



South Florida Water Management District

BIG CYPRESS BASIN BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

February 17, 2012

9:00 AM

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

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
John Sorey	Member	Present	
John Vaughn	Member	Present	
Daniel DeLisi	Chair	Present	
Rick Barber	Member	Present	
David Farmer	Member	Present	

Note that Mr. Vaughn was only reappointed to the Basin Board as a Board Member with his term beginning 11/2011 to 3/2013.

Introduction - Introduction

1. Oath of Office

Mr. Dwight Brock performed the Oath of Office for the three new Big Cypress Basin Board Members: John Vaughn, Rick Barber and David Farmer.

2. Call to Order - Chair, Big Cypress Basin Board

Chairman DeLisi welcomed the new board members and congratulated Mr. Sorey as the new City of Naples Mayor and then called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman DeLisi led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of Minutes

- Big Cypress Basin Regular Board Meeting Minutes of August 19, 2011

Mr. Sorey moved that a correction be made to strike Mr. Vaughn's name from the roll call of the August 19, 2011 Board minutes before they are executed since he was not officially a board member at the time of the meeting with a second by Mr. Farmer. All approved motion.

5. **Agenda Addendum**
No addendum to the agenda.
6. **Abstentions by Board Members from Items on the Agenda**
No abstentions by Board Members from Items on the Agenda of the Big Cypress Basin Meeting of February 17, 2012.
7. **Appointment of Officers; Vice Chair and Secretary**
Chairman DeLisi asked Mr. Tears if there were any recommendations. Mr. Tears indicated that Mr. Sorey requested to remain as Vice Chair. Motion was made by Mr. Barber to approve; with a second by Mr. Farmer. All approved motion.
Mr. Farmer offered to be secretary. Mr. Barber motioned to approve, with a second by Mr. Farmer. All approved motion.
8. **Overview of Basin Board member responsibilities. (Frank Bartolone, Legal Counsel, Ext. 2884)**
Mr. Bartolone reviewed the Ethics Sunshine Law policies and procedures and the Basin Board Statutes. He also introduced Derek Brown, Senior Attorney of the District's Legal Counsel.
Mr. Farmer asked if there would be concerns regarding his ownership of ERP regulated property. Mr. Bartolone indicated that there would not be a concern.
Mr. Vaughn asked if there would be any consequences if a member made political contributions. Mr. Bartolone said political contributions are exempt.
Mr. Sorey suggested that the safest method when two or more Basin Board members are present to just avoid any discussions regarding Basin matters.
9. **A Resolution of Commendation to Noah Standridge, former Big Cypress Basin Board Member, served a term from June 19, 2009 to August 19, 2011.**
Chairman DeLisi read Noah Standridge's Resolution for Commendation into the record and requested a motion for approval. Mr. Sorey made the motion to approve the resolution with a second by Mr. Vaughn. All approved the motion. Mr. Standridge was not present and the Resolution will be mailed to him.
10. **A Resolution of Commendation to Fred N. Thomas, Jr., former Big Cypress Basin Board Member, served a term from June 19, 2009 to August 28, 2011.**
Chairman DeLisi read Fred Thomas' Resolution for Commendation into the record and requested a motion for approval. Mr. Sorey made the motion to approve the resolution with a second by Mr. Vaughn. All approved the motion.
11. **Consideration for Big Cypress Basin Board approval of the Proposed 2012 Calendar for the Big Cypress Basin Board Meetings/Workshops. (Clarence Tears, Big Cypress Basin Service Center Administrator, Ext. 7601)**
Mr. Tears recommended a change to the proposed 2012 Calendar by including a joint workshop to follow the April 27, 2012 Board Meeting with an invitation to the Collier County Commissioners and City of Naples Council to discuss regional water resource priorities. Chairman DeLisi suggested holding it at a different venue to accommodate the larger group with a recommended time of 1:30 pm. Mr. Tears will send a "save a date" letter. Chairman DeLisi also suggested holding the meetings earlier; preferably 8:00 a.m. A motion to approve the changes to the 2012 Board Meeting Calendar was made by Mr. Barber with a second by Mr. Vaughn. All approved the motion.

12. Update of Everglades City's Water Supply System Improvement Program (presentations by Sammy Hamilton, Mayor of Everglades City and A. Rony Joel, Principal Engineer, AEC Water)

Mr. Tears introduced Mayor Sammy Hamilton and Mr. Rony Joel, project manager of AEC Water. Mayor Hamilton wanted to thank the staff at Big Cypress Basin for all their support, both in their technical leadership and financially. Mr. Joel gave a short history of the funding received by Everglades City both in water supply funding and stormwater and reviewed their 5 year funding request.

Mr. Sorey mentioned he understood the reuse plan is 100% for irrigation but would like to see a report of the city's rate numbers and recommended that a 5 year rate study be provided at the next meeting.

Chairman DeLisi asked if the City has other sources of funding. Mr. Joel reported that the Department of Environmental Protection may support the city with funding as well. Mr. Vaughn asked what the population is year round. Mayor Hamilton reported about 750 residents, but some weekends they can average 1000+ visitors.

Mayor Hamilton promised to provide the rate study to the Board by the next meeting.

13. Update on the Florida Gulf Coast University's Monitoring Project at Lake Trafford (Presentation by David W. Ceilley, MS, CSE, PWS, Florida Gulf Coast University's Research Department)

Mr. Tears introduced Mr. David Ceilley, research scientist of Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU). Mr. Ceilley reported that a FGCU team has been conducting a biological monitoring post restoration assessment of Lake Trafford and the results of changes have been coordinated through a Lake Trafford Management Team. He thanked both the Basin and District for their funding support received to date which helps support the students and would greatly appreciate any future funding for them to continue with limnological monitoring for the success of the lake's restoration. Mr. Ceilley reported that they received a \$90,000 grant for the next three years from the United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) Coast Program.

Mr. Barber asked if the lake is excluded from the Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) plan. Mr. Ceilley reported that the Department of Environmental Protection has indicated that this lake has met its TMDL requirements.

Mr. Sorey asked if the monitoring of water quality data has been plotted and he would like to see results of the available data from Collier County; and secondly, what are we putting back into the lake. At a future meeting, report back what is causing the added pollutants, and how to solve the problem by going to the source of continued pollution and look for a solution. He would like to see a long-term plan for management of the lake. Both Mr. Tears and Mr. Ceilley reported that the new management team is working toward these solutions by sharing group information.

Mr. Vaughn asked if there have been phosphorous spikes during the heavy rains and Mr. Ceilley indicated there have not been.

14. NOTE: Please see disclaimer below. Update on the Saltwater Encroachment Monitoring Network Improvement Plan for the Big Cypress Basin, Southwest Florida (Presentation by Scott T. Prinos, Hydrologist, U.S. Geological Survey - FL - WSC)

Mr. Tears introduced Mr. Scott T. Prinos, Hydrologist, U.S. Geological Survey in Florida. Mr. Prinos presented to the Board the monitoring network improvement plan in

Southwest Florida which is being developed by the United States Geological Study (USGS). He explained that saltwater encroachment caused by excessive drainage, canal leakage, and water supply withdrawals has been a problem facing the Big Cypress Basin for many years.

Mr. Sorey would like to see a plan that indicates the sources of the intrusion; maybe use a benchmark from other areas. Mr. Krupa indicated that they are working together with USGS on the saltwater interfacing monitoring project.

Chairman DeLisi asked if this monitoring plan factored into the Lower West Coast Water Supply Plan (LWCWSP) and are they encouraging utilities to go deeper. Mr. Krupa reported that they are currently reviewing the plan.

"The following presentation by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) contains preliminary results that were provided solely to update and inform the Big Cypress Basin Board (BCBB) of the status of an ongoing BCB/USGS cooperative project. The information presented is preliminary and subject to revision. Substantive changes may be made upon review. Deliberative and predecisional information, and the findings and conclusions, in this presentation have not been approved for release by the USGS.

It does not represent and should not be construed to represent any USGS determination or policy."

15. Update on the Big Cypress Basin Urban Mobile Irrigation Lab Program (presentation by James Nikolich, Collier Soil & Water Conservation District, Urban Mobile Irrigation Lab Supervisor)

Mr. Tears introduced Mr. James Nikolich of the Collier Soil & Water Conservation District, Urban Mobile Irrigation Lab Supervisor. Mr. Nikolich holds seminars with landscaping companies, Homeowners Associations and community groups through Rookery Bay's educational program emphasizing water conservation education and outreach programs through evaluation of urban irrigation systems. He reported that when performing these evaluations with homeowners, a total of actual accumulated water savings was 78.3 million gallons in 2011.

Mr. Vaughn thanked Mr. Nikolich for his presentation at the Bears Paw Water Symposium workshop last year and was impressed with the outreach program.

Mr. Farmer suggested leaving a sticker in meters for future residents with contact information and would like to arrange for Mr. Nikolich to give his presentation at a future Leadership Collier meeting.

New Business/Workshop - Everglades Policy and Coordination

16. Update on Picayune Strand Restoration project (Presentation by Janet Starnes, Project Manager Principal, Ext. 7735)

Mr. Tears introduced Ms. Janet Starnes, Project Manager of the Picayune Strand Restoration Project (PSRP). Ms. Starnes indicated that the goal is to put back the land to the way it was prior to development of the area. She gave a brief background update

of Phases I and II and indicated that 3 pumpstations will be constructed. The Merritt pumpstation being the first and smallest will be commissioned and in operational condition by September 2012 and the Faka Union pumpstation, the largest of the three, is anticipated to be completed in the Fall of 2013 with the Miller pumpstation (3rd one) scheduled to begin road removal and construction in Fall of 2013.

Mr. Farmer asked "does that include removal of exotics?" Ms. Starnes indicated that it does.

Mr. Vaughn had three questions; 1). are there any parcels left for purchase in PSRP; 2). how many panthers are in existence in PSRP and 3). has the proposed I-75 interchange impacted this project? Ms. Starnes responses were; 1). the District has purchased all of the land in the area with the exception of a few isolated parcels on hold in the Faka Union area. 2). Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is the Agency that can provide a total number of panthers in PSRP; and 3). the District is following the process of the proposed I-75 interchange closely.

Mr. Sorey asked what happens in the system if there's a 15" heavy rain incident. Ms. Starnes reported that the new pumpstations are designed to keep the water flowing; they are designed to handle the incremental impacts of a 100-year storm event and provide the same level of service upstream of the pumpstation prior to the restoration project being implemented.

Mr. Barber requested a written memorandum identifying the responsibilities and functions of the Basin Board with respect to the PSRP project.

Chairman DeLisi suggested that the new Board members be scheduled to take a flyover tour of the PSRP area. The scope of the whole project is quite impressive.

New Business/Workshop - Executive Office

17. Update and demonstration of Big Cypress Basin Real Time Modeling System (BCBRTMS) on Big Cypress Basin Website. (Presentation by Clarence Tears, Big Cypress Basin Service Center Administrator, Ext. 7601)

Chairman DeLisi recommended that Board Agenda Item No. 17 be moved to the April 27, 2012 Basin Board Meeting. The Board members unanimously agreed to move the agenda item.

New Business/Workshop - Operations, Maintenance and Construction

18. Overview of the Big Cypress Basin Operations and Maintenance Program (Presentation by Edward Mennella, Big Cypress Basin Field Operations Supervisor, Ext. 7813)

Chairman DeLisi recommended that Board Agenda Item No. 18 be moved to the April 27, 2012 Basin Board Meeting. The Board members unanimously agreed to move the agenda item.

Standard Business - Conclusion

19. Public Comment

No Public Comments.

Staff Reports - Introduction

20. Contract Account Report

21. Financial Reports

22. Hydrologic Report

23. Staff Activity Report

- Staff Activity Report from Basin Field Operations

- Staff Activity Report from Basin Administration

Mr. Tears suggested that Ernie Barnett, Director of the Everglades Policy and Coordination Bureau, come to the April meeting to give a Legislative Update.

Mr. Tears also reported that it's still important to conserve water.

Mr. Vaughn suggested that the Water Symposium event be held while the residents are still here. Mr. Tears reported that its scheduled in March and will let him know the date.

- CREW Acquisition report

24. Board Comment

Mr. Sorey reported for the benefit of the Board, the City of Naples is continuing to work on the pumpstation at the Golden Gate canal and is also continuing to do the cycle testing on the ASR wells at the city's sewer plant which would greatly reduce the use of potable water for irrigation.

Adjournment

25. Adjourn

Chairman DeLisi requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Sorey moved to adjourn with a second by Mr. Farmer. All approved motion. Meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Daniel DeLisi, Chairman
Big Cypress Basin Board

David Farmer, Secretary
Big Cypress Basin Board

(Corporate Seal)