

**NORTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT
DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**District Headquarters
81 Water Management Drive
Havana, FL 32333**

**Thursday
February 13, 2014**

Governing Board Members Present

George Roberts, Chair
Jerry Pate, Vice Chair
John Alter
Gus Andrews
Gary Clark
Jon Costello
Nick Patronis
Bo Spring

Governing Board Members Absent

Stephanie Bloyd

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Roberts called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m., ET. Mr. Steverson called the roll and a quorum was declared present.

2. Invocation

Mr. Pate offered the invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Chair Roberts led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

4. Additions, Deletions or Changes to the Agenda

Ms. White stated that there were no changes to the agenda.

5. Approval of Minutes for January 9, 2014

MOTIONED BY MR. CLARK, SECONDED BY MR. ALTER, THAT THE GOVERNING BOARD APPROVE THE JANUARY 9, 2014, GOVERNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED.

6. A. Committee Reports and Recommendations for Board Action

Mr. Alter stated that the District Lands Committee met and had the following recommendations.

6. A. 1. Consideration of ITB 14B-003; Chipola River 2014 Timber Sale

MOTIONED BY MR. ALTER, SECONDED BY MR. PATRONIS, THAT THE GOVERNING BOARD APPROVE THE BIDS SUBMITTED IN RESPONSE TO INVITATION TO BID 14B-003, AND AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR THIS TIMBER SALE WITH THE HIGH BIDDER, BALFOUR TIMBER COMPANY, AT THE BID PRICES OF \$18.50 PER TON FOR PINE PULPWOOD; \$18.50 PER TON FOR PINE

CHIP-N-SAW; \$36.50 PER TON FOR PINE SAW TIMBER; \$11.50 PER TON FOR HARDWOOD PULPWOOD. MOTION CARRIED.

7. A. Consent Business Agenda

Ms. Jean Whitten presented the Financial Report and Schedule of Disbursements for the month of December 2013.

MOTIONED BY MR. PATE, SECONDED BY MR. SPRING, THAT THE GOVERNING BOARD APPROVE THE FINANCIAL REPORT AND SCHEDULE OF DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2013. MOTION CARRIED.

7. B. Consideration of Renewal of Employee Health and Life Insurance

Ms. Whitten stated that the District's employee health coverage will expire on March 31, 2014. She informed the board that in order to maintain the same level of coverage for District employees the premiums will increase by 5.9 percent. Ms. Whitten further stated that in addition to health insurance, the District provides a \$25,000 life insurance policy for all employees in authorized positions. She explained that the rate on the life insurance is increasing by 1 cent per \$1,000 of coverage and the accidental death and dismemberment insurance will remain at the current rate.

Ms. Whitten stated that an upcoming requirement of the Affordable Care Act is to provide health insurance coverage to OPS staff working 30 hours or more per week. She indicated that we have 4 employees that will qualify and the District will pay the same contribution rate as the regular staff (87%).

Ms. Whitten voiced staff recommendation that the Governing Board approve the renewal of the District's current Employee Health and Life insurance policies for the year beginning April 1, 2014, and ending March 31, 2015, and allow qualified OPS staff to begin participation in the District provided health insurance plans.

MOTIONED BY MR. PATE, SECONDED BY MR. ALTER, THAT THE GOVERNING BOARD APPROVE THE RENEWAL OF THE DISTRICT'S CURRENT EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND LIFE INSURANCE POLICIES FOR THE YEAR BEGINNING APRIL 1, 2014, AND ENDING MARCH 31, 2015, AND ALLOW QUALIFIED OPS STAFF TO BEGIN PARTICIPATION IN THE DISTRICT PROVIDED HEALTH INSURANCE PLANS. MOTION CARRIED.

7. C. Consideration of Amendment to Grant Agreement with the City of Apalachicola for Construction of the Battery Park Basin Stormwater Improvement Project

Ms. Linda Chaisson gave a detailed summary regarding the Battery Park Stormwater Improvement Project. She stated that the District, state and federal agencies, and local governments have made extensive investments in implementing retrofit and restoration projects and in acquiring and protecting lands along both the river and the bay. She further stated that the proposed project will build upon these efforts, improving local conditions while also addressing state and regional watershed priorities.

Ms. Chaisson voiced staff recommendation that the Governing Board authorize the Executive Director to amend the Battery Park Stormwater Improvement Project Agreement with the City of Apalachicola to provide up to \$443,000 in grant funding for the construction of stormwater retrofit facilities and extend the Agreement Period.

MOTIONED BY MR. CLARK, SECONDED BY MR. SPRING, THAT THE GOVERNING BOARD AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO AMEND THE BATTERY PARK STORMWATER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF APALACHICOLA TO PROVIDE UP

TO \$443,000 IN GRANT FUNDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF STORMWATER RETROFIT FACILITIES AND EXTEND THE AGREEMENT PERIOD. MOTION CARRIED.

7. D. Consideration of Grant Agreement with the City of Callaway for Stormwater Retrofit Projects in the St. Andrew Bay Watershed

Mr. John Crowe gave a detailed overview of the proposed agreement with the City of Callaway. He informed the Board that the agreement will provide grant funding for installation of stormwater treatment systems that will reduce pollution and improve water quality in the St. Andrew Bay watershed.

Mr. Crowe stated that in 2005, the Florida Legislature allocated funding to the District for implementation of St. Andrew Bay Surface and Water Improvement and Management projects. He indicated that the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 budget includes \$3,937,300 for implementation of grant projects to protect and restore water quality and watershed resources in St. Andrew Bay.

Mr. Crowe voiced staff recommendation that the Governing Board authorize the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with the City of Callaway to provide up to \$705,218 in District grant funding for stormwater retrofit projects to improve water quality in the St. Andrew Bay watershed.

MOTIONED BY MR. CLARK, SECONDED BY MR. ANDREWS, THAT THE GOVERNING BOARD AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF CALLAWAY TO PROVIDE UP TO \$705,218 IN DISTRICT GRANT FUNDING FOR STORMWATER RETROFIT PROJECTS TO IMPROVE WATER QUALITY IN THE ST. ANDREW BAY WATERSHED. MOTION CARRIED.

7. E. Consideration of Grant Agreement with the City of Parker for Stormwater Retrofit Projects in the St. Andrew Bay Watershed

Mr. John Crowe gave a detailed overview of the proposed agreement with the City of Parker. He informed the Board that the agreement will provide grant funding for installation of stormwater treatment systems that will reduce pollution and improve water quality in the St. Andrew Bay watershed.

Mr. Crowe stated that in 2005, the Florida Legislature allocated funding to the District for implementation of St. Andrew Bay Surface and Water Improvement and Management projects. He indicated that the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 budget includes \$3,937,300 for implementation of grant projects to protect and restore water quality and watershed resources in St. Andrew Bay.

Mr. Crowe voiced staff recommendation that the Governing Board authorize the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with the City of Parker to provide up to \$1,013,476 in District grant funding for stormwater retrofit projects to improve water quality in the St. Andrew Bay watershed.

MOTIONED BY MR. PATE, SECONDED BY MR. ANDREWS, THAT THE GOVERNING BOARD AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF PARKER TO PROVIDE UP TO \$1,013,476 IN DISTRICT GRANT FUNDING FOR STORMWATER RETROFIT PROJECTS TO IMPROVE WATER QUALITY IN THE ST. ANDREW BAY WATERSHED. MOTION CARRIED.

7. F. Consideration of Grant Funding Awards for Local Water Supply Development Projects

Mr. Paul Thorpe stated that in July 2013, the Governing Board authorized staff to solicit competitive proposals for water supply development grants. He further stated that the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 budget dedicated \$10 million in funding to help communities across Northwest Florida meet local water supply challenges while also addressing regional priorities for water resource protection and management.

Mr. Thorpe informed the Board that the District announced the Water Supply Development Community Assistance Initiative on August 1, 2013. He reported that 81 applications were received requesting over \$40,500,000 in assistance. Mr. Thorpe gave a brief summary of the applications received from all 16 counties in the Panhandle and 59 local governments and utilities.

Mr. Thorpe voiced staff recommendation that the Governing Board approve the projects as described for grant funding totaling \$9,910,000 and authorize the Executive Director to enter into agreements with the listed applicants to provide funding not to exceed the amounts stated. He indicated that the majority of the projects listed serve financially disadvantaged communities, many of which are unable to match District grant funding. He stated that the grants for projects serving non-financially disadvantaged communities will not exceed 50 percent of the total project costs.

MOTIONED BY MR. CLARK, SECONDED BY MR. PATE THAT THE GOVERNING BOARD APPROVE THE PROJECTS AS DESCRIBED FOR GRANT FUNDING TOTALING \$9,910,000 AND AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS WITH THE LISTED APPLICANTS TO PROVIDE FUNDING NOT TO EXCEED THE AMOUNTS STATED. MOTION CARRIED.

7. G. Consideration of Staff Recommendations on Regional Water Supply Planning

Mr. Tony Countryman stated that Section 373.709, Florida Statutes, requires the District to conduct detailed water supply planning for any region where it is assessed that existing sources of water are not adequate to supply water for all existing and future reasonable-beneficial uses and to sustain the water resources and related natural systems for the planning period. He gave a brief overview of the 2013 Regional Water Supply Plan Update.

Mr. Countryman voiced staff recommendation that the Governing Board determine that the regional water supply plans for Region II (Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, and Walton counties) and Region III (Bay County) be continued; that the RWSP for Region V (Gulf and Franklin counties) be discontinued; and that no new RWSPs are required.

MOTIONED BY MR. PATE, SECONDED BY MR. COSTELLO THAT THE GOVERNING BOARD DETERMINE THAT THE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY PLANS FOR REGION II (SANTA ROSA, OKALOOSA, AND WALTON COUNTIES) AND REGION III (BAY COUNTY) BE CONTINUED; THAT THE RWSP FOR REGION V (GULF AND FRANKLIN COUNTIES) BE DISCONTINUED; AND THAT NO NEW RWSPS ARE REQUIRED. MOTION CARRIED.

8. A. Public Hearing on Consideration of Regulatory Matters

Chair Roberts called the Public Hearing to order at 1:43 p.m., ET.

Mr. Michael Edgar presented the Consent Agenda, which included one temporary permit. Mr. Edgar voiced staff recommendation that the Governing Board approve the Consent Agenda per the recommendations and conditions of the staff reports and per the terms and conditions of the permit documents.

MOTIONED BY MR. SPRING, SECONDED BY MR. PATRONIS, THAT THE GOVERNING BOARD APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA PER THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONDITIONS OF THE STAFF REPORTS AND PER THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE PERMIT DOCUMENTS. MOTION CARRIED.

8. B. Public Hearing on Consideration of Land Acquisition Matters

Chair Roberts called the Public Hearing to order at 1:45 p.m., ET.

Consideration of Florida Forever 2014-Five-Year Work Plan for Land Acquisition

Ms. Carol Bert reminded the board that in 2005, the Legislature passed House Bill 727 which requires each water management district to present a consolidated water management district annual report by March 1 of each year. She explained that the Florida Forever Five-Year Work Plan is now part of the Consolidated Annual Report; however, Section 373.139, Florida Statutes, also requires that the District adopt, in a public hearing, a Five-Year Work Plan for land acquisition.

Ms. Bert stated that in this work plan the District certifies to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection that each property being purchased is consistent with the District's adopted Five-Year Work plan. She further stated that we are reporting that the District surplused two small tracts and acquired one small tract in calendar year 2013. Ms. Bert submitted the document for the official record and opened the floor for public comment. With no public comment, Ms. Bert voiced staff recommendation that the Governing Board approve the 2014 Florida Forever Five-Year Work Plan.

MOTIONED BY MR. SPRING, SECONDED BY MR. COSTELLO, THAT THE GOVERNING BOARD APPROVE THE 2014 FLORIDA FOREVER FIVE-YEAR WORK PLAN. MOTION CARRIED.

9. A. Region III Regional Water Supply Plan Update-Informational Item

Mr. Thorpe presented the Region III Regional Water Supply Update and informed the Board that the material was provided for informational purposes only.

10. Legal Counsel Report

Mr. Breck Brannen stated that he had no legal matters to discuss.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:52 p.m., ET.

Chair

March 13, 2014
Date

Executive Director

Agency Clerk