

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

COOPERATIVE FUNDING PUBLIC MEETING

TAMPA BAY REGION COOPERATIVE FUNDING INITIATIVE PUBLIC MEETING GOVERNING BOARD SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA

APRIL 8, 2020

Due to the COVID-19 virus, this meeting was held through electronic media to reduce public gatherings and practice social distancing.

The Tampa Bay Region Cooperative Funding Initiative Public Meeting hosted by the Southwest Florida Water Management District Governing Board convened at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 8, 2020 at the District's Brooksville Office at 2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, Florida.

Governing Board Members Present

Mark Taylor, Ad Hoc Committee Chair
Michelle Williamson *via Phone
Rebecca Smith, Ph.D. *via Phone
Roger Germann *via Phone
Seth Weightman *via Phone

Staff Members Present

Mandi Rice *via phone
Jennette Seachrist
Michael Molligan *via phone
JP Marchand
Kevin Wills
Randy Smith

Recording Secretary

Lori Manuel

Committee Chair Taylor explained the logistics of the meeting. He explained that he was serving as the Ad Hoc Chair and would not be voting on any items. Committee Chair Taylor called a short recess to allow for public comments to be received.

The meeting reconvened at 10:10.

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

1. Call to Order and Pledge Allegiance

Committee Chair Taylor called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance.

2. Introductions

Committee Chair Taylor introduced the other members of the committee.

3. Action Item: Approval of February 13, 2020 Meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the February 13 meeting. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

4. CFI Final Staff Rankings and Recommendations

Mr. Kevin Wills, Cooperative Funding Initiative Program lead, provided a presentation. This presentation included a comparison of applications and requests funded for all four regions from Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 to present. Mr. Wills explained that 16 projects, for FY2021, have been withdrawn and are not included in the final evaluations and rankings.

The presentation outlined the project funding requests for FY2021 by ranking, for the Tampa Bay Region. A map was included that depicted the location of the projects throughout the Tampa Bay Region.

Mr. Wills updated the Committee regarding changes that had occurred since the February 13 meeting.

Mr. Wills stated that a revised staff evaluation was received for high ranked project N949.

Mr. Wills stated that project Q147 was withdrawn.

Mr. Randy Smith, Natural Systems and Restoration Bureau chief, provided a presentation regarding high ranked project Q125.

Committee Chair Williamson asked if the City of Plant City is prepared to begin construction once permitting is completed. Ms. Lynn Spivey, representing the City of Plant City, responded in the affirmative.

Mr. JP Marchand, Water Resources Bureau chief, provided a presentation regarding high ranked project N949.

Mr. Marchand provide a presentation regarding high ranked project Q156 and low ranked project N901. He explained the relationship of the two projects and why the different rankings for each project.

5. Receive Additional Public Comments

Jane Graham, representing Smolker, Bartlett, Loeb, Hinds and Thompson Law Firm, spoke in favor of high ranked project Q156.

Mr. Bruce McArthur, representing Landis Evans, spoke in favor of high ranked project Q156.

The committee members supported staff's recommendation for high ranked project Q156 and recommended that project N901 be revisited in the future if necessary.

6. Action Item: Approve Project Rankings and Recommendations

Staff recommended the Committee approve the project rankings for the Cooperative Funding projects in the Tampa Bay Region ranked 1A, High and Medium; recommend the Governing Board include these projects in the District's budget for Fiscal Year 2020-21; and drop from consideration those projects ranked Low or Not Recommended.

A motion was made to approve staff's recommendation. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

7. Adjournment

There being no further discussion, Committee Chair Taylor thanked everyone who participated in the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:04.