



South Florida Water Management District

BIG CYPRESS BASIN BOARD MINUTES

January 28, 2016

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	Vice Chair	Present	

- 1. Call to Order - Frederick Barber, Chairman, Big Cypress Basin Board**
Mr. Barber called meeting to order at 09:00.
- 2. Invocation**
Pastor Jim Thomas led the invocation.
- 3. Pledge of Allegiance - Frederick Barber, Chairman, Big Cypress Basin Board**
Mr. Farmer led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 4. Employee Recognitions - 25 Year Service Anniversary - Deanna Helms, Administrative Assistant**
Ms. Koehler presented the 25 year service anniversary to Deanna Helms.

5. Approval of minutes

Minutes approved.

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

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

There were no changes to the agenda.

7. Abstentions by Board Members from Items on the Agenda

There were no abstentions.

8. Community Rating System Update - Howard Critchfield, Floodplain Coordinator, Collier County

Ms. Caroline Cilek, Land Development Code Manager, Collier County, provided an overview of the Collier County Community Rating System and the activities aimed to improve the flood plain management program to benefit the community. She invited Mr. Howard Critchfield, to talk about the partnership with Big Cypress Basin in managing drainage, flood warning and response.

Board Questions

In response to Mr. Barber's question, Ms. Cilek replied that a higher CRS classification would impact development costs, therefore, the goal was to maintain a Class 5.

9. Maintenance of Barron Canal (SR29 Canal) - Nick Casalanguida, Deputy County Manager and David Wilkison, Growth Management Division Director, Collier County

Mr. Wilkison, Growth Management Division Director, Collier County, provided a presentation on the proposed multi-agency maintenance partnership of the Barron Canal, also known as SR29 Canal, from Immokalee to Everglades City. After a brief history of the canal ownership and maintenance, he proposed to amend the Cooperative Agreement between Collier County and Big Cypress Basin to include the Barron Canal, and create a three-party cost sharing agreement with FDOT, for long term maintenance.

Mr. Wilkison stated that the County was in the process of obtaining right-of-way access authorization from property owners to perform the initial clean up with the assistance of the Big Cypress Basin staff and equipment, and then obtain drainage easements. No canal cross section expansion or removal and replacement of existing canal crossings were included in this proposal.

Mr. Barber expressed his appreciation for the County efforts to address this issue and asked Mr. Casalanguida for his input.

Mr. Casalanguida stressed that the County goal was to submit the right-of-way entry agreements to the Board of County Commissioners for consideration and initiate the canal clean up during the current fiscal year, and complete the cost sharing agreement and secure all titles in FY17.

Board Questions

Mr. Vaughn asked who would be responsible for maintaining and replacing the bridges on the canal. Mr. Wilkison replied that the bridges were privately owned and maintained.

Mr. Farmer voiced concerns that property owners would not be willing or able to replace very expensive culverts, and Mr. Casalanguida reassured him that bridge maintenance would not be part of the agreement and that the County held property owners accountable for replacement of private bridges.

Mr. Farmer stated that costs would increase for the Basin in the event that FDOT did not agree to the cost sharing partnership and a new proposal would need to be presented to the Board for consideration. He also stated that our costs would increase over time.

In response to Ms. Kitchener's question about vegetation removal and treatment, Mr. Wilkison answered that initially vegetation would be mechanically removed and then maintained with spray treatment.

Mr. Barber reminded everyone that flood control was the Basin's number one priority.

Public Comment

Mr. Ray March, Collier Enterprises, stated that he had recently attended a meeting with FDOT and had received a positive response for their participation. He also confirmed that the land owners were willing to cooperate and provide easements and assist with vegetation disposal.

Staff Comment

Ms. Koehler stated that Basin staff would continue to coordinate with the County to finalize the details and provide an update in the future.

10. Capital Projects Update - John Mitnik, Bureau Chief, Engineering and Construction

Mr. Mitnik, Bureau Chief, Engineering and Construction, provided an update on the FY16 capital projects within the Big Cypress Basin, including an update on the completion of the field station construction.

Board Questions

In response to Mr. Farmer's question, Mr. Mitnik stated the canal rating methodology would be revised in the Level of Service study and that results would be presented to the Board to decide if services needed to be modified.

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

Mr. Bergstrom, Division Director, Administrative Services, provided an update on the FY16 - 17 preliminary budget approval process and proposed changes since the October Board meeting.

12. General Public Comment

There was no general public comment.

13. 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. His presentation included historical data comparison with current conditions, significantly higher than historic norms for the month of January, which exceeded wet season conditions.

Board Questions

In response to Mr. Vaughn's questions, Mr. De Lestang replied that during last seven days the Basin had received 9 to 10 inches of rain.

B) Field Station Activity Report - Mr. Doherty, Big Cypress Basin Field Station Superintendent provided the BCB Field Station operation and management activities, an update on storm recovery activities, and a list of upcoming projects to be resumed under dry season conditions.

14. Staff Reports

A) Basin Administrator Report - Ms. Lisa Koehler, Big Cypress Basin Administrator, provided a summary of staff activities and upcoming events and announced David Weston had been appointed to the BCB Board by the Governor to replace Ms. Carlson.

B) Mr. Antonacci, Executive Director, provided a brief account of his professional career, discussed a few challenges he has undertaken, and assured the Board he would be available to them.

15. Board Comment

Mr. Vaughn asked if plans were being made for the sale of the field station property under the favorable market conditions, Ms. Koehler replied that Mr. Bassell, the Real Estate Division Director, would provide a status update at the next board meeting.

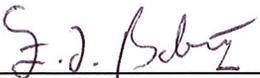
16. Adjourn

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

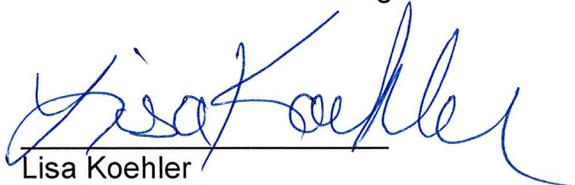
Mr. Vaughn made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Ms. Kitchener seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Barber adjourned the meeting at 10:39.



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