



South Florida Water Management District

MINUTES GOVERNING BOARD WORKSHOP

May 14, 2008

2:00 PM

Highlands County Commission Chambers

600 South Commerce Ave.

Sebring, Florida 33870

Members Present:

Eric Buermann, Chair

Michael Collins

Charles Dauray

Shannon Estenoz

Paul C. Huck Jr.

Melissa Meeker

Jerry Montgomery

Patrick Rooney

Malcolm Wade

1. **Call to Order** - Eric Buermann, Chairman, Governing Board

Chairman Buermann called the meeting to order at 2:15 pm.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance** - Eric Buermann, Chairman, Governing Board

Malcolm Wade led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **Agenda Addendum** - Annette Carter, Director, Office of Governing Board and Executive Services

There was no agenda addendum.

4. **Local Government Officials** - Introduced by Gary Ritter, Acting Director, Okeechobee Service Center

Mr. Edgar Stokes thanked the Board and staff for coming to Highlands County.

Carl Cool, Highlands County Administrator, presented background information on Highlands County and the growth progression from 1921 to 2008.

Chair Buermann thanked Highlands County for hosting the Workshop and thanked the Butler Family for the tour of the Dairy Farm earlier in the day.

Executive Office

5. Strategic Planning Presentation and Discussion facilitated by John Shearer - Tom Olliff, Assistant Executive Director

1. Introduction - Tom Olliff

Tom Olliff, Assistant Executive Director, provided an overview of the day:

- Current Environmental/Economic Trends.
- Current Strategic Priorities.
- The 2060 Horizon.
- The Way Forward.
- Budget Development Schedule.

Mr. Olliff reported on the economic trends of existing home sales and prices for 16 SFWMD counties, crude oil prices, and Florida per capita income trend. Mr. Olliff reported on the State budget results for FY09.

Mr. Olliff also reported on the current Governing Board Strategic priorities.

Keith Rizzardi, Managing Attorney, Office of Counsel, presented information on the legal aspects of Climate Change, the Supreme Court and Climate Change, and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Climate Change litigation.

Mr. Rizzardi reported on the SFWMD and Climate Change:

- SFWMD staff conducted initial literature review.
- Planning to obtain consultant assistance.
- Future staff participation and research efforts.

Jayantha Obeysekera, Director, Hydrologic & Environmental Systems Modeling Department, presented information on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Mr. Obeysekera reported on increased greenhouse gasses, three primary indicators of Global Warming, global trends and human influences, and the nature of climate change problems.

Mr. Obeysekera reported on global sea level rise due to thermal expansion of the ocean and the sea level rise projections in 2050 and 2100 and the impacts to coastal wellfields.

Mr. Olliff discussed staff suggestions:

- A multi-departmental staff initiative, with funding as appropriate (\$100K in FY09) to begin reviewing climate change and sea level rise impacts on water resources management.

Mr. Dauray commented on regulatory demands, building desalination plants, and environmental projects. He discussed the seriousness of the issues and the importance of accurate information.

Ms. Estenoz said one challenge of Climate Change is getting good data and incorporating this information into District planning.

Mr. Collins commented on the accuracy of data for Global Warming and sea level projections. He supports the staff proposal to review Climate Change.

Ms. Wehle reported on policy decisions regarding retrofitting structures, Consumptive Use Permits, the design of Everglades Restoration and the prioritization of projects.

Chair Buermann suggested staff take the first steps for further evaluating impacts of global warming.

Mr. Shearer presented information on existing strategic priorities.

Mr. Collins commented on the priorities, good planning and adequate staffing. His concern is funding for all of the priorities.

Ms. Estenoz asked for Board discussion regarding the guiding principals of the Regulatory Program.

Mr. Dauray has concerns about those entities who have financial contracts with the District not living up to their obligations.

Mr. Wade is concerned about dividing the South Florida Ecosystem into the Southern Everglades and Northern Everglades. He discussed making sure all initiatives work together.

Mr. Shearer asked if Everglades Restoration will still be the top priority.

Ms. Estenoz said yes and discussed the economy and finishing projects.

Mr. Rooney discussed the balancing of purchasing land and finishing projects for the short and long-term.

Mr. Collins explained the Board adopts the strategic plan but if opportunities arise, the staff reacts to them and provides the information to the Board. Mr. Collins said staff continues to provide opportunities to the Board as they arise.

Mr. Olliff provided information on the schedule of projects and discussed that land acquisition continues to be project driven.

Ms. Estenoz asked staff to report on the strategic priorities.

Ms. Wehle said staff would provide an executive summary for the Governing Board for the strategic priorities.

Mr. Collins suggested the Board look into the areas they are interested in and talk to the authors.

Ms. Estenoz requested under Regional Water Supply, another bullet be added addressing water conservation.

Mr. Collins requested O&M's 50-year plan stay the same.

Mr. Horne reported to the Board on O&M's Succession Plan.

Doug Bergstrom, Director, Budget Department, presented information on the FY09 budget outlook. Mr. Bergstrom reported on the taxation and budget reform commission ballot measures, the ad valorem tax revenue forecast, the budget development strategy and the upcoming budget calendar.

6. Public Comment

Public Comment: Joe DeCerbo, Spring Lakes Improvement District, commented on the current status of Spring Lake and it's Pump Station injunctions.

Public Comment: Clell Ford, Highlands County Natural Resources Department, commented on the effect on the Northern Everglades from Global Climate Change.

Public Comment: Paul Gray, Audubon, commented on Lake Istokpoga and Northern Everglades.

7. Board Comment

There was no Board comment.

8. Adjourn

Chair Buermann adjourned the meeting at 5:10 pm.

Eric Buermann
Governing Board Chairman
South Florida Water Management District Governing Board

Recorded By:

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