



South Florida Water Management District

BIG CYPRESS BASIN BOARD MINUTES

April 29, 2014

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 9:00. He welcomed Mr. Blake Guillory, Executive Director.

2. Pledge of Allegiance - Frederick Barber, Chairman, Big Cypress Basin Board

Mr. Farmer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Employee Recognitions - Chris Doherty, Field Station Superintendent

- Edward Mennella's Retirement

Mr. Doherty recognized Ed Mennella for his hard work and dedication during his career with the District. He presented Mr. Mennella with a plaque on behalf of the District for his dedicated years of services.

Board Comment

All board members thanked Mr. Mennella for his service and support to the community and asked him to take a picture with the Board.

4. Approval of Minutes for the February 18, 2014 Big Cypress Regular Board Meeting

Minutes approved.

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

5. Agenda Revisions - 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. Discussion of Re-Allocation of Funding for City of Naples Reclaimed Line Distribution System Phase III for FY14 - Lisa Koehler, Administrator, Big Cypress Basin

Ms. Koehler, Basin Administrator, asked Mr. Middleton, City of Naples Utilities Director, to present his request for the one-year extension for contract No. 460002928 to the Board.

Mr. Middleton thanked the District for participating in the city's project for reclaimed water, and gave a quick overview of the contract terms and current status of the project. He expressed his concern that the City would not be able to meet the August 29th deadline and asked for a one-year extension.

Board comment

Mr. Farmer was in favor of option #1B, as shown in the executive summary, to extend the contract to September 2015 and allow for a two-year contract and set a reduced contract award for the new scope of work as indicated in the summary table:

	Total Eligible Costs	Option 1A*	Option 1B*
FY14	\$ 872,000	\$ 348,800	\$ 348,000
FY15	\$ 1,472,000	\$ 588,800	\$ 375,000
Total	\$ 2,344,000	\$ 937,600	\$ 723,000

Public comment

Mr. Casalanguida, Collier County Growth Management Division Administrator, expressed his support for the City's extension request. He also stated that it is

very challenging for government agencies to start and complete some projects in one year, and that for these projects a 24-month window should be allowed.

After further Board discussion Ms. Carlson asked for a motion to extend the City contract for a year and recommended Option 1B. Ms. Kitchener seconded the motion.

Motion approved.

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

8. Discussion of Local Government Alternative Water Supply (AWS) and Stormwater Projects for FY15 Funding - Lisa Koehler, Administrator, Big Cypress Basin

Ms. Koehler, Basin Administrator, provided a brief summary of the funding availability for FY15 and proceeded to give a summary of the funding requests from local government agencies for their Alternative Water Supply, restoration, and stormwater projects. Of the eleven applications submitted for consideration, only four were deemed ready for FY15 funding approval. The chart lays out requested funding for those four projects as presented:

PROJECT	Construction Cost	Requested by Partner	Proposed funding
Collier County LASIP- County Barn Rd SW Improvements	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 2,500,000	\$ 1,250,000
City of Marco Island Swallow Avenue Phase III	\$ 472,000	\$ 400,000	\$ 120,000
City of Naples Lake Manor Restoration	\$ 1,300,000	\$ 650,000	\$ 325,000
Everglades City Standby Generator	\$ 65,000	\$ 32,500	\$ 32,500
TOTALS	\$ 6,837,000	\$ 3,582,500	\$1,727,500

In response to Mr. Farmer's request, Ms. Koehler reported that Lake Manor would be monitored and once the restoration is complete, the City could come back and provide an update.

Public comment

Mr. Tim Pinter, City of Marco Public Works Director, thanked the Board for the continued partnership since 2004 and gave a brief overview of his project that consisted of two portions, one of which was recommended for approval. He was concerned that funding was becoming less and less every year and requested the Board to reconsider the staff report to include funding for the local storm drainage portion of his application.

In response to Ms. Carlson's question, Ms. Koehler stated that the local storm drainage portion of the City of Marco application was disqualified because it was considered maintenance.

In response to Ms. Carlson's request to discuss length of contracts, Mr. Farmer suggested that projects over \$1M probably should be allowed to have a duration of 18 to 24 months.

In response to Mr. Barber's request, Mr. Bergstrom indicated that having a two-year contract in the budget would not create problems. The purpose of having 12-month contracts was to ensure money would not be piling up year after year, however, the District could accommodate a 24-month project, if necessary.

Mr. Barber stated that a policy to allow for a 24-month contract for certain projects depending on the size can be established at a different time.

After further Board discussion, Ms. Carlson asked for a motion to approve the four projects at \$1,727,500M, three of them being 12-month projects, and one being 18-month project (LASIP). Mr. Farmer seconded the motion.

Motion approved.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Ms. Carlson
SECONDER:	Mr. Farmer
AYES:	Vaughn, Barber, Farmer, Carlson, Haskins, Kitchener

9. Capital Projects Update - Jeff Kivett, Division Director, Operations, Engineering & Construction Division

Mr. Kivett, Division Director of Operations, Engineering, and Construction Division provided an update on the following capital projects:

- Field Station – The project is currently on schedule for preliminary design in June. Changes are being made to the elevation drawings to mitigate some drainage issues, while being conscious about the budget. Discussions with the County are on-going as we prepare to make application in the fall.
- Miller Weir No. 3 Replacement - Construction has been awarded to Thomas Marine Construction, and Notice to Proceed to start construction is set for June 2014. Project completion is scheduled for April 2015.
- 28th Avenue Southeast Bridge Replacement - The Board of County Commissioners has approved the Order of Condemnation for the land around the bridge and property acquisition is scheduled to be completed by the end of August. Contract is expected to be awarded in July.

Board questions

In response to Mr. Vaughn's concern regarding landscape maintenance for the new field station building, Mr. Kivett stated that landscape will be Florida Friendly, consistent with all the government buildings to minimize costs.

Ms. Kitchener offered her services, as a Basin Board Member, due to her vast experience in landscaping design.

In response to Mr. Farmer's request, Mr. Kivett stated that the field station will have limited storage capabilities.

Mr. Barber made everybody aware that budget constraints were mainly due to portion of the budget being dedicated to the field station project.

There was no public comment.

10. General Public Comment

Mr. Michael Ramsey, President of the Golden Gate Estates Community Association (GGECA), welcomed Mr. Blake Guillory and expressed his hope that he will attend more meetings in the future. He explained that the Golden Gate Estates is the biggest subdivision in Collier County and has a lot of potential for expansion. Its residents depend on the Basin to protect their properties from flooding and wanted to thank the District and Mr. Doherty, who attended their meeting, along with Collier County Roads and Bridges Department, for working together in order to find creative solutions to solve their drainage issues and protect their properties and the people.

11. Field Station Activity Report - Chris Doherty, Superintendent BCB Field Station

Mr. Doherty, Big Cypress Basin Field Station Superintendent provided the BCB Field Station operation and management activities.

Mr. Doherty concluded his presentation with a project schedule that showed work orders throughout the year, and offered to provide updates for annual work plans by program, and the commissioning of the Merritt pump station at the next meeting.

Board comment

In response to Mr. Farmer's questions, Mr. Doherty offered to check if the advertising signs shown in the presentation for the grass carp are a permit requirement, and confirmed that the grass carp would be effective in managing extensive vegetation in both County and District canals. He also stated that permit requirements and costs for the grass carp are being evaluated by experts.

In response to Mr. Vaughn's question, Mr. Doherty replied that the grass carp will come from fish farms after obtaining the appropriate permits from various agencies.

Ms. Kitchener added that according to FWC the biggest challenge when using the grass carp for vegetation management is to get accurate figures and quantify results.

No public comments.

12. **Basin Administrator Report - Lisa Koehler, Administrator, Big Cypress Basin**

Ms. Koehler, BCB Basin Administrator, asked the Board to clarify that their approved motion for Item No. 8 was to match the recommendation from their board memo in their packet and clarified the following for Item 8:

Funding is provided as the following:

- Collier County LASIP Project in the amount of 1,250,000 or 25% of the eligible construction cost, whichever is less;
- City of Marco Island Swallow Avenue Phase III in the amount of \$120,000 or 25% of the eligible construction costs, whichever is less;
- City of Naples Lake Manor Restoration in the amount of \$325,000 or 25% of the eligible construction costs, whichever is less;
- Everglades City, Portable Generator in the amount of \$32,500 or 50% of the generator, whichever is less;

All Board members confirmed the motion, including an 18-month schedule for the County LASIP Project.

In response to Mr. Barber's request, Mr. DeLisi provided a legislative update, stating that the legislature had been working mostly on budget items. He noted that the District's budget proposal was in the amount for \$105M, that \$2M were dedicated to land acquisition for the Picayune Strand, and that he would be able to provide more details at the next meeting. He added that he appreciated Mr. Guillory's presence at the meeting and invited him to say a few words.

Mr. Guillory, Executive Director, thanked everyone for inviting him and briefly explained that his focus in the past six months working at the District, had been to reduce the budget through efficiency and effectiveness. Staff was being challenged to find ways to reduce spending, new technology was being evaluated to keep the District up with the times and to identify new time saving measures; staff reorganization was on-going, consolidating positions where possible, creating new positions where needed, and filling critical positions that would require skilled labor, as employees started to retire. He also mentioned the importance of water reuse projects, and as more funds would become available with the increase in permit applications and construction, the budget for local projects with counties and municipalities would be also increasing, and he stressed the need for local projects, as the Basin had already identified.

Board questions

In response to Mr. Vaughn's questions regarding reward programs for employees and health insurance, Mr. Guillory stated that the District did not have a cash reward program for employees in place and that the Board was working to find ways to reward those suggestions that would produce the most significant

savings to the District. Health insurance was being evaluated by an outside company, and no significant changes were planned but a number of options to prepare for increases in healthcare costs would be presented to the Board for evaluation.

Mr. Farmer stated that Mr. Guillory's approach was very business-like but suggested that unlike private business, it is harder for a government agency to offer a competitive salary and indicated that the District should invest the money saved back into employee retention and to attract new talent.

Mr. Guillory thanked him for the excellent suggestions and expressed concerns that as the economy improves, it will be a challenge to keep staff from being recruited by some of the District's contractors.

After the Board thanked Mr. Guillory for his comments and his presence at the BCB Board meeting, Mr. Barber reminded everyone of the Water Reuse Week Proclamations for Naples City Council on May 7th, and for the Board of County Commissioners on May 13th.

13. Board Comment

In response to Mr. Barber's request for final comments, Ms. Carlson expressed her appreciation to Ms. Kohler for her hard work in preparing the presentation for the FY 15 projects.

In response to Ms. Carlson's question, Mr. Bergstrom gave an update on the status of the budget. No comments were received after legislative review, and it was ready to be balanced in the next 30-60 days.

Mr. Barber joined Ms. Carlson in praising Ms. Koehler's hard work in vetting those projects smoothly, as well as Mr. Nageon De Lestang and Mr. Braun, and asked Ms. Koehler for an update on the lease for the service center west building. Ms. Koehler confirmed that the building was empty and ready to be leased. The cost of relocating the network equipment had been lower than estimated, and it was moved in one day. She thanked Mr. Bergstrom for his support during this transition and she hoped to have a tenant by the next meeting.

In response to Mr. Barber's question for any comments, Mr. Farmer asked to have quick updates on the status of the pump stations at the next meeting.

14. Adjourn

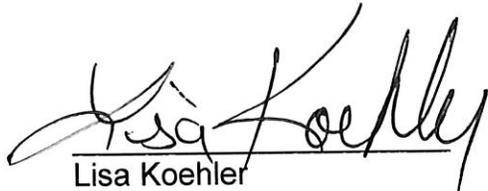
Mr. Carlson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Kitchener seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 10:23 AM.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Ms. Carlson
SECONDER:	Ms. 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