

# APPROVED

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Pending Permit Applications Public Meeting  
Southwest Florida Water Management District  
January 5, 2010

Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) staff met for the Pending Permit Applications Public Meeting at the Tampa Service Office, Tampa, Florida, at 9:00 a.m. David Moore, Executive Director, presided.

### Staff Members Present

David Moore, Executive Director  
Richard Owen, Deputy Executive Director  
Jack Pepper, Deputy General Counsel  
Alba Mas, Director, Tampa Regulation

### Recording Secretary

Carol Lynch, 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](http://www.WaterMatters.org).

Mr. Moore called the meeting to order and introduced key staff.

Mr. Moore 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. Those wishing to speak to a permit were directed to fill out and submit a *Request to Speak* form.

Recent legislation (Senate Bill 2080) delegated authority to approve or deny surface water and consumptive use permits from the Water Management District Governing Boards to the executive directors. At this District, the Governing Board had previously delegated authority over most permits to the Executive Director, so the legislation affects only those permits that had previously been approved by the Board, or about four - five percent. When signing the legislation, the Governor asked the districts to have permits on a public meeting agenda for discussion and transparency purposes. To meet the need for public discussion and transparency, the District will hold monthly meetings. The public may 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.

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/](http://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. Moore 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 2, 2010, 9:00 a.m., at the Tampa Service Office in the Board Room.