

APPROVED
Minutes of the Meeting

Withlacoochee River Basin Board
Southwest Florida Water Management District

Brooksville, Florida

December 13, 2007

The Withlacoochee River Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a regular meeting December 13, 2007, at 9:03 a.m., at District Headquarters.

Board Members Present

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

Staff Present

Lou Kavouras
Bruce Wirth
Mike Holtkamp
Eric Sutton

Beth Putnam
Miki Renner
Doug Sanders
Jimmy Brooks

Board Members Absent

Jack Dennis, Member
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 9:03 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. (CD1/Track 1 - 00:00/00:51)

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

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

4. **Ceremony to Honor Former Governing Board Member Jerry Rice**

Vice Chair Trimpert presented Mr. Rice with a plaque commemorating his service to the Withlacoochee River Basin Board. Mr. Rice was appointed to the Governing Board in March 2003 and served until June 2007, during that time he also served as the Chair Ex Officio of the Withlacoochee River Basin Board. Vice Chair Trimpert, on behalf of the Withlacoochee River Basin Board and District staff, thanked Mr. Rice for his service and volunteerism. (CD1/Track 2 - 00:00/05:23)

5. **Consent Item:**

a. **October 11, 2007, Meeting and Workshop Minutes**

Staff recommended approval of the October Meeting and Workshop minutes, as presented.

Following consideration, **Ms. Nathe moved, seconded by Ms. Trimpert, to approve the Consent Item as presented. Motion carried unanimously.** (CD1/Track 3 - 00:00/00:39)

6. **Discussion Items:**

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

Mr. Wirth said the purpose of this item was to recommend the Governing Board authorize the Executive Director to execute an amendment to the agreement with Subaqueous Services, Inc. He explained the background, summary of claims and requests, and the staff's position. He said staff cannot support the request for the requested fuel adjustment at this time. The District is not responsible for increases in material or fuel costs under the terms of the existing agreement. If additional funds are appropriated by the State, a request for fuel adjustment can be re-visited in the future, but the District would have no obligation to pay.

Staff recommended the Governing Board authorize the Executive Director to execute an amendment to the agreement with Subaqueous Services, Inc. to increase the not-to-exceed-amount of the agreement by \$642,902 to compensate the contractor for the dredging of 454,594 cubic yards of additional sediment, and to add 131 calendar days to the contractor's schedule.

Chair Oakley heard public comment at this time.

Mr. Dave Starnes, Lake Panasoffkee Restoration Council, said that requests being made by the contractor are very reasonable.

Mr. Don Fletcher, President, Fletcher Marine, who worked as a sub-contractor on the project, said the amendments to contract being requested are very reasonable. The down-time costs just covered the cost of equipment and they did not ask for down-time costs for the entire length of actual time. In general, he said he would like to point out that in the heavy equipment industry the price of fuel went up very quickly and took many businesses by surprise.

Following consideration, **Ms. Baldwin moved, Ms. Nathe seconded, to approve the staff recommendation. Mr. Rooks and Ms. Trimpert voted in opposition. Chair Oakley voted in favor of the staff recommendation. Motion carried with a three to two vote in favor.** (CD 1/Track 4 - 00:00/47:11)

b. **Changes to the Governing Board's Cooperative Funding Initiative Policy 130-4**

Mr. Wirth provided an overview and status of changes to the Cooperative Funding Initiative Policy 130-4. In April 2007, it was requested that the Governing Board revisit its "long-standing" position on funding brackish groundwater desalination projects. During discussion of this issue at the May 2007 Governing Board session, it was noted that the District did not have a formal written policy regarding the Board's position. Mr. Wirth highlighted actions taken and input gathered during the past several months that resulted in the Governing Board directing staff to incorporate five recommendations into the proposed policy changes. An exhibit to this item, which showed the recommended final changes in a strikethrough/underline format, was provided in the information notebook for this meeting. This topic will be part of the December 18, 2007, Governing Board agenda; staff recommendation is adoption of the changes to the Governing Board's Cooperative Funding Initiative Policy 130-4.

Other brief discussions during this presentation included the prioritization of projects, multi-jurisdictional aspect of projects, consideration of smaller entities, the prospect that some governments may consider going forward with projects "on their own," and the relationship between Tampa Bay Water and local governments.

This presentation was for the Board's information; no action was required. (CD1/Track 5 - 00:00/24:43)

Chair Oakley provided an opportunity for the public to address the Basin Board on issues that were not on today's agenda. (CD 1 /Track 6 - 00:00/00:32)

Mr. Dan Hilliard, a resident of Inglis, Florida, said he was representing an organization called the Withlacoochee Area Residents, of which he serves as their president. They realize water is very important and needs a lot of planning. In their area they have a lot of competition for water such as power plants and mines. The Withlacoochee Area Residents are interested in staying involved in these large user interests on their local water supply and plan to attend Board meetings at many levels. (CD 1/Track 7 - 00:00/05:25)

Mr. Al Grubman, representing TOO FAR, said the Withlacoochee River seems to have become everyone's alternative water supply. He said you can barely get your ankles wet throughout the length of the Withlacoochee River. Mr. Grubman encouraged the Withlacoochee River Basin Board to continue its protection for the River and the Citrus County area. (CD 1/Track 8 - 00:00/02:45)

7. **Reports:**

a. **Basin Board Education Committee Meeting**

Ms. Nathe said the Basin Board Education Committee met on November 13, 2007; and that the written report was provided as an exhibit in the Basin Board information notebook. Ms. Nathe's report included highlights on the following topics: Water Conservation Hotel and Motel Program, Florida Yards and Neighbors, FY2008 media messaging and the Skip a Week campaign, Community Education Grants, Teacher Training, and youth education. (CD 1/Track 9 - 00:00/10:41)

b. **Basin Board Land Resources Committee Meeting**

Mr. Rooks said he and Ms. Trimpert attended the Public Land Acquisition and Management Partnership Conference (PLA&M) in Sarasota. Mr. Rooks expressed thanks to Mr. Eric Sutton and other District staff members for their part in making the conference a success. He gave a brief report on the Basin Board Land Resources Committee (BBLRC) meeting, which was held immediately following the PLA&M Conference in Sarasota on December 7. He said that the BBLRC heard presentations on FY2007 Accomplishments and strategies for the upcoming year. Mr. Kevin Love gave a report outlining the challenges the control burn section has faced during this drought period.

Chair Oakley reminded his fellow Basin Board members that the District has a Speaker's Bureau. It is an excellent resource available to them to share information with other organizations and community associations they might be affiliated with. (CD 1/Track 10 - 00:00/07:12)

c. **Report on Governing Board Activities**

At Chair Oakley's request, staff played pre-recorded highlights of the November 26 Governing Board meeting. Ms. Robyn Hanke, Communications Manager, narrated the brief recap, which included the Sarasota/Manatee area water emergency, conservation lands in the Carlton Preserve, the Lake Hancock Lake Level Modification project, Peace River/Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority Expansion projects, Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems (FARMS) projects, the Land Acquisition Volunteer of the Year, and presentation of an Audubon Society award to Land Resources Director Fritz Musselmann. (CD 1/Track 11 - 00:00/07:22)

8. **Announcements**

- a. Next Basin Board Meeting: Thursday, February 14, 2008, 9:00 a.m., Brooksville Headquarters

- b. Joint Governing and Basin Boards Workshop: Friday, February 22, 2008, Nature's Classroom, Thonotosassa
- c. Other

9. **Adjournment**

The day's business being complete, Chair Oakley adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

Attest:

Chairman

★ ★ ★ 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. Withlacoochee River Watershed Initiative (H066)
2. Gum Swamp Watershed Management Plan (L954) – Execution Notice
3. Hydrologic and Wetland Restoration of District-owned Lands Flying Eagle Shinn Ditch (SA06) - Execution Notice
4. Town of Inglis Watershed Management Program – Implementation (L551) – Second Amendment – Execution Notice
5. West Ocala Watershed Management Plan (L955) – Execution Notice