



South Florida Water Management District

BIG CYPRESS BASIN BOARD MINUTES

April 22, 2021

1:30 PM

via Communications Media Technology

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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. 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 February 25, 2021 Big Cypress Basin Board Meeting**

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

This item is recorded at:

<http://sfwmd.igmd.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=2062&MinutesID=1484&Format=Minutes&MediaFileFormat=mp4>

6. **General Public Comment**

None

7. **Collier County Water Quality Update (Rhonda Watkins, Senior Operations Analyst, Collier County Pollution Control and Prevention)**

Ms. Watkins provided an overview of the county's water quality monitoring program

Board Comment

In response to Mr. Hill's question, Ms. Watkins confirmed that Collier County Pollution Control does not conduct any herbicide or pesticide monitoring in surface water. She also confirmed that they were monitoring sites along East Tamiami Trail.

In response to Mr. Hill's question about how impaired waters were addressed, Ms. Watkins explained the steps of identifying an impaired water body and the monitoring that takes place subsequently.

In response to Ms. Rivera's question, Ms. Watkins confirmed that advances in technology with source tracing and isotopes will most likely become the standard; however, there were a lack of qualified labs that could handle those samples.

In response to Vice Chair Waters' question about whether there was a perceivable difference in the nutrients in the canals in wet season versus dry season Ms. Watkins replied that while there were seasonal spikes, it was difficult to trace the source.

In response to Chair Roman's request regarding certification for agencies, Ms. Watkins explained that for the Collier County lab to remain certified, they undergo an extensive audit from the FDEP every two years.

In response to Chair Roman's question, Ms. Watkins clarified that gaps in reporting were not caused by a lack of monitoring, rather a lack of nutrients standards, which must be determined by a collaborative effort through FDEP.

Public Comment
None

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8. **Consideration of Big Cypress Basin FY2020-2021 Capital Plan Reallocation (Staff Contact, Lucine Dadrian)**
 - a. **Field Station Security Update (Staff Contact, Jesus Carrasco)**

Board Comment

Vice Chair Waters agreed with staff recommendations for a field station security system and capital re-allocations.

Mr. Hill supported staff proposed recommendations after receiving confirmation from Ms. Dadrian that those listed were the only projects ready to move forward.

Ms. Rivera supported staff recommendations after receiving confirmation from Ms. Dadrian that staff was prepared to tackle the upcoming projects.

Chair Roman fully supported staff recommendations.

Public Comment
None

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9. **Picayune Watershed Water Quality Feasibility Study (Staff Contact, Jennifer Leeds)**

Ms. Leeds provided an overview of the Picayune Watershed Water Quality Feasibility Study.

Board Comment

In response to Ms. Rivera's questions about the political atmosphere surrounding the project, Ms. Leeds stated that there was a real collaborative effort amongst the stakeholders, and everyone was focused on a common goal.

Chair Roman shared Ms. Leeds feelings of collaboration and expressed appreciation toward everyone who participated in the project.

Public Comment

Brad Cornell

10. **Board Comment**

None

Technical Reports

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

Mr. Bethencourt provided an overview of the recent field station activities.

Board Comment

Ms. Rivera thanked Mr. Bethencourt and his team for taking her out in the field earlier in the week.

Regarding Ms. Rivera's questions about finding the responsible party when there was damage to Basin property, Mr. Bethencourt and Ms. Koehler explained the process of working closely with security, risk management and Collier Pollution Control to handle issues.

In response to Mr. Hill's questions about car accidents in the canals, Mr. Bethencourt stated that they have instated every safety precaution, but ultimately they must monitor for the human element.

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

Mr. Jackson provided the water conditions report.

Board Comment

Chair Roman thanked Mr. Jackson for his report.

Public Comment

None

These items are recorded at:

<http://sfwmd.igm2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=2062&MinutesID=1484&Format=Minutes&MediaFileFormat=mp4>

Staff Reports

13. Basin Administrator's Report - Lisa Koehler

Ms. Koehler briefed the Board on the District's upcoming, annual hurricane readiness exercise, Hurricane Freddy, and went over plans to firm up the tentative Fiscal Year 2022 Budget.

14. Monthly Financial Report - Candida Heater

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

15. General Public Comment

None

16. Board Comment

Chair Roman gave an update on the postponement of the legislation concerning the Basin Expansion, the new Regional Partnership project with Freedom Park, and lastly, thanked staff for their hard work in putting together the Board Meetings, especially Basin Administrator, Ms. Koehler.

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17. Adjourn

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



Lisa Koehler
Big Cypress Basin Administrator
South Florida Water Management District