



South Florida Water Management District

BIG CYPRESS BASIN BOARD MINUTES

February 25, 2021

1:30 PM

via Communications Media Technology

www.SFWMD.gov

FINAL

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Charlette Roman	Chair	Present
Daniel F. Waters	Vice Chair	Present
Andrew D.W. Hill	Board Member	Remote
Nanette Rivera	Board Member	Present

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**

Ms. Roman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **Selection of Vice-Chair**

Motion to elect Daniel F. Waters as Vice Chair

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Charlette Roman, Chair
SECONDER:	Nanette Rivera
AYES:	Roman, Waters, Hill, Rivera

This item is recorded at:

<http://sfwmd.igm2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=2053&MinutesID=1477&FileFormat=doc&Format=Minutes&MediaFileFormat=mp4#>

4. **Agenda Revisions - Lisa Koehler**

There were no revisions to the agenda.

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

There were no abstentions by Board Members.

6. **Consider Acceptance of the Minutes for the for the August 27, 2020 and November 18, 2020 Big Cypress Basin Board Meetings**

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Charlette Roman, Chair
AYES:	Roman, Waters, Hill, Rivera

This item is recorded at:

<http://sfwmd.iqm2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=2053&MinutesID=1477&Format=Minutes&MediaFileFormat=mp4#>

7. **General Public Comment**

None

8. **Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary Modeling Update (Staff contact, Akin Owosina; Shawn Clem, Director of Research, Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary; and Brad Cornell, Southwest Policy Associate, Florida)**

Mr. Owosina, Dr. Clem and Mr. Cornell provided an update on modeling efforts by Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary and discussed their major findings.

Board Comment

Vice Chair Waters thanked Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary staff for their presentation and expressed his support for additional hydrologic data information.

Chair Roman agreed with Vice Chair Waters and emphasized that the additional data should also include an analysis component.

In response to Chair Roman's request for clarification regarding shortened periods of inundation in the Sanctuary, Dr. Clem explained that a shortened hydrologic period might result in a shorter period of standing water in a habitat, which would affect the ability to sustain the ecosystem growing and living there, as well as contribute to successional changes in the vegetation across these habitats.

Mr. Hill complimented the staff on the presentation

Ms. Roman suggested that Basin and District staff might be able to analyze the results of the study and assist in filling in some of the topographical data gaps in the hopes of developing collaborative next steps to improve the hydrology of the Sanctuary.

In response to Ms. Rivera's question of whether the modeling showed a successful use of retention berms to retain groundwater, Dr. Clem responded that the results were not favorable, and that better topography data was required to refine scale resolution and make better mitigation suggestions.

In response to Vice Chair Waters question about the directional source of damaging water flow, Dr. Clem responded that modeling did show that southern operations were having an impact, but there was not a definitive answer about the west side.

Public Comment
None

This item is recorded at:

<http://sfwmd.ig2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=2053&MinutesID=1477&Format=Minutes&MediaFileFormat=mp4#>

9. **Big Cypress Basin Boundary Modification (Staff contacts, Jeffrey Iudicello and Candida Heater)**

Board Comment

In response to Mr. Hill's inquiry regarding a hurricane's impact on water flows, Mr. Iudicello indicated that the hydrologic boundaries are determined by normal day to day operations and not by extreme storm events.

In response to Mr. Hill's concern regarding the proposed legislation expanding the Basin boundaries, Ms. Heater conveyed that there were concerns regarding proposed language in the bill regarding funding for operations, modeling and other basin functions.

In response to Vice Chair Water's inquiries regarding the extent of the model and further development, Mr. Iudicello expressed that the current modeling is limited but staff was currently working to expand the model.

Public Comment

Commissioner Brian Hamman
Joe Frank
Councilman Jim Boesch
Steve Sarkozy
Roland Ottolini
Peter Hill
Daniel DeLisi

This item is recorded at:

<http://sfwmd.igmd.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=2053&MinutesID=1477&Format=Minutes&MediaFileFormat=mp4#>

10. **Capital Project Updates (Staff contact, Lucine Dadrian)**

Ms. Dadrian provided an overview of the ongoing capital projects in design and construction.

Board Comment

None

Public Comment

None

11. **Big Cypress Basin Budget Fiscal Year 2021-22 Preliminary Budget Update (Staff Contact, Candida Heater)**

Ms. Heater provided an update on the development of the Basin budget.

Board Comment

In response to Mr. Hill's question regarding the impact on ad valorem revenues, Ms. Heater stated that property values in the 2022 budget are derived from the January 2021 taxable values. Additionally, officials and economists have projected that financial impacts from 2020 will affect the FY2021/2022 and FY2022/2023 budgets.

Public Comment

None

This item is recorded at:

<http://sfwmd.igmd.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=2053&MinutesID=1477&FileFormat=doc&Format=Minutes&MediaFileFormat=mp4#>

12. **Board Comment**

None

Technical Reports

13. **Field Station Activity Report - Juan Bethencourt**

Mr. Bethencourt provided an overview of the recent Field Station activities.

Board Comment

Chair Roman thanked Mr. Bethencourt for the presentation and suggested Mr.

Bethencourt start capturing events at canal structures on a quarterly basis.

14. **Water Conditions Report - Brad Jackson**

Mr. Jackson provided the water conditions report.

Board Comment

Chair Roman thanked Mr. Jackson for his presentation and his continued ingenuity and relatability.

Regarding Mr. Hill's question about the impact of high water levels in Lake Okeechobee to the Basin's area of responsibility, Mr. Jackson responded that the water levels in the lake have no effect on system operations or water levels in the Basin's natural areas.

Public Comment

None

These items are recorded at:

<http://sfwmd.igm2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=2053&MinutesID=1477&FileFormat=doc&Format=Minutes&MediaFileFormat=mp4#>

Staff Reports

15. **Basin Administrator's Report - Lisa Koehler**

Ms. Koehler provided an overview of the annual \$1M payment to Collier County and indicated that their annual work plan had been reviewed and approved in accordance with the 20-year agreement. She also discussed the Basin's lease to Collier County and indicated that it would be renewed this year resulting in additional revenue.

16. **Monthly Financial Report - Candida Heater**

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

17. **General Public Comment**

Councilman Jesse Purdon

18. **Board Comment**

Mr. Hill was very complimentary of staff and found the meeting very informative.

Ms. Rivera noted that Mr. Jackson's presentation was very thought-provoking and that she was looking forward to the next meeting, and to learning more about the Basin's systems and business.


Chair Roman thanked the Board for an engaging meeting and stated that she appreciated their constructive dialogue with staff, members of the public and the presenters. She also thanked the staff for going above and beyond to facilitate a smooth meeting with hybrid components.

This item is recorded at:

<http://sfwmd.igm2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=2053&MinutesID=1477&FileFormat=doc&Format=Minutes&MediaFileFormat=mp4#>

19. **Adjourn**

Chair Roman adjourned the meeting at approximately 4:30 PM.

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light yellow background. The signature reads "Lisa Koehler" in a cursive, flowing script.

Lisa Koehler
Big Cypress Basin Administrator
South Florida Water Management District