



South Florida Water Management District

GOVERNING BOARD MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

July 9, 2020
9:00 AM

via Communications Media Technology
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Attendee Name	Title	Status
Chauncey Goss	Chairman	Remote
Ben Butler		Remote
Ron Bergeron		Remote
Charlie Martinez		Remote
Cheryl Meads		Remote
Charlette Roman		Remote
Jay Steinle		Remote
Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch		Remote
Scott Wagner	Vice-Chairman	Remote

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. Bergeron led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Employee Recognitions
Mr. Bartlett presented employee recognitions for July Employee of the Month, Jie Zeng; July Team of the Month, Lower West Coast Groundwater Modeling Team; and, 30-Years of Service, Jose Otero.
4. Agenda Revisions
Ms. Byrd stated there were only minor edits to the agenda.

5. Agenda Item Abstentions by Board Members

There were no abstentions by Board members.

6. Big Cypress Basin Board Report - Charlette Roman, Chair

Ms. Roman provided a Big Cypress Basin (BCB) Board report for the meeting held on July 6, 2020. Ms. Roman stated the BCB Board received an overview of the impacts and management of invasive and nuisance vegetation in the Big Cypress Basin; a presentation on the BCB Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Tentative Budget and Millage; an update on the Golden Gate Main Canal Vegetation Removal Project; and, mentioned a new requirement by the State of Florida was to conduct a study of the BCB boundary. The Basin Board recommended a request to the Governing Board to establish the roll-back millage rate of 0.1152.

7. Consider Approval of the Minutes for the June 10th Workshop and June 11th Meeting

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

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8. General Public Comment

Newton Cook, United Waterfowlers of Florida, Inc.
Ryan Rossi, South Florida Water Coalition
Mike Elfenbein, The Foundation for Balanced Environmental Stewardship, LLC
Nyla Pipes, One Florida Foundation
Jean Lawless, Florida Cattlemen's Association
Emma Haydocy, Florida Bay Forever

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9. Board Comment

Ms. Thurlow-Lippisch shared a geospatial map detailing the current canal network of South Florida with historic imagery from 1940-1953; thanked staff for the updated Land Interest and Leased Land Maps and DuPuis Wildlife and Environmental Area swamp buggy tour; and, conveyed appreciation to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) for the tour of the wetlands along the I-710 Wildlife Corridor.

Ms. Meads commented on meeting transparency and joint participation with stakeholders and encouraged the Board to remain focused on issues presented during meetings.

Mr. Bergeron commented on the importance of advancing the Mod Water Deliveries project to move more water south and re-establish natural sheet flow and decartmentalization; requested staff consider renaming the Water Conservation

Areas (WCA) to the Central Everglades; and, suggested staff provide a workshop and invite the FWC and stakeholders to discuss endangered species and the Cape Sable seaside sparrow.

Mr. Steinle commented on the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 budget and thanked Governor DeSantis, Florida legislators, and taxpayers for supporting the works of the District; expressed gratitude to the City of West Palm Beach for the Grassy Waters tour; and, announced the Audit & Finance Committee meeting would commence immediately following the Board meeting.

Mr. Wagner thanked Ms. Thurlow-Lippisch for the GIS maps; concurred with Mr. Bergeron's suggestion to rename the WCAs to the Central Everglades; and, thanked staff for compiling the Miami-Dade Memorial Day storm event multi-page report.

Ms. Roman requested the Board receive an update on a request made by Ms. Thurlow-Lippisch regarding analysis which identified obstacles with moving water south, and commended July's Team of the Month, the Lower West Coast Groundwater Modeling Team, for excellent work.

Chairman Goss concurred with Mr. Steinle's comments regarding the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 budget; recognized Mr. Gene Lollis as the new President of the Florida Cattlemen's Association; thanked Ms. Thurlow-Lippisch for requesting the updated Land Interest and Leased Land Maps; and, reaffirmed the Boards commitment to the savings clause from the Water Resources and Development Act (WRDA 2000).

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Consent Agenda

10. Move Consent Agenda Items to Discussion Agenda

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

11. Public Comment on Consent Agenda Items

Mark Perry, Florida Oceanographic Society
Lisa Interlandi, Everglades Law Center
Newton Cook, United Waterfowlers of Florida, Inc.
Commissioner Merritt Matheson, City of Stuart
Michael Conner, Indian Riverkeeper
Doug Gaston, Audubon of Florida

This item is recorded at:

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12. Land Acquisition, Shingle Creek Project Area, Orange County (Staff contact, Stephen M. Collins)

Resolution No. 2020 - 0701 Acquire land interests containing 2.48 acres, more or less, in the amount of \$69,440, located in the Shingle Creek Project Area in Orange County, for which dedicated funds (Wetland Mitigation Funds) are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2019-2020.

13. Funding Disclosure, U.S. Department of Interior, Hendry County (Staff contact, Stephen M. Collins)
Resolution No. 2020 - 0702 Authorize the transfer of a U.S. Department of the Interior federal grant funding restriction on lands in and around the Caloosahatchee River (C-43) West Basin Storage Reservoir, all in Hendry County.
14. Water Sampling License Agreement, Sailfish Point, Martin County (Staff contact, Stephen M. Collins)
Resolution No. 2020 - 0703 Approve for the purpose of monitoring regional water quality, the acquisition of a Water Sampling and Access License Agreement, at no cost, to collect data from an aquifer production well on property owned by Sailfish Point Property Owners' and Country Club Association, Inc. in Martin County.
15. Water Monitoring Well Right of Entry Agreement with The City of Deerfield Beach (Staff contact, Stephen M. Collins)
Resolution No. 2020 - 0704 Approve for the purpose of monitoring regional water levels and water quality, the acquisition of a Water Monitoring Well Right of Entry Agreement, at no cost, to maintain and collect data from a monitoring well on property owned by The City of Deerfield Beach in Broward County.
16. Monitoring of Lake Okeechobee Sediment Discharges to Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie Estuaries (Staff contact, Jennifer Reynolds)
Resolution No. 2020 - 0705 Authorize entering into a four-year Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) for the purpose of executing the Monitoring of Lake Okeechobee Sediment Discharges to Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie Estuaries, a project funded by the District and USGS Cooperative Matching Funds (CMF) by a joint-funding agreement, with the District's contribution in the amount of \$1,039,500 for which \$361,908 is budgeted in Fiscal Year 2019-2020 and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of future years budgets. (Contract Number 4600004248)
17. Interagency Agreement with U.S. Geological Survey for the Development of Future Rainfall Depth-Duration-Frequency Curves (Staff contact, Ana Carolina Maran)
Resolution No. 2020 - 0706 Authorize the Executive Director, or his designee, to enter into an agreement with the U.S. Geological Survey, for the purpose of developing Future Rainfall Depth-Duration-Frequency (DDF) Curves for the entire 16-county region at a total project cost of \$367,304 for which the District's cost share amount is \$183,652 and is budgeted (Ad Valorem funds) in Fiscal Year 2019-2020. (Contract Number 4600004244)
18. Emergency Action by the Seminole Tribe of Florida (Staff contact, Armando Ramirez)
Require the Seminole Tribe conform the emergency action and lists specific conformance criteria, along with additional requirements, within the Final Order.
19. Board Vote on Consent Agenda (12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18)

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Ron Bergeron
SECONDER:	Charlie Martinez
AYES:	Goss, Butler, Bergeron, Martinez, Meads, Roman, Steinle, Thurlow-Lippisch, Wagner

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Technical Reports

20. Water Conditions Report - John P. Mitnik

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

Board comment

In response to Mr. Steinle's question regarding how the Combined Operating Plan (COP) would change the flows going into Everglades National Park (ENP) compared to current operations, Mr. Mitnik stated current operations used a rainfall formula consisting of two components (rainfall and regulatory) while the COP would utilize the new Tamiami Trail Flow Formula which calculated flows going into ENP using rainfall and flow stages in WCAs, northeast Shark River Slough and into ENP. At the request of Mr. Steinle, staff to provide an update on the Lake Okeechobee connection to STA 5/6.

Mr. Bergeron and Mr. Mitnik discussed system considerations for sending flows south represented on slide 10. Mr. Bergeron stressed the importance of establishing natural sheet flow by gravity and eliminating obstacles limiting flows to ENP.

In response to Ms. Thurlow-Lippisch's question regarding obstacles with sending water south, Mr. Mitnik elaborated on multiple considerations such as total capacity in the STAs and WCAs; conveyance capacity of the canals; and, timing and distribution of rainfall to avoid slowing flows in one particular area or overwhelming flows in another area. Ms. Thurlow-Lippisch then asked if the agricultural area east of ENP was an obstacle to which Mr. Mitnik explained overcoming this obstacle was possible, but depended several factors such as raising the Tamiami Trail, moving flows from WCA 3-A to WCA-3B (L-67 Levee), and handling seepage issues along the east side of ENP.

Mr. Bartlett provided an update on WCA-3A water levels which included recurrent conversations with FWC and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to discuss reducing water levels; deploying temporary pumps to the L-67 Levee to aid in moving water from WCA-3A to WCA-3B; proceeding with construction on the S-333N to double the flow capacity; increasing operational flexibility for the S-12 structures to assist with habitat improvements for the Cape Sable seaside sparrow; and, addressing constraints on the S-12s, S-199 and S-200 structures.

Ms. Meads requested staff provide the Board with a tool to visualize all the constraints of the system to better understand the complexities of moving water south.

This item is recorded at:

21. Ecological Conditions Report - Lawrence Glenn

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

Board Comment

Mr. Bergeron commented on the importance of re-establishing natural sheet flow and modifying the S-333N structure to increase water volumes.

At the request of Ms. Thurlow-Lippisch, staff to provide the Board a geospatial three-dimensional map of current natural environmental flows of water moving south to assist with finding solutions to the challenges with moving more water south.

In response to Ms. Meads' question regarding oyster conditions, Mr. Glenn stated the most dramatic conditions were observed on the St. Lucie Estuary where there were no freshwater deliveries from Lake Okeechobee. Mr. Glenn reported conditions were improving with more saline towards the end of the drought, but went from drought to very fresh quickly, and storage features which were being constructed would help with this issue. At the request of Ms. Meads, staff to research using the Lean Six Sigma map processing standards for complex map processing and provide copies of map processing standards currently used by staff to the Board.

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22. Public Comment

Mark Perry, Florida Oceanographic
Thomas Van Lent, Everglades Foundation
Newton Cook, United Waterfowlers of Florida, Inc.
Cara Capp, National Parks Conservation Association
Michael Collins, Florida Bay Initiative
Doug Gaston, Audubon of Florida
Nyla Pipes, One Florida Foundation
Mike Elfenbein, The Foundation for Balanced Environmental Stewardship
Lisa Interlandi, Everglades Law Center
Shannon Estenoz, The Everglades Foundation

Board Comment

Mr. Wagner requested staff provide the Board updated analysis on how structure closures benefited the Cape Sable seaside sparrow.

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Discussion Agenda

23. Update on the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program (Staff contact, Jennifer Reynolds)

Ms. Reynolds provided an update on the Northern Everglades and Estuaries

Protection Program.

Public Comment

Michael Collins, Florida Bay Initiative
Doug Gaston, Audubon of Florida
Benita Whalen, Florida Cattlemen's Association
Gary Ritter, Florida Farm Bureau Foundation
Marissa Carrozzo, Conservancy of Southwest Florida
Chris Pettit, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Ernie Barnett, Florida Land Council and the Growers in the EAA

Board Comment

Ms. Thurlow-Lippisch commented on Florida House Bill 5003 (HB 5003) Implementing the 2020-2021 General Appropriations Act and recommended the Board, staff, and public view the meeting video on the Florida Channel, March 19, 2020 due to its effect on the 40E-61 Rule. Ms. Thurlow-Lippisch further recommended increased accountability with Best Management Practices (BMPs) for watersheds before assisting with regional projects.

At the request of Ms. Meads, staff to provide the Board a copy of HB 5003.

In response to Mr. Wagner's request for current legacy phosphorus data, Ms. Reynolds explained the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) managed Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) calculations and staff would provide an update to the Board on how DEP considered legacy phosphorus in the TMDL calculations. Ms. Reynolds further stated legacy phosphorus would be considered in the Watershed Protection Plan update.

The Board and staff continued discussion on HB 5003; agricultural BMPs; expanded monitoring; innovative technologies; nutrient impairment and reduction; and, TMDL goals.

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24. Ground Application Services Work Order Contracts (Staff contact, Francois Laroche)

Mr. Laroche presented an overview of Ground Application Services contracts and a resolution for Board consideration.

Public Comment:

Matt Spritz, Lake and Wetland Management, Inc.
Jason Watts, Florida's Best, Inc.

Board Comment

The Board and staff discussed vendor contracts and the procurement process; responsive and responsible bidding; scoring criteria; scope of work; rate schedules; firm negotiation and ranking; and, contract price negotiation

Mr. Wagner recommended staff further research forward thinking solutions, innovations or investments that would assist with funding costs attributed to

maintaining and managing exotics. Ms. Roman concurred.

It was the consensus of the Board to increase the Ground Application Services work order contracts from 12 to 15; thus, the resolution was revised and approved accordingly. Also, the Board requested staff provide an update on the procurement contract qualifications as a future meeting.

Resolution No. 2020 - 0707 Authorize the official ranking of firms and enter into 3-year work order contracts, with two 1-year renewal options with the fifteen firms listed below, subject to successful negotiations to provide Ground Application Services in an amount not-to-exceed \$90,000,000 for all fifteen work order contracts, for which Ad Valorem and dedicated funds are subject to Governing Board approval of future years budgets; the District will proceed in ranked order until agreements have been successfully negotiated.

<u>FIRM</u>	<u>CONTRACT NUMBER</u>
Walker Environmental LLC, dba Walker Exotic Tree Eradication	Contract No. 4600004251
EarthBalance Corporation	Contract No. 4600004252
Mettauer Environmental, Inc.	Contract No. 4600004253
Applied Aquatic Management, Inc.	Contract No. 4600004254
Aquatic Vegetation Control, Inc.	Contract No. 4600004255
A+ Environmental Restoration, LLC	Contract No. 4600004256
NaturChem, Inc.	Contract No. 4600004257
Environmental Quality, Inc.	Contract No. 4600004258
Ground Level, Inc.	Contract No. 4600004259
Cardno, Inc.	Contract No. 4600004260
Sandhill Native Growers, Inc.	Contract No. 4600004261
Native Creations, Inc.	Contract No. 4600004262
Florida Best Inc of Haines City	Contract No. 4600004277
YT Land Services, Inc.	Contract No. 4600004279
Lake and Wetland Management, Inc.	Contract No. 4600004280

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

The Board approved Resolution 2020-0707 as amended.

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25. Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Proposed Tentative Budget and Submission of Proposed Millage Rates (Staff contact, Candida Heater)

Ms. Heater presented the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 proposed tentative budget and a resolution for Board consideration.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Board Comment

There was no Board comment.

Resolution No. 2020 - 0708 Consider the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 proposed tentative budget update and approve submittal of the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 proposed millage rates to county property appraisers for inclusion in the notice of proposed property taxes.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Ben Butler
SECONDER:	Charlette Roman
AYES:	Goss, Butler, Bergeron, Martinez, Meads, Roman, Steinle, Thurlow-Lippisch, Wagner

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26. Project Partnership Agreement for the Central Everglades Planning Project South Phase (Staff contact, Jennifer Reynolds)

Ms. Reynolds presented the project partnership agreement for the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) South Phase and a resolution for Board consideration.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Board Comment

In response to Mr. Bergeron's questions, Ms. Reynolds elaborated on the Central Everglades Restoration Projects cost-share and management components of the CEPP projects with the USACE.

Resolution No. 2020 - 0709 Authorize entering into a Project Partnership Agreement with the U.S. Department of the Army for construction, operation, maintenance, repair, replacement, and rehabilitation of the Central Everglades Planning Project South phase, a component of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, and affirming the District's financial capability to satisfy the obligations, as the non-Federal Sponsor, described in the Project Partnership Agreement, for which the District will be responsible for providing a 50 percent cost-share subject to Governing Board approval of future fiscal year budgets. (Contract Number 4600004250)

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch
SECONDER:	Jay Steinle
AYES:	Goss, Butler, Bergeron, Martinez, Meads, Roman, Steinle, Thurlow-Lippisch, Wagner

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Staff Reports

27. Monthly Financial Report - Candida Heater

Ms. Heater provided an update on the monthly financial report through the month of May 2020.

Board Comment

There was no Board Comment

28. General Counsel's Report - Judith Levine (Acting)

Ms. Levine had no report this month.

29. Executive Director's Report - Drew Bartlett

- Emergency Order to Respond to COVID-19"

Mr. Bartlett provided an update on Senate Bill 712 Clean Waterways Act; the state legislative budget; District COVID-19 operations; Strategic Plan development; the USACE Environmental Impact Statement for the Combined Operating Plan (COP) and Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule (LORS) environmental assessment; public rulemaking workshops for water reservations; and, the Everglades Agricultural Area reservoir project. Also, Mr. Bartlett introduced the District's incoming General Counsel, Ms. Carolyn Ansay.

30. General Public Comment

Mark Perry, Florida Oceanographic

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31. **Board Comment**

At the request of Ms. Meads, staff to provide the Board a detailed report on the current status of all Central Everglades Restoration Projects.

Mrs. Thurlow-Lippisch commented on House Bill 5003 and thanked Governor DeSantis, the Legislature, and stakeholders for efforts in support of restoration projects.

Mr. Bergeron recommended staff research changing the name of the WCAs to Central Everglades; requested a Mod Waters Deliveries project workshop to assist with efforts in moving more water south; and, thanked Governor DeSantis and Legislature for funding efforts in support of restoration projects.

Mr. Steinle announced the Audit & Finance Committee meeting immediately following the Board meeting.

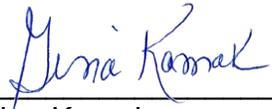
The Board thanked staff for efforts with providing web-based meetings to the public and stakeholders during COVID-19 operations.

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32. Adjourn

Chairman Goss adjourned the meeting at approximately 4:40 PM.



Gina Kamak
Deputy District Clerk
South Florida Water Management District