Minutes of the Meeting

ALAFIA RIVER BASIN BOARD
Southwest Florida Water Management District

Tampa, Florida               October 6, 2005

The Alafia River Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a regular meeting at 9:45 a.m., October 6, 2005, at the Tampa Service Office.

**Board Members Present**
Janet Kovach, Chair Ex Officio
Stephen J. Bissonnette, Secretary
Carol “Cammy” Hinton, Member
Cheryl E. Johnson, Member
Jean C. Tort, Member

**Board Members Absent**
Jim Selvey, Vice Chair

**Recording Secretary**
Joan Riccardelli

**Staff Members**
Bruce C. Wirth
Lou Kavouras
Mark A. Hammond
Gregg W. Jones
Gary W. Kuhl
Richard S. Owen
Rand R. Baldwin
M. Beth Bartos
Eric C. DeHaven
Randy C. Emberg
Trish D. Neasman
Kathleen F. Scott

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 Kovach called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m. Ms. Riccardelli called the roll and noted a quorum was present. (CD Track 1/0:01-1:28)

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
   Chair Kovach led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. (CD Track1/1:29-1:52)

3. **Select Alternate Representative to the Basin Board Land Resources Committee**
   Ms. Kavouras asked if there were any volunteers. Following discussion, Mr. Tort offered to serve as the Alternate Representative. There being no objections, Mr. Tort was selected by acclamation. (CD 1/1:53-4:35)

4. **Additions and Deletions to Agenda**
   Ms. Kavouras stated there were no additions/deletions to the agenda. (CD Track1/ 4:36-4:43)

5. **Revised District/Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services/Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems (FARMS) Program Operating Agreement and District Procedure**
   Mr. DeHaven provided a brief background of the program. The intent of FARMS is to promote a public/private partnership to implement agricultural best management practices for agricultural projects located within the Southern Water Use Caution Area (SWUCA) on a cost-share reimbursement basis. The main goals are to reduce groundwater withdrawals from the Upper Floridan Aquifer; improve water quality; and conserve, restore or augment water resources and ecology. The District has established two priority areas in the SWUCA,
the Upper Myakka watershed and the Shell, Prairie and Joshua Creek watersheds. The eight completed and nine Board-approved projects are estimated to result in a groundwater offset of about 6.2 mgd once they are fully operational and implemented. In the Alafia River Basin, one project, Haverlock Groves, is being considered. Mr. DeHaven said the reason this basin doesn’t have a lot of projects is because a water resource priority area has not been established. Mr. DeHaven said staff is seeking approval of a revised Operating Agreement that includes three key changes. It will streamline funding priorities where FDACS will utilize their funds directly within their designated priority area (Upper Myakka) and the District will utilize their funding within their designated priority area (Shell, Prairie and Joshua Creek watersheds) and the remainder of the Southern Water Use Caution Area (SWUCA) outside the priority areas. It also allows the District and FDACS to consider projects, on a case-by-case basis, in other areas of the District outside the SWUCA, and for the District and FDACS, as lead agency, to design and implement a reimbursement program, following the general FARMS procedures, to directly assist smaller growers on water resources projects that reduce water use. Other changes include updating the Single Audit Act amount from $300,000 to $500,000, incorporating the FARMS program documents as part of the agreement, which allows both parties to consider funding cost-share projects geared to grower education and outreach, and quantitative research and development projects to assist in project performance monitoring and enhancement. All FARMS projects require the approval of the appropriate Basin and the Governing Board. (Mr. Bissonnette entered the meeting at 10:02 a.m.) Following consideration, Ms. Johnson moved, seconded by Mr. Tort, to recommend the Governing Board authorize the Executive Director to sign and execute the revised District/FDACS FARMS Operating Agreement and the revised District FARMS procedure (Procedure Number 13-9). Motion carried unanimously. (CD Track 1/4:44-21:42)

5. Consent Item:
   a. August 11, 2005, Meeting Minutes
      Following consideration, Ms. Hinton moved, seconded by Mr. Bissonnette, to approve the August 11, 2005 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously. (CD Track 2/0:01-0:33)

6. Discussion Item:
   b. Lake Hancock Lake Level Modification Project – Implementation Status (H008)
      Mr. Hammond provided an update on the status of the project. The goal of the project is to store water by raising the control elevation of the existing outflow structure on Lake Hancock and to slowly release water during the dry season to help meet the low flow requirements in the upper Peace River. It is one of a series of projects. Step 1 of the project has been completed and Step 2 is currently underway. Staff anticipates going to the Governing Board in November for authorization to submit a conceptual Environmental Resource Permit application to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Once approved, the final design needs to be completed, and construction should begin by 2008. Mr. Hammond said public outreach is an important element and staff has been meeting with landowners to let them know how their property would be affected. The Governing Board has proposed minimum flows of 17, 27 and 45 cubic feet per second in the upper Peace River. The flows are currently below those minimums. Mr. Hammond presented a figure showing the affected areas at the target operating level of 100.0 feet. He focused on the private properties, the cemetery and the landfill that fall within the footprint of the project that would be most affected. Land acquisition is ongoing and Mr. Hammond indicated what properties have been purchased to date. Mr. Hammond then responded to several Board comments and questions. This item was presented for the Board’s information, and no action was required. (CD Track 2/0:34-28:41)
7. **Reports:**
   a. **Chair Ex Officio Report on Governing Board Activities**
      Chair Kovach said the desalination issue is in mediation and a mediator is being selected. There was some concern how this would affect the timeline. An update should be forthcoming in the December timeframe. (CD Track 3/0:01-0:48)

8. **Announcements:**
   a. Nature’s Classroom Visitation & Tour: October 22, 2005, 9 to 11 a.m., Thonotosassa
   b. C.W. Young Regional Reservoir Ribbon Cutting Ceremony: October 10, 2005, 11:30 a.m.
   c. Basin Board Education Committee Meeting: November 8, 2005, Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center
   d. Public Land Acquisition and Management Conference: November 16-18, 2005, Hutchinson Island
   e. Basin Board Land Resources Committee Meeting: November 17, 2005, 5:15 p.m., Hutchinson Island
   f. Mayor’s Annual Hillsborough River and Waterways Cleanup: November 19, 2005, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Lowry Park Boat Ramp
   g. Next Basin Board Meeting: December 8, 2005, 9:30 a.m., Tampa Service Office

Ms. Kavouras noted “A Weekend in my Watershed” workshop is planned for October 14-15, 2005. Formal training and demonstrations will be held at the Weedon Island Preserve in Pinellas County.

Ms. Kavouras also noted Board members were provided with updated Travel Voucher forms to be used for travel reimbursement.

Chair Kovach said she would provide Board members with a copy of the Riverview Community Plan that contains issues of importance to the citizens of the Riverview area. (CD Track 3 –0:49/3:47)

9. **Adjournment:**
   Mr. Bissonnette moved that the meeting be closed. The meeting was adjourned at 10:39 a.m.