Approved
Minutes of the Meeting

WITHLACOOCHEE RIVER BASIN BOARD MEETING
Southwest Florida Water Management District

Brooksville, Florida April 15, 2010

The Withlacoochee River Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a regular meeting April 15, 2010, at 9:11 a.m., at District Headquarters.

Board Members Present
Doug Tharp, Co-Chair
Ronald Oakley, Co-Chair
Jack Dennis, Member
Candy Nathe, Member
Kelly Rice, Member

Board Members Absent
Janey Baldwin, Secretary
William Bachschmidt, Member

Staff Present
Lou Kavouras
Bruce Wirth
Mark Hammond
Roy Mazur
Michael Molligan
David Rathke
Eric Sutton
Linda Pilcher
Ken Herd
Maya Burke
Will Miller
Joseph Quinn
Miki Renner
Virginia Sternberger
Mark Fulkerson
Randy Embarg
Recording Secretary
Tahla Paige

Teleconference for Consent Items
Albert Rooks, Vice Chair

A list of others who were present and signed the attendance roster is filed in the permanent files of the Basin. Compact discs of the audio and copies of the materials and handouts, as set out in full herein, are also filed in the permanent files of the Basin.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
Co-Chair Tharp called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Ms. Tahla Paige, Senior Administrative Assistant, called the roll and noted a quorum was not present.

Co-Chair Tharp announced that, due to a lack of quorum, items that did not require an action would be heard first until Mr. Bachschmidt’s pending arrival.

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag
Co-Chair Tharp led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

3. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda
Lou Kavouras informed the Board Item 6.c. Florida Water Star℠ Gold (FWSG) - Recognition of a Pasco County Builder, was to be deleted and carried over to the next Board meeting as the builder being recognized could not attend today’s meeting.

4. Basin Activities Report and Agenda Review
Ms. Maya Burke, Staff Planner, Planning Department introduced Mr. Joe Quinn, Staff Planner, who will be covering the Withlacoochee River Basin Board after this meeting. She announced that April is Water Conservation Month and that the Communications Department and Community and Legislative Affairs Department have been coordinating to get the message out to the public. Ms. Burke informed the Board the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority had completed its Water Supply Master Plan and would be holding a workshop on the plan on April 21, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. in Ocala at the Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council’s office. (Track 1)

This item was presented for the Board’s information; no action was required.
6. Discussion Items:

b. **2010 Springs Awareness Week**
   Ms. Virginia Sternberger, Senior Communications Coordinator, Communications Department, provided a presentation to inform Board members of the results of Springs Awareness Week, which occurred in Citrus and Marion counties from March 14–20, 2010. The primary goal of Springs Awareness Week was to educate homeowners and landscape professionals on the effects that over-fertilizing has on local springs and other water bodies. A new addition this year was a free soil analysis offered by the District through the University of Florida IFAS. The soil analysis determined whether your yard needed to be fertilized by measuring the phosphorus, pH levels, and other nutrients. The program had 118 participants. Other events included Florida Friendly classes and various springs and sinkhole educational tours. Also, Lowe’s, Home Depot, Walmart and K-Mart each hosted an “Ask an Expert” table with master gardeners answering questions on Florida Friendly landscaping and proper fertilizing. Co-Chair Tharp stated he attended one of the Spring Events and it was outstanding. (Track 2)

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

c. **Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems – Splendid blue Farms, LLC, Phase 2 (H603), Sumter County**
   This item was deleted.

d. **2010 Regional Water Supply Plan Update**
   Mr. Roy Mazur P.E., Director, Planning Department stated staff had completed an internal review of the draft 2010 Regional Water Supply Plan (Plan) that would be available for public comment tomorrow. After stakeholder input through public workshops, Basin Boards and Advisory Committees starting May, it is anticipated the Regional Water Supply Plan will be presented to the Governing Board for their consideration in November 2010. Mr. Mazur informed the Board that the Plan is being published in five volumes, an executive summary and one volume for each planning region, so individuals interested only in one area could obtain a copy of the part of the Plan affecting them. He felt this would also be more cost effective than only producing large copies of the entire Plan. (Track 3)

   This item was presented for the Board’s information; no action was required. Staff welcomes any input or direction on the draft Regional Water Supply Plan.

5. Consent Items:
   Co-Chair Tharp announced Mr. Bachschmidt’s flight was grounded in Texas and he would be unable to attend today’s meeting; therefore, Mr. Rooks teleconferenced into the meeting in order to have a quorum to vote on the Consent Items.

a. **Minutes of the February 11, 2010 Meeting**
   Minutes of the February 11, 2010 meeting were provided for approval.

b. **First Amendment to the Agreement with Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for the Flying Eagle Wildlife Management Area, SWF Parcel No. 19-484-111X**
   Recommend the Governing Board approve the amendment to the agreement with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for the Flying Eagle Wildlife Management Area, SWF Parcel No. 19-484-111X.
Following consideration, **Mr. Rice moved, seconded by Mr. Dennis, to approve Consent Items 5a and 5b as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

6. **Discussion Items:**

   a. **Election of Officers and Committee Representatives**
   Due to a lack of quorum, this item was postponed until the Board’s June meeting.

   e. **Withlacoochee River Watershed Initiative**
   Mark Fulkerson, Ph.D., Staff Engineer, Resource Projects Department, presented an update to the Board on the status of the Withlacoochee River Watershed Initiative (H066). He reviewed the background of the project and gave an overview. He informed the Board that approximately 130 miles of the Withlacoochee River had been surveyed, which gave the District an in-depth understanding of the topographical makeup of the river.
   
   This project will provide flood protection, natural systems, and water supply benefits to the Central and Northern District. The total funding is $2,650,000, with the Withlacoochee River Basin Board funding $953,000; the Green Swamp Basin funding $497,000; the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission funding $250,000; State Water Protection and Sustainability Trust Funds of $250,000; and the Governing Board funding $700,000. (Tracks 4 & 5)
   
   This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required.

   f. **Fiscal Year 2011 Budget Preparation**
   Mr. Bruce C. Wirth, Deputy Executive Director, Division of Resource Management, began the budget discussion with comments to orient Board members on their first look at a preliminary budget for fiscal year (FY) 2011. He emphasized the importance of the Board’s direction on funding levels of the various budget categories, including prioritization of Cooperative Funding proposals and other Basin projects. He also reminded Board members that first-time cooperative funding proposals, after staff review, were tentatively ranked High, Medium or Low priority. The budget was prepared assuming the millage rate will remain at 0.2308 mill and property valuations will decline by seven percent, which was estimated for planning purposes. Additionally, Mr. Wirth reported that no new State dollars are anticipated, i.e., Water Management Lands Trust Fund, Florida Forever (land acquisition funds), Water Protection and Sustainability Trust Fund (Senate Bill 444), etc. Any West Central Florida Water Restoration Action Plan (WRAP) monies, if allocated, will be shared among all responsible Basins. Prior year State funds are already allocated to projects. It is anticipated the Save Our Rivers land management and maintenance expenditures will be funded for FY2011 with prior year funds in the Water Management Lands Trust Fund. This will necessitate using a portion of the funds that had been previously set aside for the Lake Hancock Outfall Treatment project, with the final amount to be determined as the FY2011 budget requests are finalized.
   
   In June, staff will provide an updated ad valorem revenue estimate to the Basin Board, based on formal June 1 estimates of property value from county property appraisers, and will present a revised proposed budget, based on the Board's input and further investigation by staff. Also, the Board will be required to approve the Basin's proposed FY2011 millage rate. In August, the Basin Board will vote on a final FY2011 millage rate and final budget for recommendation to the Governing Board. Mr. Wirth reviewed the line items and reminded Board members that their input/direction on projects is important to the budget process. (Track 6)
Ms. Burke continued the budget discussion on current cooperative funding applications by FY2011 Basin budget priority. She highlighted projects in the current budget that show what types of projects address each priority and the trends that were observed during the current cooperative funding cycle. Ms. Burke suggested that Board members use the checklist as a tool in evaluating the proposed budget and in identifying trends in funding.

Ms. Burke announced that during the August meeting the Board will review and reaffirm the Basin’s budget priorities with the Board, and adjustments will be made as necessary.

This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required. (Track 7)

7. Reports:

   a. Basin Board Education Committee
      Mr. Michael Molligan, Director, Communications Department, stated the March 3, 2010 meeting included presentations on the Florida Water Star™ Gold, “Get Outside!” events, the “Skip a Week” campaign, and Education projects. He said discussion had centered on the cost of the projects and which were more cost effective in educating the public.

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

   b. Basin Board Land Resources Committee and Land Use Stakeholders Joint Meeting
      Mr. Eric Sutton, Director, Land Resources Department stated an overview was enclosed in the Board's packet with information on the March 16, 2010, Basin Board Land Resources Committee and Land Use Stakeholders joint meeting. He announced the next meeting is July 14, 2010, in Lecanto with topics on hunting and ecosystem services.

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

   c. Governing Board Activities
      Co-Chair Oakley reported a “Get Outside!” event was held on April 10, 2010 at Deep Creek Preserve in Arcadia. Ms. Kavouras stated there had been a large attendance and thanked staff for the great job they did coordinating the event.

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

8. Announcements:

   a. Next Basin Board Meeting: Thursday, June 17, 2010, 9:00 a.m., District Headquarters, Brooksville
   b. Other:
      • Ms. Kavouras reminded Board members of the April 23, 2010, Tampa Bay SWIM Ecosystem Restoration Projects Tour at 8:15 a.m., followed by a canoe trip.
      • Ms. Kavouras announced the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority’s regular meeting was scheduled on April 21, 2010 at 4:30 p.m. at the Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council office (1241 SW 10th Street (SR 200), Ocala) following the workshop at 1:00 p.m.

Co-Chair Tharp asked about the status of the bill allowing Chairs to vote. He noted the lack of quorum today and said it would have been beneficial to be able to vote today. Mr. David Rathke, Director, Community and Legislative Affairs Department, stated the bill has two more committees to go through before the session ends in two and half weeks. He felt there was a 50/50 chance it would be passed.
9. **Adjournment:**
   There being no further business to come before the Board, Co-Chair Tharp adjourned the meeting at 10:29 a.m. (Track 8)