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## South Florida Water Management District

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### **BIG CYPRESS BASIN BOARD MINUTES**

February 18, 2014

9:00 AM

Collier County Government Center  
Commission Chamber, 3rd Flr  
3299 Tamiami Trail East, Naples, FL 34112

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
John Vaughn		Present	
Rick Barber	Chair	Present	
David Farmer		Present	
Alice J. Carlson		Present	
Ralph H. Haskins		Present	
Marielle Kitchener		Present	

**1. Call to Order - Frederick Barber, Chairman, Big Cypress Basin Board**

Mr. Barber called the meeting to order at 9:02.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance - Frederick Barber, Chairman, Big Cypress Basin Board**

Ms. Kitchener led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. Employee Recognitions - Presented by Lisa Koehler, Basin Administrator, Big Cypress Service Center**

Ms. Koehler recognized Ananta Nath for his dedication and hard work during his career with the District. Ms. Koehler gave a speech and provided a brief presentation of Ananta's career achievements.

## Board Comment

All Board members congratulated Ananta and expressed their appreciation for his hard work and support to the engineering community throughout his career and presented him with a plaque. After a picture with the Board, Ananta thanked all present for the kind words.

### 4. **Agenda Revisions - Lisa Koehler, Administrator, Big Cypress Basin Service Center**

There were no changes to the agenda.

### 5. **Abstentions by Board Members from items on the Agenda**

There were no abstentions.

### 6. **Approval of Minutes for the October 24, 2013, Big Cypress Basin Board regular meeting held in Naples, Florida.**

Minutes approved.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Frederick Barber
<b>SECONDER:</b>	John Vaughn
<b>AYES:</b>	Vaughn, Barber, Farmer, Carlson, Haskins, Kitchener

### 7. **Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed (CREW) Land and Water Trust Update - Brenda Brooks, Executive Director, CREW Land & Water Trust**

Ms. Brooks, Executive Director of CREW, Land and Water Trust, provided a presentation of the CREW mission describing CREW activities such as restoration projects, land acquisitions, land management, and education. She stated that CREW operates thanks to the help of many volunteers and thanked the District for their support.

Mr. Barber reminded everyone that all the CREW trails are located within the Basin, and he also provided information for the upcoming benefit concert on March 1<sup>st</sup>, whose proceeds will go to education.

Mr. DeLisi thanked CREW for its unique mission and for being a model to emulate in bringing the community together.

## **8. Update on Saltwater Intrusion Report - Akin Owosina, Section Administrator, Hydrologic and Environmental Systems Modeling**

Mr. Akin Owosina, Section Administrator, Hydrologic and Environmental Systems Modeling, provided an update on the saltwater intrusion report, the risks presented by the infiltration of salt water in the drinking water supplies, and the importance of implementing a strategy to minimize and control it.

Mr. Owosina stated that current sampling conditions cannot provide reliable data and he suggested several approaches for network improvement, which include:

- Develop standard operating procedures designed for salinity sampling in existing network wells
- Develop a network quality-assurance plan
- Evaluate and address known well condition or missing information issues
- Establish training to evaluate well conditions
- Drill test wells to collect samples that can determine the best locations for new monitoring wells
- Collect data during the new well installation
- Collect time series electromagnetic induction log datasets from new wells
- Improve data dissemination and determine periodic evaluation of sampling method, as frequent review of the network would ensure accuracy.

Mr. Owosina concluded his presentation stating that the District has initiated a project on Sea Level Rise and Climate Resilience, stressed the importance to coordinate efforts with other water management districts, FDEP, and local government, and to explore funding opportunities to investigate saltwater intrusion.

### **Board Comment**

In response to Board questions, Mr. Owosina indicated that it is not possible to know if the water intrusion on the salinity map will change until the map is updated; it will be a challenge to represent an accurate picture of salt water intrusion locations, and he is not sure it can be done on a 3D picture.

In response to Ms. Kitchener's request, Mr. Owosina stated that well restoration has not yet started, and that some of the wells are the responsibility of local government. Identifying the number of wells needed, and assigning responsibility for well monitoring will make the system more efficient. He also stated that we obtain samples from production wells.

## **Public Comment**

Mr. Bob Middleton, Utility Director, City of Naples, provided an overview of the well monitoring activities and procedures within the City of Naples.

In response to Mr. Barber's request, Mr. Middleton indicated that with the procedures established by the City of Naples, there has been a big reduction in per-capita water demand, and that seasonal demand is included in their calculation.

### **9. FY15 Budget Update - Doug Bergstrom, Division Director, Administrative Services**

Mr. Bergstrom provided an update on FY 2015 (FY15) budget requirements and also talked about some of the District's efforts to streamline the budget and avoid increases after its implementation. New and vacant positions are being evaluated to determine their necessity, and no funding for salary adjustments has been included in the budget. Health insurance costs are being evaluated by an outside firm to identify opportunities for cost saving measures and results will be ready in May.

Mr. Bergstrom discussed the revenue update schedule and the recurring expense schedule; he then invited Mr. Doherty to give an update on the field station budget.

Mr. Doherty gave an update on the field station budget increases, which include replacing mercury switches with solid switches, aquatic spray labor and chemicals, additional maintenance cost for the equipment purchased in 2013, and rental equipment funding. One-time costs for some fencing and security cameras to monitor against vandalism were also added. He is also working closely with contractors to reduce vegetation problems in the canals.

Mr. Bergstrom concluded his presentation with the capital projects update for FY15 and informed the Board that the initial briefing with legislative staff was scheduled for the following day.

In response to Mr. Farmer's request, Mr. Bergstrom stated that the District will make a determination on salary increases based on the decision of the state legislature. Mr. DeLisi added that healthcare and salary increases have been anticipated in next year's budget.

### **10. Capital Projects Update - Jeff Kivett, Division Director, Operations, Engineering & Construction**

Mr. Kivett, Division Director, Operations, Engineering & Construction provided an update on capital projects as follows:

- Miller Weir #3 Replacement - Overview of schedule of activities.

- Lake Trafford – In response to the Board’s earlier inquiry regarding the usefulness of establishing a filter marsh, Mr. Kivett gave an overview of the steps and challenges needed to be taken. Property would have to be purchased, a pump station built and maintained. The initial cost for this work has been estimated to be \$5M, plus long term maintenance costs. Staff would need to do additional research if the Board wanted to move forward with this project.

Mr. Farmer asked what the volume of the lake was and if the pump stations were of adequate size to support the lake for maximum filtration benefit. Mr. Kivett stated additional work needed to be completed to answer this question and he would come back in the future with additional information.

- Lake Trafford Water Quality - Mr. Rod Braun, Principal, Everglades Policy & Coordination, provided a presentation of Lake Trafford preliminary water quality. Data from FDEP and Collier County was analyzed to identify cost saving opportunities for stations and measuring parameters. He provided examples of comparisons of high phosphorous concentrations between 1997-2012 that coincided with wind driven systems. Specific conductance concentration showed an increase as well and would require further evaluation.

### **Board Comment**

In response to Mr. Vaughn’s question, Mr. Braun stated that there is no data showing that high specific conductance concentration could be caused by the plantings FGCU put in the water.

Ms. Kitchener and Mr. Farmer stated that the tropical storm event correlation with phosphorous levels is brilliant and confirms why the system peaks after these events.

- BCB SCADA - Mr. Kivett provided a presentation for SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) Enhancement Initiative. He explained the use of this system is not to control field activities but to monitor them. The system upgrade will improve information sharing and monitoring capabilities. The need for the system upgrade to reduce risks vs. cost will be discussed at the next meeting.
- Field Station Relocation - Mr. Kivett provided an update on the Field Station design with three separate scenarios. The decision to relocate the service center will determine parking needs and cost of construction, and maintenance of the new facility. Cost comparison and revenue possibilities by selling the service center were also discussed. Phase 2 will begin with design completion and start of construction soon after a decision is made.

### **Board Comment**

In response to Mr. Vaughn’s question, Mr. Kivett stated that the District has already paid \$102,000 in impact fees.

Ms. Kitchener stated that there is not sufficient space for both operations, and felt the location would be too close to the nearby landfill, which may not be conducive to a business atmosphere.

Ms. Carlson discussed the challenges of selling the current BCB building in today's market, in addition to the field station property, and she put forward the idea of leasing one of the service center buildings to recover some of the costs.

Mr. Haskins was in favor of moving the Service Center and the Field Station in one location, and suggested to acquire adjacent land to remedy the lack of space for future expansion.

Mr. Farmer and Mr. Barber were in favor of just building the field station and not co-locating. Mr. Barber also stated that the service center provides service to the people, and needs to be close to other government agencies.

Mr. DeLisi stated that board decision should not be focused on site constraints alone because there are opportunities to purchase a larger property to overcome those limitations. This would delay the whole process for a minimum of 6-12 months but it would provide enough space for future expansion. Another option would be to build the second floor (Concept A) and make the decision to move the service center at a later date.

In response to Ms. Kitchener's question, Mr. Kivett stated that delays would not cause problems with the contractor. Work can be stopped on the current site and start again on a new site. However, the Board members expressed their concern about spending more money on feasibility study and design of a new site, and were against moving the service center to a remote location.

After further discussion, the Board suggested to move forward with Concept B (Field Station only).

**11. General Public Comment**

There was no General Public Comment.

**12. Field Station Activity Report - Chris Doherty, Field Station Superintendent, Big Cypress Basin Field Station (ext. 7811)**

Mr. Doherty provided the BCB field station operation and management activities including fleet maintenance, vegetation management, and canal maintenance. He specifically discussed the Corkscrew #2 gate overhaul to overcome issues with the gate operation and replaced gate.

Mr. Farmer asked the Board's attorney to look into construction defects, to see if the contractor could be held responsible.

**13. Basin Administrator Report - Lisa Koehler, Basin Administrator**

Ms. Lisa Koehler stated that she would be preparing information for discussion on the tentative budget for local government contracts for the next meeting. Grant applications for stormwater and Alternative Water Supply projects had been sent to local governments and that information will be discussed at the next meeting.

**14. Board Comment**

Mr. Farmer stated that he would like to know more about the field station.

Ms. Kitchener stated that she would like to have a rough design of buildings before considering the option of buying other properties.

Mr. Barber announced the next meeting will be on May 20th. Mr. Farmer announced that he will not be present for next board meeting and BCB staff will look into the possibility of rescheduling the meeting.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Alice Carlson
<b>SECONDER:</b>	John Vaughn
<b>AYES:</b>	Vaughn, Barber, Farmer, Carlson, Haskins, Kitchener

**15. Adjourn**

Mr. Barber adjourned the meeting at 11:35 AM.



Frederick T. Barber, III  
Big Cypress Basin Board Chairman  
South Florida Water Management District



Lisa Koehler  
Big Cypress Basin Administrator  
South Florida Water Management District