



South Florida Water Management District

BIG CYPRESS BASIN BOARD MINUTES

July 6, 2020

1:30 PM

via Communications Media Technology

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

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

Chair Roman called the meeting to order at approximately 1:30 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 by Board Members.

5. Consider Approval of the Minutes for the May 22, 2020 Meeting

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Marielle Nageon de Lestang, Vice Chair
SECONDER:	Daniel F. Waters, Board Member
AYES:	Roman, de Lestang, Waters

This is recorded at:

6. General Public Comment

None

7. Impacts and Management of Invasive and Nuisance Vegetation in the Big Cypress Basin (Staff contact, LeRoy Rogers, ext. 2773)

Mr. Rodgers provided an overview of invasive and nuisance vegetation within the Basin and provided information on the impacts these plants have in the Basin's region including an overview of management techniques.

In response to Chair Roman's inquiry on how long before invasive plants could repopulate after removal, Mr. Rogers stated that they could rebound in two months depending on nutrient levels, however, the District works year-round on the prevention, control and management of invasive plants.

In response to Ms. Nageon de Lestang's inquiry on the success of the melaleuca weevil in controlling melaleuca, Mr. Rogers stated biological control of several invasive plants is showing promising results. Three melaleuca-feeding insects have been introduced across Florida to limit seed production and spread of the tree. An Australian Lygodium-feeding moth has also become established within the state, exerting significant damage upon this invasive fern without harming native plants. Mr. Rodgers added that under strict quarantine, more insects are being studied in the laboratory for these and other invasive plants. Each insect must be carefully researched to understand how it may affect the targeted problem plant while ensuring that native plants are not impacted.

In response to Chair Roman's inquiry on the hierarchy of the Integrated Test Management System, Mr. Rogers stated that the hierarchy and tools used depend on the plant growth, species, and the species abundance.

Public Comment:

Julian Burgoff
Richard Martinez

This item is recorded at:

<http://sfwmd.iqm2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=2003&Format=Agenda>

8. Establish Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Tentative Millage Rate and Budget (Staff contact, Candida Heater, ext. 6486)

Ms. Heater presented the Basin's Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Tentative millage and budget and presented the Big Cypress Basin budget development timeline.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment

In response to Chair Roman’s question regarding what could be expected in the outyears or if there was a feel for the forecast beyond the budget at this time, Ms. Heater stated that the State Economists from Economic Demographic Research (EDR) had not released any of their estimates. Ms. Heater informed the Board that this information is typically released in the November - December timeframe. Ms. Heater added that she and her staff have been reading articles and watching county Board discussions, and stated that the majority of the Counties in south Florida are advising to plan for a flat growth, keeping the ad valorem revenue at the exact same dollar amount.

Chair Roman requested a motion and second to approve a request to the District Governing Board to establish a proposed Millage Rate at the rolled-back rate of 0.1152 mills per One Thousand Dollars of Taxable Value and Proposed FY2020-21 Tentative Budget.

This item is recorded at:

<http://sfwmd.igm2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=2003&Format=Agenda>

Motion

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Marielle Nageon de Lestang, Vice Chair
SECONDER:	Daniel F. Waters, Board Member
AYES:	Roman, de Lestang, Waters

9. Board Comment

None

Technical Report

10. Field Station Activity Report - Juan Bethencourt

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

Board Comment

Chair Roman thanked Mr. Bethencourt for his report and informed the Board that she had requested from Mr. Bethencourt an estimate of what the canal bank repair would cost and asked the Board to keep in mind that other areas are also in need of repair as they look at the budget.

Public Comment:

None

11. Water Conditions Report - Brad Jackson

Mr. Jackson provided a water conditions report.

Board Comment

Chair Roman thanked Mr. Jackson for the report and added that she particularly liked the additions made to his presentation making the report easier to understand the complexity of managing water in the basin.

Public Comment:

None

These items are recorded at:

<http://sfwmd.iqm2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=2003&Format=Agenda>

Staff Reports

12. Monthly Financial Report - Candida Heater

Ms. Heater provided an update on the monthly financial report through the month of May.

Board Comment

None

13. Basin Administrator Report - Lisa Koehler

Ms. Koehler provided an update on the vegetation removal project along the Golden Gate Main canal. Ms. Koehler reported that for the last several months, District and Basin staff have been working together to modify the proposed work to provided balance and compromise to the residents while minimizing the risk for flood control. Ms. Koehler added that several meetings were held with the residents, Collier County Commissioner Penny Taylor and county staff and was pleased to report that a solution acceptable to everyone had been achieved.

Board conveyed appreciation to Ms. Koehler, Basin staff, staff from Headquarters and all that were involved in bringing a resolution to this issue.

14. General Public Comment

None

15. Board Comment

Chair Roman raised awareness to an item in the state's budget signed by the Governor requiring the South Florida Water Management District to complete a study of the Big Cypress Basin boundary and make a recommendation on the most appropriate geographic boundary. Chair Roman reported that District's hydrologist will be completing the study and will keep both the Big Cypress Basin and District Board Members engaged during the process.

Chair Roman thanked both Ms. Nageon de Lestang and Mr. Waters for their service to the Big Cypress Basin Board.

This item is recorded at:

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16. Adjourn

Chair Roman adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:00 PM.



Lisa Koehler
Big Cypress Basin Administrator
South Florida Water Management District