



South Florida Water Management District

BIG CYPRESS BASIN BOARD MINUTES

October 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	
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 9:01.
- 2. Invocation**
Ms. Beth Rinella led the invocation.
- 3. Pledge of Allegiance - Frederick Barber, Chairman, Big Cypress Basin Board**
Mr. Vaughn led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 4. Recognition of Employees**
Mr. Doherty presented the employee recognition for the field station staff for their hard work and dedication during the past wet season.
- 5. Consideration of Board Officers**
Mr. Barber made a motion to appoint Ms. Kitchener as Vice Chairman of the Big Cypress Basin Board. Mr. Vaughn seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

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

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

There was a change to the agenda. Ms. Koehler announced that Item #11 had been deleted from the agenda and postponed to the January Board meeting.

**7. Approval of Minutes
Minutes approved.**

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

8. Abstentions by Board Members from items on the Agenda

There were no abstentions.

9. Water Symposium of Florida Project Update - Michael Ramsey, Treasurer, Water Symposium of Florida, Inc.

Mr. Ramsey, Treasurer, Water Symposium of Florida provided a presentation on the outreach projects supported by the organization. He gave a summary of the projects performed in the past five years that focused on water quality, quantity and conservation, and their positive results.

Board Questions

In response to a question from Mr. Vaughn, regarding the status of a median installed in Everglades City in 2010, Mr. Ramsey replied that there had been some resistance from local consultants and individuals, and after several failed attempts the median was not reinstalled.

In response to a question from Mr. Vaughn, Mr. Ramsey stated that golf courses no longer used copper sulfate and they were very efficient with their use of chemicals, he also stated that there were other methods available to reduce the amount of nutrients going into the water to control algae.

In response to Mr. Vaughn's question, Mr. Ramsey replied that there were several ways to stabilize the shoreline after existing vegetation had been removed from a site and a site visit would be required to establish the best method.

There was no public comment.

10. Immokalee Stormwater Master Plan Update - Bradley Muckel, Immokalee CRA Manager, Collier County

Mr. Muckel, Immokalee CRA Manager, gave an update on the stormwater master plan implementation for Immokalee. He provided a brief background of the master plan. His presentation showed the hydrology conditions of the region, a map of the projects completed to date, the projects still to be completed and their challenges.

There was no public comment.

11. Naples Bay Water Quality and Biological Analysis Project - Katie Laakkonen, Natural Resources - ITEM DELETED

Item was deleted from the agenda.

12. Update to Saltwater Interface Maps, Lower West Coast Aquifers - Peter Kwiatkowski, Section Administrator, Resource Evaluation

Mr. Kwiatkowski, Section Administrator, Resource Evaluation provided an update on the status of the saltwater interface maps with focus on the areas pertinent to Collier County. He presented a brief account of common sources of salt water intrusions and stressed the importance of monitoring the water supply to prevent infiltration of salt water intrusion that would be impossible to eliminate. He explained that the map was created to identify areas of concern and monitor them accordingly, and it had been updated every 3-5 years.

Board Questions

Mr. Farmer expressed his concern about losing some of the wells and suggested that the Big Cypress Basin funding for local projects should be tied to the installation of new wells.

Ms. Kitchener stated that some communities in Hilton Head were no longer able to use their water because of the saltwater intrusion. Mr. Kwiatkowski clarified that our water supply had yet not been threatened at those levels.

In response to Mr. Barber's question, Mr. Kwiatkowski replied that the area of concern shown on the map of Collier County represents ancient sea water trapped from the last ice age and needed to be monitored.

There was no public comment.

13. BCB Real-Time Hydrologic Monitoring & Modeling System Upgrade Update - Kent Feng, Lead Hydrologic Modeler, Hydrology & Hydraulics Bureau

Mr. Feng, Lead Hydrologic Modeler, Hydrology & Hydraulics Bureau gave an update on the real time hydrologic monitoring and modeling system upgrade. Mr. Feng provided a list of upgrades completed to date, remaining tasks to be performed, as well as project costs.

Board questions

In response to Mr. Farmer's question, Mr. Feng replied that data is stored in a database.

In response to Mr. Vaughn's question, Mr. Kivett stated that the server could not be safely upgraded to the latest Microsoft version due to compatibility issues with existing software programs.

There was no public comment.

14. Inspector General Audit Report of Fleet Utilization - Timothy Beirnes, Inspector General

Mr. Beirnes, Inspector General provided an analysis of the fleet replacement criteria and needs for the Big Cypress Basin. The audit found that 13 vehicles/equipment currently met replacement criteria for a cost of approximately \$977,000. The audit also found that maintenance costs were likely to increase each year and that replacement costs trends would increase due to deferred replacement with an impact in productivity while equipment was out of service for repairs.

Board Questions

Mr. Vaughn proposed to put a vehicle replacement system in place to avoid such a big expense at one time.

Mr. Farmer stated that funds for fleet replacement should be allocated into a specific account every year and avoid such large maintenance costs.

Ms. Kitchener suggested purchasing new-used items as a cost saving measure with the opportunity to buy additional vehicles safe for staff to operate.

In response to Mr. Barber's question, Ms. Koehler replied that fleet replacement would be discussed with the budget presentation, and the Board could increase the budget at that time.

There was no public comment.

15. Capital Project Update - Jeff Kivett, Division Director, Operations, Engineering and Construction

Mr. Kivett, Division Director, Operations, Engineering and Construction provided an update on the capital projects within the Big Cypress Basin. He also stated that the field station construction was on schedule and on budget. Mr. Kivett continued his presentation with a list of projects for FY17. Additional items for Board consideration were the Level of Service Phase 2, SCADA site rebuilds for 6 sites and 31 loggernet radio conversions for a budget increase in the amount of \$704,000.

16. FY17 Preliminary Budget Update - Doug Bergstrom, Division Director, Administrative Services

Mr. Doug Bergstrom, Division Director, Administrative Services, gave a presentation of the FY17 preliminary budget approval process and proposed changes from the current approved budget. He asked Mr. Doherty to provide a preliminary cost estimate of the SR 29 canal flood control operations to bring the canal to fluent capacity and future maintenance.

Board Questions

In response to Mr. Farmer's question, Mr. Doherty replied that perpetual maintenance of the SR29 canal had been calculated based on the County's expenses and that figures may need to be adjusted.

In response to Ms. Kitchener's question on why the County had stopped maintenance of the canal, Ms. Koehler stated that the County had maintained the canal operating as the contractor for FDOT but, after it was determined that FDOT did not own the canal, maintenance had stopped. Ms. Kitchener suggested to determine the actual maintenance cost and the scope of work and meet with County staff and property owners to share funds.

Mr. Bergstrom completed the presentation with a summary of the capital projects and lastly asking the board to confirm the proposed changes to be incorporated into the budget.

Public Comment

Mr. Ray March, Collier Enterprises, Immokalee, on behalf of SR29 canal land owners expressed his appreciation for the Big Cypress Basin Board support in solving the maintenance issue of the SR29 canal and establish a long term maintenance program.

In response to Mr. Farmer's question, Mr. March replied that the amount spent on maintenance by property owners on their section of the canal, since FDOT stopped maintenance, was not a lot but it was used where it was needed.

Mr. Vaughn stated that there was not enough information at this stage about the canal and funds were not available in the budget.

Mr. Kurtz, Collier County Stormwater Planning, added that the County would initiate the easement identification and acquisition process and, in response to Mr. Barber's question, he stated that funding information was yet not available.

Mr. Barber suggested to set funds aside for equipment at this time and then reallocate it. He stated that funds should be split 50% for equipment and 50% for this project while working to secure additional funding from other parties. Mr. Haskins agreed with this proposition.

Mr. Farmer stated that Mr. Barber's proposal was a reasonable compromise but he feared that this project would add significant stress to the basin budget. He indicated that a possible solution could be the creation of an MSTU by the property owners, so basin funds could be utilized on the more pressing equipment needs.

In response to Mr. Barber's question, Mr. Bergstrom replied that funding for NAVD conversion was a combination of funding sources and some adjustment could be achieved.

Mr. Barber asked Mr. Kurtz to provide the status of the Belle Meade project. Mr. Kurtz gave a brief project update and announced a series of meetings to discuss this project. Mr. Barber asked if any funding should be incorporated into the Basin budget and Mr. Kurtz replied that more time was required to put the program together before requesting funds.

17. General Public Comment

Mr. Michael Ramsey, Golden Gate Estates Association, stated that he was in favor of the proposed budget and appreciated the support from the Big Cypress Basin.

18. Technical Reports

A) Water Conditions Report - Mr. Nageon De Lestang, Big Cypress Basin Principal Engineer, provided a summary of the rainfall data and hydrology conditions for the Big Cypress Basin for September. He also offered a quick recap of the watershed conditions and rainfall data for the past year.

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 and fleet maintenance.

Entering into the dry season activities involved structure improvements and cleaning and training of staff on pump station operations.

19. Staff Reports

A) Basin Administrator Report - Ms. Lisa Koehler, Administrator, Big Cypress Basin, announced that the 2016 Calendar for the BCB Board meetings was published on the District's website and provided a quick summary of staff activities.

20. Board Comment

There were no Board comments.

21. Adjourn

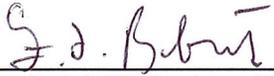
Mr. Barber announced the next Board meeting will be January 28 at 9:00 am.

Ms. Kitchener stated that she would like to see cost savings for fleet replacement.

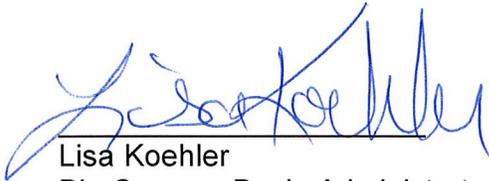
Mr. Farmer made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Vaughn seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Barber adjourned the meeting at 11:58.



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