



Thursday, October 13, 2005

9:00 a.m.

District Headquarters
2379 Broad Street, Brooksville
352-796-7211

WITHLACOOCHEE RIVER BASIN BOARD

Jerry Rice, Chair Ex Officio

Seeth Trimpert, Vice Chair

Ben Huss, Secretary

Janey Baldwin, Member

Jack Dennis, Member

Paul Mazak, Member

Bo Rooks, Member

Committee Representatives

Basin Board Education Committee

Primary: Seeth Trimpert Alternate: Ben Huss

Basin Board Land Resources Committee

Primary: Seeth Trimpert Alternate: Bo Rooks

Citrus/Hernando County Waterways Restoration Council

Primary: Bo Rooks Alternate: Janey Baldwin

SUMMARY AGENDA

Withlacoochee River Basin Board Meeting

Thursday, October 13, 2005

9:00 a.m.

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

Presenters: Seeth Trimpert, Vice Chair
Joan Riccardelli, Senior Administrative Assistant
Boards and Executive Services

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Presenter: Seeth Trimpert, Vice Chair

3. **Additions/Deletions to Agenda**

Presenter: Lou Kavouras, Executive Assistant
Outreach, Planning and Board Services

4. **Consent Item:**

a. **August 8, 2005, Meeting Minutes**

Basin Board members were provided minutes of the August 8, 2005, meeting for review.

Staff Recommendation: See Exhibit No. 1

Approve the August 8, 2005, meeting minutes.

Presenter: Seeth Trimpert, Vice Chair

5. **Announcements:**

- a. Celebration of the Acquisition of Conservation Easements on Little Everglades Ranch: Wednesday, October 26, 2005, 8:00 a.m., Dade City
- b. Rule Development Public Workshop for Fort Cooper Lake and the Floral City Pool: Wednesday, November 2, 2005, 6 p.m., District Headquarters, Brooksville
- c. Rule Development Public Workshop for the Inverness and Hernando Pools: Thursday, November 3, 2005, 6 p.m., District Headquarters, Brooksville
- d. Basin Board Education Committee Meeting: Tuesday, November 8, 2005, 9:30 a.m., Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center

- e. Public Land Acquisition & Management Partnership Conference: November 16-18, 2005, Hutchinson Island
 - f. Basin Board Land Resources Committee Meeting: Thursday, November 17, 2005, 5:15 p.m., Hutchinson Island
 - g. Next Basin Board Meeting: Thursday, December 15, 2005, 9:00 a.m., District Headquarters, Brooksville
 - h. Others
6. **Adjournment**

****Information Item****

The item listed below is for the Board's information. The item was included in the Basin Board's Fiscal Year 2006 budget, or previous budgets, or was \$50,000 or less; therefore, it does not require Board action. A formal presentation is not planned, but staff will make a presentation and/or answer questions at the next Board meeting, if the Board desires.

1. **Lake Panasoffkee Restoration Council – Eighth Annual Report to the Legislature (B480)**

As a result of concern for Lake Panasoffkee, the Legislature passed Chapter 98-69, Laws of Florida, creating the Lake Panasoffkee Restoration Council (Council). The law charged the Council with identifying strategies to restore the lake and required that they "report to the Legislature before November 25 of each year on the progress of the Lake Panasoffkee restoration plan and any recommendations for the next fiscal year." Pursuant to the law, the Council members serve as advisors to the Governing Board of the District and provide recommendations regarding the restoration of Lake Panasoffkee. The Governing Board reviews the recommendations and responds in writing to the Council if any recommendations require re-evaluation.

Since the submittal of the Council's first Report to the Legislature in November 1998, the Council, working with its Advisory Group, made up of the District, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, has worked to identify the management issues, strategies, and goals to restore Lake Panasoffkee. The primary restoration strategy for Lake Panasoffkee has been, and remains, a multi-step in-lake dredging project to remove sediments and dense emergent vegetation in order to restore fisheries habitat and historic shoreline, and to improve navigation. The final Restoration Plan currently being implemented by the District was recommended by the Council in its 2003 report.

Significant progress has been made over the past year in the implementation of full-scale in-lake components of the Council's recommended restoration plan, Steps 2 and 3. In excess of 210 acres, extending over five miles along the lake's developed western shoreline, were dredged. The dredging along the western shoreline re-established the lake's hard sand bottom in areas where it previously existed prior to being covered with sediment. Additionally, the dense emergent

vegetation/tussocks that were present along the western shoreline typically extending 200 feet waterward, and in some instances in excess of 300 feet waterward, were removed leaving riparian land owners with an unobstructed view of the lake as well as dramatically improved boat access.

The 2005 Report to the Legislature provides the required progress report and recommendations for the upcoming fiscal year, and focuses on implementation of Steps 2 and 3 of the Council's recommended four-step restoration plan. Pursuant to Chapter 98-69, the Lake Panasoffkee Restoration Council, Report to the Legislature, dated November 25, 2005, will be presented to the Governing Board for approval at its meeting on October 25, 2005. Once approved by the Governing Board, the report will be distributed to the Legislature in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 98-69. Copies of the final report will be distributed to Basin Board members.

DRAFT
Minutes of the Meeting

WITHLACOOCHEE RIVER BASIN BOARD

Southwest Florida Water Management District

Brooksville, Florida

August 8, 2005

The Withlacoochee River Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a regular meeting at 9:02 a.m., August 8, 2005, at District Headquarters, Brooksville.

Board Members Present

Talmadge G. "Jerry" Rice, Chair Ex Officio
Seeth K. Trimpert, Vice Chair
Robert "Ben" Huss, Secretary
John "Jack" Dennis, Member
Martha Jane "Janey" Baldwin, Member
Albert L. "Bo" Rooks, Jr., Member

Board Members Absent

Paul M. Mazak, II, Member

Recording Secretary

Joan E. Riccardelli

Staff Members

Bruce C. Wirth
Lou Kavouras
Mark A. Hammond
Gregg W. Jones
Linda R. Pilcher
M. Beth Bartos
James A. Brooks, Jr.
Randy Emberg
T. Scott Harbison
Philip A. Rhinesmith
Douglas Sanders

A list of others who attended and signed the attendance roster is filed in the permanent files of the Basin. Compact disks of the audio and copies of materials and handouts, as set forth in full herein, are also filed in the permanent files of the District

The numbers preceding the items listed below correspond with the published agenda.

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

Chair Rice called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. Ms. Riccardelli called the roll and noted a quorum was present. Chair Rice said that if any member of the public wished to address an item, they fill in a blue speaker card and they would be given an opportunity to speak at the appropriate time. (CD Track 1/0:01-1:20)

2. **Pledge of Allegiance** - Chair Rice led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. (CD Track 1/1:21-1:39)

3. **Additions and Deletions to Agenda**

Ms. Kavouras stated there were no additions/deletions to the agenda. (CD Track 1/1:40-1:51)

4. **Consent Item:**

a. **June 20, 2005, Meeting Minutes**

Approve the June 20, 2005 meeting minutes as presented.

b. **Largo/Clearwater/Pasco Aquifer Storage Recovery Interconnect Project (H012) – Board Encumbrance**

Recommend the Withlacoochee River Basin Board approve the encumbrance of \$7,034 in the FY2005 funds budgeted, without a contract, for the project.

c. **Tampa Bay Regional Reclaimed Water and Downstream Augmentations Projects (H300-H310) – Board Encumbrance**

Approve the encumbrance of \$49,640, without a contract, for the eight projects associated with the Regional Project in the amounts presented in Table 1 of the Board packet recap, to be used in Fiscal Years 2006 through 2012.

d. **Lake Oriole Hydrologic Restoration (B211) – Board Encumbrance**

Approve the encumbrance of \$100,000, without a contract, for the Lake Oriole project, to be used in FY2006.

- e. **Watershed Management Reserves (Z968) – Basin Encumbrance**
Ms. Trimpert requested further discussion on this item.
- f. **Annual Calendar of Meeting Dates**
Approve the FY2006 Basin Board meeting schedule as presented.

Following consideration, **Mr. Dennis moved, seconded by Mr. Rooks, to approve Consent Items a, b, c, d and f. Motion carried unanimously.** (CD 1/1:52-2:53)

- 4. e. **Watershed Management Reserves (Z968) – Basin Encumbrance**
Staff seeks approval to encumber \$494,689, without a contract, into the FY2006 budget. Ms. Trimpert asked for assurance that the funds not be used for purposes other than the designated use and that they remain in the reserves line item. Mr. Wirth stated encumbering the funds does just that. Following discussion, **Ms. Trimpert moved, seconded by Mr. Dennis, to approve the encumbrance up to \$494,689, without a contract, for Watershed Management Reserves for FY2006. Motion carried unanimously.** (CD 2/0:01-9:39)

5. **Discussion Items:**

- a. **Citrus County Parsons Point Restoration (L330)**
Mr. Rhinesmith noted the project, which was to remove Parsons Point Road in order to enhance the natural systems of Lakes Croft and Van Ness, has been completed. The Citrus County Aquatic Services submitted the project that actually served two purposes. It also provided mitigation for the in-lake disposal of tussocks for Lakes Todd and Dodd that was suggested by the Army Corps of Engineers. The total amount budgeted for the project was \$125,000, \$62,500 from the Basin Board. The project was completed ahead of schedule in July 2005, at a total cost of \$46,500, with the Basin Board contributing \$23,250. The unused portion has been incorporated into the FY2006 budget as balance forward. This item was presented for the Board's information, and no action was required. (CD 3/0:01-6:21)
- b. **Mote Aquaculture Park Water Reduction Technologies (L519)**
Mr. Jones noted the Mote Marine Research Institute in Sarasota has an Aquaculture Park Water Reduction Technologies project that they asked the Manasota Basin Board to help fund. The project would design and test biofiltration units for use in recirculating systems that will help aquaculture operations become more efficient in their water use. The Manasota Basin Board approved the project and asked that the cost be shared among Basin Boards that have aquaculture operations. The total cost of the project is \$300,000. Based on a percentage of permitted aquaculture water use within the Withlacoochee River Basin, the Board's share would be \$4,875. Staff has ranked the project low due to concerns that the technology is not likely to be implemented by the aquaculture industry on a scale that would produce a significant water savings. Ms. Baldwin said this is an industry that is rapidly growing and that in the long run any water savings helps the resource. Following discussion, **Ms. Baldwin moved, seconded by Mr. Dennis, to approve funding the project in the amount of \$4,875. Chair Rice called for a roll call vote. Motion failed with Ms. Baldwin and Mr. Dennis voting in favor, Ms. Trimpert and Messrs. Huss and Rooks voting against.** (CD 4/0:01-14:17)
- c. **FY2006 Budget Discussion and Adoption of Final Millage Rate**
Mr. Wirth briefly highlighted portions of the Water Protection Sustainability Program, Senate Bill (SB) 444, with regard to how it deals with the development of alternative water supplies and the budget. Of the \$100 million in state funds for FY2006, \$25 million was allocated to this water management district. These funds can only be used for project construction costs of alternative water supply projects, and a funding match is required. This district has recommended a 20 percent State, 40 percent District and 40 percent applicant match. District match can be met from planning, design and engineering costs associated with the projects. The Governing Board will determine those projects that will be selected for financial assistance and may establish factors to determine that funding. Mr. Wirth noted the factors the state added to the bill as well as some other key issues such as connection to regional water supply plans, recognition of Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) eligible communities, etc. He also provided a review of the project selection process and the schedule. Of the projects submitted for proposed funding in FY2006, 23 were identified that

meet the alternative water supply criteria. After funding 20 percent toward construction costs for these projects, there remained a balance of approximately \$7.5 million that was allocated to the Tampa Bay Regional Reclaimed Project and the Peace Manasota River Water Supply Authority projects. The Board's budget, as presented today, also represents 20 percent of state funds that have been applied to the construction portion of those projects within the Withlacoochee River Basin that qualify. (CD 5/0:01-22:22) Mr. Wirth then presented the proposed final budget to the Board. He noted any changes to the budget since the June meeting. One significant change is that part of SB444 provides for Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) funding which results in a funding match ratio change from a 60 State/40 District match to a 50/50 match. While this increases the amount the Board contributes, it also provides an opportunity to expand what SWIM dollars can be used for. He also pointed out where 20 percent of SB444 funds were applied for the construction portion of those alternative water supply projects selected from within the Withlacoochee River Basin, most of which went to the Tampa Bay Regional Reclaimed Water project. He stated that the aggregated assessment increase was 29.93 percent. Staff is suggesting that after all funds have been allocated to projects as indicated, the balance of \$155,947 be added to the Water Management Reserves line item. The Board is also able to fund all the cooperative projects they identified to fund, and in the amounts requested. At this time, Ms. Kavouras read Resolution No. 83 into the record. Following consideration, **Mr. Dennis moved, seconded by Ms. Baldwin, to approve and adopt a final required tax levy of 0.265 for FY2006. Motion carried unanimously.** Following consideration, **Mr. Huss moved, seconded by Ms. Trimpert, to approve and adopt the final FY2006 budget as presented. Motion carried unanimously.** Following further consideration, **Ms. Trimpert moved, seconded by Mr. Huss, to adopt Resolution No. 83 – Resolution Affirming the Required Final Tax Levy and Fiscal Year 2006 Budget. Motion carried unanimously.** (CD 6/0:01-15:15)

6. Reports:

a. Northern Tampa Bay Progress Report

Relative to the Consolidated Wellfield Permit, Mr. Jones reported that the 12-month running average for June 2005 was 87 mgd. The desalination facility remains off line until October 2006 at which time repairs are expected to be completed. Mr. Jones noted the reservoir has been named the C. W. Bill Young Regional Reservoir after Congressman Young who was instrumental in obtaining approximately \$15 million in federal appropriations for the project. Mr. Jones said he would be presenting at this and at future meetings a volume graph indicating how much water has gone into the reservoir each month, and the total amount. As of July 24, 6.9 billion gallons were in the reservoir. Lastly, Mr. Jones addressed the status of groundwater recovery in the Northern Tampa Bay area. The purpose of the Partnership Agreement was to recover those areas that had been stressed as a result of groundwater pumping. By 2003, Tampa Bay Water (TBW) had to withdraw no more than 121 mgd. Due to enhanced rainfall, they were able to get down below 90 mgd, which wasn't required until 2007. Water levels have responded positively to the reduced groundwater withdrawals; the question is whether the recovery is due to the above average rainfall over the past two to three years. The District has established groundwater and wetland monitoring sites to determine the long-term response of the water resources and ecology and will continue to assess these sites and report regularly on the recovery process. Chair Rice noted that TBW developed a Source Management and Rotational Technology Tool (SMARTT) model that budgeted up to 107 mgd in increased pumping if they needed to. This created a controversy, which centers on what capacity the new desalination plant, would operate. The District's General Counsel has determined that the Partnership Agreement states the plant would run at 25 mgd; TBW stated it can run at something less. TBW will have a Board meeting on August 15 at which time they will address the issue; however, there is a formal conflict resolution process that is part of the Partnership Agreement. Ms. Trimpert commented she appreciates the Governing Board taking the issue seriously and encourages them to continue to do so since she feels TBW would pump cheaper water if they were allowed to do so. (CD 7/0:01-16:16)

c. **Basin Board Education Committee**

Ms. Bartos provided an overview of the July 12, 2005 meeting: (1) Janet Jackson was reelected Vice Chair; (2) the number of annual meetings was reduced to three; (3) two Community Education Grant recipients gave presentations on their projects; (4) the District will participate in "Curb Appeal," a radio promotion to do a home "extreme makeover;" (5) the District has received three education awards; and (6) report on success of media messaging. Ms. Bartos said the Watershed Pledge program has been very successful, with more than 45,000 pledges taken since April 14. Ms. Trimpert noted she has copies of the pledges and bracelets with her and encouraged any Board members who have not already done so to take the pledge to reduce water consumption in their own homes. Ms. Bartos noted the pledge is also available on line. (CD 8/0:01-6:19)

d. **Basin Board Land Resources Committee**

Ms. Trimpert reported on the July 21, 2005 meeting: (1) reviewed final Board Policy 610-3 and 610-4 for the acquisition and management of District lands; (2) Inspector General Kurt Fritch provided an overview of some preliminary work accomplished on the Land Use Strategies Audit that will be reported to the Governing Board in September; (3) review of the Recreational Amenities Plan; (4) discussion on how the District can develop a program to assist mobility impaired individuals to hunt on District lands; and (5) the next meeting will be held on November 17, 2005, in conjunction with the annual Public Land Acquisition and Management Conference in Hutchinson Island. (CD 9/0:01-8:28)

e. **Chair Ex Officio Report on Governing Board Activities**

Chair Rice provided an update of the July Governing Board meeting. Major items of discussion included SB444 and the Tampa Bay Water desalination issues. (CD 10/0:01-0:24)

7. **Announcements:**

- a. Citrus County Tsala Apopka Chain of Lakes Meeting: Monday, August 8, 2005, and Monday, September 12, 2005, 3:00 p.m., Lecanto Government Center
- b. Annual Conference on Water Management: September 7-9, 2005, Sanibel Island
- c. Weeki Wachee Environmental Education Center Dedication: Monday, September 26, 2005, 2:00 p.m.
- d. Next Basin Board Meeting and Workshop: Thursday, October 13, 2005, 9:00 a.m., District Headquarters, Brooksville

8. **Adjournment:**

Following consideration, **Mr. Dennis moved, seconded by Mr. Huss, to adjourn the meeting.** The meeting was adjourned at 10:47 a.m.

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

The items listed below were for the Board's information. These items were included in the Basin Board's Fiscal Year (FY) 2005 budget, or previous budgets, or were \$50,000 or less; therefore, they did not require Board action. Formal presentations are not planned, but staff will make presentations and/or answer questions at the next Board meeting, if the Board so desires.

1. Watershed Management Program – Maintenance of Watershed Parameters and Models (B206) – Execution Notice
2. Western Terminus of Cross Florida Greenway Watershed Management Program (B124) – Execution Notice
3. Transfer Report

The District does not discriminate based on disability. Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation under the ADA should contact the Executive Department at (352) 796-7211 or 1-800-423-1476 (Florida only), extension 4609; TDD only, 1-800-231-6103 (Florida); fax (352) 754-6874/SunCom 633-6874.

AGENDA

Fiscal Year 2007 Withlacoochee River Basin Board Planning Workshop

October 13, 2005

Southwest Florida Water Management District

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>PRESENTER</u>
1. Call to Order	Seeth Trimpert
2. Introduction / Workshop Purpose	Terry Johnson
3. Overview of Basin Issues and Ongoing Initiatives <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accomplishments / Ongoing Priorities / Emerging Issues• Strategic Budget Direction	Terry Johnson
4. Confirm / Update Basin Priorities and Strategic Budget Direction	Terry Johnson
5. Open Discussion	Basin Board Members
6. Public Input	Members of the Public
7. Adjournment	Seeth Trimpert

SUMMARY AGENDA
FISCAL YEAR 2007
WITHLACOOCHEE RIVER BASIN BOARD
PLANNING WORKSHOP

1. **Call to Order**

Presenter: Seeth Trimpert, Vice Chair

2. **Introduction / Workshop Purpose**

The Basin Board Planning Workshop is the Board's annual opportunity to establish its priorities and set its strategic direction for the coming fiscal year. This provides guidance to staff and local cooperators in developing project proposals and assists the Board in its budgeting decisions for the Cooperative Funding, Basin Initiatives, New Water Sources Initiative and other programs. Key objectives are to review the Basin's ongoing priorities for resource-based activities, including public education, identify emerging issues and to clearly establish priorities for Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 and beyond.

Presenter: B. Terry Johnson, AICP, Planning Manager

3. **Overview of Basin Issues and Ongoing Initiatives**

The Basin Board's FY 2006 Priorities have been included in the Board's Information Notebook for each meeting since last year's workshop. These priorities have also been forwarded to local governments, the public and other cooperators through various media. The maturation of these priorities has allowed this year's workshop to take a slightly different focus, i.e., identification of the strategic budget direction of the Basin Board and how it is integrated with the strategic priorities of the Governing Board. Several exhibits are provided for this discussion, including the existing Basin Board priorities, the Governing Board's FY 2006 Strategic Budget Priorities and budget breakout information for the Basin Board's FY 2005 and FY 2006 budgets (shown by area of responsibility).

Presenter: B. Terry Johnson, AICP, Planning Manager

See Exhibits

• **Accomplishments / Ongoing Priorities / Emerging Issues**

Staff will provide an overview of how the Basin Board's existing and planned projects have resulted in numerous accomplishments, and depict the ongoing priorities of the Board, for member feedback and discussion. The underlying basis for this information is the District's "Areas of Responsibility," including Water Supply, Flood Protection, Water Quality and Natural Systems, as well as water resource education.

One of the valuable aspects of annual planning workshops is the ability to capture new trends and developments and to assess how they may affect water resource management at the Basin Board level. Recent examples of such changes with potential implications for the Basin Board include the update to the Regional Water Supply Plan (RWSP), the Department of Environmental Protection's efforts in setting Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) and recent legislation creating the Water

Sustainability and Protection Program. Staff will present an overview of emerging issues and seek Basin Board input.

- **Strategic Budget Direction**

The Basin Board has ongoing budget commitments (ranging from administrative support and tax collector commissions to SWIM and Basin Initiatives), as well as available funding for new cooperative projects each fiscal year. In addition, a number of Basin Boards will see the completion of their financial responsibility for the original Tampa Bay Partnership Agreement in FY 2007, while others will continue gearing up for solving the water resource issues of the Southern Water Use Caution Area (SWUCA). The workshop represents a good opportunity to assess where the Board is now, and where it might head strategically to best address its resource management responsibilities. The strategic categories identified by staff for discussion purposes for the Withlacoochee River Basin Board include: (1) development and implementation of the Watershed Management Program; (2) the Western Terminus Cross Florida Greenway Project; (3) springs protection/SWIM; (4) the Tsala Apopka Task Force; (5) alternative water supply development; and (6) public and youth education.

4. **Confirm / Update Basin Priorities and Strategic Budget Direction**

Staff will provide an overview of the Governing Board's Strategic Priorities and how they have resulted in the budget direction of the District at that level. Like the Basins, the Governing Board addresses the areas of Water Supply, Flood Protection, Water Quality, Natural Systems and Water Resource Education. Board member consensus will be sought on the Basin's strategic budget direction for FY 2007 and beyond. Future challenges will also be discussed as needed, including how the Basin Board and Governing Board can jointly implement effective regional-scale projects that optimize the limited funding available to manage and protect water resources.

Presenter: B. Terry Johnson, AICP, Planning Manager

5. **Open Discussion**

Discussion as directed by the Basin Board.

Presenters: Basin Board Members

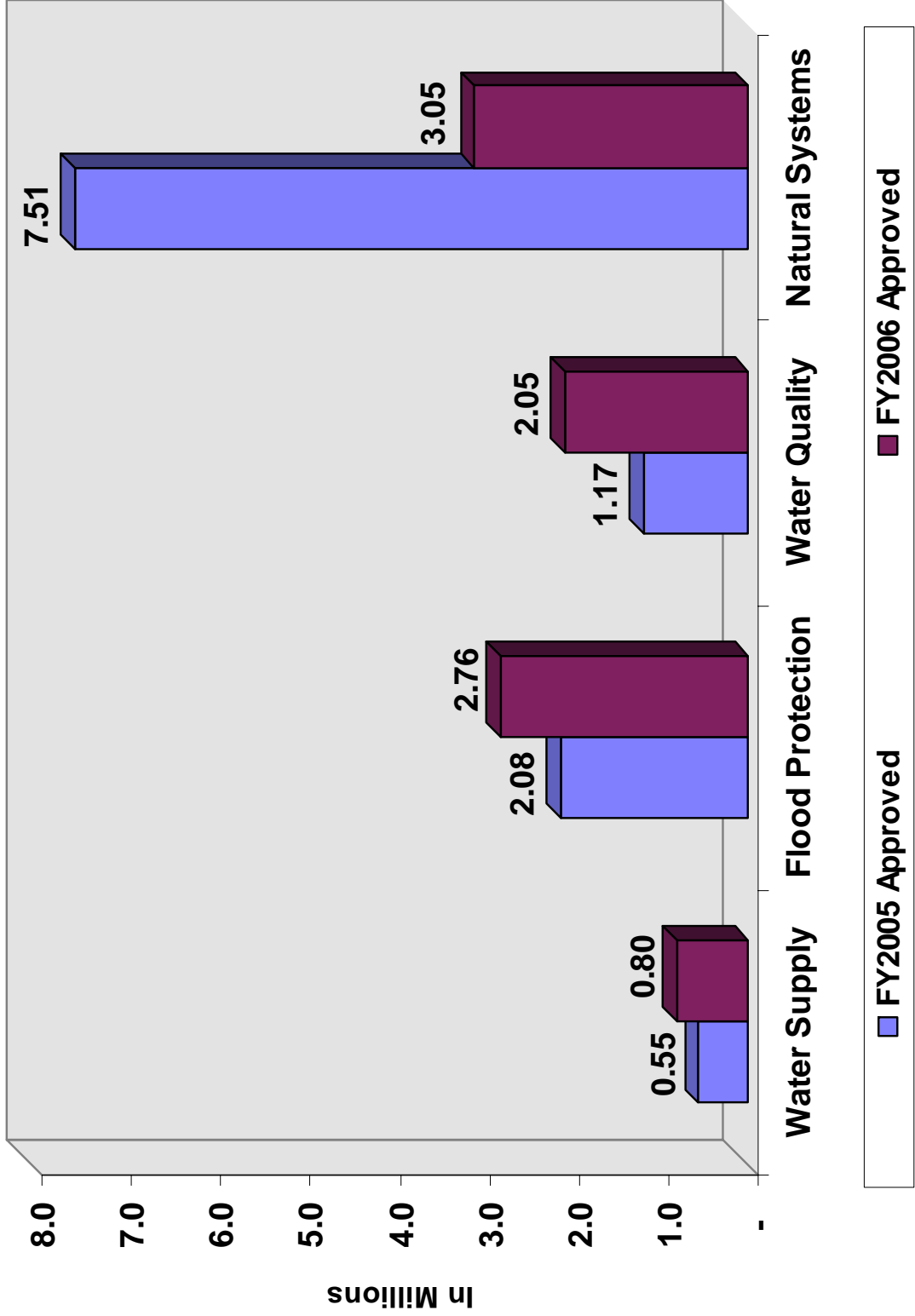
6. **Public Input**

Presenters: Seeth Trimpert, Vice Chair, and members of the public

7. **Adjournment**

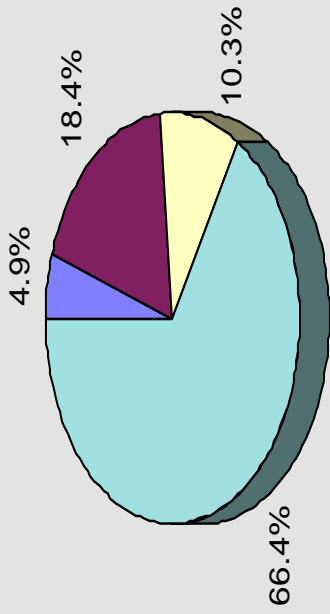
Presenter: Seeth Trimpert, Vice Chair

Withlacoochee River Basin Budget By Area of Responsibility



Withlacoochee River Basin Budget By Area of Responsibility

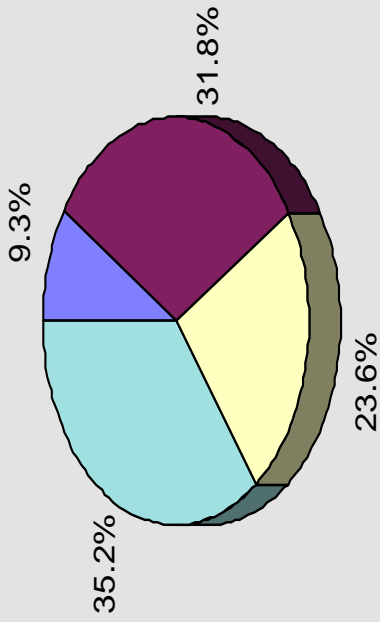
FY2005 Approved



Total
\$11,312,338

Water Supply	\$ 554,346
Flood Protection	\$2,084,587
Water Quality	\$1,165,889
Natural Systems	\$7,507,515

FY2006 Approved



Total
\$8,656,121

Water Supply	\$ 803,979
Flood Protection	\$2,755,825
Water Quality	\$2,045,342
Natural Systems	\$3,050,975

Budget Policy and Strategy

The Governing Board FY2006 Budget Strategic Priorities approved in December 2004, served as the foundation for developing the annual service budget:

- Meeting present and future water resource and supply needs utilizing financial incentive programs by "staying the course" to fund the long-term **Financial Engine** through 2020, being updated through 2025, including:
 - New Water Sources Initiative (NWSI) funding for resource development, including continued financial support for the Northern Tampa Bay Partnership Agreement with Tampa Bay Water;
 - Identification and funding of public, private and agricultural partnering opportunities for Water Supply and Resource Development projects, with priority on the Southern Water Use Caution Area (SWUCA) and implementation of the regional reclaimed water project in Northern Tampa Bay; and
 - Basin Board funding for conservation and reuse projects with local partners.
- Establishment of Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs), and continued implementation of associated recovery strategies.
- Further planning, development and implementation of the Comprehensive Watershed Management initiative to accomplish Flood Protection, Water Supply, Water Quality and Natural Systems Areas of Responsibility.
- Deploying secure, advanced technology applications to support data collection, analysis and modeling, enhance administrative efficiency, and improve outreach and communication with a variety of stakeholders.
- Operation and maintenance of water management structures for flood protection including enhanced emergency management planning, response and recovery capabilities.
- Continuing protection of water and related natural resources through the acquisition, management, restoration and proper utilization of District lands.
- Seeking state and federal funds, and public-private partnerships, to assist in implementation of water supply and resource development projects.

In addition to these priorities, the District is responsible for maintaining and enhancing other core programs including:

- Water Resources Planning and Monitoring;
- Acquisition, Restoration and Public Works;
- Operation and Maintenance of Lands and Works;
- Regulation;
- Outreach (Public Education); and
- Management and Administration.

Following are descriptions of the District's major priorities as listed above:

Meeting present and future water resource and supply needs utilizing financial incentive programs - The District's 2001 Regional Water Supply Plan (RWSP) concluded that an additional 217 million gallons per day (mgd) in new water supplies, beyond those currently under development or fully programmed, must be developed between the years 2001 and 2020 (now being updated through

2025) to meet growing demands within a ten-county area encompassing Pasco county south to Charlotte county. It is estimated that these new supplies will cost approximately \$1.3 billion to develop. (Note that this does not include approximately \$1 billion already committed to existing and programmed water supply and resource development projects.) The challenges will be to develop these new sources in a timely and sustainable manner, and to avoid the negative effects of competition for limited supplies. To address these challenges, the District must maintain its resolve to contribute to the solutions. The primary District mechanisms for funding water supply and resource development include the New Water Sources Initiative (NWSI), Basin Board Cooperative Funding Program, Water Supply and Resource Development funding program, portions of the Florida Forever funds, funds provided by the Water Protection and Sustainability Trust Fund enacted in 2005 by the Florida legislature, and potential federal funds. Collectively, these planned sources are referred to as the Financial Engine (see "seeking state and federal funds, and public-private partnerships, to assist in implementation of water supply and resource development projects" below).

The RWSP encompasses all of the Northern Tampa Bay and Southern Water Use Caution Areas. These are areas where existing withdrawals from groundwater resources are causing impacts to water and related natural resources. Ground water in these areas, the traditional source of supply, will be limited in its ability to meet significant growth in water demands. New sources will come primarily from alternatives to ground water, including surface water, reclaimed water, desalination and conservation.

In the Northern Tampa Bay area, not only must growing demands for water be met, but additional sources must also be developed to replace existing groundwater withdrawals as a part of a recovery strategy for the area. The recovery strategy has been initiated, in conjunction with established Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs), to reduce groundwater withdrawals from regional wellfields in the area. These reductions in withdrawals are intended to allow for restoration of lakes and wetlands impacted by the wellfields. As these groundwater withdrawal reductions have taken place, alternative water supplies have been developed to offset these reductions. The District has committed to provide, over a ten-year period extending through the year 2007, a total of \$183 million to assist Tampa Bay Water in the development of these alternative supplies. In addition, the District has committed to continue its Basin Board Cooperative Funding Program in the amount of at least \$9 million per year over this same time period to assist the local governments in the area in the implementation of conservation and reuse projects, with a savings of at least 17 mgd. The District has also provided \$26 million in Save Our Rivers and Preservation 2000 state funding toward the purchase of the lands for Tampa Bay Water's regional reservoir.

To continue to plan for and address growing water demands in the Tampa Bay region, another innovative partnership has been developed among the District, Tampa Bay Water, Pasco and Hillsborough counties, and the city of Tampa to maximize the beneficial use of reclaimed water. This multifaceted project includes augmentation of surface water resources downstream of current withdrawal points to allow greater withdrawals during low flow conditions, enhanced storage which is critical to maximizing the use of reclaimed water, and restoration of areas impacted by wellfield withdrawals and past drainage practices. This partnership will likely extend through at least 2012 and will rely upon continued use of the Financial Engine.

In the SWUCA, a draft Recovery Strategy has been developed that also heavily relies upon the development of alternative sources to help meet growing water demands and to offset existing groundwater withdrawals, particularly in the coastal regions. The SWUCA Recovery Strategy is anticipated to be finalized in 2005; and also relies upon a portion of the Financial Engine to assist in the development of water resource, water supply, and restoration projects. A critical component of the SWUCA Recovery Strategy involves the ability to track water use permitting and associated water uses, and resource recovery trends specifically for MFL water bodies in the SWUCA. A water use tracking project has been completed in 2005.

Establishment of Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs) and continued implementation of associated recovery strategies - The District is legislatively charged with the establishment of MFLs for priority water bodies throughout the District. As a part of this legislative charge, the District must maintain a priority list and schedule for the establishment of MFLs and update this schedule on an annual basis. The District has a very aggressive schedule for the adoption of MFLs. MFLs play a critical role in both the Northern Tampa Bay and Southern Water Use Caution Areas, where recovery strategies are currently being implemented. The District has increasingly been asked to expedite the establishment of MFLs on various waterbodies throughout the District, particularly as these waterbodies are looked to as potential sources of future supply.

Further planning, development and implementation of the Comprehensive Watershed Management (CWM) initiative to accomplish Flood Protection, Water Supply, Water Quality and Natural Systems Areas of Responsibility - The District has, over the years, prepared a series of long-range water supply plans. These plans have been prepared in response to ever growing water supply demands and the increasing difficulty in meeting these demands while at the same time protecting water and related natural resources. Most recent among these plans is the Regional Water Supply Plan. These water supply plans are constantly being updated (e.g., regional reuse planning in the Northern Tampa Bay region) and are being implemented through continuation of the Financial Engine (see "meeting present and future water resource and supply needs" strategic priority above). However, until recently, no such long-term, comprehensive planning process existed for the District's other Areas of Responsibility (AORs), including Flood Protection, Water Quality and Natural Systems Management. The CWM initiative is the means by which these other AORs (with water supply issues addressed where appropriate as well) can be approached on a long-term, integrated basis.

Flood Protection, Water Supply, Water Quality, and Natural Systems are critical to the District's water management mission. These AORs are the focus of the CWM initiative. The initiative emphasizes management at the watershed scale, and provides the forum and tools for coordinated planning between the District, local governments, state agencies, and other stakeholders. A significant element of CWM is the active involvement of the local governments within a watershed. Local governments have the greatest influence over future growth through their comprehensive plans and associated land development regulations. Partnering with local governments is essential to a successful water management program, including active participation in issue identification, development of preventative or remedial strategies, and achieving coordinated implementation. An example of such partnerships is the District's Watershed Management Program (WMP), a cooperative effort with local governments to identify priority watersheds, develop data and watershed models, address existing flooding problems and prevent future problems as growth and development continue. The data standards of the WMP have qualified the District as a Cooperating Technical Partner with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), making available federal funding to modernize obsolete floodplain maps and maintain the updated maps. Another key CWM-related activity is the Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) program, through which the District leverages state funds to restore natural systems and water quality in priority estuaries, rivers and lakes. Additional efforts to monitor, enhance and maintain surface and ground-water quality include the Ridge Lakes Initiative in Polk and Highlands counties and the Springs Initiative in the northern part of the District.

Related to this priority is the development of the Water Management Information System (see "Deploying secure, advanced technology applications to support data collection, analysis and modeling, enhance administrative efficiency, and improve outreach communication with a variety of stakeholders" below).

Deploying secure, advanced technology applications to support data collection, analysis and modeling, enhance administrative efficiency, and improve outreach communication with a variety of stakeholders - A significant component of implementing the CWM initiative is building the necessary decision support systems at the District. Technological enhancements are a critical component of this effort. The Water Management Information System (WMIS) will support the CWM

initiative by integrating permitting and regulatory data with other spatial and temporal resource data in a web-based geographic information system that uses a unified data source to allow streamlining and improvement of District work processes. Additionally, WMIS will enhance internal and external users ability to synthesize information from a variety of sources including District databases, other government agencies, and commercial data products. The District's implementation of e-government with WMIS is in line with state initiatives and includes online permitting, a workflow / imaging component, continuing technology transfers with federal, state and local government agencies, enhanced teleconferencing capabilities, and technical resources like the Water Use Tracking project, among others.

Operation and maintenance of water management structures for flood protection including enhanced emergency management planning, response and recovery capabilities - In recent years, flood protection has received increased emphasis at the District. Although today's primary approach to providing flood protection is through non-structural means, the District is responsible for the maintenance and operation of 79 existing flood protection, salinity control and water management structures, and four drainage canals. The critical importance of these facilities was apparent in the summer and fall of 2004, when tropical storm Bonnie and Hurricanes Charley, Frances and Jeanne caused extensive damage to property and natural systems throughout much of the District. These multiple events created the need for the District to become active in disaster response, more so than it had in several decades. Subsequent to these disaster management and recovery activities, the District initiated an in-depth evaluation of its emergency operations, including disaster preparedness, response and post-disaster recovery. Potential improvements to the District's emergency management capabilities were divided into two categories, including (1) Projects, Equipment and Facilities; and (2) Procedural or Protocol Items. The existing budget (FY2005) was re-prioritized in order to implement those items determined to be of immediate importance. Additional items have been included in the FY2006 budget, and budgetary planning for FY2007 and beyond has begun. A significant part of this effort has been to become compliant with the National Incident Management System and to seek federal and other funding opportunities.

Continuing protection of water and related natural resources through the acquisition, management, restoration, and proper utilization of District lands - The District Governing Board has recognized land acquisition as one of its primary tools for achieving its statutory responsibilities. Land acquisition and management can contribute to achieving each of the District's Areas of Responsibility, including Water Supply, Flood Protection, Water Quality, and Natural Systems. To date, the District has protected approximately 416,000 acres of land, primarily through such programs as Save Our Rivers, Preservation 2000, and Florida Forever. The latter focuses not only on land conservation and preservation through acquisition, but also on water resource development, restoration, and recreation. In addition, the District will maximize opportunities to purchase lands that meet multiple purposes, including natural systems restoration, water resource development, and contribute to implementation of minimum flows and levels recovery strategies.

Seeking state and federal funds, and public-private partnerships, to assist in implementation of water supply and resource development projects - The District has been highly effective in leveraging its own funding sources with those of local governments and other partners to achieve mutual objectives. In the last several years, the District has increased its efforts to obtain state and federal funding, as well as private partners, particularly in the area of water supply and resource development. This priority reflects a continuing emphasis on development of these funding sources.

This priority represents a recognition that Florida's water resources and their responsible development will require participation of all appropriate parties, including the state and federal governments, where their interests are served. Present examples with a clear federal interest include the Tampa Bay Regional Reclaimed Water and Downstream Augmentation Project, and the Peace River and Myakka River Watersheds Restoration Initiative. Federal funding was appropriated in 2005 for both projects: the Tampa Bay Regional Reclaimed Water and Downstream Augmentation Project received

\$1.45 million and the Peace River and Myakka River Watersheds Restoration Initiative received \$500,000. These amounts have been included in the District's FY2006 budget.

The District also supports programmatic funding from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in regard to the Withlacoochee River Comprehensive Watershed Management Analysis and Restoration, and FEMA in regard to the National Flood Insurance Program Map Modernization effort. These projects share at least one thing in common: they employ a watershed-based approach to developing sustainable water supplies while protecting Florida's sensitive natural environment.

Finally, the District takes an interest in federal legislation that will benefit District programs and priorities. The District supports passage of the Desalination Energy Assistance Act (H.R. 3834), which provides incentives for the development of desalination facilities, and the Investing in America's Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act (H.R. 3410) which provides incentives for financing of water infrastructure through the use of Private Activity Bonds.

Withlacoochee River FY 2006 Basin Priorities

<p style="text-align: center;">WATER SUPPLY</p> <p>Comprehensive Watershed Management</p> <p>New Water Sources Initiative Desalination</p> <p>Water Conservation Support Districtwide Water Conservation Initiative Evaluate feasibility of plumbing fixture retrofit program Implement reuse projects that achieve desired efficiencies</p> <p>Water Supply Protection & Development Monitor and Actively Support "Local Sources First" Legislation Accelerate Northern District Water Resource Assessment Project Continue Inter-District Coordination for Shared Counties</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">WATER QUALITY</p> <p>Comprehensive Watershed Management</p> <p>Watershed Assessments</p> <p>SWIM Program (Lake Panasoffkee/Rainbow River)</p> <p>Nutrient Contamination Agricultural/Residential/Commercial/Recreational Policy on Best Management Practices (BMPs)</p> <p>Nutrient Management in Spring Recharge Areas</p> <p>Army Corps of Engineers Assessment</p> <p>Identify/Study/Protect Site Specific Sinkholes</p> <p>Water Quality Monitoring Network & Database</p> <p>Stormwater Retrofits to Add Treatment Function to Pre-regulatory Facilities</p>
<div style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 5px; margin: 0 auto; width: 80%;"> <p style="text-align: center; color: blue;">Public and Youth Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Florida Friendly Landscape Education and Promotion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Water Conservation Education ◆ Community Education Grants ◆ Watershed Education </div>	
<p style="text-align: center;">FLOOD PROTECTION</p> <p>Comprehensive Watershed Management</p> <p>Watershed Management Program Topographic Information Watershed Evaluation Watershed Management Plan Implementation of Best Management Practices Watershed Model Updates</p> <p>Cooperating Technical Partner with FEMA Coordinate with local governments on development of flood mapping (including FPC document with a Memorandum of Understanding)</p> <p>Army Corps of Engineers Assessment Withlacoochee River Watershed Evaluation Lake Tsala Apopka assessment and existing structure evaluation Lake Rousseau/Barge Canal Evaluation</p> <p>Work with Private Landowners</p> <p>Stormwater Utilities</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">NATURAL SYSTEMS</p> <p>Comprehensive Watershed Management</p> <p>Estuarine/Coastal Systems Protection Lake Rousseau/Lower Withlacoochee River restoration</p> <p>Coordination with Coastal Rivers Basin Board in Acquiring NEP Designation for the coastal rivers in both Basins</p> <p>Lake Panasoffkee/Rainbow River SWIM</p> <p>Army Corps of Engineers Assessment</p> <p>District Lands Restoration Hydrologic, habitat and water quality restoration</p> <p>Support Establishment of Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs)</p> <p>Nutrient Management in Spring Recharge Areas</p>

