



Paynes Creek

Southwest Florida
Water Management District

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Peace River Basin Board

Information and Budget Notebook

*Friday,
April 6, 2007
9:30 a.m.*

*Bartow Service Office
170 Century Boulevard
Bartow, Florida
(863) 534-1448*

PEACE RIVER BASIN BOARD

Patsy C. Symons, *Co-Chair Ex Officio*

C. A. "Neil" Combee, Jr., *Co-Chair Ex Officio*

J. Kenneth Harrison, *Vice Chair*

Ann W. Dunlap, *Secretary*

Rufus C. Lazzell, *Member*

James L. Hageman, *Member*

Paul G. Samuels, *Member*

Fred W. Trippensee, III, *Member*

Committee Members:

Basin Board Land Resources Committee:

Ken Harrison - primary

Rufus Lazzell - alternate

Basin Board Education Committee:

Ann Dunlap - primary

Paul Samuels/Fred Trippensee - alternates

Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program

Policy Committee:

Rufus Lazzell

Agenda

PEACE RIVER BASIN BOARD MEETING

Bartow, Florida

April 6, 2007

9:30 a.m.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Presenter</u>
1. Call to Order and Roll Call	Patsy Symons/Phyllis Young
2. Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and a Moment of Silence	Patsy Symons
3. Oath of Office for Appointed/Re-Appointed Board Members	Phyllis Young
4. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda	Lou Kavouras
5. Consent Items:	
a. Minutes of the February 16, 2007, Meeting [<i>Exhibit 1</i>]	Lou Kavouras
b. Appraisal and Purchase/Sale Agreement – Lake Hancock Project [<i>Exhibit 2</i>]	Eric Sutton
6. Discussion Items:	
a. Election of Officers and Committee Representatives	Patsy Symons
b. Myakka River Watershed Initiative Update (H048)	Lisann Morris
c. FY2008 Budget Preparation [<i>See Budget Tab</i>]	Bruce Wirth
7. Reports:	
a. Basin Board Education Committee	Beth Putnam
b. Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program	Rufus Lazzell
c. Basin Board Land Resources Committee	Ken Harrison
d. Report on Governing Board Activities	Patsy Symons/Neil Combee
8. Announcements:	Lou Kavouras
a. Volunteer Appreciation Day: Saturday, April 14, 2007, 11 a.m., Lake Panasoffkee	
b. Peace River "Spanning the Watershed:" Tuesday, April 17, 2007, 9 a.m., Paynes Creek State Park, Bowling Green	
c. Peace River "Spanning the Watershed:" Thursday, April 19, 2007, 9 a.m., DeSoto Park/Morgan Park, Arcadia	
d. Peace River "Spanning the Watershed:" Saturday, April 21, 2007, 12 noon, Downtown Punta Gorda	
e. Lake Placid Earth Day: Saturday, April 21, 2007, 10:30 a.m., DeVane Park, Lake Placid	
f. Water Conservation in Agri-Aquaculture Tours: Saturday, April 21, 2007, 10:00 a.m., Arcadia	
g. Next Basin Board Meeting: Friday, June 8, 2007, 9:30 a.m., Bartow Service Office	
h. Other	
9. Adjournment	Patsy Symons

Summary Agenda

PEACE RIVER BASIN BOARD MEETING
Bartow, Florida April 6, 2007
9:30 a.m.

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**

Presenters: Patsy Symons, Co-Chair Ex Officio
 Peace River Basin Board

 Phyllis Young, Senior Administrative Assistant
 Boards and Executive Services

2. **Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and a Moment of Silence**

Presenter: Patsy Symons

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

Presenter: Phyllis Young

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

Presenter: Lou Kavouras, Deputy Executive Director
 Outreach, Planning and Board Services

5. **Consent Items:**

a. **Minutes of the February 16, 2007, Meeting**

Basin Board members were provided minutes of the February 2007 meeting for review.

Staff Recommendation:

Approve the February minutes, as presented.

Presenter: Lou Kavouras, Deputy Executive Director
 Outreach, Planning and Board Services

b. **Appraisal and Purchase/Sale Agreement – Lake Hancock Project**

Purpose

District staff has negotiated the acquisition of approximately 1.59 acres, owned by Hope K. Powell and Roger D. Powell, her husband, as part of the District's Lake Hancock project. To date, approximately 5,384 acres have been acquired within the project. A general location map of the parcel is included as Exhibit 2 in this notebook.

Acquisition of these lands will meet the following Florida Forever program goals:

- Enhance the coordination and completion of land acquisition projects
- Protect, restore, and maintain the quality and natural functions of land, water, and wetland systems of the state
- Ensure sufficient quantities of water are available to meet the current and future needs of natural systems and citizens of the state.

These Florida Forever goals are consistent with the District's goals for water resource management.

Background/History

Acquisition of this parcel is consistent with the District's Florida Forever Work Plan, which specifically identifies the Lake Hancock project for acquisition.

Property Description

Location and Access – The property is surrounded by District property on three sides and is located at the north end of Jacque Lee Lane, a private, paved road. Access is by an unimproved 50 foot wide unplatted right-of-way extending from the paved and platted Jacque Lee Lane.

Utilities and/or Improvements – Electricity and telephone are available from the City of Lakeland and Verizon, respectively. Water would have to be provided by private well and sewer by private septic tank system.

Zoning – Polk County utilizes the land use classification for zoning purposes and has this tract in the A/RR (Agricultural/Residential-Rural) classification.

Summary of Appraisals and Value Comparisons

In accordance with District policy, one appraisal was obtained for the parcel from Nicholas J. Mancuso, MAI, with Mancuso Appraisal Services, Inc. In accordance with District policy for acquisitions less than \$100,000, the appraisal was reviewed by a Senior Land Acquisition Specialist. The appraisal report was prepared on October 16, 2006 and meets the necessary legal or District requirements and contains the appraiser's factual data leading to the value conclusion.

Highest and Best Use – The highest and best use as determined by the appraiser based on the physically possible, legally permissible, and financially feasible uses for this property, would be for single family residential development.

The appraiser applied the Sales Comparison Approach (Market Approach) to determine the value of this property. The appraiser relied on recent sales of comparable property in Polk County. The sales were adjusted for differences that included date of sale, location/access, and physical characteristics including size and topography.

The following is a comparison of the total negotiated purchase price to the appraised value:

	Negotiated Amount	Appraised Value Mancuso
Total Cost	\$30,000	\$38,000
Per Acre Cost	\$18,868	\$23,899

The negotiated price is approximately 21 percent, or \$8,000, less than the appraisal.

Purchase Agreement

- The seller agreed to deliver marketable title free of all encumbrances objectionable to the District
- An environmental site assessment will be completed prior to closing

- A survey will be completed prior to closing with no adjustment to be made to the price.

Benefits/Costs

Management Costs

In FY2006, the District paid an average annual cost of \$15.07 per acre for recurring management costs. Recurring management costs include, but are not limited to, fencing, prescribed burning, exotic species control, resource monitoring, road maintenance, recreational development, resource protection, restoration, and contract administration. Based on the District's average annual management costs, it would cost \$23.96 annually to manage the tract.

Impact If Not Funded/Funding

Funds are available from the Florida Forever Trust Fund.

Staff Recommendation:

See Exhibit 2

Recommend Governing Board accept the appraisal and approve the purchase/sale agreement.

Presenter: Eric Sutton, Assistant Director, Land Resources Department

6. **Discussion Items:**

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

1. **Vice Chair**

Each year in compliance with Section 373.0693 Florida Statutes, Basin Board members elect a vice chair to serve a one-year term. The vice chair presides over meetings in the absence of the Chair Ex Officio. The current vice chair is Ken Harrison.

Staff Recommendation:

Elect a vice chair to serve a one-year term.

Presenter: Patsy Symons

2. **Secretary**

Each year in compliance with Section 373.0693 Florida Statutes, Basin Board members elect a secretary to serve a one-year term. The current secretary is Ann Dunlap.

Staff Recommendation:

Elect a secretary to serve a one-year term.

Presenter: Patsy Symons

3. **Primary and Alternate Representative to the Basin Board Land Resources Committee**

Each year each Basin Board selects a primary and alternate representative to serve on the Land Resources Committee to review staff's resource evaluation reports and

the Florida Forever Work Plan, from a District-wide perspective. Ken Harrison is the current primary representative; Rufus Lazzell is the alternate.

Staff Recommendation:

Select a primary and alternate representative to serve one-year terms.

Presenter: Patsy Symons

4. **Primary and Alternate Representative to the Basin Board Education Committee**
The Basin Board Education Committee was formed in 1995. A representative is chosen from each basin in order to facilitate communications between Board meetings to discuss issues and opportunities that arise. The current primary representative is Ann Dunlap; Paul Samuels and Fred Trippensee are the alternates.

Staff Recommendation:

Select a primary and alternate representative to serve one-year terms.

Presenter: Patsy Symons

5. **Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program Policy Committee**
Each year, a Board member is chosen to serve on the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program Policy Committee (Committee), to keep the Basin Board informed of issues being considered by the Committee. Rufus Lazzell is the current representative.

Staff Recommendation:

Select a representative to serve a one-year term.

Presenter: Patsy Symons

b. **Myakka River Watershed Initiative Update (H048)**

Purpose

The purpose of this presentation is to provide an update on the Myakka River Watershed Initiative (MRWI) to further the Board's understanding of the important issues connected with the project. Board action is not required for this item.

Background/History

At the February 3, 2006, Peace River Basin Board meeting, an overview of the Myakka River watershed was presented. Though the river corridor appears to be relatively unimpacted in many segments, it was noted that numerous alterations have occurred in the watershed to manipulate flows and control flooding for agricultural and urban land uses. The presentation concluded that a comprehensive plan is needed to more effectively restore and manage the water resources of the watershed.

Staff recommended initiating the MRWI under the Watershed Management Program (WMP). The WMP provides an approach to evaluate the capacity of a watershed to protect, enhance, and restore water quality and natural systems, while achieving flood protection. At the February 2006 meeting, funds in the amount of \$500,000 were requested from the Governing Board to immediately begin collecting topographic information in eastern Manatee County using Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR)

technology and to begin the process of hiring a consultant to conduct the WMP. The District's Mapping & GIS Section executed a work order to collect the LiDAR data in March 2006. The acquisition of this data is complete and the consultant is finalizing the deliverables. A request for proposals to hire a consultant team to conduct the WMP was advertised in May 2006 and the Singhofen & Associates team was selected for the project.

During development of the consultant agreement, the scope of work was sent to Sarasota and Manatee counties, the Peace River/Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority, and the city of North Port for review and comments. The agreement was executed in December 2006. The first work order includes data gathering, engaging stakeholders through the Myakka Comprehensive Watershed Management Group, developing a Geographic Information Systems geodatabase, developing an outreach strategy, and selecting the modeling tools for the water budget, water quality, and water quantity tasks. Development of the modeling tools will enable the District to evaluate various best management practices for alternative solutions to the issues. An internal and external stakeholder kick-off meeting was held on December 11, 2006, and February 14, 2007, respectively, to solicit sources of data and introduce the project.

Staff Recommendation:

This presentation is for the Board's information; no action is required.

Presenter: Lisann C. Morris, Senior Professional Engineer
Resource Conservation & Development Department

c. **Fiscal Year 2008 Budget Preparation**

In April, the Peace River Basin Board will review for the first time a preliminary budget for the upcoming year. At the meeting, staff will review 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 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. Please refer to the weekly Legislative Update for current information on pending bills.

For the June meeting, proposed changes resulting from the legislative session will have been incorporated into the budget for the Basin Board's consideration and further direction. At that meeting, the Basin Board is required to vote on a proposed millage rate for FY2008. The proposed millage rate is used for Truth in Millage (TRIM) noticing to all taxpayers. The June tentative budget, on which the proposed millage rate is based, will be included in the District's Tentative Budget Submission to the Executive Office of the Governor. In August, the Basin Board will vote on its final millage rate and budget for FY2008.

The Budget tab provides the preliminary Budget Comparison Report for FY2008. The format separately identifies the portion of the budget that will be funded by outside revenue sources from the portion of the budget that will be funded from ad valorem based revenue sources (i.e., property taxes, balance from prior year and interest). The

"Millage Rate Requirements" column, to the right of each project that is funded through the ad valorem based portion of the budget, indicates the funding source as Balance from Prior Year and Interest Earnings (BF/Interest) or the millage rate (e.g., 0.004) required to fund the budget through that project. The Budget tab also includes detailed information for all Cooperative Funding proposals submitted for consideration. Project managers have reviewed and provided a staff recommendation for each proposal.

For the past 13 years, the Peace River Basin Board has adopted a millage rate of 0.195. Accordingly, ad valorem taxes have been computed based on a millage rate of 0.195 and the assumed 8 percent estimated growth in property values. Funding from state sources (in addition to Save Our Rivers funding) will be incorporated into the Basin budget following the end of the 2007 legislative session. The amount of additional taxes that would need to be levied, if all Cooperative Funding proposals were funded, is shown as the last revenue item to balance the budget. A funding line identifies the last project that the Basin Board could fully fund at its existing millage rate, based on project rankings and revenue projections as of this date.

Staff Recommendation:

See Budget Tab

Provide staff direction on developing the Basin's tentative FY2008 budget for the June 2007 meeting.

Presenter: Bruce C. Wirth, Deputy Executive Director
Division of Resource Management and Development

7. **Reports:**

a. **Basin Board Education Committee**

This report provides an overview of the Basin Board Education meeting held on March 6, 2007, at the District's Tampa Service Office. Vice Chair Mac Carraway chaired the meeting. The overview will include reports on planning for FY2007 and beyond, the Children's Museum of Tampa, the District's Regional Builder/Developer Florida Yards and Neighborhoods Coordinator, the District's Water Conservation Hotel and Motel Program (C.H.A.M.P.), Homeowner Association Outreach, and Peace River "Spanning the Watershed" Events to be held in April.

Staff Recommendation:

This item is presented for the Board's information; no action is required.

Presenter: Beth Putnam, Communications Manager

b. **Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program Policy Committee**

The Basin representative will provide an overview of the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program (CHNEP) Policy Committee meeting held March 19, 2007, at the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda Metropolitan Planning Organization in Punta Gorda.

Staff Recommendation:

This item is presented for the Board's information; no action is required.

Presenter: Rufus Lazzell, Basin Representative
CHNEP Policy Committee

c. **Basin Board Land Resources Committee**

The Basin representative will provide highlights of the March 22, 2007, Basin Board Land Resources Committee meeting held in the Starkey Environmental Education Center, New Port Richey.

Staff Recommendation:

This item is presented for the Board's information; no action is required.

Presenter: Ken Harrison, Primary Representative
Basin Board Land Resources Committee

d. **Report on Governing Board Activities**

An update will be provided on key issues before the Governing Board.

Staff Recommendation:

This item is presented for the Board's information; no action is required.

Presenters: Patsy Symons and Neil Combee

8. **Announcements:**

Lou Kavouras

- a. Volunteer Appreciation Day: Saturday, April 14, 2007, 11 a.m., Lake Panasoffkee
- b. Peace River "Spanning the Watershed:" Tuesday, April 17, 2007, 9 a.m., Paynes Creek State Park, Bowling Green
- c. Peace River "Spanning the Watershed:" Thursday, April 19, 2007, 9 a.m., DeSoto Park/Morgan Park, Arcadia
- d. Peace River "Spanning the Watershed:" Saturday, April 21, 2007, 12 noon, Downtown Punta Gorda
- e. Lake Placid Earth Day: Saturday, April 21, 2007, 10:30 a.m., DeVane Park, Lake Placid
- f. Water Conservation in Agri-Aquaculture Tours: Saturday, April 21, 2007, 10:00 a.m., Arcadia
- g. Next Basin Board Meeting: Friday, June 8, 2007, 9:30 a.m., Bartow Service Office
- h. Other

9. **Adjournment**

Patsy Symons

******Information Items******

The item(s) listed below are for the Board's information, intended to keep the Board apprised of completed projects, cancelled projects, and projects that have executed contracts and are ready to begin. The item(s) do not require Board action at this time. Formal presentations are not planned, but staff will make presentations and/or answer questions at the next Board meeting, if requested.

1. **Lake Hancock Outfall Treatment Project Work Order Issuance (H014)**

The goal of the Lake Hancock Outfall Treatment Project is to improve water quality discharging from Lake Hancock through Saddle Creek to the Peace River. At the February 2006 Governing Board meeting and the April 2006 Basin Board meeting, the following staff recommendations were approved: 1) an annual nitrogen load reduction goal from surface

water discharges from Lake Hancock of 27 percent and 2) selection of treatment wetlands as the technology to achieve this goal. The District's consultant (Parsons) is currently working on a Basis of Design Report that establishes objectives, data, and summarizes assumptions that form the foundation of design. The next phase of preliminary design involves constructability testing. The consultant will supervise the excavation of test pits within the project footprint and will oversee the construction of test plots that will be planted and monitored for a period of one year for vegetation recruitment and establishment. The work order for the one-year wetland vegetation evaluation totals \$245,000, with funding from Florida Forever. The evaluation should be complete by July 2008. Please refer to the project write-up in the budget section of this notebook for detailed information.

2. **Long-Term Water Budget Analysis of Lake Starr, Polk County Florida (B243) - Execution Notice**

This FY2007 Cooperative Funding project with the United States Geological Survey will analyze the effects of rainfall and ground-water levels on the lake levels of Lake Starr over a ten-year period. This three-year project was scheduled to begin on October 1, 2006, and be completed by September 30, 2009. The total cost of the project is \$600,000, with the Basin Board contributing \$300,000. The current agreement is for \$200,000 with the Peace River Basin Board contributing \$100,000. The current agreement began on October 1, 2006, and will end September 30, 2007. Please refer to the project write-up in the budget section of this notebook for detailed information. The Executive Director signed this agreement on December 12, 2006. Copies of the executed agreement and scope of work are available upon request.

3. **Water Supply Flow Monitoring Project (H057) - Execution Notice**

This FY2007 agreement with the United States Geological Survey is for the construction, operation and maintenance of six streamflow sites; two of those (Shell Creek and Peace River) are located in the Peace River Basin. This project was established to maintain a surface water flow monitoring network on water bodies designated for proposed water supply projects. The project began on December 27, 2006. The total project cost is \$139,500 with the Peace River Basin Board contributing \$23,250, the Manasota Basin Board \$46,500, and the Governing Board \$69,750. Please refer to the project write-up in the budget section of this notebook for detailed information. The Executive Director signed this agreement on December 27, 2006. Copies of the executed agreement and scope of work are available upon request.

DRAFT

Minutes of the Meeting

PEACE RIVER BASIN BOARD

Southwest Florida Water Management District

Bartow, Florida

February 16, 2007

The Peace River Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a regular meeting February 16, 2007, at 9:30 a.m. in the District's Bartow Service Office, Bartow, Florida.

Board Members Present

Neil Combee, Co-Chair Ex Officio
Ken Harrison, Vice Chair
Ann Dunlap, Secretary
Rufus Lazzell, Member
Jim Hageman, Member
Paul Samuels, Member
Fred Trippensee, Member

Staff Present

Lou Kavouras Beth Putnam
Bill Orendorff Chan Springstead
Terri Behling Scott Harbison

Via Videoconference

Gregg Jones Lois Sorensen
Raina O'Neill Kendra Antoine

Absent

Pat Symons, Co-Chair Ex Officio

Recording Secretary

Phyllis Young

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**

Co-Chair Combee called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Ms. Young called the roll and stated, for the record, a quorum was present. (CD 1/Track 1)

2. **Pledge of Allegiance followed by a Moment of Silence**

Co-Chair Combee led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag, followed by a moment of silence. (CD 1/Track 1)

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

Deputy Executive Director Lou Kavouras stated there were no additions or deletions to the agenda. (CD 1/Track 1)

4. **Consent Items:**

After consideration, **Mr. Lazzell moved, seconded by Mr. Samuels, to approve the Consent Items, as follow:**

a. **Minutes of the December 15, 2006, Meeting** - Approve the December minutes, as presented.

b. **Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems**

(1) **Adrian R. Chapman**

a. **Approve the Adrian R. Chapman FARMS Project for a not-to-exceed project reimbursement of \$84,664, with \$21,166 provided by the Peace River Basin, \$21,166 provided by the Governing Board, and \$42,332 provided from State Appropriations;**

b. **Authorize the transfer of \$21,166 from Fund 020 H017 Peace River Basin FARMS Funds, \$21,166 from Fund 010 H017 Governing Board FARMS funds, and \$42,332 from the 2003, 2005, and 2006 State Appropriations**

allocated to Fund 020 H017 Peace River Basin State Appropriations, to H507 Adrian R. Chapman FARMS project fund;

- c. Authorize the Executive Director to sign the agreement.

(2) LallyMix Farms, LLP (H509)

- a. Approve the LallyMix Farms FARMS Project for a not-to-exceed project reimbursement of \$150,000, with \$37,500 provided by the Peace River Basin Board, \$37,500 provided by the Governing Board, and \$75,000 provided from State Appropriations;
- b. Authorize the transfer of \$37,500 from fund 020 H017 Peace River Basin FARMS Fund, \$37,500 from fund 010 H017, Governing Board FARMS funds, and \$75,000 from the 2006 and 2007 State Appropriations allocated to fund 020 H017 Peace River Basin State Appropriations, to H509 LallyMix Farms LLP FARMS project fund;
- c. Authorize the Executive Director to sign the agreement.

Motion carried unanimously. (CD 1/Track 1)

6. Discussion Items:

a. **First Amendment to the Design and Construction of the Charlotte County Golf Course Reuse Storage Project (L485)**

Resource Conservation and Development Director Gregg Jones presented this item, via videoconference from the Brooksville office, to request an amendment to the project. Mr. Jones provided background of the project, which began as a Cooperative Funding initiative from Charlotte County and was approved in the Basin's fiscal year (FY) 2006 budget. He reviewed aspects of the original project, unforeseen complications that led to this amendment, the project benefits, and impact if the change to the project scope was not approved.

After consideration, **Mr. Lazzell moved, seconded by Mr. Samuels, to recommend the Basin Board: (1) approve a change in the project's scope of work; (2) extend the design commencement date to February 15, 2007, and completion date to October 31, 2007; (3) extend the construction commencement date to February 15, 2008, and completion date to November 30, 2008; (4) add necessary language to the agreement required under the provisions of Senate Bill 444; and (5) authorize the Executive Director to sign the first amendment to the agreement with Charlotte County. Motion carried unanimously. (CD 1/Track 2)**

During this presentation, Mr. Harrison arrived.

b. **2006 Regional Water Supply Plan**

Mr. Jones also presented this item. He began by stating the legislatively mandated Regional Water Supply Plan (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. Mr. Jones provided history of the RWSP, which shows sufficient alternative water sources exist in the planning region to meet water supply demand through 2025 and replace some current groundwater withdrawals causing hydrologic stress. Chapter 9 of the RWSP is the financial component, which addresses the cost of developing the projects necessary to meet the 2025 water supply demand.

In December 2006, the Governing Board approved the final draft of the RWSP, which was submitted to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, as required. The District is also required to present information in the RWSP to local governments and

provide technical assistance to ensure consistency between local water supply planning efforts and those of the District.

Topics of discussion during this item included potential use of brackish water, possible changes to the millage rate, re-allocation of cooperative funding dollars, and storage options. This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required. (CD 1/Track 3)

c. **FY2008 Cooperative Funding Requests**

Basin Planner Chan Springstead presented this item to remind the Board of the Cooperative Funding process. Mr. Springstead reviewed the FY2008 Cooperative Funding procedure and directed the Board to copies of the original applications received in December, 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. This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required. (CD 1/Track 4)

At this time, Co-Chair Combee relinquished the gavel to Vice Chair Harrison and left the meeting.

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 Dave 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. This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required.

In conjunction with heightened water conservation efforts, Ms. Kavouras reported that the Communications Department's media messaging had increased. Staff showed three water conservation ads being aired on television and radio and appearing on area billboards. (CD 1/Track 5)

b. **Peace River Basin – Spanning the Watershed Events**

Communications Manager Beth Putnam gave a brief history of watershed education in the Basin, its importance in developing an environmentally conscious and responsible public, and events planned to enhance awareness of the Peace River watershed and foster stewardship, protection, and conservation of water resources. Four "Spanning the Watershed" events will be held in April to coincide with Earth Day celebrations; a schedule of the events was included in the meeting notebook. In conjunction with the "Spanning the Watershed" events, each participating county's Board of County Commissioners (Charlotte, DeSoto, Hardee, and Polk) would be asked to declare April 14-21, 2007, Peace River Watershed Awareness Week.

After consideration, **Mr. Samuels moved, seconded by Ms. Dunlap, to declare April 14–April 21, 2007, "Peace River Watershed Awareness Week." Motion carried unanimously.** Before he left the meeting, Co-Chair Combee had signed a proclamation declaring April 14-21, 2007, Peace River Watershed Awareness Week. (CD 1/Track 5)

c. **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, the Peace River Cumulative Impact Study, and minimum flows and levels. This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required. (CD 1/Track 6)

8. **Announcements:**

Ms. Kavouras directed Board members to the announcements listed on the agenda and reminded them of the groundbreaking ceremony for the Circle B Bar Reserve Environmental Education Center on Friday, March 9. No other announcements were made. (CD 1/Track 6)

9. **Adjournment:** There being no further business to come before the Board, Vice Chair Harrison adjourned the meeting at 11:11 a.m. (CD 1/Track 6)

*****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 are ready to begin. The items did not require Board action at this time.

1. Budget Transfer Report
2. Charlotte Harbor Redevelopment Area Watershed Management Plan (L486) – First Amendment - Execution Notice
3. Charlotte Harbor Redevelopment Area Watershed Management Program Consulting Services (L486) – Second Amendment - Execution Notice
4. Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) Data Dissemination and Education (B136) – Execution Notice
5. Hydrogeology and Quality of Groundwater in Highlands County (B244) - Execution Notice
6. Lake Gibson Southwest Sub-Basin Stormwater Management System Retrofit (L770) - Execution Notice
7. Myakka River Watershed Initiative (H048) - Execution Notice
8. City of Punta Gorda Reuse Feasibility Study (L640) - Execution Notice
9. Watershed Management Program Consulting Services in the Sebring Watershed (L151) - Execution Notice
10. Watershed Management Program – Maintenance of Watershed Parameters and Models (B206) – Execution Notice

