South Florida Water Management District

BIG CYPRESS BASIN BOARD
MINUTES

October 25, 2018
9:00 AM
Collier County Government Center
Commission Chamber, 3rd Flr
3299 Tamiami Trail East, Naples, FL 34112

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

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

   Mr. Williams led the Pledge of Allegiance

3. **Consider Approval of the Minutes for the August 22nd Big Cypress Basin Board Meeting**

RESULT:	**ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Marielle Kitchener, Vice Chair
SECONDER:	Jamie Williams
AYES:	Barber, Kitchener, Waters, Williams

4. **Agenda Revisions - Lisa Koehler**

   There were no revisions to the agenda

5. **Agenda Item Abstentions by Board Members**

   There were no abstentions from the agenda.

6. **Collier County Stormwater Project and Capital Improvement Plan Update (Presenter, Jerry Kurtz, Principal Project Manager, Collier County Capital Project Planning, Staff contact, Lisa Koehler, ext. 7603)**

Mr. Kurtz provided an update on the Collier County Capital Project Programs. He discussed the challenges, cost and duration of completion of several projects including the Vanderbilt Cul-de-sac Southwest Improvements, Naples Park stormwater improvements, West Goodlette-Frank Road stormwater improvements, and the automation of the Pine Ridge Weir and future weir projects.

Board Comment

Responding to Mr. Waters question on the maintenance of the exfiltration trenches, Mr. Kurtz stated that these trenches would be watched more closely and cleaned frequently to make sure they perform as designed.

In response to Mr. Water's question regarding the performance of the Lely Area Stormwater Improvement Program (LASIP), Mr. Kurtz stated that he was pleased with the outcome of this program and said flooding no longer occurs in this area of the County.

Public Comment

There were no public comments on this agenda item.

7. **Western Everglades Restoration Project Update (Staff contact, Jennifer Leeds, ext. 6088)**

Ms. Leeds gave an overview of the Western Everglades Restoration Project (WERP) and key dates for the approval process. Ms. Leeds further discussed the projects main objectives and policy issues.

Board Comment

In response to Mr. William's question regarding the increased the flows south of Lake Okeechobee, Ms. Leeds stated the proposed changes to the system were calculated based on the current water within the system and would not bring any additional water in to the system.

Responding to Mr. William's question regarding the L24 canal, Ms. Leeds clarified it would not release water into the Western Everglades nor would it have any effect on this project.

Responding to Ms. Kitchener's question regarding concerns about the project, Ms. Leeds stated that they are working with Miccosukee and Seminole Tribes regarding the requested changes.

In response to Ms. Kitchener's question regarding panther habitat, Ms. Leeds stated that staff is coordinating with multiple federal and state agencies to address the panthers.

Responding to Mr. William's question regarding adding bridges over I-75 to increase canal flows, Ms. Leeds stated that a hydrological modeling analysis would be conducted to ensure the capacity under I-75 and US41 will be able to handle the redirected water.

In response to Mr. Water's question, Ms. Leeds stated that the land acquisition will go through a cost analysis which will be complete January 2019. Responding to Mr. Barber's question regarding the nutrient reduction in stormwater treatment area in (STA) 5 and 6, Ms. Velez stated that they are currently designing a new flow equalization basin that will improve the nutrient reduction and create a better flow into STA 5 & 6. Mr. Barber also asked, if the proposed project would increase flooding, Ms. Leeds stated that this issue would be studied.

Public Comment
There were no public comments on this agenda item.

8. **Big Cypress National Preserve, Watershed and Restoration Work (Presenter, Bob Sobczak, Big Cypress National Park Hydrologist, Staff contact, Lisa Koehler, ext. 7603)**

Mr. Sobczak gave an update regarding the Big Cypress National Preserve and their restoration goals for the preserve.

Board Comment
In response to Mr. Barber's question, Mr. Sobczak stated that he has been involved in WERP.

Responding to Mr. Water's question regarding the many projects that are occurring around the preserve, Mr. Sobczak stated that the preserve would be working together with other agencies to correct the water flows into the panther refuge. Mr. Water's also asked if there were any blockages in the SR29 canal, Mr. Sobczak explained that the SR29 canal was not designed to flow into the preserve.

Public Comment
There were no public comments on this agenda item.

9. **Discussion of Corkscrew Swamp Hydrology and Lettuce Lake Levels(Presenter, Dr. Shawn Clem, Research Director, Audubon's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, Mike Duever, Ecologist, Natural Ecosystems, Staff contact, Lisa Koehler, ext. 7603)**

Dr. Clem and Mr. Duever discussed the decline of water levels in the Corkscrew Swamp and the hydrological analysis to determine when that change took place.

Board Comment
In response to Mr. William's question regarding the number of wood storks' nests in Corkscrew Swamp, Dr. Clem stated that it was not a productive year for nesting.

Responding to Mr. Water's question regarding the risk of the wood storks not returning to the area due to hydrological conditions, Dr. Clem stated that there are still many opportunities for the wood stork to nest in Corkscrew Swamp if the water levels are restored.

In response to Mr. William's statement regarding the reduction of agriculture around the Corkscrew Swamp, Mr. Duever stated that it is possible that agriculture in the area is playing a factor in the water levels.
Responding to Mr. Barber's question, Mr. Duever state that it is possible the water is being pulled out by other sources.

Ms. Kitchener stated that once the agricultural areas are reduced, this will give an opportunity to return that land back to its original state.

In response to Mr. Water's question regarding the increase in population and its effects on the public water supply wells, Mr. Duever stated that it does have an effect on the watershed.

Public Comment
Brad Cornell, Audubon Western Everglades

10. Presentation of the Final Lake Trafford Management Plan (Staff contact, Joe Schmidt, ext. 2239

Mr. Schmidt provided an overview of the final Lake Trafford Management Plan.

Board Comment
Responding to Mr. Barber's question regarding the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) planning any improvements on the Immokalee Waste Water Treatment Plant, Ms. Koehler stated that the Basin continues to work with Collier County Pollution Control and the Local DEP office to coordinate a plan to fix the water runoff from the treatment plant into Lake Trafford.

Public Comment
There were no public comments on this agenda item.

11. Interagency Funding and Local Partnerships (Staff contact, Lisa Koehler, ext. 7603)

Ms. Koehler presented the interagency partnership projects.

Board Comment
Responding to Mr. Water's question regarding the cost to remove the vegetation to increase water flow in the unmaintained canals, Ms. Patterson stated yes, they are working with the Coastal Zone Management Department for future projects.

Public Comment
There were no public comments on this agenda item.

Motion

RESULT:	**ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Daniel F. Waters, Board Member
SECONDER:	Jamie Williams
AYES:	Barber, Kitchener, Waters, Williams

12. Capital Projects Updates and Recommendation of the Proposed Fiscal Year 2019 - 2020 Capital Plan (Staff contact, Lucine Dadrian, ext. 2685)

Ms. Dadrian gave an overview of the Basin capital projects and requested funds to be transferred from the electrification project to the Golden Gate 4 replacement and approval for land acquisition at Henderson Creek expansion right-of-way.

Board Comment
Mr. Williams expressed his appreciation to everyone for their hard work within the Basin.

Mr. Barber expressed his concerns about Corkscrew 3 and how this culvert effects the Corkscrew Swamp watershed. He asked that this could be looked at and possibility added as a future project.

The Board agreed to the proposed project funding changes as outlined in the presentation.

Public Comment
There were no public comments on this agenda item.

13. Big Cypress Basin Fiscal Year 2019 - 2020 Draft Preliminary Budget Discussion (Staff contact, Mark Wiederstein, ext. 2529)

Mr. Wiederstein presented the budget development timeline, the 2019-2020 proposed preliminary budget, revenue updates and expenditure overview.

Board Comment
There were no Board comments on this agenda item.

Public Comment
There were no public comments on this agenda item.

14. General Public Comment

There were no general public comments.

Technical Report

15. Field Station Activity Report - Karen Estock

Ms. Estock provided the Field Station Activity Report.

Board Comment

Responding to Ms. Kitchener's question regarding the Miller Pump Station, Ms. Estock stated that this pump station is not used for flood control at this time, but pumps are exercised for maintenance.

16. Water Conditions Report - Brad Jackson

Mr. Jackson presented the Water Conditions Report.

Board Comment

The Board welcomed Brad to the Basin as the new Water Manager.

Staff Reports

17. Monthly Financial Report - Mark Wiederstein

Mr. Wiederstein presented the year end audit report for FY2017-2018.

18. Basin Administrator Report - Lisa Koehler

Ms. Koehler present the FY2019 Basin Board Meeting calendar for their review.

19. Executive Report - Ernie Marks

Mr. Mark gave his Executive Report and presented the new Big Cypress Basin video, "Who We Are".

20. Board Comment

There were no final Board comments.

21. Adjourn

RESULT:	**ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Marielle Kitchener, Vice Chair
SECONDER:	Daniel F. Waters, Board Member
AYES:	Barber, Kitchener, Waters, Williams

Lisa Koehler
Big Cypress Basin Administrator
South Florida Water Management District