



South Florida Water Management District

BIG CYPRESS BASIN BOARD MEETING MINUTES

May 22, 2020

2:00 PM

Via Communications Media Technology

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Attendee Name	Title	Status
Charlette Roman	Chair	Remote
Marielle Nageon de Lestang	Vice Chair	Remote
Daniel F. Waters		Remote

1. Call to Order - Charlette Roman, Chair, Big Cypress Basin Board

Chair Roman called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Waters led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Agenda Revisions - Lisa Koehler

There were no revisions to the agenda.

4. Agenda Item Abstentions by Board Members

There were no abstentions from the agenda.

5. Consider Approval of the Minutes for the February 21, 2020 Meeting

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Nageon de Lestang
SECONDER:	Daniel F. Waters
AYES:	Roman, Nageon de Lestang, Waters

6. **General Public Comment**

Jeffrey Jordan
Andrea Threlkeld
Brad Cornell, Audubon of the Western Everglades

This item is recorded at:

<http://sfwmd.iqm2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=2002&Format=None>

7. Capital Plan Update (Staff contact, Lucine Dadrian, ext. 2685)

Ms. Dadrian provided a summary of the Big Cypress Basin Capital Plan and outstanding projects.

Board Comment

In response to Chair Roman's inquiry regarding the Cypress #1 Structure Relocation Project, Ms. Dadrian stated that the relocation of the structure and design is being coordinated with Collier County's Vanderbilt Beach Road widening timeline. Ms. Dadrian added that no challenges have been presented and coordination is going smoothly.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

This item is recorded at:

<http://sfwmd.iqm2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=2002&Format=None>

8. Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Tentative Budget Discussion (Staff contact, Candida Heater, ext. 6486)

Ms. Heater provided an overview of the proposed tentative Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Big Cypress Basin budget, the budget development timeline, and the 5-year financial forecast.

Board Comment

Responding to Mr. Waters' question regarding the drone budget item, Ms. Koehler stated the District is moving forward with a drone program. Chair Roman asked for a presentation at a future Basin Board meeting.

Chair Roman commended staff on the Service Center Lease agreement.

Chair Roman requested staff to review the 5-year forecast in light of the potential economic downturn due to the Coronavirus shutdown.

Ms. Nageon De Lestang expressed appreciation to staff for the budget update.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

This item is recorded at:

<http://sfwmd.ig2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=2002&Format=None>

9. Board Comment

There were no Board comments.

Technical Report

10. Field Station Activity Report - Juan Bethencourt

Mr. Bethencourt gave an overview of the Field Station activity report.

Board Comment

Responding to Chair Roman’s question regarding hurricane preparations, Mr. Bethencourt stated the field station’s standard operating procedures (SOP) manual had been updated and approved.

Public Comment

Andrea Threlkeld
Steve Meek
Dana McGregor

This item is recorded at:

<http://sfwmd.ig2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=2002&Format=None>

11. Water Conditions Report - Brad Jackson

Mr. Jackson provided a water conditions report.

Board Comment

Responding to Mr. Waters’ question regarding flows from Faka Union Weir 1, Mr. Jackson stated the discharges would be reduced when the Picayune Strand Restoration Project was fully operational.

Chair Roman expressed appreciation to Mr. Jackson for the presentation.

Public Comment

Dana McGregor

This item is recorded at:

Staff Reports

12. Monthly Financial Report - Candida Heater

Board Comment

Chair Roman expressed appreciation to the staff for the seamless transition from the standard office setting to working from home.

This item is recorded at:

<http://sfwmd.ig2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=2002&Format=None>

13. Basin Administrator Report - Lisa Koehler

Board Comment

There were no Board comments.

14. General Public Comment

Dana McGregor

Brad Cornell, Audubon of the Western Everglades

Andrea Threlkeld

Jeffrey Jordan

This item is recorded at:

<http://sfwmd.ig2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=2002&Format=None>

15. Board Comment

Ms. Nageon de Lestang thanked the members of the public who took the time to attend the meeting and assured them that their concerns were heard.

Ms. Nageon de Lestang directed staff to investigate the eroding canal banks throughout the system. She also expressed concerns for the extremely low water levels in this small area of the Fake Union canal described by Ms. McGregor and not in other areas of the canal and asked staff to work with Ms. McGregor to review the eroding issues on her property further.

Ms. Nageon de Lestang added she had gone to the tree removal project site along Golden Gate Main Canal, and requested staff to have a nesting survey be conducted. In addition, Ms. Nageon de Lestang stated she had spoken with staff regarding planting different types of ground cover vegetation along the Golden Gate Main Canal and wanted staff to review costs and report back.

Ms. Nageon de Lestang concluded her board comments by expressing concern over the vegetation clipping going into the canal and possibly using a different methodology in how to dispose of the vegetation clippings.

Ms. Koehler stated she would work with staff and provide a follow up.

Mr. Waters expressed his appreciation to the public for addressing their concerns regarding the tree removal program; he continued by stating it was the hard work of the staff and the maintenance of the canals, which allowed Naples to fair quite well during Hurricane Irma.

Mr. Waters continued by discussing the concerns over the low water in the Faka Union Canal, and the historical water levels during the dry season.

Chair Roman expressed her appreciation to Brad Cornell for discussing the Sub-Regional Water Quality Feasibility Study kick-off meeting during public comment and provided a background discussion to the board members regarding the on-going study.

Chair Roman expressed her appreciation to staff for their time and the ability to conduct the Basin Board Meeting via Zoom.

This item is recorded at:

<http://sfwmd.igm2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=2002&Format=None>

16. Adjourn

Chair Roman adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:55 PM.



Lisa Koehler
Big Cypress Basin Administrator
South Florida Water Management District