South Florida Water Management District

GOVERNING BOARD MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

December 12, 2019
9:00 AM
District Headquarters - B-1 Auditorium
West Palm Beach, FL 33406

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendee Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chauncey Goss</td>
<td>Chairman</td>
<td>Present</td>
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<td>Ron Bergeron</td>
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<td>Ben Butler</td>
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<td>Charlie Martinez</td>
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<td>Cheryl Meads</td>
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<td>Charlette Roman</td>
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<td>Jay Steinle</td>
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<td>Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scott Wagner</td>
<td>Vice-Chairman</td>
<td>Present</td>
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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. Butler led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Employee Recognitions - Presented by Drew Bartlett
Chairman Goss announced the bake sale and employee silent auction to benefit
Madison's Miracles were occurring in the lobby.

Mr. Bartlett presented employee recognitions for November Team of the Month, the
Caloosahatchee River MFL Project Team; December Employee of the Month, LeRoy Rogers; December Team of the Month, the BOMA Restoration Team; 30-
Years of Service, Carlos Piccirillo; 45-Years of Service, Howard Ehmke; and, Ms.
Cobb recognized Robin Clemons for 30-Years of Service.

4. Agenda Revisions
Ms. Byrd stated updates were made to Discussion Agenda item 21 contract data, and Discussion Agenda item 23 was postponed at the request of the applicant.

5. Agenda Item Abstentions by Board Members
Chairman Goss moved this item to occur before Consent Agenda item 19.

Mr. Bergeron abstained from voting on Discussion Agenda item 21, Mr. Bergeron's company Bergeron Land Development, Inc. submitted a sealed bid for the Old Tamiami Trail Removal Project which wasn't selected.

Mr. Bergeron abstained from voting on Discussion Agenda item 22, Mr. Bergeron's company Bergeron Land Development, Inc. was selected as a prime contractor for the C-44 STA project prior to Mr. Bergeron's appointment to the Board.

6. Audit & Finance Committee Report - Jay Steinle, Chairman
Mr. Steinle provided an update from the Audit & Finance Committee meeting held on November 14th in Fort Myers. Items discussed included a presentation from Raymond James regarding a review of the policy which increased the Mortgage Backed Securities (MBS) and District policy limits; an overview of the MBS market; investment and portfolio durations; and, the Inspector General audit approval of the negotiated work order contract and the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Audit Plan.

7. Consider Approval of the Minutes for the November 14th Meeting
Ms. Thurlow-Lippisch asked that the minutes be revised to reflect support in favor of the EAA Reservoir vote. Ms. Thurlow-Lippisch was away from the Dais when the vote was taken.

Chairman Goss had minor edits to the correct spelling of Commissioner Brian Hamman, Lee County Board of Commissioners, and asked that the minutes reflect the attendance of Councilor Reg Buxton, City of Naples.

The Board approved the Minutes as amended.

RESULT: ADOPTED [7 TO 0]
MOVER: Cheryl Meads
SECONDER: Jay Steinle
AYES: Butler, Goss, Martinez, Meads, Roman, Steinle, Thurlow-Lippisch
AWAY: Bergeron, Wagner

This item is recorded at:

8. General Public Comment
Commissioner Sarah Heard, Martin County Board of County Commissioners
John Koons
Ernie Cox, PBA Holdings
Patrick Painter, City of West Palm Beach
Newton Cook, United Water Fowlers of Florida, Inc.
Dan DeLisi
Jeremy McBryan, Palm Beach County
9. Board Comment

Mr. Butler thanked Representative Toby Overdorff, Florida House of Representatives, for the Agriculture Coalition and SFMWD Legislative Caucus Tours. Mr. Butler stated after visiting Tallahassee it was evident Governor DeSantis' ecosystem restoration initiatives were moving forward.

Mr. Martinez thanked representatives of Audubon, Buck Island Ranch and Florida Crystals for the educational tours.

Ms. Roman provided an update on the Big Cypress Basin meetings with the City of Bonita Springs and the Village of Estero addressing the area's needs and suggestions to expand the Big Cypress Basin. To this, Ms. Roman also shared details on a new District working group addressing Basin area issues.

Chairman Goss suggested including area representatives from Lee County and Collier County to the new District working group for the Basin to which Ms. Roman concurred.

Ms. Thurlow-Lippisch thanked staff and Lightsey Cattle Company for the ranch tour, and for sharing Best Management Practices (BMPs); Commissioner Hutchinson, St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners, for meeting to discuss the Indian River Lagoon South Northern Component; and, staff for the 40E-61 presentation (maps). To this, Ms. Thurlow-Lippisch stated the 40E-61 maps aided with water quality efforts in Lake Okeechobee and public transparency, and stressed the importance of more accountability with fertilizer use.

Chairman Goss thanked Martin County, and Martin County Sherriff's Office, for the tour of County projects.

Consent Agenda

10. Public Comment on Consent Agenda Items

There were no public comments on the Consent Agenda.

11. Move Consent Agenda Items to Discussion Agenda

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

12. Fiscal Year 2020-2025 Strategic Plan Adoption (Staff contact, Jennifer Smith, ext. 6285)

Resolution No. 2019 - 1201 Adopt the updated 5-Year Strategic Plan of the District for the purpose of establishing Board Guidance, Strategic Priorities, Goals, Projects and Success Indicators.

13. Eighth Amendment to the Thirty Second Annual Work Plan for the Seminole Tribe of Florida (Staff contact, Armando Ramirez, ext. 6684)
Concur with the Eighth Amendment to the Thirty Second Annual Work Plan for the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

14. Memorandum of Understanding with the Southwest Florida Water Management District for Interdistrict Transfer of Water to South Florida Water Management District (Staff contact, Simon Sunderland, ext. 2705)

Resolution No. 2019 - 1202 Authorize the Executive Director or his designee to execute the Memorandum of Understanding between Southwest Florida Water Management District and South Florida Water Management District regarding the City of Cape Coral's Proposed Interdistrict Transfer of Surface Water from Southwest Florida Water Management District to the South Florida Water Management District.

15. Alternative Water Supply and Water Conservation Projects (Staff contact, Simon Sunderland, ext. 2705)

A. an approximate amount of $11,556,600 in dedicated state appropriations from the 2019 State General Appropriations Act Line 1642.

Resolution No. 2019 - 1203 Authorize entering into agreement(s) with cooperating entities for alternative water supply and water conservation projects in an approximate amount of $11,556,600 in dedicated state appropriations from the 2019 State General Appropriations Act Line 1642, and delegate authority to the Executive Director to execute the agreements for identified projects listed in Exhibit A eligible for grant funding.

B. an amount not to exceed $600,000 for which $300,000 in District Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Ad Valorem funds and $300,000 in dedicated Fiscal year 2019-2020 state appropriations (Water Protection and Sustainability Program) are budgeted for projects in addition to those designated in Resolution 1204.

Resolution No. 2019 - 1204 Authorize entering into agreement(s) with cooperating entities for alternative water supply projects in an amount not to exceed $600,000 for which $300,000 in District Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Ad Valorem funds, and $300,000 in dedicated Fiscal Year 2019-2020 state appropriations (Water Protection and Sustainability Program) are budgeted; delegating authority to the Executive Director to execute the agreements for identified projects.

16. 2019 Lower Kissimmee Basin Water Supply Plan Update (Staff contact, Mark Elsner, ext. 6156)

Issue a final order approving the 2019 Lower Kissimmee Basin Water Supply Plan Update.

17. Side Slope Mowing Contract, Big Cypress Basin Field Station Area of Responsibility, Portions of Collier County (Staff contact, Rich Virgil, ext. 6759)

Resolution No. 2019 - 1205 Authorize entering into a 3-year contract with two 1-year renewal options with Charles Wesley O'Ferrell, dba Southern Services, the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, for side slope mowing and trimming services of various District lands and canal and levee rights of way in the Big
Cypress Basin Field Station area of responsibility, including portions of Collier County, in an amount not-to-exceed $534,000 for which $106,800 in Big Cypress Basin Ad Valorem funds are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2019-2020 and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of future years budgets. (Contract Number 4600004110)

18. Field Operations Center Eco-Friendly Janitorial Contract (Staff contact, Candida Heater, ext. 6486)

Resolution No. 2019 - 1206 Authorize entering into a 3-year contract with two 1-year renewal options with Superior Service Management, Inc., for eco-friendly janitorial services at the Field Operations Center, in an amount not-to-exceed $362,150.40 for which $72,430.08 in Ad Valorem funds are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2019-2020 and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of future years budgets. (Contract Number 4600004117)

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

RESULT: ADOPTED [8 TO 0]
MOVER: Scott Wagner, Vice-Chairman
SECONDER: Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch
AYES: Butler, Goss, Martinez, Meads, Roman, Steinle, Thurlow-Lippisch, Wagner
AWAY: Bergeron

This item is recorded at:

20. Technical Reports

A. Water Conditions Report - John Mitnik

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

Public Comment
None

Board Comment
In response to Ms. Thurlow-Lippisch's questions on slide 8, Mr. Mitnik elaborated on St. Lucie Estuary selected release volumes, and Lake Okeechobee inflows from C-44 Basin runoff. Mr. Mitnik also explained how runoff can enter the lake from the basins on the northern rim of the lake and how under extreme conditions runoff can be pumped into the lake from the south canals.

In response to Mr. Steinle's questions regarding flow releases from STA-1W and STA-1E to WCA-1 when cells in the STAs were above the optimum level, Mr. Mitnik explained how for instance, in STA-3/4, cells in the north tend to have higher than optimal stage due to vegetation resistance to flow, which was not necessarily an indication of the volume stored. Mr. Mitnik continued to state Mr. Glenn would be providing an update on STA conditions in the Ecological Conditions Report. Mr. Mitnik further elaborated on the fact that STA-1W outflow into WCA-1 was limited due to the completion of new additions to the STA.
In response to Mr. Wagner's question, Mr. Mitnik stated the historical Climate Prediction Center (CPC) U.S. Precipitation Outlook did not have a reliable track record and had been used as an informational tool only. Mr. Mitnik stated staff would verify how often it was updated and report back to the Board at a future meeting.

B. Ecological Conditions Report - Lawrence Glenn

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

Public Comment
None

Board Comment
In response to Ms. Thurlow-Lippisch's comments regarding Lake Okeechobee phosphorus input map illustrations, Mr. Glenn stated Lake Okeechobee Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) were developed to reduce nutrient loads to Lake Okeechobee with a goal to reduce phosphorus loads to 140 metric tons per year and in-lake phosphorus concentration of 40 ppb. To this, Mr. Glenn stated the purpose was to reduce algal bloom formation and continued eutrophication of lake impact and overall health. Breaking the 9 sub-watersheds down into smaller units was very applicable when siting projects that could reduce loads or concentrations. Mrs. Thurlow-Lippisch then asked what area of the District was charged with identifying nutrient source areas to which Mr. Glenn stated this work was completed in the Everglades and Estuaries Projects Bureau.

In response to Mr. Wagner's question, Mr. Glenn confirmed when water remains longer in an STA it would become cleaner. Mr. Glenn further indicated that water moving more slowly through the STAs proved to be a greater opportunity for nutrient uptake by plants and would not uproot emergent vegetation.

In response to Mr. Butler's question regarding the current condition of submerged aquatic vegetation in Lake Okeechobee, Mr. Glenn responded that lower lake levels over the past growing season would allow increased light penetration into the water column which would result in an increase in coverage from 5,000 acres to just over 20,000 acres.

Mr. Steinle asked if there were current District efforts to identify the key drivers for water delivery to central and western Florida Bay to which Mr. Mitnik responded that Dr. Fred Sklar a groundwater and surface water modeling study.

In response to Chairman Goss' question regarding why oysters could be in jeopardy when estuary inflows were reduced, Mr. Glenn responded that oysters have a preferred salinity range between 10 and 30 that was best for their physiology. Additionally, oysters may be negatively impacted under higher salinity levels (approaching a salinity of 35) due to increased prevalence of disease (Dermo) and an increase in marine predators that feed on oysters.

This item is recorded at:
Discussion Agenda

21. Voting Item: Old Tamiami Trail Removal Project, Miami-Dade County (Staff contact, Alan Shirkey, ext. 2579)

Mr. Bergeron abstained from voting on Discussion Agenda item 21, Mr. Bergeron’s company Bergeron Land Development, Inc. submitted a sealed bid for the Old Tamiami Trail Removal Project which wasn’t selected.

Mr. Shirkey presented a resolution to authorize entering into a 730-day contract with Ryan Incorporated Southern for construction of the Old Tamiami Trail Removal Project.

Public Comment:
Cara Capp, National Parks Conservation Association
Celeste DePalma, Audubon Florida

Board Comment
In response to Mr. Martinez’s question regarding the number of bidders, Mr. Shirkey stated two likely factors that resulted in a high number of bidders were the project’s straightforwardness, relatively simple work and its location in Miami-Dade.

Resolution No. 2019 - 1207 Authorize entering into a 730-day contract with Ryan Incorporated Southern, the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, for construction of the Old Tamiami Trail Removal Project, in the amount of $5,888,500, for which dedicated funds (Everglades Trust Fund) are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2019-2020. (Contract Number 4600004140)

RESULT: ADOPTED [8 TO 0]
MOVER: Chauncey Goss, Chairman
SECONDER: Jay Steinle
AYES: Butler, Goss, Martinez, Meads, Roman, Steinle, Thurlow-Lippisch, Wagner
ABSTAIN: Bergeron

This item is recorded at:

22. Voting Item: C-44 Reservoir/STA Project, Stormwater Treatment Area (Staff contact, Alan Shirkey, ext. 2579)

Mr. Bergeron abstained from voting on Discussion Agenda item 22, Mr. Bergeron’s company Bergeron Land Development, Inc. was selected as a prime contractor for the C-44 STA project prior to Mr. Bergeron’s appointment to the Board.

Mr. Shirkey presented a resolution to authorize additional funding to the contract with Bergeron Land Development, Inc. for completion of construction of the C-44 Reservoir/STA Project Stormwater Treatment Area.

Public Comment
Mark Perry, Florida Oceanographic Society

Board Comment
In response to Mr. Martinez’s question as to whether the completed cells were operable now and through the coming wet season, Mr. Shirkey provided an update on cells 1-3, and stated these cells were operable and currently being filled. Mr. Martinez then asked if the cells operate 24/7. Mr. Shirkey explained the filling pumps were being operated eight hours a day, five days a week but the nutrient uptake of the STA is 24/7. Mr. Shirkey also stated the remaining cells 4-6 were targeted for completion in September 2020.

**Resolution No. 2019 - 1208** Authorize additional funding to the contract with the second lowest responsive and responsible bidder from the 2014 solicitation, Bergeron Land Development, Inc., in an approximate amount of $14,000,000, plus up to a 10% contingency allowance, for which dedicated funds (Save Our Everglades Trust Fund and Land Acquisition Trust Fund) and Ad Valorem funds are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2019-2020, for completion of construction of the C-44 Reservoir/STA Project, Stormwater Treatment Area. (Contract Number 4600003959)

**RESULT:** ADOPTED [8 TO 0]
**MOVER:** Charlie Martinez
**SECONDER:** Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch
**AYES:** Butler, Goss, Martinez, Meads, Roman, Steinle, Thurlow-Lippisch, Wagner
**ABSTAIN:** Bergeron


23. Voting Item: Greater Orlando Aviation Authority Conservation Easement Partial Release, Orange County (Bradley Friel, P.E., Greater Orlando Aviation Authority, and Staff contact, Jill Creech, ext. 6814) - **ITEM POSTPONED**

This Item was postponed.

24. Briefing Item: Update on Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan Projects
   A. Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project
   B. Caloosahatchee River West Basin Storage Reservoir Projects

Ms. Leeds presented an update on both the Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration and the Caloosahatchee River West Basin Storage Reservoir Projects, and remaining project schedules for Congressional authorization.

**Public Comment**
Mark Perry, Florida Oceanographic Society
Albrey Arrington, Loxahatchee River District

**Board Comment**
Several Board members expressed support in moving forward with the Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration project. Mr. Bartlett shared the project was in a position for authorization in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) 2020 and it had received overwhelming support from stakeholders.
Mr. Bartlett clarified both projects were equally important; however, focus should remain on finishing the C-43, completing the EAA Reservoir, reducing discharges and sending more water south.

Chairman Goss recessed for lunch at approximately 11:50 AM.

This item is recorded at: http://sfwmd.iqm2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=1951&Format=Agenda

Staff Reports

   Chairman Goss reconvened the meeting at approximately 12:50 PM.
   Ms. Smith provided an update on the monthly financial report through the month ending October 2019.

26. General Counsel's Report - Paula Cobb
   Ms. Cobb had no report this month.

27. Executive Director's Report - Drew Bartlett
   Mr. Bartlett provided an update on Governor DeSantis' Python Bowl and the 40E-61 Rulemaking workshops. Additionally, Mr. Bartlett also provided an update on Governor DeSantis' budget priorities and the $625M requested for Everglades restoration and water quality projects.

Board Comment
   Responding to Ms. Thurlow-Lippisch's questions, Mr. Bartlett elaborated on the solicitation process for local governments to apply for water quality funding related to Governor DeSantis' budget, and Agriculture Best Management Practices (BMPs) with water quality and its relation to the 40E-61 Rulemaking.

   Mr. Bergeron requested staff provide the Board obstacles preventing the implementation of the second stage of the Modified Water Deliveries project. To this, Mr. Bergeron suggested meeting with the USACE or holding a workshop to assist with advancement of the project.

   This item is recorded at: http://sfwmd.iqm2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=1951&Format=Agenda

28. General Public Comment
   Gary Ritter, Florida Farm Bureau
   Nyla Pipes, One Florida
   Benita Whalen, Florida Cattlemen's Association
   Mark Perry, Florida Oceanographic Society
   Drew Martin, Loxahatchee Group - Sierra Club

   This item is recorded at: http://sfwmd.iqm2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=1951&Format=Agenda

29. Board Comment
Several Board members conveyed appreciation to the Governing Board, staff and public stakeholders for efforts over the course of the year supporting Governor DeSantis' mission to improve Florida's water quality while protecting its natural resources.

This item is recorded at:  

30. Adjourn
Chairman Goss adjourned the meeting at approximately 1:40 PM.

Gina Kamak  
Deputy District Clerk  
South Florida Water Management District