water consistent with the modified "Phase II" restrictions recommended by staff. A copy of the Order, which included a summary of the new restrictions, was provided in the notebook as an exhibit to this report. The three current television spots, dealing with water conservation, were viewed by Basin Board members.

This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required. (CD1/Track 9 – 00:00/14:09)

b. **Report on Governing Board Activities**

Staff showed pre-recorded highlights of the January 30, 2007, Governing Board meeting, which Ms. Kavouras narrated. The brief recap of meeting topics included the Water Shortage Order, conservation ads, water management strategies, a Water

Conservation Summit to be held in March, and minimum flows and levels. This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required.

7. **Announcements**

Ms. Kavouras directed Board members to the announcements listed on the agenda. No other announcements were made.

8. **Adjournment**

Since there was no further business to come before the Board, Chair Rice adjourned the meeting at 12:25 p.m. (CD1/Track 9 – 14:09/22:09)

★ ★ ★ 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. Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) Data Dissemination and Education (B136) – Execution Notice
2. Pasco County Southeast Regional Reclaimed Water Loop (H041) - Execution Notice
3. Marion County Springs Protection Program (W425) - Execution Notice
4. Watershed Management Program – Maintenance of Watershed Parameters and Models (B206) – Execution Notice
5. Withlacoochee River Watershed Initiative (B037)

Attest:

Chairman