

APPROVED

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Pending Permit Applications Public Meeting
Southwest Florida Water Management District
January 4, 2011

Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) staff met for the Pending Permit Applications Public Meeting at the Tampa Service Office, Tampa, Florida, at 9 a.m. Richard Owen, Deputy Executive Director, presided.

Staff Members Present

Richard Owen, Deputy Executive Director
Jack Pepper, Deputy General Counsel
Alba Más, Director, Tampa Regulation

Recording Secretary

Carol Walkinshaw, Senior Administrative Assistant

A list of those present who signed the attendance roster is filed in the permanent files of the District. Minutes for this meeting, when available, are posted on the District's calendar at www.WaterMatters.org.

Mr. Owen called the meeting to order.

Mr. Owen stated the purpose of this meeting is to offer the public an opportunity to express their opinions on pending permit applications listed on today's agenda prior to decisions being made on those permits. Recent legislation continues delegated authority to approve or deny surface water and consumptive use permits from the Water Management District Governing Boards to the executive directors. The legislation affects only those permits that had previously been approved by the Board, or about four–five percent. To provide public discussion and transparency, a monthly meeting will be held to allow the public to present information or opinions about those pending permits which previously would have gone to the Governing Board for action. The intent is not to use this forum to debate the merits, but rather to gather information. Those wishing to speak to a permit were directed to fill out and submit a *Request to Speak* form.

The permit process may begin with pre-application meetings, and those meetings are highly encouraged. When the District receives the permit application, the Notice of Receipt is posted on the District's website (www.WaterMatters.org/epermitting/). Also, the permit search feature may be used to track a specific permit through the review process. The permit application is evaluated, and a question and response process follows. This meeting for public input falls near the end of that process; the last Request for Additional Information (RAI) or Clarification of Information Received (CLAR) would have been sent and the response would have been received and reviewed, and the application deemed complete. It is at this point that staff agenda the permit and the draft permit document is developed. The deadline to have a permit added to this agenda is 3 p.m. on the Friday prior to the Public meeting.

Once this meeting has taken place and any public input has been considered relative to District rules and regulations, the permit document is finalized and the Final Agency Action is mailed. Regardless of whether staff recommendation is for application approval or denial, interested parties have 26 days to file objections to a permit (allowing for 5 days in the mail and the 21-day window for objections). If the decision is made to deny a permit, the applicant may request that the denial be brought before the Board.

After the window for objections has closed for a permit, it is then placed as an information item on the Governing Board agenda, allowing the Board and others to review permits issued as to application of rules: Was the application of rules appropriate? Do the rules appropriately address water resource and environmental concerns within the jurisdiction of the District?

Mr. Owen asked if there was anyone present that had filled out a *Request to Speak* form who wished to speak to a permit listed on the revised agenda; there was none.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

The following documents are attached to these minutes for the permanent files of the District:

- Revised Agenda (list of permits subject to public comment at this meeting)
- Meeting Sign-In Sheets

Subsequent to this meeting:

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 1, 2011, 9:00 a.m., at the Tampa Service Office.