The Alafia River Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a regular meeting at 9:30 a.m., August 3, 2006, at the Tampa Service Office.

**Board Members Present**
James D. Selvey, Vice Chair  
Stephen J. Bissonnette, Secretary  
Carol "Cammy" Hinton, Member

**Board Members Absent**
Jennifer E. Closshey, Chair Ex Officio  
Cheryl E. Johnson, Member  
Jean C. Tort, Member

**Recording Secretary**
M. Frances Sesler

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 Closshey was absent from the meeting; Vice Chair Jim Selvey called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Ms. Sesler, the Board's administrative support, called the roll and noted a quorum was present.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**  
   Vice Chair Selvey led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

3. **Additions and Deletions to Agenda**  
   Ms. Lou Kavouras, Deputy Executive Director, noted there were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

4. **Consent Items:**
   a. **June 8, 2006, Meeting Minutes** – approve the minutes as presented.
   b. **Medard Reservoir Structure Rehabilitation Project – Board Encumbrance (B189)**  
      Approve the encumbrance of $300,000 without a contract for the Medard Reservoir Structure Rehabilitation Project.
   c. **Water Protection and Sustainability Program (WPSP) Trust Funds - Board Encumbrance**  
      Approve the Board encumbrance of Fiscal Year (FY) 2006 WPSP project appropriations, not yet encumbered under a contract, to preserve the full $25 million budget appropriation for the FY2006 allocation from the State WPSP Trust Fund.
d. **Surface Water Improvement and Management – Board Encumbrance (W316, W385, W386, and W395)**
   1. Approve the encumbrance of $216,930, without a contract for the Cockroach Bay Restoration project to be used in FY2007 for construction activities.
   2. Approve the encumbrance of $100,000, without a contract for the Ekker Property Restoration project to be used in FY2007 for construction activities.
   3. Approve the encumbrance of $20,000, without a contract for the Newman Branch Habitat Restoration Project to be used in FY2007 for construction activities.
   4. Approve the encumbrance of $1,250,000, without a contract for the Rock Pond Habitat Restoration Project to be used in FY2007 for construction activities.

e. **Lake Hancock Lake Level Modification Project – Board Encumbrance (H008)**
   Approve the encumbrance of $300,000, of which $18,750 is from the Alafia River Basin Board, without a contract to be used in FY2007 for implementation of the Lake Hancock Lake Level Modification Project.

Following consideration, **Mr. Bissonnette moved, seconded by Ms. Hinton, to approve Consent Items 4. a – e. Motion carried unanimously.** (CD Track 1)

5. **Discussion Items:**
   a. **Review of FY2006 Media Messaging**
      Ms. Melissa Roe, Senior Communications Coordinator presented a brief report of FY2006 Media Messaging, which focused on outdoor water conservation measures and promoted the District's Florida-friendly landscaping program. Goals of the messaging were to raise awareness, promote the use of Florida-friendly landscaping, and increase the effectiveness of existing District Florida-friendly programs. Ms. Roe’s report included various media used during the campaign and the timeframe of each, "spots" on the Daytime Show on television, a resulting 700 percent increase in the number of online orders for District education materials, and the overall success of the program in getting the conservation message to the public.

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

   b. **FY2007 Budget Discussion and Approval of Final Millage Rate and Budget**
      Bruce Wirth, Deputy Executive Director, presented information on the FY2007 Budget and mentioned an assessment increase of 25.6 percent for the Basin. He characterized the Board as being in good financial status, and suggested the Basin maintain the millage rate of 0.240 that was agreed to in June. Mr. Selvey made positive remarks on budgeting $500,000 for contingency and encouraged cautious spending of the funds due to the storm threats. Mr. Wirth stated all District resources would be available to address the aftermath of a major hurricane. Mr. Selvey then questioned the overall staff salary increase for the District. Ms. Linda Pilcher explained the budgets reflect a three percent merit increase or salary pool, which equates to four percent annualized. For FY2007, there was an additional 3.5 percent increase in salaries to implement the Mercer recommendations to maintain the District's market competitiveness. Mr. Bissonnette inquired about the future funding needs of the Polk County Watershed Evaluation project (L672). Mr. Wirth explained early project completion and reduced future funding needs are expected with the increase in FY2007 funding. Ms. Hinton questioned the budgeting of $1.2 million for the Water
Supply and Resource Development reserve. Mr. Wirth commented this is a reserve and funds not used for projects would be re-budgeted. Mr. Bissonnette reported seven percent of the cooperative funding dollars are going to Polk County and its taxes make up about 16 percent of the budget. He noted this is progress. Ms. Kavouras read the staff's recommendation to: (1) approve and adopt a final required tax levy of 0.240 for FY2007; (2) approve and adopt the final FY2007 budget with the changes that were presented regarding projects L672 and L675 and revenue generated from Polk County; and (3) adopt Resolution No. 77 – Resolution Affirming the Required Final Tax Levy and Fiscal Year 2007 budget.

Following consideration, Ms. Hinton moved, seconded by Mr. Bissonnette, to approve the staff's recommendation. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Reports:
   a. **Basin Board Education Committee**
      Ms. Kavouras stated that Ms. Cheryl Johnson, Primary Representative, attended the Basin Board Education Committee meeting. Ms. Beth Bartos, Communication Manager, provided an update on the July 11, 2006 meeting, at the Tampa Service Office. There was mention that the Community Education Grant applications are available online and accepted now through September 15, 2006. (CD Track 3)
   b. **Basin Board Land Resource Committee**
      Mr. Eric Sutton, Assistant Land Resources Director, reviewed the July 13 meeting. Committee discussion included the hunt evaluation required by the "No Net Loss of Hunting Land" legislation. Mr. Selvey questioned the number of District lands with facilities similar to those at Medard Park, public access to District lands and whether the District received funding from hunt permits. Mr. Bissonnette apologized for not attending the past several committee meetings and noted his intentions to attend the next one. He offered the opportunity to other Basin Board members if they wish to attend. Ms. Kavouras noted that Ms. Cheryl Johnson was in attendance at the Basin Board Land Resources Committee meeting.
   c. **Chair Ex Officio Report on Governing Board Activities**
      The Board viewed a four-minute video summary of the July/August 2006 Governing Board meeting that aired on local government access television channels throughout the District. Ms. Kavouras summarized the Governing Board meeting that included a Memorandum of Agreement that was signed with Polk County for the Lake Hancock Lake Modification Project currently in the permitting stages; a Joint Memorandum of Understanding between St. Johns River, South Florida and the Southwest Florida Water Management Districts has been drafted to improve Inter-District coordination in the Central part of the State where boundaries are shared; and, discussion on the District's Strategic Plan. Ms. Kavouras noted the next Governing Board meeting will be held September 26 and 27, 2006, at the Tampa Service Office.

Discussion followed on the Alafia River debris cleanup project. Ms. Karen Wagner, Alafia River Stewardship Alliance, opened the discussion with several comments relating to the improper siting of project debris stacks and the liability burden caused by the placement of debris on private property. She also asked the Board to consider putting this back on the agenda for more discussion and budgeting funds for periodic river maintenance. Mr. Selvey stated disposal sites should be clearly marked with the next cleanup, and the liability issue is a valid concern. Mr. Mark Hammond, Director, Resource Management Department, addressed activity completed to date, plans to complete a visual survey of
the river and ongoing coordination with Hillsborough County for monitoring the movement of stacked debris. In response to comments made by Ms. Wagner about the existence of maintenance agreements on other waterways trails, both Ms. Hinton and Mr. Selvey inquired about the parties involved in these agreements. Ms. Wagner stated the designation agreements are with Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Army Corps of Engineers and local entities and agreed to furnish copies, and commented the Office of Greenways and Trailways informed her of ongoing talks with the District for maintenance on the Alafia River. She also stated Hillsborough County Parks and Recreation does not have the funds or manpower for river maintenance. Mr. Wirth stated he wanted to do more research on the waterway trail funding issue, and reminded everyone the District addresses flood protection. Mr. Selvey noted the Alafia River is the Basin's major waterway so we should do what we can. Mr. Bissonnette commented on the importance of working on the issue between Board meetings because of the storm threat posed by hurricane season, and stated there should be some research and exploration on maintenance options. Mr. Selvey commented on the importance of dialogue for identifying solutions. Mr. Hammond agreed to continue the dialogue with residents and work to identify debris stacks inconsistent with contract stacking specifications. Mr. Bissonnette said to put this back on the agenda would not be feasible since we are now in the hurricane season and the next meeting is in October. He said it would be beneficial to bring back ongoing options or circumstances. Mr. Wirth said that this matter would be looked into. (CD Track 4)

7. **Announcements:**
   a. Annual Conference on Water Management: September 6-8, 2006, Innisbrook, Tarpon Springs
   b. Next Basin Board Meeting and Workshop: Tuesday, October 10, 2006, 9:00 a.m., Tampa Service Office
   d. Partners in Watershed Education Awards/Field Trip: Wednesday, November 8, 2006, 11:30 a.m., Mirror Lake Complex, Lakeland
   e. Other

8. **Adjournment**
   There being no further business or discussions, Vice Chair Selvey adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m. (CD Track 4)

****Information Item****

The item listed below was for the Board's information, intended to keep the Board apprised of completed projects, cancelled projects, and projects that have executed contracts and is ready to begin. The item does not require Board action at this time.

1. County Parcel Data Acquisition (B530) – Execution Notice