

MINUTES

BARRON WATER CONTROL DISTRICT

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MEETING

January 22, 2020

A meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the Barron Water Control District was called to order at 9:00 A.M. on Wednesday January 22, 2020, by Mark Colbert, Chairman.

Those present at the meeting were:

Mark Colbert - Board Member & Chairman
Pat McKenna – Board Member & Vice-Chairman
Ron Tritt – Board Member & Treasurer
Judi Kennington-Korf - General Manager
Andy Higginbotham-District Accountant
Tommy Perry, District Engineer
Sommer Foster – Johnson-Prewitt & Associates
Charles Palmer – CSWCD
Stephan Gardiener - CSWCD
Jeff Haber– Ag Victus (RLF Seminole Holdings, LLC)
Dwayne House – Landowner
Sara Davis – FDEP
Bree Rossiter – FDEP
Marcie Brick – FDEP
Robert Higgins, PE
Beth Daniels – District Attorney (by phone)
Craig Taraszki – District Attorney (by phone)

The meeting opened with prayer led by Chairman Colbert followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Consent Agenda:

- a. Verification of proper meeting notice
- b. Verification of quorum
- c. Approval of Meeting Minutes August 28, 2019
- d. Award Annual Auditing Service RFP
- e. SFWMD Invoice for FY 2019-20
- f. GASB 75 Actuarial Report Acceptance
- g. Hurricane Dorian, Local State of Emergency (2019-4) and Termination (2019-5)
- h. Authorize execution of Higgins Engineering, Inc., Contract
- i. Removal of 1986 Metal Shed Destroyed in Irma

Upon motion duly made by Chairman Colbert, seconded by Supervisor Tritt and unanimously carried, it was RESOLVED AND APPROVED the Consent Agenda was adopted as presented.

Chairman Colbert asked if there was any public comment, there was none.

Presentations

Item A. Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Ms. Davis presented the Caloosahatchee Basin Management Action Plan to the Board and answered questions and concerns.

Mr. Higginbotham voiced concern regarding monitoring the quality of the water from the lake versus water from other sources for this project.

Mr. Palmer voiced concern on the restriction placed on the landowners.

Mr. Perry advised BMAP has five categories and Barron land is in four of the categories, DOT will cover its right of ways, the urban areas the county will cover, Barron will cover the canals and right of ways in its area and the FDAC program will take care of the agriculture lands within Barron. The BMP's provided will make a difference and are not numerous to the District in cost.

Ms. Kennington-Korf advised Hendry County is segregating the urban area within the PLCDD. Mr. Perry advised the BMAP plan had three requirements that are to be met and PLCDD does not meet the requirements. Ms. Davis stated this is a unique issue and it is still being worked on.

Chairman Colbert thanked Ms. Davis for the presentation and the information provided.

Item B. Analysis of the ALICO Dispersed Water Storage Project on the Barron WCD (Northern Everglades Payment for Environmental Services)

Mr. Higgins presented the ALICO NE-PES Project and its effect on Barron Water Control District to the Board and answered questions and concerns. A copy of the report was provided to the Board (and is attached to the minutes).

Chairman Colbert voiced concern regarding ALICO being required to fill the estuary, knowing the Barron pumps would run less during raining season versus run for months if there is a drought. This would increase the use of the Barron pumps.

Mr. Perry advised it is not likely Barron would have to run pumps for months at that time. There is a criteria that has to be met before water can be moved to the ALICO site. When a pumping conflict occurs ALICO's pumping rate will be decreased or terminated.

Mr. Tritt asked if the operating parameters of this project are being developed or are they available now. Mr. Perry advised Barron maintains a stage within the canal if drainage runs over the weir and holds the canal down the pumps will be turned on to bring it back to the stage that is being maintained.

Mr. Palmer voiced concerns regarding the amount of water ALICO will be pumping as did Mr. Gardiener. Also a concern raised by Mr. Palmer about the blue/green algae imported into the canal.

Mr. Higgins stated when you consider the fact that the blue/green algae has not been a problem in the past with the pumpage of irrigation water to the water control district's from the Caloosahatchee, then it is not likely to be a problem in the future.

Chairman Colbert stressed the importance that all questions and concerns of the landowners must be met satisfactorily and if they cannot be answered today that Mr. Higgins return when information is available. Mr. Higgins is available to answer questions after the meeting. Attorney Daniels advised the Board does not have to accept the report by motion. It is information provided for the Board.

General Manager's Report

a. PRM Insurance Renewal

The Districts Property & Casualty (P&C) insurance coverage is provided by World Risk Management (WRM) through our contract with Public Risk Management (PRM). In the fall, PRM offered a two-year coverage agreement option for P&C insurance rates, not premiums, guaranteed not to change for two years. The Board will need to choose to participate, or not with the two-year coverage period.

Upon motion duly made by Chairman Colbert, seconded by Supervisor Tritt and unanimously carried, it was RESOLVED AND APPROVED the PRM P&C Insurance renewal with a two-year option is approved.

b. Modify Agreement with Johnson-Prewitt

In an effort to improve billing and budgeting, an amendment to the Johnson-Prewitt & Associates, Inc., engineering services proposal was drafted and provided to Mr. Tommy Perry. It is believed adherence to the amendment will allow for better planning, budgeting and billing. Mr. Perry advised he received and reviewed the amendment but believed other things could be done to improve billing. Mr. Taraszki advised the District has a contract and in need of a scope of work within the contract. After discussion the Board directed Ms. Kennington-Korf to meet with Mr. Perry and work on the agreement.

c. Property Surrounding Lake Eucalyptus, Interest in Disposition

The District owns approximately 126.36 acres of property in Unit 4 which includes Lake Eucalyptus. In consideration of the land use and potential value of the property, it is believed approximately 20 acres +/- is not needed for drainage maintenance and could be surplus and sold. Should the Board consider selling the property, a survey and appraisal will be needed. Attorney Daniels advised time is needed to review the background of the property before it is surplus. After discussion the Board directed the attorney and general manager to work on this item.

d. Capital Projects, communications upgrade; pumps & motors; and need for spare motor.

Communicating electronically has become more challenging. About six months ago a tower was installed nearby and the strain on our broadband is even more compromised. The internet frequently goes offline, staff can often bring the system back online but when unable to do so, – as is the case more frequently - the Districts' MIS consultant, Jon Ladd, has to remote in. It is often a challenge to send and receive files electronically. Electronic communication with the State and Federal governments is a must when sending and receiving reports. Both levels of government have significant technological demands and strong firewalls. To improve our service, we need to replace existing cables and equipment in the office and also to upgrade to a fiber connection.

CenturyLink provided a rough estimate on what it will take to bring fiber to the office at approximately \$15,000. The cost can be paid in payments but will be a higher cost,

Barron's obligation of the expense will need to be cost-shared with the CDD. This information is being shared with the CDD Board during the meeting January 23rd. Pumps and Motors The cost of pump maintenance on C-3 is shared with districts in the ISF: Collins Slough WCD and Gerber Groves WCD. Barron pays 22% of the expenses and the other Districts pay 39%. The Barron Farm however is supported entirely by the Barron budget.

As required by our SFWMD permit, every five years the pumps (four on Super 1, three on Super 2 and four on the Barron Farm) must be recalibrated. In May of 2019, all of Barron's 11 pumps were recalibrated. One of the pumps was re-plumbed. We need to continue to refurbish at least one pump each year at an estimated cost of \$26,100; it is also possible we will need to replace the motor which is an additional \$5,800 for those pumps on the C-3; the cost is less for the Barron Farm on multiple pumps if needed to maintain irrigation services.

The Barron Farm #2 pump B (West) is in need of renovation. The cost to rebuild the pump, shaft and motor will be approximately \$32,000. It is possible the motor will not need to be rebuilt. If so, the cost will be less than \$26,000 as the pumps are smaller on the Barron Farm than on C-3.

Mr. Palmer voiced concerns over the pumps belonging to Collin Slough verses Barron Mr. Perry advised Ag 1 and Ag 2 serve the farms within the Barron District and Barron pays the cost, Super 1 and Super 2 serve Collin Slough, Devils Garden and Gerber Grove with a small cost share to basin 20. Ms. Kennington-Korf informed the Board that Barron pays insurance on Super1 and Super 2 as they are listed on Barron property records.

Spare Motor

We have been without a spare motor for a few years. When the motor went out on C-3 over the summer, we had to scurry to meet the needs of those we serve and also users of the Barron system. Fortunately, we were able to get by. We need a spare motor for the Barron Farm, a 200 hp motor is approximately \$4,800. After discussion the Board advised the general manager to check with vendors regarding putting a hold on a spare motor and approved purchasing spare motor if those arrangements cannot be made.

- e. FYI
 - i. Glades County 2019-20 Tax Rate Levy Assessment Error Correction - On November 18, 2019 the Glades County Property Appraiser's and Tax Collector's offices were notified by the General Manager of an error that occurred when they used Resolution 2019-2, the original document used to adopt tax rates, instead of Resolution 2019-3, the final document used to determine the tax rate levy assessments for FY 2019-20. The matter has been resolved.
 - ii. Special District Legislative update, ADA website compliance - Florida's 60-day Legislative session will run from January 14th through March 13th. Legislation has been proposed (HB 855 and its companion Bill, SB 1466) which will benefit special districts. These Bill's will go far to improve the ever-increasing requirements imposed on governments and businesses. Although much of last year was focused upon ADA website compliance for the sight-impaired, there is now movement afoot for governments and businesses to provide ADA website access for the hearing-impaired.

- iii. USACE, spoil material - Staff met with Mr. Paul Jacques, USACE Acting Chief Deputy, in November to discuss a number of issues including the spoil on property owned by Mr. Dwayne House. Specifically, questions were asked of Mr. Jacques on a few scenarios for which Mr. House could remove the spoil without encroaching on District property. Mr. Jacques provided a detailed explanation, the USACE will not require a permit unless Mr. House uses the USACE ROW to remove the material.

Attorney's Annual Report

Attorney Daniels provided a written report for 2019, the four major issues in the report have been discussed in detail with the Board which were the Hendry County Permit for C-1, ALICO Dispersed Water Storage Project, the SFWMD Tax Levy issue and Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP).

Upon motion duly made by Chairman Colbert, seconded by Vice Chairman McKenna and unanimously carried, it was RESOLVED AND APPROVED the Board accepts the annual legal report as presented.

Engineer's Report:

Mr. Perry gave a brief overview of the 2019 Annual Engineer's report which included an update on FDOT SR-80 widening project, SFWMD Tax Levy issue, Hendry County Permit for C-1, ALICO Dispersed Water Storage Project and Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP).

Upon motion duly made by Vice Chairman McKenna, seconded by Supervisor Tritt and unanimously carried, it was RESOLVED AND APPROVED the Board accepts the annual engineering report as presented.

Field Supervisor's Report:

Ms. Kennington-Korf advised the calibration of the pumps has been completed, rainfall received in the District to date is about average, mowing and vegetation is ongoing at this time.

Other Business

Chairman Colbert asked if there was any public comment, there was none.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 A.M.

ATTEST:





Maria Taylor, Recording Secretary



Pat McKenna, Vice Chairman