



---

## South Florida Water Management District

---

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

*This meeting is open to the public*

**May 16, 2013**

**8:00 AM**

**Big Cypress Basin Service Center  
2660 N. Horseshoe Drive  
Naples, FL 34104**

*Pursuant to Section 373.079(7), Florida Statutes, all or part of this meeting may be conducted by means of communications media technology in order to permit maximum participation of Big Cypress Basin Board Members.*

*The Big Cypress Basin Board may take official action at this meeting on any item appearing on this agenda and on any item that is added to this agenda as a result of a change to the agenda approved by the presiding officer of the meeting pursuant to Section 120.525, Florida Statutes. The order of items appearing on the agenda is subject to change during the meeting and is at the discretion of the presiding officer. Public Comment will be taken after each presentation and before any Big Cypress Basin Board action(s).*

<b>Attendee Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Arrived</b>
John Vaughn		Present	
David Farmer	Secretary	Present	
Ralph H. Haskins		Present	
Rick Barber	Chair	Present	
Alice J. Carlson	Vice Chair	Absent	

1. Call to Order - Fredrick Barber, Chair, Big Cypress Basin Board

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Barber at 8:07am.

2. Pledge of Allegiance - Fredrick Barber, Chair, Big Cypress Basin Board

Mr. Vaughn, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Barber introduced Derek Brown, Sr., Attorney for BCB. Derek is replacing Frank Bartolone. Frank has served as counsel for the Basin for over a decade and is retiring.

3. Approval of the Minutes for the February 21, 2013 Big Cypress Basin Regular Board Meeting

Mr. Barber called for the approval of the minutes from the February 21, 2013 regular meeting of the Big Cypress Basin Board.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	David Farmer, Secretary
<b>SECONDER:</b>	John Vaughn
<b>AYES:</b>	Vaughn, Farmer, Haskins, Barber

4. Agenda Revisions - Lisa Koehler, Administrator, Big Cypress Basin

Ms. Koehler stated there are no changes or additions to the agenda. Additional information has been uploaded to the Big Cypress Basin website and copies are available in the foyer.

5. Abstentions by Board Members from items on the Agenda

Mr. Barber requested abstentions from the board.  
No abstentions from board members.

6. Discussion of Preliminary FY14 Budget - Doug Bergstrom, Division Director, Administrative Services

Mr. Bergstrom gave an overview of the proposed FY14 budget.

- 10-Year Forecast Update  
Forecast Surplus 20.4M. Shows a forecast increase over February 21, 2013 of 15.4M; revenue Increases 9.1M and expenditure reductions of 6.3M = 15.4M. In the forecast there are no years showing a negative balance.
- Picayune Strand Update  
The District is funding the commissioning costs and the vegetation monitoring in the first year of the Picayune pump station operations going forward; approximately 4.8M over a 10 year period. Cost share toward the cost of building the pump stations, approx. 4.0M, and revisited Army Corps reimbursement and other factors which provides an approximate increase of 300,000 over this 10 year period.
- FY14 BCB Funding Distribution  
Comparison of FY13 and FY14, estimates show a rollback millage rate and a conservative construction schedule.

Dan DeLisi pointed out that the pie chart might be a little misleading, but if you look at the actual amounts in the inter-governmental agreements this is close to the same

as it was last year. Mr. Bergstrom agreed that these numbers are very close to last year's budget.

### **Board Comment**

No comment from the board.

### **Public Comment**

Mayor John Sorey, City of Naples, appreciates the movement of funding but still has considerable concerns that Big Cypress Basin dollars are being used for Picayune. Government does not have a good track record for estimating costs of projects. The thing we didn't see today is the other tax that we pay in Collier County to SFWMD. Most concerned about the projects of local entities to move toward the core mission of SFWMD, how much responsibility all entities have. How much state money is involved. Need to work with governor regarding roll back rate. Need to see more dollars in Collier County for local projects.

### 7. Discussion of Local Government Alternative Water Supply (AWS) and Stormwater Projects for FY14 Funding - Lisa Koehler, Administrator, Big Cypress Basin

Ms. Lisa Koehler provided a high level overview of the projects / requests of local government entities for funding of their Alternative Water Supply (AWS) and Stormwater (SW) projects.

Mr. Vaughn asked about the county's existing ASR wells on Livingston road. He inquired why there is a funding request for a second well, while the testing of Well #1 has not been completed. Ms. Johnson from Collier County reported that testing will be complete in a few months.

Mr. Barber stated that the board had been briefed regarding these projects and have a much better understanding, early on, regarding funding needs.

Mr. Barber has asked Jerry Kurtz to answer questions regarding the North Golden Gate Estates Flowway.

Mr. Kurtz stated this project was presented about a year ago in the BCB, City of Naples and Collier County joint workshop. This is a high ranking program in the watershed management plan.

Also, another significant regional impact is the aquifer recharge of the County wellfields in NGGE.

To date, there has been a significant investment in the project (50% by DEP and 50% by the SFWMD) and the studies have taught us a lot.

Mr. Kurtz added that the County would like to complete a third component to the study to finish a build out study of the estates to possibly do mitigation in the estates rather than going outside of the estates as development occurs.

Mr. Barber had questions regarding impacts on existing homes. Mr. Kurtz stated that the study shows there could be some possible impacts but they would be working very carefully to make sure they would not adversely impact residences.

Mr. Vaughn asked how the funds would be used.

Mr. Kurtz said that the present plans are at 30% level, and feels that they can get the project complete within the constraints of the funding agreement.

Mr. Farmer asked if the County looked at the possibility to help these homeowners to relocate their drain fields with a pump station added. Mr. Kurtz stated that they had looked at solutions for the home owner and that it is a relatively low/easy fix by

mounding up and resetting drain field up higher and install a smaller pump to pump waste water to a higher area.

Mr. Farmer said that models can sometimes fail. Do we have a contingency plan, and has there been a worst case scenario done to protect the homeowner?

Mr. Kurtz stated he used to be very skeptical, early on, with modeling but has learned that the modeling of today is very sophisticated and he is very comfortable with the modeling for the NGGE flow-way improvements. Mr. Farmer asked if the County anticipates this project continuing every year or every two years because of a total cost of \$15.7M shown in the presentation.

Mr. Kurtz stated the proposed \$15.7M is linked to the Belle Meade diversion/rehydration and several other components of the NGGE flowway restoration project. This is the first step to several more things that can be done and is critically linked to the Belle Meade diversion.

Lisa Koehler addressed Mr. Vaughn's question regarding the time frame of the local projects, and said that the staff worked with the local partners to make it clear that the projects needed to start in the beginning of FY14 and be completed by August 2014.

Lisa Koehler stated that there were two (2) additional projects submitted that were outside the normal funding criteria for the AWS or SW construction funding, which the Board has the choice to fund as a local government project. The two (2) projects are:

- Everglades City - Reuse Water Production Facility Upgrade - Phase I
- City of Marco Island - Wastewater Equalization Storage Tank

Ms. Koehler summarized that the total proposed FY14 Funding for projects is \$4,350,000; total requested funding for construction eligible AWS and SW projects is \$3,800,000; proposed FY14 funding for AWS and SW projects is \$2,708,000.

She provided options showing percentages for potential funding.

Michael Ramsey, President of the Golden Gate Estates Civic Association (GGECA) gave comments regarding the Livingston ASR wells and said more time and effort should be given to reclaimed water and the county needs to hook up more users. He also expressed his support for the NGGE restoration by stating that there has been much discussion and involvement in this project since the beginning and have expressed his support of the county and BCB. Golden Gate Estates Civic Association supports this good project, with multiple good benefits and won't be another one like it.

Nick Casalanguida, Collier County GMA spoke that the County purposely did not submit a multitude of projects this year because they felt this project was their highest prioritized project Golden Gate Estates is the largest SW management system east of the Mississippi and the re-plumbing Golden Gate Estates, is a very important project.

Mike Duever said that the NGGE flowway restoration project will reduce fire damage/danger, in addition by making that area wetter.

Mayor Sorey stated that the City of Naples supports NGGE project and thinks it should be the top priority.

Mr. Barber asked if a budget decision needed to be made immediately. Ms. Koehler replied in the affirmative because of the need to finalize the preliminary budget as well as allow time to work through the contract process so that the projects would be ready to start at the beginning of the fiscal year. Mr. Barber asked for a motion

Mr. Farmer moved to approve option 1 without the wastewater projects (7 and 8) and increase funding to 50% for the County's NGGE project; bringing funding up to \$290,500. Mr. Vaughn seconded.

Mr. Haskins remarked that he is uncomfortable not subsidizing Everglades City.

Mr. Farmer felt that we funded Everglades City quite liberally last year.

Dan DeLisi suggested funding the projects that are most cost effective in implementing the BCB mission and stated that NGGE Flowway project impacts the most citizens.

Mr. Barber called for the vote.

Approve - Local Government Alternative Water Supply Plan for FY14

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	David Farmer, Secretary
<b>SECONDER:</b>	John Vaughn
<b>AYES:</b>	Vaughn, Farmer, Haskins, Barber

8. Update on Big Cypress Basin Field Station - Jeff Kivett, Division Director, Operations, Engineering and Construction

Mr. Jeff Kivett presented an update on the field station relocation and other capital improvement projects. Miller 3 is progressing very well and should be in built next year.

The relocation of the field station at City Gate is progressing and the request for proposals should be completed in early July.

He also stated that they did not have enough information regarding the co- location with the service center, and they would bring the issue back to the board once more information was available. Mr. Barber reminded that this project was part of an approved PUD which may have many additional design requirements. Mr. Kivett stated that the design team was already aware of the PUD requirements and that they would be working within those restrictions.

Mr. Vaughn stated, another consideration is while we are having to pay for that property every year, and that's why I think we don't need to delay any longer. Either sell the property or use it. That's expensive property.

Mr. Kivett stated that coming back in January will not adversely impact cost and assured the board that they were moving forward with the project.

Mr. Farmer asked if there will be an area where employees can weather a storm. Mr. Kivett stated that it will be a hardened structure and there will be adequate facilities for staff to operate from during an emergency event.

Mr. Farmer urged staff to keep future demands in mind and to allow for future growth and staff needs

Mr. Barber directed staff to keep the project moving and not pause for Basin Board meetings and asked that updates be sent through Ms. Koehler.

Jeff Kivett explained the Procurement delivery process and the evaluation and selection process.

Mr. Farmer expressed concerns about going over budget and directed staff to do whatever was needed to make sure project did not go over budget.

9. General Public Comment

Michael Ramsey, President of GGECA.

After my last comments, I was told there are 150 on waiting list for reuse water. Regarding PSRP and the pump funding, in the last couple of years it has become more of a burden that would become unshouderable. With the workshop and today's meetings, thank you for making the cost less of a burden to BCB.

I am seeking your help and to let you know if you have not heard that Collier Resources will be drilling three (3) wells; two (2) are exploratory oil wells and one is a deep injection well, located at the east end of 24th Avenue SE in GGE. Because the estates are the oldest development in county, we are concerned that these wells are going to impact the aquifers. We are looking to BCB to tell them if this deep injection is going to impact the aquifers and affect the potable water in that area. We are looking for your help to assure that they maintain water quality for these wells to be drilled.

Regarding fracking information, this needs to be accurate to the public. There is no natural gas produced in Florida, it is all piped in

The Conservancy filed a letter yesterday extending their ability to comment on the exploratory wells

There are two (2) community meetings to be held,

May 30, 2013 at the UF IFAS Extension Center on Immokalee Road at 6:30pm and June 19, 2013 at the Golden Gate Estates Community Association regular monthly meeting, 7:00pm, Station 71 behind the Library on Golden Gate Boulevard at 13<sup>th</sup> Street SW.

10. Field Station Activity Report - Chris Doherty, Superintendent Big Cypress Basin Field Station

Chris Doherty, BCB field station superintendent, updated the board on the ongoing maintenance issues of the BCB canals.

11. Basin Administrator Report - Lisa Koehler, Administrator, Big Cypress Basin

Lisa Koehler updated the FY13 current expenditures and available funds; hydrologic and the Planning and Construction reports for February, March and April.

She gave an update on the Principal Engineer position and also announced Dan Waters as the service center regulation director in the Lower West Coast office and Mr. DeLisi as the new Chief of Staff.

Mr. DeLisi stated that the Governor's office was reviewing Basin Board applications for the vacant Basin seat.

Chairman Barber suggested a time change for the future Basin Board meetings to begin at 9 A.M and all board members agreed.

The next meeting will be July 8, 2013 to adopt tentative millage, followed by August 22, 2013 meeting to adopt the final FY14 millage rate for BCB.

12. Board Comment

Mr. Farmer commented that this board foresaw the need of building a field station and set aside money to build, and the basin should pay for the field station building instead of it coming from the O&M fund. However, he would like to see the \$3.9M operation cost of restoration to come from the district funds instead of out of the basin's. He also would like to see further reduction in PSRP cost on the slide from the workshop.

Mr. Bergstrom clarified that the amount is \$4M or up to 50% of the cost of the field station.

Mr. DeLisi stated it is a budgeting thing. You have a certain amount of reserves in a spend down plan.

Mr. Farmer said that instead of paying for half the field station, He would like to see PSRP funding come from district funds.

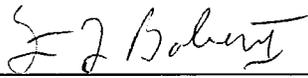
Mr. Barber stated that staff had worked hard to reduce costs and impact to the basin's funds and suggested that the proposed offer for cost share and budget be accepted.

Mr. Haskins expressed his concern with the PSRP and urged staff to exercise caution with taking on additional responsibilities. He also expressed support to accept the funding amendment for the field station coming from District O&M funds.

13. Adjourn

Mr. Barber adjourned the meeting.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	David Farmer, Secretary
<b>SECONDER:</b>	John Vaughn
<b>AYES:</b>	Vaughn, Farmer, Haskins, Barber



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



Barbra Pinx  
Administrative Assistant Staff  
South Florida Water Management District