



South Florida Water Management District

GOVERNING BOARD WORKSHOP MINUTES

September 9, 2020

1:00 PM

via Communications Media Technology

www.SFWMD.gov

This workshop will provide the Governing Board, public, and stakeholders with an overview of the multiple projects in the C-139 Basin, including, project components, locations, and planning and construction schedules. The Workshop is informative in nature and no final decisions will be made by the Governing Board.

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Chauncey Goss	Chairman	Remote
Ron Bergeron		Absent
Cheryl Meads		Remote
Charlette Roman		Remote
Jay Steinle		Remote
Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch		Absent
Scott Wagner	Vice-Chairman	Remote

1. Call to Order - Chauncey Goss, Chairman, Governing Board
Chairman Goss called the workshop to order at approximately 1:00 PM.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
Mr. Steinle led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Upcoming Governing Board Items Related to C-139 Annex Projects - Jennifer Reynolds, Division Director, Ecosystem Restoration and Capital Projects Division, and Stephen M. Collins, Division Director, Real Estate and Land Management Division

Ms. Reynolds presented an overview of the key projects of the C-139 Annex and western Everglades basins.

Board Comment

None

4. C-139 Background and History - Carmela Bedregal, P.E., Section Lead, Everglades and Estuaries Protection Bureau

Ms. Bedregal presented an overview of the C-139 Annex location and project area. Items discussed included an overview of the southern and western Everglades basins; western Everglades basin hydrology; C-139 Basin southern conveyance; and, summary of source control approaches for projects located in the western Everglades basins.

Board Comment

None

5. Current & Future Projects

- A. Sam Jones/Abiaki Prairie Project - Jesse VanEyck, P.E., Lead Engineer and Construction Manager, Engineering & Construction Bureau, and Rob Hopper, Senior Scientist, Land and Stewardship Section

Mr. VanEyck presented an overview of the Sam Jones Abiaki Prairie Project. Items discussed included project background and history; funding; goals; scale; footprint; restoration plans; and, past project activities.

Mr. Hopper presented an overview of the Sam Jones Abiaki Prairie Project Phase 1 completed items. Items discussed included project hydrology, vegetative restoration, and wildlife monitoring.

Board Comment

None

- B. C-139 Flow Equalization Basin - Jose Otero, P.E., Section Administrator, Everglades and Local Projects Section

Mr. Otero presented an overview of the C-139 Flow Equalization Basin (FEB) project. Items discussed included project background and design; restoration strategies; surrounding structures and watersheds; 2012 Regional Water Quality Plan, Water Quality Based Effluent Limitation (WQBEL); Stormwater Treatment Area (STA)-5/6 performance; and, project timeline.

Board Comment

The Board and staff discussed the contents presented on slides 9 and 10 regarding the performance of STA-5/6 during Water Years 2010-2020.

Responding to questions from the Board regarding systemic changes with STA-5/6 inflows from Water Years 2014 to 2020, staff to provide an update

on partnership efforts and additional source controls which could be utilized in tandem with the C-139 FEB to achieve WQBEL.

In response to Chairman Goss' question, Mr. Otero elaborated on project assurances of the C-139 FEB and discussed a future connection to Lake Okeechobee being analyzed that would provide further benefits to STA-5/6.

C. Western Everglades Restoration Project - Mindy Parrott, Lead Project Manager, Ecosystem Restoration Planning Bureau

Ms. Parrott presented an overview of the C-139 Annex Western Everglades Restoration Project (WERP). Items discussed included Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) Feasibility Study project objectives, project schedule, and proposed project features.

Board Comment

On behalf of Mr. Bergeron, Mr. Bartlett referred to the southern end of the project map on slide 3 near WCA-3A and stated estimates were received totaling approximately \$4-5M to construct three culverts in the L-28 canal which would assist with releasing an additional 1500 cfs from WCA-3A into the Big Cypress National Preserve during high water level events. Mr. Bartlett further stated Mr. Bergeron challenged staff to engage with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to move ahead of schedule to start project modeling and analysis to assist with sending more water south to the 10,000 Islands.

In response to Chairman Goss' question regarding if the project could be expedited, Mr. Bartlett stated if the project was presented as part of CERP it would need to wait to conduct a Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) to receive a Pre-partnership Credit Agreement (PPCA) credit. If the schedule was expedited on its own and not a part of CERP, there would be no PPCA credit.

In response to Ms. Roman's question regarding the hydrology of the L-28 interceptor and Big Cypress National Preserve, Ms. Parrott stated part of the focus was to remove the drainage effect to aid in correcting the hydrology of Northeast Big Cypress National Preserve in addition to the L-28 canal features with the additional three culverts which would help flow balance. To this, Ms. Parrot further stated removal of the L-28 Tieback Levee, which prevented southwestern flows, would also assist with restored historical S-Curve water flows.

At the request of Ms. Roman, staff to research removing the L-28 Tieback Levee to explore potential benefits and corrections to southwestern water flows.

At the request of Ms. Meads, staff to research expediting the three culverts in the L-28 canal to accelerate sending more water south.

In response to Chairman Goss' question, Mr. VanEyck stated the Sam Jones Abiaki Projects were projected for completion by 2028.

6. Public Comment

Drew Martin, Sierra Club Loxahatchee Group

This item is recorded at:

<http://sfwmd.igm2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=2038&Format=Agenda>

7. Adjourn

Chairman Goss announced the Governing Board Monthly meeting on September 10, 2020 at 9:00 AM, and the Tentative Millage and Budget Public Hearing at 5:15 PM.

Chairman Goss adjourned the workshop at approximately 2:55 PM.



Gina Kamak
Deputy District Clerk
South Florida Water Management District