



South Florida Water Management District

BIG CYPRESS BASIN BOARD MINUTES

February 21, 2020

1:30 PM

Collier County Government Center
Commission Chamber, 3rd Flr
3299 Tamiami Trail East, Naples, FL 34112

DRAFT

1. Call to Order - Charlette Roman, Chair, Big Cypress Basin Board
Chair Roman called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
Mr. Waters led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Agenda Revisions - Lisa Koehler
There were no revisions to the agenda.
4. Agenda Item Abstentions by Board Members
Ms. Nageon de Lestang abstained from voting on Agenda item 10 as, Turrell, Hall & Associates, Inc. was previously engaged by the engineering firm GradyMinor and paid by the Conservancy of Southwest Florida to develop the Environmental Management Plan for the filter marsh wetlands. Ms. Nageon de Lestang is an employee of Turrell, Hall & Associates, Inc. with the responsibility for developing the Environmental Management Plan, and her husband has an ownership interest in Turrell, Hall & Associates, Inc.
5. Consider Approval of the Minutes for the October 24, 2019 Meeting

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Marielle Nageon de Lestang
SECONDER:	Daniel F. Waters, Board Member
AYES:	Roman, Nageon de Lestang, Waters

6. General Public Comment

There were no general public comments.

7. Collier County Impaired Water Bodies (Kevin O'Donnell, Environmental Administrator, Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Staff contact, Lisa Koehler, ext. 7603)

Mr. O'Donnell gave an overview of the Water Quality Protection Plans, Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) Regulation, and impaired water bodies within Collier County.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Board Comment

In response to Mr. Waters' question regarding bacterial impairments, Mr. O'Donnell stated bacterial impairments come from many different factors such as sanitation overflows, septic systems, natural sources, and wildlife.

Responding to Ms. Roman's question regarding how citizens and local agencies can help improve the impaired water bodies, Mr. O'Donnell stated local agencies need to educate citizens on ways to improve impaired water bodies by limiting their use of fertilizers.

8. Collier County Comprehensive Watershed Restoration Update (Gary McAlpin, Manager, Collier County Coastal Zone Management and Staff contact, Lisa Koehler, ext. 7603)

In the absence of Mr. McAlpin, Ms. Patterson, Director of Capital Project Planning of Collier County, introduced Mr. Loper, Associate Vice President of Taylor Engineering, Inc., who provided an overview of the Collier County Comprehensive Watershed Restoration Project.

Board Comment

Responding to Ms. Roman's question regarding the cost of the project, Mr. Loper stated the previous consultant team estimated the project at \$32 million, but the cost would be reviewed due to changes in certain components of the project. Mr. Loper continued by stating a reduction in cost for the project would be expected as a result of the review.

In response to Mr. Waters' question regarding the acquisition of rights to divert and convey water across impacted private property, Mr. Loper stated gaining easements and purchasing properties was challenging, due to the large number of private properties.

Responding to Mr. Waters' question regarding the issue of unwilling property owner participants within the project boundary, Mr. Loper stated Collier County received a statement from one of the landowners who did not want to participate in the TDR (Transfer of Developing Rights) incentive or grant an easement, which resulted in a proposed protective levee for that property.

In response to Mr. Waters' question regarding when the monitoring stations were installed, Mr. Loper stated they were installed in mid-2019.

Responding to Mr. Waters' question regarding the project operating manual, Mr. Loper stated the pumps would be shut off if water levels were threatening infrastructure in or around the project area, and the pumps would also be turned off in advance of a large rain event

In response to Mr. Waters' question concerning a comparison of the project's hydraulic model versus 2017 rain events and how much the pumps would have operated, Mr. Loper responded that the pumps would not be operated during flood conditions.

Responding to Ms. Nageon de Lestang's question regarding the freshwater data on slide 12 of the presentation, Mr. Loper stated the data was collected from a combination of previous Rookery Bay modeling data from pre- and post-development conditions and input from Rookery Bay staff.

Ms. Nageon de Lestang expressed concerns about the freshwater data and the accuracy of the information provided. She discussed her first-hand knowledge of the freshwater levels in the north part of Rookery Bay and pointed out that historically, water levels have been so high, these areas could not be accessed.

In response to Ms. Nageon de Lestang's question regarding potential surface water impacts to Lipman Farms, Mr. Loper stated the restoration project model showed, their project would not impact the farm.

Responding to Ms. Nageon de Lestang's question regarding groundwater changes around Lipman Farms, Mr. Loper stated groundwater would not impact the farm area.

In response to Ms. Nageon de Lestang's question regarding how the watershed restoration project would affect the Picayune Strand Restoration Project (PSRP), Mr. Loper stated the proposed project showed no impact to PSRP.

Responding to Ms. Nageon de Lestang's question regarding design storm event analysis on existing downstream developments, Mr. Loper stated the 25-year and 100-year storm events were used in the District's 3-day rainfall distribution, and the modeling showed no adverse impacts to downstream developments.

In response to Ms. Roman's question regarding analysis on more frequent smaller storm events, Mr. Loper stated the team did not analyze smaller design events but did a 10-year simulation, which included Hurricane Irma.

Responding to Ms. Roman's question regarding the effect of the project on the subdivisions downstream and if a simulation was completed, Mr. Loper stated the team completed 25-year and 100-year design storm simulations to ensure downstream infrastructure could convey the diverted restoration water without significant increases to water surface elevation.

In response to Ms. Roman's question regarding the modeling and analysis of the freshwater needs for Rookery Bay, Mr. Loper stated the model concluded portions of Rookery Bay did need some additional freshwater, but there was a lack of monitoring to confirm this.

Public Comment

Meredith Budd, Florida Wildlife Federation
Marisa Carrozzo, Conservancy of Southwest Florida

Responding to Ms. Carrozzo's concerns about the wildlife, Mr. Loper stated the panthers are using the existing culverts to cross under I-75 to connect between North and South Bealle Meade.

9. Lake Trafford Restoration Update and Water Quality Projects

After Mr. Meyer provided an overview of the history of Lake Trafford, he introduced Mr. Flaig to present the conceptual filter marsh presentation for Lake Trafford.

A. Lake Trafford Conceptual Filter Marsh (Staff contacts, Shawn Meyer, ext 7617 and Eric Flaig, ext. 6845)

Mr. Flaig provided an overview of the Lake Trafford conceptual filter marsh.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Board Comment

Ms. Roman expressed appreciation to Mr. Flaig for his presentation on the conceptual project for Lake Trafford.

Responding to Mr. Waters' question regarding existing arsenic on the property, Mr. Flaig stated deep tilling would reduce the chance of the arsenic being reintroduced into the lake.

In response to Mr. Waters' question regarding Immokalee Water and Sewer District, Mr. Flaig stated he was not familiar with the discharge characteristics of the Immokalee wastewater treatment plant.

Ms. Nageon de Lestang added that the privately owned slough east of the lake is known to be the main source of the nutrients seeping into Lake Trafford. Ms. Nageon de Lestang expressed her appreciation for Mr. Flaig's presentation, as it provided good insights for future projects

B. Voting Item - Lake Trafford Eelgrass Planting and Habitat Restoration Project with Florida Gulf Coast University (Staff contact, Shawn Meyer, ext. 7617)

Mr. Meyer gave an overview of the Lake Trafford eelgrass planting and habitat restoration regional partnership project with Florida Gulf Coast University.

Public Comment

Edwin Everham, Florida Gulf Coast University

Board Comment

There were no Board Comments.

Motion to approve funding in the amount of \$27,500 to the Florida Gulf Coast University for eelgrass planting and habitat restoration for Lake Trafford.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Daniel F. Waters
SECONDER:	Nageon de Lestang
AYES:	Roman, Nageon de Lestang, Waters

C. Voting Item - Lake Trafford Eelgrass Planting and Habitat Restoration Project with Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (Staff contact, Shawn Meyer, ext. 7617)

Mr. Meyer gave an overview of the Lake Trafford eelgrass planting and habitat restoration regional partnership project with Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Public Comment

Beacham Furse, Florida Fish and Wildlife

Board Comment

There were no Board Comments.

Motion to approve funding in the amount of \$17,500 to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for eelgrass planting and habitat restoration for Lake Trafford.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Daniel F. Waters
SECONDER:	Nageon de Lestang
AYES:	Roman, Nageon de Lestang, Waters

D. Voting Item - Lake Trafford Mechanical Harvesting Project with Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (Staff contact, Shawn Meyer, ext. 7617)

Mr. Meyer gave an overview of the Lake Trafford Mechanical Harvesting Project with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Board Comment

There were no Board Comments.

Motion to approve funding in the amount of \$145,000 to the Florida Gulf Coast University for mechanical harvesting in Lake Trafford.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Marielle Nageon de Lestang
SECONDER:	Waters
AYES:	Roman, Nageon de Lestang, Waters

Chair Roman recessed the meeting for a break at 3:27 PM.

Chair Roman reconvened the meeting at approximately 3:40 PM.

10. Voting Item - Filter Marsh Expansion Project for Improved Water Quality with the Conservancy of Southwest Florida (Staff contact, Shawn Meyer, ext. 7617)

Mr. Meyer gave an overview of the Filter Marsh Expansion Project for Improved Water Quality with the Conservancy of Southwest Florida.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Board Comment

There were no Board Comments.

Motion to approve funding in an amount not to exceed \$150,000 to the Conservancy of Southwest Florida for the filter marsh expansion to improve water quality.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [2 TO 0]
MOVER:	Charlette Roman
SECONDER:	Waters
AYES:	Roman, Waters
ABSTAIN:	Nageon de Lestang

Ms. Nageon de Lestang abstained from voting on Agenda item 10 as, Turrell, Hall & Associates, Inc. was previously engaged by the engineering firm GradyMinor and paid by the Conservancy of Southwest Florida to develop the Environmental Management Plan for the filter marsh wetlands. Ms. Nageon de Lestang is an employee of Turrell, Hall & Associates, Inc. with the responsibility for developing the Environmental Management Plan, and her husband has an ownership interest in Turrell, Hall & Associates, Inc.

11. Golden Gate Main Canal Right of Way Relaxation from Golden Gate Main 1 to Airport-Pulling Road (40-Foot Setback Rule) (Staff contact, Richard Virgil, ext. 6759)- **ITEM POSTPONED**
12. Big Cypress Basin Capital Plan Update (Staff contact, Lucine Dadrian, ext. 2685)

Ms. Dadrian provided an overview of the Big Cypress Basin capital plan

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Board Comment

Responding to Ms. Nageon de Lestang's question regarding which area had a mitigation concern for the I-75 & Cocohatchee interconnect project, Ms. Koehler stated there was an environmental mitigation issue where the proposed pump station would have been located.

13. Big Cypress Basin Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Preliminary Budget Discussion (Staff contact, Candida Heater, ext. 6486)

Ms. Heater gave an overview of the budget development timeline, the 2020-2021 proposed preliminary budget, revenue, and expenditure updates.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Board Comment

There were no Board comments.

14. General Public Comment

There were no general public comments.

15. Board Comment

There were no Board comments.

Technical Report

16. Field Station Activity Report - Juan Bethencourt

Mr. Bethencourt gave an overview of the Field Station activity report.

Board Comment

Responding to Ms. Roman's question regarding the delivery delay of the new 18 cubic-yard dump truck, Mr. Bethencourt stated the vehicle is a replacement truck and is not holding up any Basin projects.

17. Water Conditions Report - Brad Jackson

Mr. Jackson gave an overview of the water conditions report.

Board Comment

Responding to Ms. Nageon de Lestang's question regarding the Belle Meade project outflow volumes to Naples Bay, Mr. Jackson stated if the Collier County Watershed Improvement pump station was operational in 2019, the estimated outflow to Naples Bay would have been reduced by approximately 3.5% or 4,200 acre-feet and would have actively pumped for 42 days.

Staff Reports

18. Monthly Financial Report - Candida Heater

Ms. Heater provided an overview of the monthly financial report.

Board Comment

There were no Board comments.

19. Basin Administrator Report - Lisa Koehler
 - Collier County FY2019/2020 Stormwater Maintenance Work Plan approval and \$1M payment (Agreement OT040622)

Ms. Koehler gave an overview of the recurring annual payment for \$1 million to Collier County.

Board Comment

There were no Board comments.

20. General Public Comment
There were no general public comments.

21. Board Comment
Mr. Waters' requested a future item to discuss the impact of personal care products and septic systems and how these items can affect our drinking water.

Mr. Waters' requested a review of rainfall data to see if there is a pattern which could correlate to climate changes.

Ms. Roman expressed appreciation to the Basin support staff and Board Members for their dedication to Big Cypress Basin.

22. Adjourn
Chair Roman adjourned the meeting at approximately 4:25 PM



Lisa Koehler
Big Cypress Basin Administrator
South Florida Water Management District