

**APPROVED
MEETING SUMMARY**

**Environmental Advisory Committee
Southwest Florida Water Management District
January 9, 2012**

The Environmental Advisory Committee of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a regular meeting at 1:30 p.m., January 9, 2012, at the Tampa Service Office, 7601 US Highway 301 North, Tampa, FL 33637.

Committee Members Present

Dwayne Carlton, Chair, Ocala/Marion County COC
Mark Alderson, Vice Chair, Sarasota Bay NEP
Alan Bailey, Florida Trail Assoc.-Suncoast Chapter
Lisa Beever, Charlotte Harbor NEP
Mike Burton, Manatee Chamber of Commerce
Julie Byrne, Sarasota Audubon Society
Eileen Hart, Keystone Civic Association
Dave Kandz, St. Petersburg Audubon Society
Carl Keeler, Izaak Walton League
Greg Nowaski, Control Growth Now, Inc.
Betsy Roberts, Env. Confederation of SW FL

Committee Members Absent

Mitch Almon, Florida Trail Assoc. Suncoast
Holly Greening, Tampa Bay Estuary Program
Alan Grubman, Save the Homosassa River Alliance
Sam Stone, Charlotte County COC
Sharon Terrill-Elfers, Sierra Club Tampa Bay
Bob Upcavage, Suncoast Native Plant Society
Dana West, Greater Sarasota COC

Staff Members Present

Lou Kavouras, Facilitator
Anthony Andrade
Danny Kushmer
Tamera McBride
Lois Sorensen

Governing Board Member

Judith Whitehead

Recording Secretary

Teri Hudson

Approved summaries from previous meetings can be found on the District's Web site at (www.WaterMatters.org).

The numbers preceding the items below correspond to the order of presentation.

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chair Dwayne Carlton called the meeting to order. He welcomed members, staff, and interested persons and asked for member introductions.

2. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda

Lou Kavouras, Board & Executive Services Bureau Chief, stated there were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

3. Approval of the June 6, 2011 Meeting Summary

It was moved and seconded to unanimously approve the meeting summary as presented.

4. Rulemaking Update

Lou Kavouras provided the following rulemaking update which has been primarily focused on clarifying and streamlining existing rules:

- Rule amendments allow well construction permits to be extended up to 1 year, in increments of 90 days, as is currently allowed for public supply wells.
- Rule amendment deletes outdated references to soil borings and foundation holes, which are no longer regulated under the District's well construction rules.
- Rule amendments reduce the number of copies of permit applications and supporting documents that must be submitted by applicants and permittees, thereby reducing costs.
- Rule amendment to extend the Well Construction Agreement between the District and Marion County Health Department for 5 years to September 2016.

- Rule amendments allow the transfer of ERPs to new owners of property on which a permitted system is located without payment of a fee and without requiring the current land use to be the same as when the permit was issued.
- Permit applications and petitions for formal determination of wetlands and other surface waters resubmitted within 12 months of withdrawal or denial will not require repayment of the same fee.
- Minimum and guidance levels are proposed for Lake Wimauma and Lake Carroll in Hillsborough Co.
- The Governing Board initiated rule amendments to reserve water in the Rocky Creek system in order to help achieve minimum levels for three lakes in Odessa. Rulemaking amendments to follow.

5. Hydrologic Conditions/Freeze Update

Lois Sorensen, Demand Management Program Manager, provided a brief update on the recent three night freeze event in the Dover/Plant City area. The District received four dry well complaints which three out of the four have already been restored with the fourth being the responsibility of the well contractor. There were no reported sink holes requiring District action. Most of Florida is abnormally dry with conditions expected to get worse. La Nina is dominating the weather pattern and further drought development is likely. There are no public supply concerns to date and the Modified Phase I Water Shortage Order is in effect through at least February 29th at which time the Governing Board can either elect to extend this order or take various levels of action in different parts of the District depending on how each region is doing.

6. Rocky Creek Lake Enhancement Project Overview

Tamera McBride, P.G., Project Manager, Resource Projects Bureau, stated the purpose of this project is to establish a reservation of water within the Rocky Creek watershed to help achieve the minimum levels established for Horse Lake as set forth in Chapter 40D-8, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), and to enhance water levels in lakes Raleigh and Rogers, which are stressed and on the Minimum Flows and Levels Priority List and Schedule for establishment of minimum levels in 2012. Ms. McBride discussed project specifics such as diversion criteria, limits and anticipated recovery. She discussed the project history and recent activity. Construction is expected to start in fall 2012 with an expected total cost of about \$4 million. A public meeting is scheduled for January 18, 2012. Overall comments from committee members are in support of this project.

7. Emerging Science Related to Reclaimed Water

Anthony Andrade, Senior Water Conservation Analyst, provided information on recent water quality research related to reclaimed water as well as a brief overview of reclaimed water status in the District. Mr. Andrade stated that reclaimed water is a key component in three of the District's four areas of responsibilities. He provided a brief reclaimed water history, accomplishments, potential growth, and highlighted recent pertinent research which is important to the District in that it provides additional confirmation that reclaimed water is safe and can continue to be used in traditional and innovative ways within the Southwest Florida Water Management District. Discussion amongst the members related to encouraging the development of under-utilized reclaimed water resources. Mark Alderson made a motion to send a recommendation to the Governing Board to continue the District's encouragement, support & funding of reclaimed water development. Mike Burton seconded the motion, and it passed with Lisa Beever, Dwayne Carlton, and Julie Byrne voting against it.

8. Fiscal Year 2013 Cooperative Funding Program

Ms. Kavouras provided an overview of the FY2013 Cooperative Funding Program. She said that when the Basin Boards were merged, the Governing Board set up a process and schedule for the purpose of evaluating and ranking the projects. Last November, the Board organized themselves into four regional subcommittees, decided to hold regional public meetings in February and April, and directed staff to solicit input from a variety of entities including former Basin Board members, Advisory Committee members and other agencies and stakeholders. Ms. Kavouras reviewed the process and timeline with the Committee and summarized the number of proposals received in each region and the amount of funding requested. She discussed the sources of District funds for projects, which include prior balances and reserves from former Basins and available funds from the Governing Board's general fund. She welcomed input from the Committee members, and invited them to attend the regional public meetings.

9. Committee Policy, Roles, Responsibilities and Sunshine Law

A presentation on the Advisory Committee's Board Policy and Sunshine Law was provided by Ms. Kavouras. Staff discusses this information annually with the Committee to remind them of their duties and responsibilities which include providing professional and technical input on District programs, rulemaking, and other activities. She said Committee members are liaisons between their organization and the District, and help maintain two-way communication and disseminate information. Ms. Kavouras discussed the terms of their membership and reviewed administrative changes to the Board Policy which reflect the District's recent organizational changes. She also discussed changes to the membership list, and will recommend the Governing Board suspend membership in instances where an organization has expressed an inability to participate. Finally, she reminded the Committee members that they are subject to the Sunshine Laws and they are not to have discussions among themselves outside of a public meeting on any matter which could foreseeably come before the Committee.

10. Development of Agenda Topics for the April 9, 2012 Meeting

- Numeric Nutrient Criteria Update
- Hunting on District Lands Update
- Hydrologic Conditions Update
- Update on ASR Technology

11. Announcements and Other Business

There were no announcements or other business.

12. Adjournment

There being no further discussions, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.