



South Florida Water Management District

BIG CYPRESS BASIN BOARD MINUTES

July 11, 2016

1:30 PM

Collier County Government Center

Commission Chamber, 3rd Flr

3299 Tamiami Trail East, Naples, FL 34112

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Rick Barber	Chair	Present	
Marielle Kitchener	Vice Chair	Present	
David Farmer		Present	
Ralph H. Haskins		Present	
David Weston		Present	
Jamie Williams		Present	

1. Call to Order - Frederick Barber, Chairman, Big Cypress Basin Board

Mr. Barber called the meeting to order 1:30 pm.

2. Invocation

Reverend Sheila Zeller led the invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance - Frederick Barber, Chairman, Big Cypress Basin Board

Mr. Weston led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Recognition of former Big Cypress Basin Board Member John Vaughn

Mr. Barber recognized past Board member John Vaughn. Board members thanked Mr. Vaughn for his commitment and dedication to the Big Cypress Basin Board.

5. Approval of Minutes from the April 28, 2016, Big Cypress Basin Board Meeting

Minutes approved.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	David Weston, Board Member
SECONDER:	Marielle Kitchener, Vice Chair
AYES:	Barber, Kitchener, Farmer, Haskins, Weston, Williams

6. Agenda Revisions - Lisa Koehler, Administrator, Big Cypress Basin Service Center

There were no revisions to the agenda.

7. Abstentions by Board Members from items on the Agenda

There were no abstentions.

8. Collier County Capital Plan for Stormwater/Secondary System - Jerry Kurtz, Principal Project Manager, Collier County Stormwater Section

Mr. Jerry Kurtz, Principal Project Manager, Collier County Stormwater Section, gave a presentation on the Collier County FY2016-2017 capital plan for stormwater projects and the operation and maintenance of the secondary canal system. Mr. Kurtz provided an overview of the projects and budget and summarized future activities such as the RESTORE project, the sea level rise study, and the peak discharge rate reductions.

Board Questions

In response to a question from Mr. Farmer, Mr. Kurtz confirmed that reducing the runoff discharge rates would affect recovery time and that this issue was being evaluated by a consultant.

In response to a question from Mr. Williams, Mr. Kurtz replied that he would provide a comprehensive map of the projects included in the master plans.

9. Collier County Restore Comprehensive Water Management Project - Gary McAlpin, Manager, Coastal Zone Management, Collier County

Mr. McAlpin, Manager, Collier County Coastal Zone Management provided a presentation for the Collier County RESTORE Comprehensive Water Management Plan to restore the Golden Gate/South Belle Meade/Rookery Bay watershed. Mr. McAlpin concluded his presentation requesting written support from the Big Cypress Basin for his funding request.

Board Comments

In response to a question from Mr. Williams, Mr. McAlpin confirmed that the County had discussed this project with a representative of Six L's Farms.

In response to a question from Mr. Farmer on what methods would be used to acquire easements, Mr. McAlpin replied that those details were not yet known.

Mr. Haskins asked if costs for annual maintenance and operations had been estimated, and Mr. McAlpin answered that details on operation and annual maintenance were not yet available.

Mr. Barber was concerned about the project's high cost and asked Mr. Nageon De Lestang for clarification. Mr. Nageon De Lestang, Principal Engineer, Big Cypress Basin, stated that the project would have regional significance because it would affect more than one watershed in Collier County but it needed further review to resolve potential canal operations issues.

Ms. Kitchener asked if Fiddler's Creek representatives had been consulted and Mr. McAlpin replied that they would be contacted in the future. He added that he had already obtained the support of the Division of Forestry and US Florida Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS).

Public Comment

Ms. Nancy Payton representing the Florida Wildlife Federation, expressed her support for this significant habitat restoration effort.

Commissioner Tim Nance, Collier County Board of County Commissioners, thanked the Big Cypress Basin Board for their outstanding services and spoke in support of the County proposal, which would allow the management of the watersheds in the most responsible way.

Mr. Weston made a motion to conceptually support Collier County in their pursuit of RESTORE Act funding for the overall concept of their Comprehensive Watershed Project in Golden Gate/Belle Meade/Rookery Bay watersheds. Ms. Kitchener seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	David Weston, Board Member
SECONDER:	Marielle Kitchener, Vice Chair
AYES:	Barber, Kitchener, Farmer, Haskins, Weston, Williams

10. Update on Sea Level Rise - Akin Owosina, Bureau Chief Hydrology & Hydraulics Bureau

Mr. Owosina, Bureau Chief Hydrology & Hydraulics, provided an update on sea level rise work District staff was addressing. He explained that staff was currently conducting a level of service assessment to identify actionable items to be addressed with canals and structures. In the next several months staff would also complete a report on sea level rise and climate trends, compile key sea level rise policy issues and propose strategies and funding to address sea level rise and rainfall extremes.

Board Questions

In response to Ms. Kitchener's question, Mr. Owosina explained that peat collapse happens with increased saltwater intrusion that contaminates freshwater supply and leads to the collapse of the peat soils resulting in loss of elevation leading to further saltwater intrusion.

Public Comment

Mr. Stan Chrzanowski expressed concern about sea level rise.

11. Lower West Coast Water Supply Plan Update - Mark Elsner, Section Administrator, Water Supply Development Division

Mr. Elsner, Section Administrator, Water Supply Development Division, provided a brief background of the Lower West Coast Water Supply Plan and introduced Bob Verrastro, Plan Manager, to give a presentation on the local plan, increased water demands due to the growing population that would be impacted by this plan, and provided a timeline for approval in 2017.

Board Questions

In response to Mr. Barber's question about a slide, Mr. Verrastro replied that the water consumption reduction per capita applies to the Lower West Coast and is not districtwide.

In response to a question from Mr. Farmer on how the water per capita was accounted for in non-regulated areas, Mr. Verrastro replied that a weighted average is applied for areas not included in the utility grid.

12. Capital Projects Update - John Mitnik, Division Director, Operations, Engineering & Construction

Mr. Mitnik, Director, Operations, Engineering & Construction, provided an update on the capital projects for FY2016-2017. After a recap of the projects currently underway, he provided a list of proposed projects ready to start in the next fiscal year. Mr. Mitnik also stated that the possibility of expediting some projects was

being explored, and although no budget changes were expected for FY2016-2017, some modifications could occur in the 5-year plan.

13. Preliminary Budget and Tentative Millage Rate - Dorothy Bradshaw, Division Director, Administrative Services

Ms. Bradshaw, Division Director, Administrative Services provided an update on the FY2016-2017 proposed budget and tentative millage rates. After listing the next steps in the budget process, Ms. Bradshaw summarized the capital program and local projects. She presented the proposed millage rate and staff recommendation to adopt the rolled back millage rates.

Millage Rate	Fiscal Year 2015/2016 Adopted	Fiscal Year 2016/2017 Rolled Back	Recommended	% Change from Rolled Back	Impact per \$100,000 of Value
Big Cypress Basin	0.1429	0.1336	0.1336	0.00%	-0.93
District-wide	0.1459	0.1359	0.1359	0.00%	-1.00
Total Big Cypress Basin	0.2888	0.2695	0.2695	0.00%	-1.93

Mr. Farmer made a motion to approve the tentative millage rate at the rolled-back rate of 0.1336 mills per one thousand dollars of taxable value. Mr. Haskins seconded the motion.

Motion was approved unanimously.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	David Farmer
SECONDER:	Ralph Haskins
AYES:	Barber, Kitchener, Farmer, Haskins, Weston, Williams

14. General Public Comment

Mr. Shane Maxwell explained how using products from Ecological Laboratories had helped him reduce chemical use and restore water quality. He suggested it could be used as a tool to solve the algae issues on the east coast.

Ms. Delvia Lukito, Ecological Laboratories, briefly discussed the benefits provided by the company’s biotech products, and how they could be beneficial to Collier County.

15. Technical Reports

- A) Water Conditions Report - Mr. Nageon De Lestang, Principal Engineer, provided a summary of the rainfall data and hydrology conditions for the Big Cypress Basin. His presentation showed rainfall for the month of June was slightly above average and canal flows were consistent with wet season conditions.

Board Questions

In response to Ms. Kitchener's question, Mr. Nageon De Lestang replied that the eastern part of the County had received a lot of rain but not the coastal area.

Mr. Weston enquired about the quality of the water going out to Naples Bay. Mr. Nageon De Lestang will provide information to him.

Mr. Barber asked about water quality in Faka Union Bay and Mr. Nageon De Lestang will provide information to him.

- B) Field Station Activity Report - Mr. Doherty, Big Cypress Basin Field Station Superintendent, provided the BCB Field Station operation and management activities. He recapped current activities and provided a workload update focused on wet season preparedness. He also discussed the benefits of getting heavy equipment from other field stations.

16. Staff Reports

- A) Assistant Executive Director Report - Len Lindahl, Assistant Executive Director, had no updates for the Board.

Board Questions

In response to a question from Mr. Barber regarding the status of Stuart Boulevard, Mr. Lindahl replied that any maintenance of the road had been integrated under the field station budget. At Mr. Barber's request, Mr. Lindahl also confirmed that the District and the Forestry Division were in the process of coordinating a long-term maintenance plan for the roads.

- B) Basin Administrator's Report - Lisa Koehler, Administrator, Big Cypress Basin, provided an update on the progress of the Barron Canal cleaning efforts and status of the maintenance agreement.

Public Comment

Ms. Nancy Payton, representing Florida Wildlife, pointed out that raising Stuart Boulevard's elevation would undermine the restoration goals.

17. Board Comment

There were no Board comments.

18. Adjourn

Mr. Barber announced the next Board meeting will be August 25th at 09:00 am.

Ms. Kitchener made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Haskins seconded the motion.

Mr. Barber adjourned the meeting at 04:10.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Marielle Kitchener, Vice Chair
SECONDER:	Ralph Haskins
AYES:	Barber, Kitchener, Farmer, Haskins, Weston, Williams



Frederick T. Barber, III
Big Cypress Basin Board Chairman
South Florida Water Management District



Lisa Koehler
Big Cypress Basin Administrator
South Florida Water Management District