



South Florida Water Management District

BIG CYPRESS BASIN BOARD MINUTES

January 20, 2015

9:00 AM

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

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
John Vaughn		Present	
Rick Barber	Chair	Present	
David Farmer		Present	
Alice J. Carlson		Present	
Ralph H. Haskins		Present	
Marielle Kitchener		Present	

- 1. Call to Order - Frederick Barber, Chairman, Big Cypress Basin Board**
Mr. Barber called the meeting to order at 9:14 am.
- 2. Invocation**
Father Joseph Jocco led the invocation.
- 3. Pledge of Allegiance - Frederick Barber, Chairman, Big Cypress Basin Board**
Mr. Haskins led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 4. Approval of minutes**
Minutes approved.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	David Farmer
SECONDER:	John Vaughn
AYES:	Vaughn, Barber, Farmer, Carlson, Haskins, Kitchener

5. Agenda Addendum - Lisa Koehler, Administrator, Big Cypress Basin Service Center

There were no changes to the agenda.

6. Abstentions by Board Members from items on the Agenda

There were no abstentions.

7. Restoring the Rookery Bay Estuary: A Project Connecting People and Science for Long-Term Community Benefit - Tabitha Stadler, Project Coordinator

Ms. Stadler, Project Coordinator, FDEP Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, provided a presentation on the results of a local scale hydrology model for the Rookery Bay watershed, to determine the influence of freshwater inflows to the estuary.

Research established the actual size of the Rookery Bay watershed, determined that the Golden Gate and Rookery Bay watersheds were connected both upstream and downstream, and that the Rookery Bay estuary had adapted to lower dry season flows. Ms. Stadler concluded the presentation with a summary of model findings that showed minimal seasonal changes and no significant modifications to overall flow volume.

Board Questions

In response to Mr. Vaughn's question on the difference between areas north and south of Belle Meade, Ms. Stadler replied that the model for areas north of I-75 had not yet started but that it would be possible in the future with planning and funding.

Mr. Barber asked if adjusting operation of Basin structures could help with storage or dewatering problems, Ms. Stadler stated that in the future she would be able to provide a scenario that could alleviate some of the dewatering issues during dry months.

Mr. Farmer asked if consumptive water use from Collier County and City of Naples had been accounted for as one of the factors causing the flow decrease, and Ms. Stadler stated that modelers had used direct measurement whenever possible. Mr. Robau, a consultant for Rookery Bay, further confirmed that the local scale model had been developed using the regional model which included the withdrawals.

8. Salt Water Intrusion Mapping Update - Akin Owosina, Chief, Hydrology & Hydraulics Bureau

Mr. Owosina, Chief, Hydrology & Hydraulics Bureau, provided an update on salt water intrusion mapping and the challenges of creating a map representing a tri-dimensional feature on a two-dimensional map. He compared the map issued in 2009 with the revised map issued in 2014 which showed minimal changes, mostly observed in South Lee County.

Mr. Owosina stated that he had initiated a program that included:

- Level of Service Fundamentals (LOS) to standardize district-wide procedures and support the capital program on decision making.
- Assessment procedure to document the source of data and also develop an SOP that would allow consistency in District operations.
- Sea level rise, rainfall changes and development of basin modeling and basin Atlas to provide reference documents for flood protection performance.

Mr. Owosina identified future steps to bring the program to completion in the second quarter of 2015, which included continued implementation of LOS effort, coordination with other water management districts and FDEP, cooperation with local governments on saltwater intrusion modeling, publishing saltwater intrusion maps and reporting on changes, and explore funding opportunities to investigate saltwater intrusion in coastal areas such as Big Cypress Basin.

Board Questions

In response to Mr. Vaughn's question, Mr. Owosina confirmed that there were locations closer to Collier County for sea level rise monitoring, and that the station in Key West was being monitored because of the length of that data set.

In response to Mr. Farmer's question on why the map had not changed in five years, Mr. Owosina stated that the District had been evaluating the data and had determined that, based on the location and depth of the wells, a certain equilibrium could be reached that would not cause data to change much over time. Mr. Farmer suggested that by using consistent methodology it would be possible to measure changes.

In response to Ms. Kitchener's question, Mr. Owosina stated that he had not observed any changes within the areas associated with long term historic farming use.

In response to Mr. Barber's question, Mr. Owosina stated that map will be published as soon as it is completed and the County will have access and be able to share information with the District.

Public Comment

Mr. Kirk Martin stated that water had been here long before development had started giving the impression there is no change. He also thanked the District for the monitoring efforts.

Mr. Farmer, commented that based on data set 30 years ago, Mr. Martin's explanation would not apply to water closer to the coast. Data demonstrated that the start of development slowed saltwater intrusion down but construction of golf courses contributed to increase it again.

Mr. Owosina added that the purpose of this on-going mapping program was to determine if there were any changes and be able to take action.

9. Lake Trafford Restoration Work Program - Rod Braun, Principal, Everglades Policy & Coordination

Rod Braun, Principal Scientist, Everglades Policy & Coordination provided a presentation on two proposals from local universities for FY15 Lake Trafford Restoration Work Program.

Florida Gulf Coast University submitted a proposal for submerged aquatic vegetation monitoring and mapping to verify recovering of the lake aquatic vegetation, and to monitor exotic vegetation and be able to report to FWC in a timely manner. Deliverables would be presented after the first monitoring event at the Lake Trafford Management Team meeting in April and at the Big Cypress Basin Board meeting in August.

UF/IFAS submitted a proposal for a watershed study of the drainage area to delineate the lake boundary and to determine hydrologic connections as the key component to develop a good management plan. Project scheduled to be completed in one year and deliverables due in August 2015 and February 2016.

There were no Board questions.

10. Capital Projects Update - Jeff Kivett, Division Director, Operations, Policy & Coordination

Mr. Kivett, Division Director, Operations, Engineering and Construction Division provided an update on the progress of the BCB Capital Program for FY15 including the Miller Weir #3 replacement, scouring repairs to structures, Cork #1 and #2 and CR 951 #1 and #2, fall protections and Golden Gate Weir #4 replacement, 28th Avenue Southeast bridge replacement, and the north communication coverage needs. He suggested to close the Henderson Creek Diversion project and allow DEP to conduct additional investigation, and re-allocate the funding to the Level of Service (LOS) project for our region and to other capital projects.

Board Questions

In response to Mr. Farmer's question on the cost of the Level of Service, Mr. Kivett stated that the District completed the LOS in Miami Dade and established the methodology to be applied on the west coast. He did not expect it to be a significant amount of money and would bring a proposal to the Board for review.

In response to Ms. Carlson's question, Mr. Kivett replied that this evaluation would take a few months so a proposal would not be presented to the Board for review in the current fiscal year.

Mr. Kivett then proceeded to answer Board questions related to the new field station construction from the last Board meeting, such as building design and size of generator.

Board Questions

Ms. Carlson suggested using one large generator together with two smaller ones and to use the big one only if needed.

In response to Mr. Farmer's question, Mr. Kivett stated that the duration of power outages is dictated by the type of event.

In response to Ms. Kitchener's question, Mr. Kivett stated that A/C would be operating at 100% capacity with the generator.

In response to Ms. Kitchener's question, Mr. Kivett replied that construction used concrete blocks.

Mr. Vaughn expressed concern that current building design would just allow to withstand 139 mph winds, and Mr. Kivett replied that to contain costs, building design criteria had been classified in the same category as hospitals, schools, etc.

11. General Public Comment

Mr. Casalanguida, Collier County Growth Management Administrator, announced that a technical board committee would be established for the Golden Gate Watershed Improvement program and that he would be asking a member of the Big Cypress Basin to join the committee.

Ms. Tabitha Stadler, Project Coordinator, FDEP Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, requested that some funding should still be made available to continue the Henderson Creek modeling for near term evaluation and keep the research up to date. Mr. Barber replied that the Henderson Creek Weir automation would fall in this category and that modeling would continue.

Ms. Kitchener noted that a huge draught affected Florida in the late 1800's, including Everglades City, and she suggested that if data was still available, it could be useful for the modeling.

12. Technical Reports

A) Water Conditions Report - Mr. Nageon De Lestang provided a summary of the rainfall data and hydrology conditions for the Big Cypress Basin. His presentation included historical data comparison and location maps of the structures, as requested by Mr. Farmer.

Board Questions

In response to Mr. Farmer's question, Mr. Nageon De Lestang explained that the new City of Naples water system would not deplete the Golden Gate Canal of water, and clarified that there is still excess water flowing from the canal well after the end of rainy season.

There was no public comment.

B) Field Station Activity Report - Mr. Chris Doherty, Big Cypress Basin Field Station Superintendent, provided the BCB Field Station operation and management activities, including workload update, status of ACOE annual inspections, fleet maintenance, and a list of upcoming projects.

Board Questions

In response to Mr. Vaughn's questions, Mr. Doherty replied that the current field station building had no fuel storage capability, but that a fueling station would be at the new facility.

13. Staff Reports

A) Ms. Lisa Koehler, Big Cypress Basin Administrator, announced that local government grants applications were due at the end of March and would be provided to the Board at the next Board meeting for discussion.

14. Board Comment

Mr. Farmer thanked Basin staff for their hard work and commitment.

In response to Mr. Barber's question, Mr. Bergstrom confirmed that the proposed changes to the budget would be possible.

15. Adjourn

Mr. Barber announced the next meeting will be April 21.

Mr. Barber adjourned the meeting at 11:19 AM.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	David Farmer
SECONDER:	Marielle Kitchener
AYES:	Vaughn, Barber, Farmer, Carlson, Haskins, Kitchener



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