

APPROVED
Minutes of the Meeting

Withlacoochee River Basin Board
Southwest Florida Water Management District

Brooksville, Florida

April 12, 2007

The Withlacoochee River Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a regular meeting April 12, 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
Patsy Nathe, Member
Bo Rooks, Member

Staff Present

Lou Kavouras
Bruce Wirth
Gregg Jones
Mike Holtkamp
Mark Hammond
Eric Sutton
Kathy Scott

Brian Armstrong
Beth Putnam
Ken Weber
Miki Renner
Will Miller
Jimmy Brooks
Jay Yingling
Stephanie Dunham
Cathy Linsbeck

Board Members 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 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. **Oath of Office for Appointed/Re-Appointed Board Members**

This item was deleted.

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

Ms. Lou Kavouras, Deputy Executive Director, said Governor Crist has not made any announcements regarding appointments or re-appointments, therefore, Item 3 Oath of Office for Appointed/Re-Appointed Board Members, was deleted from today's agenda. (CD1/Track 1 – 00:00/201:39)

5. **Consent Items**

a. **February 23, 2007, Meeting Minutes**

Staff recommended approval of the February 23, 2007, meeting minutes.

b. **Utility Easement to Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative, Green Swamp West, SWF Parcel No. 19-706-118X**

Recommend Governing Board approval of a power line easement to the Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative for the Future Farmers of America cattle project at Green Swamp West.

Following consideration, **Mr. Dennis moved, seconded by Ms. Nathe, to approve the Consent Items as presented. Motion carried unanimously.** (CD1/Track 2 – 00:00/00:29)

6. Discussion Items

a. Election of Officers and Committee Representatives

This item was deferred until the June meeting. (CD1/Track 2 – 00:29/01:14)

b. Proposed Northern District Water Management Strategies

Due to significant growth, which has resulted in substantial water demands, the Governing Board has set a series of recommendations to prevent harm to the resources in the six counties that make up the northern portion of the District. Ken Weber, Water Use Program Director in the Regulation Performance Management Department, presented an update on water resource protection strategies proposed for those six northern counties: Levy, Marion, Sumter, Citrus, Hernando, and Lake. Mr. Weber showed a table of demand projections by category for the six counties, reported on water resource conditions in that area, and explained the five elements of Governing Board approved strategies intended to prevent harm to the resources in those counties. His presentation included explanation of what a Water Use Caution Area (WUCA) is, per capita requirements and rates, whether to declare all or portions of Citrus and Hernando counties a WUCA, and processes to receive input on these issues.

Discussion ensued on topics including: timing, rulemaking, policy making process, per capita water use, public meetings, a suggestion to hold a Governing/Basin Board workshop on this issue, and the need to become better educated on this subject.

Ms. Baldwin asked for a legal opinion regarding the vested rights of property owners in areas being considered for a WUCA.

After consideration, **Ms. Baldwin moved, seconded by Ms. Nathe, to recommend the Governing Board take no action at its April meeting to declare any portion of the northern district a Water Use Caution Area, at this time, and recommend the Governing Board consider non-regulatory strategies to address the concerns of the area and allow adequate time to solicit input from local governments and the public. Motion carried unanimously.**

Ms. Nathe moved, seconded by Ms. Baldwin, to recommend the Governing Board take no action at its April meeting to expand the Northern Tampa Bay Water Use Caution Area, at this time, and recommend the Governing Board consider non-regulatory strategies to address the concerns of the area and allow adequate time to solicit input from local governments and the public. Motion carried unanimously. (CD1/Track 3 – 00:00/77:59)

c. Factors Influencing Per Capita Water Use

Mr. Jay Yingling, Senior Economist, Planning Department, said at the February Basin Board meeting, information was presented during the Northern District Strategies presentation showing the differences in per capita water use rates across the District. As a follow-up to the ensuing discussion, Mr. Yingling presented additional information on this subject, including the results of an in-depth statistical analysis of utility gross per capita daily (gpcd) water demand across the District and the factors that have the greatest impact on gross per capita water use.

The District has used a 150 gpcd use standard in Water Use Caution Areas to assist in managing public supply water use since the early 1990s. In addition, utilities in the Water Use Caution Areas with permitted quantities greater than or equal to 100,000 gallons per day were required to report their per capita water use annually. The intent was to revise this per capita rate over time as we learned more from reported per capita rates. It became clear over time that there is significant variability in per capita water use both among utilities and over time for any given utility.

Part of the variability in per capita water use rates is due to inconsistency in the estimation methodologies used to calculate the population served by the utility. Recent SWUCA rule revisions address this issue by requiring that a standardized methodology be used to calculate and report service area population served to be used in the per capita calculation. It was envisioned that following SWUCA, we would look toward extending these revisions District-wide. However, there are other factors that cause variance in per capita water use, not all of which are under the direct control of the utility.

Since the inception of the Water Use Caution Areas, it has often been asked if there is a need for, and the ability to implement, regional or other customized per capita standards other than the existing 150 gpcd standard. The implementation of per capita water use standards and related requirements in the remaining portions of the District has been discussed for some time as has been the appropriateness of the 150 gpcd standard. To assist our decision making process, the District engaged the services of Hazen and Sawyer to conduct a statistical analysis of variance in per capita water use. This research sheds light on the relative importance of the many factors that impact per capita water use.

Based on data collected for 45 utilities from 1998 to 2002 the values for gpcd ranged from 49 to 657 gallons per person per day with a population weighted average of 121 gallons per person per day. The eight most important determinants of gross per capita use, in descending order of importance were found to be:

- The single-family residential water and sewer bill (less fixed charges) at 12,000 gallons per month. The higher the bill, the lower the gross per capita water use.
- The median lot size for single-family residential and mobile homes times the calculated net irrigation requirement (the sum of daily evapotranspiration minus effective rainfall minus soil moisture balance for the utility and year in question). The larger the median lot size, the larger the gross per capita water use.
- The proportion of the dwelling units served by the utility that is single-family. The higher the proportion, the greater the gross per capita water use.
- The percentage of gross utility water use that is residential. The higher the percentage water use that is residential, the lower the gross per capita water use.
- The average household income in the service area in 2000. The higher the average household income, the higher the gross per capita water use.
- The ratio of shallow irrigation wells in the service area to dwelling units served by the utility. The higher the ratio of wells to dwelling units, the lower the gross per capita water use.
- The proportion of utility customers with access to reclaimed water. The higher the proportion, the lower the gross per capita water use.
- The median age of housing units in the service area in 2005. The higher the median age, the lower the gross per capita water use.

This item was presented for the Basin Board's information and discussion; no action was required. (CD1/Track 4 – 00:00/43:28)

d. **Western Terminus Cross Florida Greenway (B124)**

Ms. Stephanie Dunham, Professional Engineer, Resource Management Department, said the purpose of this item was to provide an update on the status of the Western Terminus Cross Florida Greenway project and an overview of the preliminary findings. Staff anticipates distributing the draft report at the end of April for review and comments and returning to the Board at its June 14, 2007 meeting to present the final report and recommendations for Board action. The report will be distributed to Western Terminus area stakeholders including the Florida Department of Transportation, Department of Environmental Protection Office of Greenways and Trails, United States Coast Guard, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and United State Army Corp of Engineers.

Board members discussed the importance of getting the minimum flows and levels set for the project as a whole; the upper and middle Withlacoochee River will be set in 2009 and the lower Withlacoochee River will be established in 2011. The consultant is completing the work on the sustained flow down the river given the special and temporal considerations. Ms. Dunham said the estimated project cost is \$14,607,000.

This item was presented for the Basin Board's information and discussion; no action was required. (CD1/Track 5 – 00:00/28:36)

e. **Fiscal Year 2008 Budget Preparation**

Mr. Bruce C. Wirth, Deputy Executive Director, Division of Resource Management and Development, said the Withlacoochee River Basin Board will review for the first time a preliminary budget for the upcoming year. He reviewed the budget for discussion and initial direction from the Basin Board concerning funding levels of the various budget categories, including prioritization of Cooperative Funding proposals and other Basin projects. The preliminary budget assumes the millage rate will remain the same as FY2007 (0.265) and that property values will increase by 8 percent (per preliminary projections from the Office of Economic & Demographic Research, the Florida Legislature) resulting in additional ad valorem revenue available to the Basin Boards. Please note, the Legislature is currently considering legislation that could impact the ad valorem revenue collected by the water management districts, and change the fiscal year of the water management districts. This legislation, if passed, would have a material impact on the FY2008 budget and the budget development process.

Chair Rice heard public comment on this item at this time.

Mr. Peter Hubbell, Water Resource Associates, addressed the Withlacoochee River Basin Board regarding the Hickory Hill Development and Sierra Properties. Mr. Hubbell indicated that the developers have worked together with District staff on this project and their goal today was to keep projects L960 and L961 on the budget radar screen. Mr. Bret Whitley, Sierra Properties, was also in attendance to ask for support in keeping these projects in the running. Mr. Hubbell said he believes this development will be setting a new standard/model for the northern part of the District and for future developments.

Following the budget discussion, **Ms. Baldwin moved, seconded by Ms. Nathe, to re-rank L960 from N/R to a low priority. Ms. Trimpert voted in opposition. Motion carried.** (CD1/Track 6 – 00:00/57:26)

Chair Rice allotted time to hear from Mr. Al Grubman, representing TOOFAR, who requested to speak regarding a Northern WUCA. Mr. Grubman said he was the new president of TOOFAR, he is attending today's meeting to get a better understanding of the District and to learn more about the proposed Northern WUCA. (CD1/Track 6 – 57:26/59:11)

7. **Reports:**

a. **Basin Board Education Committee**

b. **Basin Board Land Resources Committee**

In the interest of time no presentations were made for Items 7. (a) or 7. (b). Written reports for both Committees were handed out to Board members.

c. **Report on Governing Board Activities**

This report is available online at watermatters.org under the Meetings and Events category.

8. **Announcements**

Ms. Kavouras directed Board members to the announcements listed on the agenda and added that the Lake Panasoffkee Festival, will be held on Saturday, May 5, at the Marsh Bend Outlet River Park.

9. **Adjournment**

Since there was no further business to come before the Board, Chair Rice adjourned the meeting at 12:40 p.m. (CD1/Track 6 – 14:09/61:40)

★ ★ ★ 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. Design and Construction of Citrus County Meadowcrest Reclaimed Water Storage Project (L766) – Withdrawal Notice
2. Hernando County - Topographic Mapping (L776) - Execution Notice
3. On Top of the World Marion County Reclaimed Water Project (L786) – Execution Notice
4. Pasco County - Horizontal Control Network (L726) – Execution Notice
5. U.S. Geological Survey Minimum Flows and Levels Data Collection (B182) – Execution Notice

Attest:

Chairman