



South Florida Water Management District

GOVERNING BOARD MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

May 13, 2021

9:00 AM

via Communications Media Technology

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Attendee Name	Title	Status
Chauncey Goss	Chairman	Present
Ron Bergeron		Present
Charlie Martinez		Present
Cheryl Meads		Remote
Charlette Roman		Absent
Jay Steinle		Present
Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch		Present
Scott Wagner	Vice-Chairman	Present

1. Call to Order - Chauncey Goss, Chairman, Governing Board

Chairman Goss called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 AM.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Steinle led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Goss recognized Water Reuse Week as May 16th through May 22nd, 2021 and stated staff would present this item later in the Discussion Agenda.

3. Employee Recognitions

Mr. Bartlett presented employee recognitions for the May Employee of the Month, Lacramioara (Lacri) Ursu; May Team of the Month, 8.5 Square Mile Area - Curtain Wall Project Team; 30-Years of Service, Sally Kennedy; 30-Years of Service, Mark Wilsnack; and, 30-Years of Service, Dana Winston-Pate.

4. Agenda Revisions

Ms. Byrd stated Consent Agenda item 12 had minor edits and the acreage amount and recommended action for item 19B was corrected, and item 21B on the Discussion Agenda was removed from the agenda.

5. Agenda Item Abstentions by Board Members

There were no abstentions by Board members.

6. Audit & Finance Committee Report - Jay Steinle, Chairman

Mr. Steinle provided an update from the Audit & Finance Committee meeting held on April 8th. Items discussed included an update on treasury investments and Inspector General Audit reports for the Audit for Grant Monitoring and Audit of Outsourced Functions.

7. Consider Approval of the Minutes for the April 7th Workshop, April 8th Monthly Meeting, April 22nd Special Meeting, and April 28th Lunch & Learn Workshop

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Scott Wagner, Vice-Chairman
SECONDER:	Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch
AYES:	Goss, Bergeron, Martinez, Meads, Steinle, Thurlow-Lippisch, Wagner

This item is recorded at:

<http://sfwmd.igmd.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=2057&Format=Agenda>

8. General Public Comment

Recognition of Elected Officials and Special Guests

Chairman Goss recognized elected officials and special guests: Congressman Brian Mast, U.S. House of Representatives; Commissioner Ramon Iglesias, Hendry County; Commissioner Tim Stanley, Glades County; Mayor Keith Babb, City of Pahokee; Jongelene Adams, City of Pahokee; Deputy Secretary Adam Blalock, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP); Executive Director Duane De Freese, IRL Council and IRL National Estuary Program.

In response to Congressman Mast's questions, Mr. Bartlett provided an update on the District's efforts assisting with algal blooms and communications with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on the Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual (LOSOM).

Mr. De Freese provided a presentation on the Indian River Lagoon (IRL) National Estuary Program 2021 Annual Progress Report.

Board Comment

At the request of Ms. Thurlow-Lippisch, Mr. De Freese provided an update on the algae blooms in the northern part of the IRL.

Public Comment

Tommy Strowd
Randy Martin
Drew Martin
Nyla Pipes

Michael Conner
Ryan Rossi
Michael Collins
Newton Cook
Eve Samples
Richard Weisskoff
Gary Ritter
Lisa Interlandi
Mike Elfenbein
Jean Lawless
Ernie Barnett

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9. Board Comment

The Board commended staff for efforts assisting with water quality conditions at the Pahokee Marina.

Ms. Thurlow-Lippisch thanked staff for the Picayune Strand endangered species tour, Frog Pond and Rocky Glades invasive plant management tour, and 2021 Upper East Coast Water Supply Plan (UECWSP) stakeholder meeting; Ms. Thurlow-Lippisch requested staff provide the USACE a transcript of the May 10th Governor DeSantis Lake Okeechobee Operations and Everglades Restoration Event at Jonathan Dickinson State Park; and, stressed the importance of the District, DEP, and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) working together collectively to address water quality issues.

Mr. Steinle commented on the importance of finding interim solutions to long term projects to assist with surface water deliveries.

Mr. Bergeron suggested the District recognize those who champion environmental preservation and restoration, such as Marjory Stoneman Douglas; and, stressed the importance of updating LOSOM and moving forward with projects that would remove barriers to help move more water south.

Ms. Meads thanked the USACE, Vice Chairman Wagner, Ms. Thurlow-Lippisch, and staff for efforts with the Project Partnership Agreement (PPA); commended staff for the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) and Homestead Field Station events; and, extended appreciation to Doug Gaston, Audubon Florida, Dr. Jerry Lorenz, Florida Audubon Society, Congressman Carlos Gimenez, U.S. House of Representatives, and staff for the Florida Bay Taylor Creek tour.

Chairman Goss thanked the USACE for signing the PPA, and Governor DeSantis and former Representative Joe Negron for attending the EAA Reservoir Project event. Also, Chairman Goss commented on the importance of cybersecurity and reminded staff to reach out if more support was needed from the Board to protect the District's infrastructures both physically and digitally.

Consent Agenda

10. Move Consent Agenda Items to Discussion Agenda

No items were moved from the Consent Agenda to the Discussion Agenda.

11. Public Comment on Consent Agenda Items

There was no public comment.

12. Land Acquisition, Shingle Creek Project, Orange County (Staff contact, Stephen M. Collins)

Resolution No. 2021 - 0501 Acquire land interests containing 2.57 acres, more or less, located in the Shingle Creek Project Area in Orange County, in the amount of \$71,960, for which dedicated funds (Wetland Mitigation Fund) have been budgeted in Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

13. Stipulation for Settlement and Final Judgment, Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Project (Staff contact, Stephen M. Collins)

Resolution No. 2021 - 0502 Authorize a Settlement for the sum of \$191,480, inclusive of interest, attorneys' fees, expert fees and costs, for which dedicated funds (Florida Forever Surplus Revenue) are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2020-2021, and authorize the Executive Director to execute a Stipulation for Settlement and Final Judgment in a condemnation action to acquire 9.96 acres, more or less, (Tract 45800-015, owned by Sindh Florida Corporation) within the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Project, styled South Florida Water Management District v. Anand Nandwani, Sunil Nandwani, et al., filed in the 11th Judicial Circuit in and for Miami-Dade County, Florida, Case No. 2018-017515-CA-01.

14. Environmental Risk Assessment Services Contracts (Staff contact, Stephen M. Collins)

A. Terracon Consultants, Inc.

Resolution No. 2021 - 0503 Authorize an amendment with Terracon Consultants, Inc., for environmental risk assessment services, to increase the Contract not-to-exceed threshold amount from \$1,650,000 to \$2,150,000. (Contract Number 4600003427)

B. Professional Service Industries, Inc.

Resolution No. 2021 - 0504 Authorize an amendment with Professional Service Industries Inc., for environmental risk assessment services, to increase the Contract not-to-exceed threshold amount from \$2,550,000 to \$3,050,000. (Contract Number 4600003428)

C. Environmental Consulting and Technology, Inc.

Resolution No. 2021 - 0505 Authorize an amendment with Environmental Consulting and Technology, Inc., for environmental risk assessment services, to

increase the Contract not-to-exceed threshold amount from \$2,400,000 to \$2,900,000. (Contract Number 4600003423)

D. AECOM Technical Services, Inc.

Resolution No. 2021 - 0506 Authorize an amendment with AECOM Technical Services, Inc., for environmental risk assessment services, to increase the Contract not-to-exceed threshold amount from \$2,640,000 to \$3,140,000. (Contract Number 4600003425)

15. Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission, Cooperative Revenue Agreement

Resolution No. 2021 - 0507 Authorize entering into a 10-year cooperative revenue agreement with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for the purpose of Upland Exotic Control of melaleuca and other invasive species, in an amount not-to-exceed \$40,000,000 for the next ten years as reimbursement to the District. (Contract Number 4600004406)

16. Right of Way Occupancy Permit Requests (Staff contact, Rich Virgil)

Approve Issuance of Standard Right of Way Occupancy Permit No. 15770 (Application No. 20-0501-2)

17. Central Everglades Planning Project, Everglades Agricultural Area Reservoir and Stormwater Treatment Area Project (Staff contact, Jennifer Reynolds)

A. CEPP EAA - US-27 Bridges Project Component, Locally Funded Agreement for Consultant Mitigation Services

Resolution No. 2021 - 0508 Authorize entering into an Agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to provide financial assistance to the FDOT for Mitigation Services for FDOT's roadway / bridge construction of SR25/US-27 at 27 miles North of the I-75/US-27 Interchange in Palm Beach County, in an amount of \$324,000 for which dedicated funds (Land Acquisition Trust Fund) are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2020-2021. (Contract Number 4600004414)

B. CEPP EAA - US-27 Bridges Project Component - Locally Funded Agreement for FDOT In-house and Consultant Design Services

Resolution No. 2021 - 0509 Authorize entering into an Agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to provide financial assistance to FDOT for the development (in-house and consultant design) of a full set of signed and sealed roadway construction plans for FDOT's roadway / bridge construction of SR25/US-27 at 27 miles North of the I-75/US-27 Interchange in Palm Beach County; in amount of \$1,571,865 for which dedicated funds (Land Acquisition Trust Fund) are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2020-2021. (Contract Number 4600004411)

18. United States Geological Survey - Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project, Aquifer Storage and Recovery Well Program and Science Plan (Staff contact, Jennifer Reynolds)

A. Bioclogging Study of the Aquifer

Resolution No. 2021 - 0510 Authorize entering into an agreement with the United States Geological Survey for a Bioclogging Study of the Aquifer for the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project, Aquifer Storage and Recovery Well Program and Science Plan, in the amount of \$467,126.01, for which dedicated funds (State General Revenue) are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2020-2021. (Contract Number 4600004412)

B. Fracture Porosity Study

Resolution No. 2021 - 0511 Authorize entering into an agreement with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) for a Fracture Porosity Study for the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project (LOWRP), Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Well Program and Science Plan, in the amount of \$900,556 of which \$450,278 is the District's contribution, for which dedicated funds (State General Revenue) are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2020-2021. (Contract Number 4600004413)

19. Indian River Lagoon South C-23/C-24 Stormwater Treatment Area Required Local Agreements (Staff contact, Jennifer Reynolds)

A. Memorandum of Understanding with St. Lucie County

Resolution No. 2021 - 0512 Authorize entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with St. Lucie County for the purpose of supporting an exchange of land interests associated with the C-23/24 STA project; approve declaring surplus for exchange and conveyance to St. Lucie County fee title land interests containing 35.45 acres, more or less, together with any structures and improvements and personal property appurtenant thereto, in exchange for St. Lucie County granting to the District temporary construction easement interests containing 12.18 acres, more or less, and perpetual easement interests containing 1.6 acres, all in St. Lucie County in connection with the C-23/24 STA Project, plus associated costs. (Contract Number 4600004178)

B. Agreement with North St. Lucie River Water Control District

Resolution No. 2021 – 0513 Authorize the Executive Director to continue to negotiate and enter into an Agreement with the North St. Lucie County River Water Control District (NSLRWCD) for the purpose of supporting an exchange of land interests associated with the C-23/24 Stormwater Treatment Area (STA) project; approving, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Agreement, acquisition of fee title land interests from the NSLRWCD containing 51.57 acres, more or less, in the amount of \$310,000, together with any structures, improvements, and personal property appurtenant thereto, temporary construction easement interests from NSLRWCD containing 30.22 acres, more or less, in the amount of \$73,000, and perpetual easement interests from NSLRWCD containing 0.574 acres in the amount of \$700, and declaring surplus and conveyance of fee title land interests containing 8.81 acres, more or less, from the District to NSLRWCD, all in St. Lucie County in connection with the C-23/24 Project, plus associated costs; approving the acquisition from NSLRWCD, subsequent to the completion of the C 23/24 STA, of additional perpetual easement interests, containing a collective maximum of 2 acres in an amount not-to-exceed \$2,400; approving reimbursement of fees to NSLRWCD for service

associated with engineering design and construction, review, negotiation of this agreement and assistance to update NSLRWCD's Plan of Reclamation and Operation, in an amount not-to-exceed \$150,000; and approving payment to NSLRWCD of a per annum fee of approximately \$50,000 for services upon completion of the project and discharge to the NSLRWCD system; for which \$533,700 in dedicated funds (Florida Forever Surplus Revenue) and Ad Valorem funds are budgeted, and the remainder is subject future state appropriations and Governing Board approval of future years budgets. (Contract Number 4600004136)

C. Relocation Agreement with FPL

Resolution No. 2021 - 0514 Authorize entering into a facilities relocation agreement with Florida Power and Light Company (FPL) for the design, relocation and removal of power distribution facilities within the C-23/C-24 STA project footprint, in an amount not-to-exceed \$592,243.83, for which dedicated funds (Land Acquisition Trust Fund and Save Our Everglades Trust Fund) are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2020-2021. (Contract Number 4600004394)

20. Executive Director Procurement and Budget Authorizations to Address Critical South Florida Algae Conditions Related to Operational Requirements of the C&SF System (Staff contact, Candida Heater)

Resolution No. 2021 - 0515 Authorize the Executive Director to address critical South Florida algae conditions related to operational requirements of the C&SF system and delegate to the Executive Director the authority to solicit, negotiate and award agreements of up to \$1,000,000 to address South Florida algae conditions and authorize the transfer of funds within the District Fiscal Year 2020-2021 budget on an as needed basis.

21. Significant Construction Contracts (Staff contact, Alan Shirkey)

A. Homestead Field Station Building Replacements Project, Miami-Dade County

Resolution No. 2021 - 0516 Authorize an amendment to the design-build contract with State Contracting and Engineering Corporation, for additional design services for the Homestead Field Station Building Replacements project in an amount not-to-exceed \$934,275 for which \$300,000 in Ad Valorem funds are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2020-2021 and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of future years budgets. (Contract Number 4600003824-A07)

B. *ITEM DELETED* S-135 Bypass Culvert and Dike Repair Project, Martin County

C. Big Cypress Basin Cypress Canal Control Structure 1, Collier County

Resolution No. 2021 - 0518 Authorize entering into a 500-day contract with Kiewit Infrastructure South Co., the lowest responsive and responsible bidder for the BCB Cypress Canal Control Structure 1 in the amount of \$4,320,000, for which Big Cypress Basin Ad Valorem funds in the amount of \$650,000 are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2020-2021 and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of future years budgets. (Contract Number 4600004420)

22. Geotechnical Engineering Services Contracts Funding Increase (Staff contact, Alan Shirkey)

Resolution No. 2021 - 0519 Authorize an amendment to the existing Geotechnical Engineering Services Contracts increasing the amount by \$1,500,000 for all seven contracts for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$4,000,000 for the contract(s) 3-year plus two 1-year extensions term, subject to Governing Board approval of future years budgets.

<u>Firm Name</u>	<u>Contract No.</u>
RADISE International, LC	4600003728
Terracon Consultants, Inc.	4600003729
Ardaman & Associates, Inc.	4600003730
GFA International, Inc. dba Universal Engineering Sciences	4600003731
Tierra South Florida, Inc.	4600003732
Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions, Inc.	4600003733
Universal Engineering Sciences, LLC	4600003736

23. Board Vote on Consent Agenda (12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22)

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Charlie Martinez
SECONDER:	Scott Wagner, Vice-Chairman
AYES:	Goss, Bergeron, Martinez, Meads, Steinle, Thurlow-Lippisch, Wagner

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Technical Reports

24. Water Conditions Report - John P. Mitnik

Mr. Mitnik provided the Water Conditions Report for the last 30 days.

Board Comment

In response to Chairman Goss' questions, Mr. Mitnik referred to slide 7 and elaborated on southern flows to STA-3/4 and how flows were passed to WCA-3A. Chairman Goss and Mr. Mitnik then discussed the factors limiting flows to STA-2 and STA-3/4.

In response to Mr. Steinle's questions regarding southern flows to the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) for water supply, Mr. Mitnik confirmed average flows were 700 cfs to STAs and 1300 cfs on average south to the EAA for water supply and flows along the C-51 to the Lake Worth Drainage District. Further, Mr. Mitnik stated STAs received the record highest inflows during the 2021 water year than in any previous water year on record.

In response to Vice Chairman Wagner's question regarding who dictated how much water goes to water supply, Mr. Mitnik explained the District operated S-351, S-352 & S-354 to maintain water levels for users within the EAA who used the Miami/North New River Canal, Hillsboro Canal, and West Palm Beach Canal. Operations at the

southern end of the system included operating pump stations to send the intended 700 cfs into STAs. Gates at these canal structures in the Lake would open to maintain canal stages at the target ranges. Vice Chairman Wagner then asked if these pump stations were automatically gauged to maintain canal levels to which Mr. Mitnik confirmed under normal operations, but not during drought conditions.

The Board and staff discussed the benefits of removing the seven barriers to increase water flow along the southern conveyance.

Chairman Goss and Mr. Mitnik discussed the contents of slide 5 regarding the probability of rainfall for summer, and slides regarding the likelihood of releases to the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie Estuaries.

Ms. Thurlow-Lippisch and Mr. Mitnik discussed the contents on slide 9 regarding the locations of the S-351, S-352 and S-354; canal water levels; water supply and water quality standards for agriculture; and, water supply for the City of West Palm Beach.

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25. Ecological Conditions Report - Lawrence Glenn

Mr. Glenn provided an update on hydrologic and ecologic conditions over the last 30 days throughout the greater aquatic ecosystem of the District.

Board Comment

Ms. Thurlow-Lippisch and Mr. Glenn discussed the contents on slide 15 regarding dominant Phytoplankton Taxa in Lake Okeechobee and the different species of Microcystis.

The Board and Mr. Glenn discussed the contents on slide 21 regarding the Caloosahatchee Estuary - Oyster Recruitment.

At the request of Ms. Thurlow-Lippisch, staff to factor in rain conditions on slide 30 regarding percentages of STA inflow volumes and percentages from Lake Okeechobee releases.

Mr. Bergeron commented on slide 34 regarding the successful wading bird foraging and nesting populations in the central everglades compared to Everglades National Park (ENP) and complemented staff for efforts in bringing water levels down.

Mr. Steinle, Mr. Mitnik and Mr. Glenn discussed STA prioritization and hydraulics of treated lake water flowing south once the EAA Reservoir and STA project were fully operational and meeting the obligations with Restoration Strategies and the Consent Order.

Chairman Goss recessed the meeting at approximately 1:00 PM.

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Discussion Agenda

26. Resolution Proclaiming May 16th - 22nd as Water Reuse Week (Staff contact, Mark Elsner)

Chairman Goss reconvened the meeting at approximately 1:50 PM.

Mr. Elsner presented an overview on the water reuse program and resolution for Board consideration proclaiming May 16th through May 22nd as Water Reuse Week in Florida.

Public Comment

Nyla Pipes

Board Comment

In response to Chairman Goss' question regarding the economics and incentives for end users to use reclaimed water versus ground water or surface water, Mr. Elsner explained each project was different and the terms for using reclaimed water were typically negotiated between the user and the utility. In some situations, utilities requested the District's Water Use Permitting Bureau to require potential end users of reclaimed water to evaluate the feasibility of reuse when reclaimed water became available, as required by the end users Water Use Permit.

In response to Ms. Thurlow-Lippisch's questions regarding the Ocean Outfall Act, Mr. Elsner explained the requirements of the Ocean Outfall Act and the 2025 deadline to meet the legislative requirements to stop discharges to the ocean.

Vice Chairman Wagner passed the ceremonial *Purple Jacket* to Mr. Bergeron.

Resolution No. 2021 – 0520 Proclaim May 16-22, 2021 as Water Reuse Week.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Scott Wagner, Vice-Chairman
SECONDER:	Ron Bergeron
AYES:	Goss, Bergeron, Martinez, Meads, Steinle, Thurlow-Lippisch, Wagner

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27. Alternative Water Supply Funding Program (Staff contact, Stacey Adams)

Ms. Adams presented the Fiscal Year 2022 Alternative Water Supply Grant Program update. Items discussed included an update on DEP's Alternative Water Supply (AWS) funding; Governing Board priorities; Fiscal Year 2021-2022 DEP AWS funding; DEP project list and entities; and, resolutions for Board consideration.

Public Comment

None

Board Comment

None

A. Alternative Water Supply, DEP Project List

Resolution No. 2021 - 0521 Approve and authorize submittal of the final project list to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for the purpose of funding consideration for projects listed in Exhibit A for the DEP Alternative Water Supply Grant Program in dedicated state appropriations (General Revenue and Water Protection and Sustainability Trust Fund) from the 2021 State General Appropriations Act.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch
SECONDER:	Scott Wagner, Vice-Chairman
AYES:	Goss, Bergeron, Martinez, Meads, Steinle, Thurlow-Lippisch, Wagner

B. Alternative Water Supply Projects - Entities

Resolution No. 2021 - 0522 Authorize entering into agreement(s) with cooperating entities for alternative water supply and water conservation projects with dedicated state appropriations (General Revenue and Water Protection and Sustainability Trust Fund) from the 2021 General Appropriations Act and corresponding Water Protection and Sustainability Trust Fund District match, and delegating authority to the Executive Director to execute the agreements for identified projects listed in Exhibit A eligible for grant funding.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Scott Wagner, Vice-Chairman
SECONDER:	Charlie Martinez
AYES:	Goss, Bergeron, Martinez, Meads, Steinle, Thurlow-Lippisch, Wagner

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28. Status of the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program and Projects in the Lake Okeechobee Watershed (Staff contacts, Jennifer Reynolds and Seán Sculley)

At various times throughout the presentation, Ms. Reynolds announced Adam Blalock, DEP, and Chris Petit and Rebecca Elliott, FDACS, were available to answer any questions the Board might have.

Ms. Reynolds provided a presentation on the status of the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program (NEEPP) and the District's efforts with state and local partnerships to improve water quality and combat nutrient pollution and runoff in the Lake Okeechobee Watershed. Items discussed included an update on increased transparency efforts with DBHYDRO Insights, Watershed Protection Plans (WPPs) and Basin Management Action Plans (BMAPs) and workshops; an expanded monitoring network; a revised interagency agreement; the Northern Everglades planning process; and, projects in the Lake Okeechobee Watershed.

Board Comment

Chairman Goss and Ms. Reynolds discussed the graph on slide 8 regarding Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) averages and spikes for Water Years 1981 to 2020, and how rainfall and projects affect Total Phosphorus (TP) loading.

In response to Mr. Martinez's question regarding public/private project partnerships and improvements to District leased lands, Ms. Reynolds explained requirements for leased lands were different and were based on the requirements of the project. Some projects required costs up front to cover design and construction in order to optimize the project and were handled through environmental services payments, or project appropriations, and were paid to the landowner. Mr. Martinez then asked if nutrient removal costs were tracked and included in the costs of these projects to which Ms. Reynolds explained some projects were designed to retain water and were monitored on a water storage metric, but over time the importance of attenuation of nutrients was incorporated into some projects and monitored along with ways to optimize nutrient reduction.

In response to Vice Chairman Wagner's question on slide 8 regarding TP reported, Ms. Reynolds explained the TP amounts reflected on the graph were weights in metric tons. Vice Chairman Wagner and Ms. Reynolds continued discussing the contents on slide 9 regarding TP priority rankings in watersheds and sub-watersheds, DEP's BMAPs, and nitrogen levels in basins.

Ms. Thurlow-Lippisch commented on a historical document provided by Dr. Gary Goforth on things done for Lake Okeechobee from 1970 to 2019 and inquired on the availability of a comparable historical document for each of the eight basins.

Chairman Goss invited Mr. Pettit to speak on behalf of FDACS.

Mr. Pettit commented on collaborative efforts between FDACS, DEP, and the District; the importance of updating the interagency agreement; cost share projects; FDACS' contributions to DEP's Statewide Annual Report (STAR); and, efforts to update the southern Best Management Practices (BMPs).

Ms. Thurlow-Lippisch thanked Mr. Pettit for the update and suggested staff provide a monthly report on the BMAPs and include improvements to the eight basins and communication between the District, DEP and FDACS. Mr. Bartlett concurred with Ms. Thurlow-Lippisch's request and stated the goal of the interagency agreement stemmed from the public's input on 40E-61 rulemaking to hold DEP, FDACS, and the District accountable.

In response to Mr. Steinle's question on the expansion of monitoring stations and how the additional monitoring was helped identify hot spots, Ms. Reynolds explained each agency had a role which contributed to identifying the cause for hot spots and the interagency agreement would help identify responsibilities of each agency to further coordination efforts. Also, Ms. Reynolds explained the difference between suspended solid sediment-based phosphorus and phosphorus free in the water column, and new phosphorus versus legacy phosphorus.

In response to Mr. Bergeron's question regarding cost per ton to remove phosphorus on projects being built, Ms. Reynolds stated it would depend on the type of project being built and Mr. Sculley would be presenting a project which was structured with a cost per pound for phosphorus removal which would be considered for comparable projects in the future. Mr. Bergeron then asked if there was a cost per ton for all the

current pretreatment areas to which Ms. Reynolds stated staff would provide this information to the Board at a future meeting. Mr. Bergeron and Ms. Reynolds then discussed improvement costs on private lands, what happened at the end of a project on leased lands, and construction costs for larger projects on leased lands.

Ms. Reynolds introduced Mr. Blalock to speak on behalf of DEP.

Mr. Blalock explained DEP's BMAP process; the implementation of the total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) into Lake Okeechobee watersheds; reductions of phosphorus or nitrogen to meet water quality standards; and, FDACS outreach and coordination with DEP in the BMP process.

In response to Mr. Bergeron's question regarding if there were any other water quality standards tied to the BMP process once enrolled, Mr. Blalock stated once enrolled and verified by FDACS as following the BMP manual, one was presumed to be in compliance.

Vice Chairman Wagner commented on the overall monitoring and enforcement mechanisms tied to the BMP process and questioned once the BMP enrollment was complete FDACS would monitor and enforce to which Mr. Blalock concurred and explained Senate Bill 712 added an additional step to this process where FDACS would reverify BMP compliance every two years. Vice Chairman Wagner then asked who managed and verified nutrient reduction with the BMPs to which Mr. Pettit provided an overview of the development of the BMP program.

Ms. Meads shared FDACS Agricultural Water Policy Statewide Enrollment map provided on slide 27 and suggested FDACS provide an update to the Board on this data and any advances which may have occurred since the data was generated. Mr. Pettit stated FDACS was in the process of updating this document and it would be available after July 1, 2021. Ms. Meads then asked if analysis had been generated on inflow testing to calculate the amount of time it would take to see improvement in the removal of nutrients in the BMAPs, to which Ms. Reynolds confirmed to qualify as a trend it would typically take three years or longer, but staff had already started generating data from expanded monitoring sites and would provide an update to the Board once made available.

A. Design/Build Lower Kissimmee Basin Stormwater Treatment Project

Ms. Reynolds presented the Lower Kissimmee Basin Stormwater Treatment project. Items discussed included project location, purpose, proposal, and a resolution for Board consideration.

Public Comment

Mike Elfenbein

Joe Gilio

Garry Ritter

Captain Chris Whitman

Paul Gray

Drew Martin

Nyla Pipes

Benita Whalen

Board Comment

In response to Mr. Steinle's question, Ms. Reynolds elaborated on the background history of the Lower Kissimmee Basin STA project.

The Board and staff discussed the project's assumption of risk, footprint, and project appropriations and payment scheme.

Mr. Bartlett thanked Governor DeSantis for assisting with project appropriations and Secretary Noah Valenstein and DEP for partnering efforts in support of all the District's projects.

Resolution No. 2021 - 0523 Authorize the official ranking of short-listed firms and enter into a 9-year contract for the Design/Build of a Lower Kissimmee Basin Stormwater Treatment Project, subject to successful negotiations with EIP Florida Water Quality, LLC - Ecosystem Investment Partners, LLC in an amount not-to-exceed \$300,000,000, of which \$12,600,000 in state dedicated funds is budgeted and the remainder is subject to future state funding and Governing Board approval of future years budgets. If negotiations are unsuccessful with EIP Florida Water Quality, LLC - Ecosystem Investment Partners, LLC, the District will proceed with negotiations in ranked order until a contract has been successfully negotiated.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [6 TO 0]
MOVER:	Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch
SECONDER:	Scott Wagner, Vice-Chairman
AYES:	Goss, Bergeron, Meads, Steinle, Thurlow-Lippisch, Wagner
AWAY:	Martinez

B. Lake Okeechobee Inflow Innovative Technology Phosphorus Removal

Mr. Sculley presented the Lake Okeechobee S-191 Basin Surface Runoff Phosphorus Removal Innovative Technologies Project. Items discussed included innovative technologies grants; the S-191 Basin, site selection, and contract specifications; the science behind the project's innovative technologies and expected performance; and, a resolution for Board consideration.

Public Comment

Richard Weisskoff
Mike Elfenbein

Board Comment

In response to Chairman Goss' question, Mr. Sculley provided an overview of the District's procurement process for the lowest responsible and responsive bidder. Chairman Goss then asked how many bids responded to which Mr. Sculley stated two were received.

Mr. Steinle, Vice Chairman Wagner, and Mr. Sculley discussed the open bid process for this project.

Resolution No. 2021 - 0524 Authorize entering into a four-year contract with Ferrate Solutions, Corp., the lowest responsive and responsible bidder for a Lake Okeechobee S-191 Basin Surface Runoff Phosphorus Removal Using Innovative Technologies Project, in an amount not-to-exceed \$6,000,000, for which dedicated funds (State General Revenue) are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2020-2021. (Contract Number 4600004416)

RESULT:	ADOPTED [6 TO 0]
MOVER:	Scott Wagner, Vice-Chairman
SECONDER:	Jay Steinle
AYES:	Goss, Bergeron, Meads, Steinle, Thurlow-Lippisch, Wagner
AWAY:	Martinez

This item is recorded at:

<http://sfwmd.iqm2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=2057&Format=Agenda>

Staff Reports

29. Monthly Financial Report - Candida Heater

Ms. Heater provided an update on the monthly financial report through the month ending March.

Board Comment

In response to Chairman Goss' question regarding if Ad Valorem received was ahead or behind, Ms. Heater stated Ad Valorem was approximately one percent behind due to one county being behind on collecting proceeds but it should be caught up by the next statement.

This item is recorded at:

<http://sfwmd.iqm2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=2057&Format=Agenda>

30. General Counsel's Report - Carolyn Ansay

Ms. Ansay had no report this month.

31. Executive Director's Report - Drew Bartlett

Mr. Bartlett provided an update on the District's post pandemic operations stating a new hybrid work schedule policy would be implemented and the building would be open to the public on beginning June 1st.

Mr. Bartlett reported that Florida's Legislature had passed: \$329.2M for CERP and foundation project investment; \$63.5M for Restoration Strategies; \$76.4M for Northern Everglades and Dispersed Water Management; \$2.35M for land management, and state funds totaling \$471.5M; Senate Bill 1954 to create a resilient Florida Grant program and statewide Florida resiliency plan including \$500M federal stimulus funds for investments in local communities for adaptations in sea level rise and resiliency; Senate Bill 2516 for water storage north of Lake Okeechobee implementing the Lake Okeechobee Restoration Plan and including Aquifer Storage and Recovery; and, House Bill 1177 for Biscayne Bay to establish a Biscayne Bay commission with DEP to serve as a coordinating agency.

Mr. Bartlett updated the Board on the Big Cypress Basin (BCB) Expansion Bill stating it was withdrawn, but staff would be working with Lee County and Bonita Springs to develop an agreement which would plan infrastructure projects to assist with flooding. Mr. Bartlett announced the Senate confirmed the appointments of Mr. Martinez to the District's Governing Board, and Mr. Hill, Ms. Rivera, and Mr. Waters to the Big Cypress Basin Board; and, a successful Hurricane Freddy exercise was conducted in preparation for hurricane season.

Board Comment

At the request of Ms. Thurlow-Lippisch, Mr. Bartlett provided an update on the status of the BCB Boundary Study.

This item is recorded at:

<http://sfwmd.ig2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=2057&Format=Agenda>

32. General Public Comment

Drew Martin
Nyla Pipes
Richard Weisskoff

This item is recorded at:

<http://sfwmd.ig2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=2057&Format=Agenda>

33. Board Comment

Ms. Thurlow-Lippisch commented in opposition of discharges to the St. Lucie River and Caloosahatchee River, and thanked Governor DeSantis, the USACE and staff for efforts with the EAA Reservoir event.

Chairman Goss thanked Mr. Blalock, DEP, and Lieutenant Colonel Polk, USACE, for attending the meeting and contributing to Board discussion.

34. Adjourn

Chairman Goss adjourned the meeting at approximately 5:20 PM.



Gina Kamak
Deputy District Clerk
South Florida Water Management District