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## South Florida Water Management District

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### BIG CYPRESS BASIN BOARD

#### MINUTES

August 27, 2020

1:30 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 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 July 6, 2020 Meeting

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

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- 6. General Public Comment  
None
- 7. Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget Presentation (Staff contact, Candida Heater)  
Ms. Heater presented the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget.

**Resolution No. BCBB 2020 - 0801** A Resolution of the Big Cypress Basin Board of the South Florida Water Management District approving the submittal of the rolled-back millage rate as 0.1152 mill for Fiscal Year 2020-2021; and, requesting the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District to levy Ad Valorem taxes within the Big Cypress Basin based on that rate to finance Basin functions contained in the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Basin budget.

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

**Board Comment**  
None

**Public Comment**  
None

**Resolution No. BCBB 2020 - 0802** A Resolution of the Big Cypress Basin Board of the South Florida Water Management District submitting the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Basin budget in the amount of \$14,315,680 to the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District for inclusion in the District budget.

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

**Board Comment**  
None

**Public Comment**  
None

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8. Groundwater Modeling Update for the Lower West Coast Water Supply Plan (Staff contacts, Mark Elsner and Uditha Bandara)

Mr. Elsner and Mr. Bandara provided an overview of two recently completed west coast regional groundwater models and simulations to support the Lower West Coast (LWC) Water Supply Plan. Items discussed included the LWC Surficial and Intermediate Aquifer Model and the West Coast Floridan Aquifer System Model. Mr. Elsner and Dr. Bandara explained that water supply plans were updated every five-years and identified sustainable water supplies for all water users in the region while protecting water resources and related natural systems.

### **Board Comment**

In response to Chair Roman's inquiry on considering sea level rise when evaluating future saltwater intrusion, Mr. Elsner stated the District had recently hired a resiliency officer to work on a Districtwide initiative and strategy to incorporate sea level rise in the plan. Chair Roman then inquired on changes to flow vectors to which Dr. Bandara explained the flow vectors could change as a result of increased pumping rates. The Surficial and Intermediate Aquifer Model reported little increase in withdrawals from 2014 to 2040, so there was little change in the flow vectors. However, a simulation was conducted in the Floridan aquifer system and changes in flow vectors were reported in some areas where there were increased withdrawals from 2014 to 2040.

In response to Ms. Nageon de Lestang's inquiry on pumping rates, agriculture, and development, Mr. Elsner stated that development was occurring on land in many areas that was previously cultivated for agriculture, and water withdrawals were typically a little higher for agricultural but the time of the year water used varied where the public water demand was needed year round.

In response to Mr. Waters' inquiry regarding modeling efforts in Corkscrew Swamp, Dr. Bandara stated there was a recent kickoff meeting and coordinated efforts and data sharing would continue in the future. In reference to drawdowns near the tri-county intersection area, Dr. Bandara explained the aquifers located in this area were very thin and not very productive and any small stress would show as drawdown. Additionally, increasing the spacing of Floridan aquifer wells along with other efforts would help to reduce drawdowns in the Floridan aquifer.

### **Public Comment**

None

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9. Vegetation Removal Program Overview (Staff contact, Rich Virgil)

Mr. Virgil provided a presentation on how vegetation, trees, debris, and other items could cause blockage of canal structures and increase flooding risk after a major weather event. Mr. Virgil explained the process and mechanisms used to execute the vegetation management program included identifying projects, conducting tree and boundary surveys, notifying stakeholders, and protecting wildlife.

**Board Comment**

Chair Roman thanked Mr. Virgil for his presentation and inquired on the length of time the program had been active. Mr. Virgil stated that canals within the Basin had been maintained for a very long time, however, the vegetation removal program was expanded within the last five years.

**Public Comment**

None

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10. Big Cypress Basin Capital Plan Project Update (Staff contact, Lucine Dadrian)

Ms. Dadrian provided a presentation on the Big Cypress Basin Capital Plan for ongoing projects in design and construction, and proposed budget expenditures in the Fiscal Year 2019-2020, and Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

**Board Comment**

Chair Roman thanked Ms. Dadrian for her presentation. Referring to the Cypress Canal structure, Chair Roman asked staff to maintain close contact with Collier County so that the project stayed on schedule.

**Public Comment**

None

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11. **Board Comment**

None

Technical Report

12. Field Station Activity Report - Juan Bethencourt

Mr. Bethencourt provided an update on rainy season activities, the S-488 Merritt Pump Station repairs, activities and preparation for tropical storm Isaias, and the three-month outlook.

**Board Comment:**

Chair Roman thanked Mr. Bethencourt for the presentation, on S-488 pump station repairs, and praised the Big Cypress Basin Field Station staff for efforts exhibited with the repairs.

**Public Comment**

None

13. Water Conditions Report - Brad Jackson  
Mr. Jackson provided a water conditions report.

**Board Comment**

Chair Roman thanked Mr. Jackson for the presentation and for developing slides that could be easily understood. Further, Chair Roman also thanked staff for efforts in preparing for tropical storm Isaias.

**Public Comment**

None

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Staff Reports

14. Monthly Financial Report - Candida Heater  
Ms. Heater provided an update on the monthly financial report through the month of June.
15. Basin Administrator Report - Lisa Koehler  
Ms. Koehler thanked Mr. Waters and Ms. Nageon de Lestang for their service and commitment during tenure on the Big Cypress Basin Board. Ms. Koehler highlighted the many accomplishments Ms. Nageon de Lestang and Mr. Waters initiated or completed within the Basin.

**Board Comment**

Chair Roman thanked Mr. Waters and Ms. Nageon de Lestang for giving so much of their time unselfishly to the community and Board and expressed well wishes with future endeavors.

16. **General Public Comment**

None

**17. Final Board Comment**

Chair Roman provided an update on the Basin Boundary Study and stated District's hydrologists were reviewing the region's hydrology to create a science-based approach to the watershed basins delineation and the District would produce a peer review study, which would be presented to the public and at a future Board meeting. The study and recommendations were due to the Governor, Senate President and Speaker of the House by February 1, 2021.

Chair Roman again extended gratitude to Mr. Waters and Ms. Nageon de Lestang for dedicated service to the Board, for assisted efforts during transition, and for continued support and commitment to the community.

Ms. Nageon de Lestang and Mr. Waters thanked Chair Roman, staff, and the public for support during her tenure.

**18. Adjourn**

Chair Roman adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:30 PM.

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Lisa Koehler  
Big Cypress Basin Administrator  
South Florida Water Management District