

APPROVED

Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
PEACE RIVER/MANASOTA REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY
Charlotte County Administration Center
18500 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte, Florida

December 1, 2004

Board Members Present:

Commissioner Adam Cummings, Charlotte County, Chairman
Commissioner Patricia Glass, Manatee County, Vice Chairman
Commissioner Jerry Hill, DeSoto County
Commissioner Shannon Staub, Sarasota County

Staff Present:

Patrick J. Lehman, Executive Director
Douglas Manson, General Counsel
Kevin Morris, Chief Engineer
Ray Pilon, Governmental Affairs Coordinator
Sam Stone, Environmental Affairs Coordinator
Edward Yates, Fiscal Manager
Linda Stewart, Executive Secretary

Others Present:

A list of others present who signed the attendance roster for this meeting is filed with the permanent records of the Authority. Chairman Cummings recognized Commissioners Matt DeBoer, Charlotte County and Rue Berryman, City of North Port.

Call To Order:

Chairman Cummings called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Item 1. Meeting Minutes of November 3, 2004

Item 2. Check Register for Month of October 2004 (acceptance for further audit)

Item 3. Employee Health Insurance Program for 2005

Chairman Cummings amended the Meeting Minutes of November 3, 2004, page 7, second paragraph, fourth sentence to read as follows: *He feels this Board has the political will to diversify into new regional water sources and wants to continue to move in that direction and not do this expansion in a way that it subsidizes later expansions of the Peace River.*

Motion was made by Commissioner Glass, seconded by Commissioner Hill, to approve the consent agenda for December 1, 2004. Motion was approved unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA:

Item 4. Hydrologic Conditions/Water Supply Conditions Report - Sam Stone, Environmental Affairs Coordinator

Mr. Stone reported the average rainfall for the month of November in the Peace River Basin was 1.1 inches and the average river flow recorded at the Arcadia gage station was 703 cubic feet per second (cfs). As of the end of November, reserves in the wellfield system total approximately 2.3 billion gallons or 30% of the wellfield system capacity and the reservoir is full. Combined reserves total 2.9 billion gallon which based on current demands is equivalent to approximately 164 days of supply. Customer average demand for November was 17.6 mgd. The 12-month moving average water demand was 16.0 mgd.

Mr. Stone said the Climate Prediction Center is forecasting rainfall to be normal for the next three months. They continue to show a weak El Nino condition which should produce a wetter and cooler winter.

Item 5. Review of 2004 Legislative Session and Upcoming 2005 Legislative Session Issues - Diane Salz, Legislative Liaison

Ms. Salz briefly reviewed the legislation that passed and what remains unfinished from the 2004 legislative session that impacts the Authority and what is likely to be on the agenda for the upcoming session.

House Bill 293 which strengthens land and water linkage sponsored by Representative Russell and Senator Dockery passed. This bill includes a provision which now requires SWFWMD to work with the Authority in developing a water supply component of their Regional Water Supply Plan. This new provision in the law is going to be very beneficial to the Authority.

The proposed water reservation legislation was not finished during the 2004 session. There is a section in existing law DEP Rule 62-40 which alleges to include unauthorized expansion of DEP/water management district authority to reserve water from use by permit applicants. There is a challenge underway headed by the Association of Florida Community Developers. That portion of Rule 62-40 not related to water reservations will move forward through the adoption process while the water reservations provision will be detained until some resolution is worked out among the stakeholders. During the interim, Senator Dockery will hold a series of workshops with interested parties to draft acceptable legislation. It is likely this legislation will move forward with a broader more comprehensive scope which will include economic incentives for water supply authorities.

Other unfinished business relates to government services. A bill filed by Representative Atkinson would remove all tax exemptions given to local utilities. Senator Bennett was the Senate sponsor of the companion bill but the two bills are substantially different. This legislation caused a lot of discussion and close votes. What ultimately resulted was that committee staff was asked to conduct an interim study. That study is not yet completed for review.

Another interim study being conducted as a result of unfinished business relates to agriculture re-use. That study also is not completed for review.

The special session in December is anticipated to address primarily property tax relief for hurricane

victims and insurance deductibles as well as universal pre-kindergarten.

A new business item for the 2005 session will be growth management. There has been a great deal of focus on regional government and growth management reform and is a priority of the Governor and his DCA secretary. Regionalism and regional entities seem to be the cornerstone of the proposal. It will likely include a water resource component. This legislation will create a lot of activity the Authority will be interested in and the Board will be apprised of those developments as they develop.

Legislators from the four-county area chairing committees of interest to the Authority are Representative Donna Clarke who chairs the House Water Resource Committee and Senator Bennett who chairs the Community Affairs Committee. Ms. Salz said the Authority is positioned extremely well for the upcoming session and it should be very productive.

Commissioner Glass said she finds great strength in regionalism. The Authority has been a classic example of the strength of people coming together willingly. Commissioner Glass said she hoped Ms. Salz would be in touch with the legislative liaisons from the individual counties because therein lies a great strength for keeping the policymakers apprised of the issues.

Commissioner Staub asked if the agendas for the various committees were available for review so the Authority can be proactive particularly on water concurrency and other water issues to the benefit of Senator Bennett and Representative Clarke.

Ms. Salz said that is already happening as she has met with both of them. Ms. Salz said the Authority has a great deal of expertise and much to offer and the legislators realize it.

Item 6. Governmental Affairs Coordinator Report - Ray Pilon, Governmental Affairs Coordinator

a. Legislative issues

Mr. Pilon said Ms. Salz is the ‘eyes and ears’ of the Authority in Tallahassee and complimented her on her efforts on behalf of the Authority and is looking forward to their continued relationship.

b. SWFWMD issues

Mr. Pilon said the discussions at the Governing Board’s last meeting were very brief. They did, however, have a workshop with the SWUCA work group to continue the discussions on relocation, lapsed quantities and competing allocations as the methodology has drastically changed. The Governing Board will discuss these issues in more depth at their December meeting. The Governing Board, as well as the basin boards, will begin the budget process in December.

c. Outreach

As previously reported, tours at the Peace River Facility are on hold until repairs are completed to the damaged areas due to the hurricane. Mr. Pilon said staff is very involved however in other outreach efforts and as a group of employees keeps abreast of what is happening within the water industry and within their own particular disciplines. To name a few, the Authority has a very strong presence in the American Water Works Association. This is the largest group in the United States representing safe drinking water, training, and education. Authority staff participate both at the state level and the national

level in a meaningful capacity. Mr. Pilon said he is appointed to the Public Affairs Council. Mr. Lehman is the former Chair of the Florida Section and is the current Chair of the Utility Council. He also is a member of the Technical Education Committee at the national level. Ms. Hochuli is the Chair for Region 10 which includes Sarasota, Hardee, DeSoto, Charlotte and Manatee counties and Mr. Morris is the local membership chair. Ms. Hochuli was selected to deliver a paper on water supply planning and the Water Planning Alliance at the recent state conference for the Florida Section. As well, Mr. Lehman took part in a round table discussion regarding the hurricanes. Mr. Yates, in his discipline, is a member of the Finance Officers Association. Mr. Stone has a great involvement in the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program and CHEC as does Mr. Lehman.

Other efforts include the annual newspaper insert which Mr. Stone is already gearing up for. This year the insert will continue in the direction the Board took last year with a 'state of the union address' so to speak as to where the Authority is and where they are with its members. The newsletter continues to be produced on a regular basis and is mailed to approximately 800 interested parties. The website at regionalwater.org is updated as changes occur for both the Authority and the Water Planning Alliance.

Item 7. SWFWMD Cooperative Funding Applications - Kevin Morris, Chief Engineer

Mr. Pilon said the funding application requests are due by December 3, 2004. He reviewed SWFWMD's funding mechanisms for the board's edification and how the various projects of the Authority and the individual members fit into the District's funding programs.

Mr. Morris said each entity submitting multiple project applications must rank the projects in order of priority by Basin Board for which funding is requested. Mr. Morris reviewed the three projects being submitted as listed below in the recommended order of ranking.

1. Peace River Regional Reservoir Expansion (continuing project)
2. Peace River Facility Expansion (continuing project)
3. Peace River Facility/Punta Gorda WTP Interconnect (new project)

Mr. Morris said it is the consensus of the county administrators and member staffs and staff's recommendation to proceed with the six billion gallon reservoir. The Authority Board however has not yet taken action on the size of the reservoir. What is being requested of the Board is approval to solicit the funding for the six billion gallon reservoir. This project is ranked the highest priority as it will take the longest to complete. The project cost estimate is \$49,000,000.

Second in priority is the Peace River Facility expansion which is proposed to be completed in two phases. Phase I includes the increase of treatment capacity from the current 24 mgd to 36 mgd and extension of the regional transmission system within DeSoto County. Phase II will increase treatment capacity by an additional 12 mgd. The project cost estimate for Phase I is \$46,700,000.

Third in priority is the interconnect project between the Peace River Facility and the Shell Creek Water Treatment Plant. This interconnect has been under consideration by Charlotte County and the City of Punta Gorda for quite some time and with the interconnect currently being constructed within DeSoto County makes this project even more viable. The project cost estimate is \$7,714,000.

Commissioner Staub said it seems like the Authority needs to be on a fast track to make everything happen as planned and asked what the impacts might be if the Authority did not move forward with the six billion gallon reservoir at this time and instead considered an ASR option.

Mr. Morris said that DEP is issuing permits for the construction of ASR wells in this area but none have been released for operation at this time and there is no guarantee they will be. There has even been discussion of shutting down some wells. The future disposition of every well built from this point forward and even the wells constructed in the Peace River Option is very much in question.

Commissioner Glass said when there is a long range plan and you try to make a rapid change, it is very costly. The end of the line is where you pay the bill because you don't have an efficient system in place. She would hope the Authority would stay on a very professional track because a lot of information has been accumulated and a lot of time has been spent studying this over a long period of time. The sooner you get it started, the sooner you get it permitted and the less costly this is going to be in the long run.

Motion was made by Commissioner Glass, seconded by Commissioner Staub, to approve SWFWMD 2006 Cooperative Funding Initiatives Applications and ranking as recommended. Motion was approved unanimously.

Item 8. Peace River Allocation Agreement - Douglas Manson, General Counsel

Mr. Manson said the City of North Port ("City") in a letter dated November 15, 2004 to Mr. Lehman and in a second letter dated November 30, 2004 to Mr. Manson has indicated they would like to increase their allocation in this phase of the expansion by 5 mgd. Mr. Manson said the Allocation Agreement recognizes each of the customers or member governments would like more allocation than originally planned for but understands for this phase of the expansion that the original allocation is all that is available. It also acknowledges that going forward the Authority will develop new water supply sources. The allocation amounts in the Allocation Agreement were based on the Water Use Permit issued in 1996.

Because of the uncertainty as to whether the City at their meeting on December 13 will agree to the four party Allocation Agreement that is already approved by the three member governments, Mr. Manson said the administrators at their last meeting discussed moving forward with a three party Allocation Agreement which would leave the City's allocation on the table. The three party agreement deletes references to the City being a party to the agreement and their signatory page; adds a whereas clause that states it is the intent of the parties to this Agreement to offer 1.508 average annual and 1.716 peak month allocation to the City from the regional expansion project; and adds verbiage to paragraph 4 saying everybody is committing to paying for the allocation that is listed in Exhibit A.

In addition, Mr. Manson said the City has also indicated they would like to discuss changing some of the provisions of the Allocation Agreement. Mr. Manson said the Allocation Agreement is two-part and by itself, does not provide water for any community. What it does do is commit to a particular allocation and having the Water Supply Agreement negotiated by spring 2005.

Chairman Cummings asked if a representative from the City would like to speak to this item.

Cindi Mick, Utilities Director, said the City appreciates that they have had the ability to be involved in such an important expansion. Their concerns regarding allocation should not stop the expansion. In fact, the City requests the expansion proceed as soon as possible. Their concerns are related to their rapid growth and financing. They have hopes to have an amiable resolution. They are having discussions with both Charlotte County and Sarasota County regarding short term resolutions. Their ultimate goal is to have the water needed for their future growth.

Commissioner Staub said the Peace River is not the sole source of water for the future for any of the members and asked Ms. Mick what other water sources the City was considering.

Ms. Mick reviewed the various projects the City is pursuing which include their current ASR well, a water treatment plant on the Panacea property and the Thomas Ranch property, an interconnect with Sarasota County, optimizing their canal system, the Cocoa Plum and Myakkahatchee Creek facilities. They are participating in the Water Planning Alliance and are looking very carefully at all of the various projects to see how the City can contribute to those projects. They are having discussions with Sarasota County and Charlotte County regarding an interim agreement. The City extends their support for any of the projects that any of the members or the Authority is working on with the hope of increasing water supply for the region.

Commissioner Staub suggested the Authority proceed with the three party Allocation Agreement because the Authority needs to move forward as rapidly as possible. She also said Sarasota County would be willing to negotiate an interim agreement for water with the City. She pointed out there was discussion at the last Authority board meeting where both Charlotte County and DeSoto County wanted additional allocation but agreed it was necessary to move forward with the allocations originally put in place.

Motion was made by Commissioner Staub, seconded by Commissioner Glass, to approve the three party 'Peace River Facility Allocation Agreement' as discussed by General Counsel. Motion was approved unanimously.

Item 9. Regional Expansion Program Phasing and Storage Alternatives - Kevin Morris, Chief Engineer

Mr. Morris said staff has prepared a written response to the various questions raised by the Board and he would speak to two issues in particular. Mr. Morris first addressed the seepage and evaporation concerns regarding a reservoir. Mr. Morris reviewed the research he undertook regarding this issue which indicates seepage and evaporation would amount to approximately to two tenths of one percent of yield per year for the reservoir design currently being considered. In the big picture, Mr. Morris said this is an insignificant amount.

The second question Mr. Morris discussed was the request to run the hydrological forecasting model under the same conditions and assumptions as during the Peace River Option. He said there are two important reasons why he did not. One is because the forecasting model had been modified to include the recent drought information because a back to back drought had never previously been recorded and this was an important sequence to be included. Secondly, the forecasting model in the past only presumed a large bubble of water underground and did not include the number of wells available to pull the water out. However with the change in the permitting climate, there may not be the opportunity to construct additional ASR wells and the model needed to have the flexibility of being able to model situations with only the 21 wells currently constructed. Those are two significant changes to the modeling and if the Peace River Option model were run on what we have today, it would over estimate the reliability significantly of the system being developed.

Commissioner Staub said she feels comfortable with the six billion gallon reservoir because the technical staffs from all the counties and the City of North Port have been involved in this recommendation. In addition, Sarasota County had an engineering firm review all of the reports. She said the ASR issue as far as permitting is scary and does not want to be pushed up against the wall for any of the members for water needs in the next four to five years.

Chairman Cummings said after receiving the responses from staff and the information from Sarasota County he was feeling more comfortable with the reservoir. However, it will cost more than twice the Peace River Option although he understands it is a different type of expansion so there very well could be different costs associated with it. But any time he has to take \$60 million leap he wants to make sure he has evaluated every other option. To that end, Charlotte County staff is currently pursuing other options to develop water sources simultaneously with this expansion. However, when looking at these projects, the timeline or projected costs will not necessarily work. For example, Chairman Cummings said the cost of a desalination plant actually was less than the cost of this expansion but the timing is not right. He pointed out Sarasota County staff shares some of the same concerns in getting their questions answered as he does referring to an email from Sarasota County's administrator.

Commissioner Staub said she had not seen the email Chairman Cummings referred to. She said this started out, as far as Sarasota County, with the financial issue. In the beginning, it looked like Sarasota County was going to have to double or triple their rates (at Commissioner Staub's prompting, Theresa Connor from the audience said it actually was a 30% increase). Commissioner Staub said she was getting the answers from briefings from her staff regularly, and felt the other commissioners did as well, so that is why she feels comfortable that the price is probably the best the Authority is going to get because staff has scrounged around and looked at every nickle and really vetted it financially as well as technically. The \$60 million leap for her has not been as difficult because her staff has brought her along throughout the process.

Chairman Cummings said he was close to being comfortable with the idea that if the PRF is going to be expanded as the Authority's next source of water, he is probably 75% comfortable that is ultimately what will be the option. He would feel better if at least staff had run down the list of all the projects the Water Planning Alliance has. Chairman Cummings said we can't even get a meeting of the natural resource managers to evaluate the list even when given specific direction. He said he has been bringing it up every meeting since last summer. He would probably prefer however that our staffs get together (Charlotte County and Sarasota County) and whichever other customers want to participate and just run through those options and see what the timelines are.

Commissioner Staub said she was informed by her staff that at the last TAC meeting, the TAC vetted out those projects. The natural resource people, the planners and the engineers were involved.

Chairman Cummings asked, as far as the critical path, if the funding application is what is needed right now.

Mr. Lehman responded affirmatively. He said the Board is being asked to approve the funding application for the six billion gallon reservoir which will leave the options open. At the January board meeting, the Board will be asked to decide on the reservoir size.

Chairman Cummings said he was going to suggest that if the Charlotte County and Sarasota County staffs have gotten together and done the final review that he might be more comfortable in January to make that commitment. Chairman Cummings said this is not a request of Authority staff. He would like his staff to meet with Sarasota County staff and run through that other list.

Commissioner Glass said she felt anyone in the region that is in the business is eager to lend technical assistance, historic information and anything else that is possible. It is not a matter of something slipping under the door. These are difficult decisions. As she sits here thinking about the decision that was made in Manatee County to do the reservoir and if you wanted to see a political upheaval and a proclamation of doom for the future of these people who dared to do this thing and nobody wanted to join in until people

realized that the earlier you do this the better off you will be. This takes the hardest kind of planning but there are other dimensions. Financial matters have to mesh with the engineering and then come the people who are going to do the building so there are a lot of things that have to be coordinated and I think we are at that time now. Its going to be critical as to whether or not we move forward. Take heart from the fact that there is some vision attached to this and with the Water Planning Alliance I think things will start coming down the line as we do this but move forward with this plan and get it in place because it is for the protection of everyone. I think the reason we have a well priced water system is because we have had regionalization in working with others. Along the line there is going to be more customers whether they belong to this county or to some township or whatever. To Commissioner Cummings she said I just want you to feel a level of comfort that you are not alone.

Chairman Cummings said I am actually building on that comment and that discussion about regionalism happening at the legislature. He thinks it is unlikely to happen. But if you want to link growth management and water supply in a deliberative way you create a counsel of governments that shares some of the powers of both RPCs and the water management districts. Anything short of that is just checking the boxes.

Commissioner Glass said that is a very eloquent opening for a seminar that could last six months, but very worthwhile. It has to be discussed.

Commissioner Hill said in talking with his staff, DeSoto County is supportive of the six billion gallon reservoir. There could be legal challenges to any of these others because there is certainly a reservoir in each one of these plans so that could happen. I feel we need to get these approved and move forward with it and deal with some of these other problems as they arise or work themselves out or have to be worked out.

Item 10. Regional Expansion Program Status Report - Kevin Morris, Chief Engineer

a. DeSoto County Regional Pipeline Extension (Consultant - PBS&J)

Mr. Morris said approximately 1,500 feet of pipe has been installed to-date. In order to maintain the project schedule, with 148 days remaining to substantial completion, the contractor is considering mobilizing a second crew.

Commissioner Staub asked Commissioner Hill if he and his Board are being kept up-to-date on this project knowing the Authority is trying to stay on it as much as we can.

Commissioner Hill said he would appreciate an update to his Board by Authority staff.

b. Peace River Facility Expansion (Consultant - Boyle Engineering Corporation)

No further discussion on this item. A written status report is provided in board book.

c. ASR Wellfield Expansion (Consultant - CH2M Hill)

No further discussion on this item. A written status report is provided in board book.

Item 11. Water Planning Alliance “Regional System Planning and Engineering Study” Status Report - Susan Hochuli, Water Resource Planner (Consultant -Greeley and Hansen LLC) (Facilitator - Analytica)

Mr. Lehman said the TAC originally comprised the administrators and as the project evolved with the engineering study the technical and utility staffs were included. Individual meetings have been conducted with the natural resources people, the NEPs, Myakka Conservancy and resource people from each of the counties. Greeley and Hansen has identified approximately ten future water sources. The TAC reviewed those projects at their meeting on November 19 and at the end of the day, felt it more appropriate for the administrators to look at the projects to determine how to move forward before making a presentation to the Alliance Board. The administrators will meet in the January timeframe to discuss the projects and how to implement them and how to proceed and then the Alliance Board will meet some time following that. Mr. Lehman said keep in mind the Authority has funding for a Water Master Plan and will be reviewing the future sources identified by the Water Planning Alliance.

Item 12. Regional Integrated Loop System Status Report - Susan Hochuli, Water Resource Planner

Mr. Lehman said the Regional Integrated Loop System is the Authority’s concept to interconnect the four county region. SWFWMD has dedicated funding to this project through their water resource development program. Staff will be working with them to develop the actual funding agreement. Contingent with that is developing the scope of services for the consultant to do the feasibility routing study. It is anticipated that the project will be advertised yet this month for consultant submittals. Consultant selection should take place in the February/March 2005 timeframe.

Item 13. Annual Evaluation of Executive Director and Employment Agreement Amendment

Chairman Cummings recommended a 3% salary increase and an amendment to Mr. Lehman’s employment agreement which amended Section 7 to delete the automobile allowance and replace it with the deferred income provision. The amendment is to be effective November 6, 2004, the anniversary date in the employment agreement.

Motion was made by Commissioner Staub, seconded by Commissioner Hill, to approve amendment to the employment agreement with the Executive Director with an effective date of November 6, 2004. Motion was approved unanimously.

Item 14. Routine Status Reports

a. Horse Creek Stewardship Program

This report is presented for the Board’s information.

Item 15. General Counsel’s Report

Mr. Manson said the facility use cost is the only issue so far that will require a change to the interlocal agreement and will be difficult to resolve. It was the consensus of the administrators that it would be beneficial to have someone facilitate in this matter. Mr. Manson has asked Mr. John Wehle to act as the facilitator. Mr. Wehle has over 31 years of experience dealing with water issues and has been a key

advisor in similar matters to various agencies like the EPA, St. Johns Water Management District, and Southwest Florida Water Management District. His experience in government and being a geologist experienced in water issues gives him a unique perspective. Mr. Manson introduced Mr. Wehle to the Board. Mr. Wehle greeted the Board and said he was looking forward to meeting with each of the Board members as well as the county administrators regarding this issue.

On phosphate matters, on October 29 the Department of Environmental Protection gave a Notice of Proposed Rule Development and Public Workshop regarding Florida Administrative Code Chapter 62C-16 which provides governance over mandatory phosphate mine reclamation. The first public workshop for rule development was held on November 15, 2004 at DEP's offices in Tallahassee. One portion of the rulemaking on the reclamation side of the rules is relevant to the Ona litigation in that some of the changes they are making are basically reducing the restrictions on what it would take to mitigate impacts of phosphate. Along the same lines of what the Authority's position was on Ona the Authority has the opportunity to make written comments on this rule. It is very early in the rule development stage and Mr. Manson said he would like to send a letter to the DEP expressing the Authority's concerns. The deadline is December 6, 2004. Mr. Manson said he has been coordinating with Charlotte County's counsel on this matter.

The Administrative Law Judge has had a scheduling conflict and the Recommended Order on the Ona Mine litigation has been delayed.

Other rules DEP is looking at are Phosphogypsum Stack Rules. The Authority has experienced periodic problems with phosphate stacks. Counsel will monitor this from a standpoint of a water quality issue.

On other phosphate matters, Mr. Manson said there has been little activity over the last month.

Mr. Manson's written status report is filed with the permanent records of the Authority.

Motion was made by Commissioner Staub, seconded by Commissioner Glass, to request General Counsel to file a letter on phosphate reclamation rules that DEP has initiated. Motion was approved unanimously.

Item 16. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Lehman thanked the Board members for his evaluation. He said it has been a tremendous year and he is looking forward to 2005. Putting the pipeline across the Peace River opens up the south side of Charlotte County and DeSoto County for regionalization and the Water Planning Alliance has identified projects which will start the process of identifying future water sources for the Authority. Starting in the January/February timeframe, Mr. Lehman said the Board meetings will be longer and there will be more workshops as the Board begins to work out the issues of the water supply contract. Lastly, Mr. Lehman wished everyone a happy holiday.

Commissioner Staub suggested the administrators, as a group, provide a status report to the Board on a routine basis. Not necessarily every month but as things progress with the expansion so the Board also as a group has an opportunity to hear what the consensus of the administrators is.

Building on Commissioner Staub's suggestion, Chairman Cummings said he and his staff feel there is a risk that costs could escalate with the expansion and would suggest an oversight committee for that purpose.

Commissioner Glass suggested Mr. Lehman talk to the administrators at their next meeting and see what solution they come up with and implement it in the new year.

Mr. Lehman said they next meet on December 17 and he will discuss it.

As a word of caution, Mr. Manson said this is a process issue. If the administrators were to become an advisory group to the Board, they then become subject to the sunshine law.

Item 17. Election of Board Officers for 2005

Motion was made by Commissioner Staub, seconded by Commissioner Hill, to elect Commissioner Glass as Chairman and Commissioner Hill as Vice Chairman. Motion was approved unanimously.
MEMBER COMMENTS

Commissioner Hill said he was looking forward to serving on the Authority Board again and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Commissioner Glass thanked Commissioner Cummings for a good year and good thought provoking discussions. She welcomed back Commissioner Hill and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Commissioner Staub also welcomed Commissioner Hill back to the Board and asked Commissioner Hill to thank Commissioner Welles for his service to the Board. She congratulated Commissioner Glass on her appointment as Chair. She also thanked Commissioner Cummings for his leadership during the year and wished everyone the best for the holiday season.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Authority Meeting:
10:00 a.m., Wednesday, January 5, 2005
Commission Chambers
DeSoto County Administrative Building
201 East Oak Street, Arcadia, Florida

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 12:38 p.m.

The Honorable Patricia M. Glass, Chairman