

**Public Hearing – Meeting Summary**  
Funding Request – Manatee Study  
Monday, August 12, 2013  
5:00 p.m.

**Members Present**

Steven T. Jenkins, Chair (arrived 5:22 pm)  
Michelle Tappouni, Vice Chair  
Nick Howland  
Gary Bowers, M.D.  
Tony C. Bellamy, P.E.

**Members Not Present**

Lucinda Sonnenberg, Ph.D.  
Bobby L. Baker, P.E.

**Staff/ Resources Present**

James Richardson, EPB Administrator  
Ruby Tucker, Executive Secretary  
Jody Brooks, OGC  
Steve Pace, Environmental Engineering Manager Senior  
Dana Brown, Environmental Enforcement Administrator

**Visitors**

Andrew Sears, JEA  
Jody McDaniel, COJ Planning  
Lauren Bankert, Public Communications Officer

**Call to Order**

Chair Tappouni called the Public Hearing to order at 5:20 p.m.

**Certification of Public Notice**

James Richardson, EPB Administrator, certified that the public notice required by Florida law appeared in the Financial News & Daily Record.

Vice Chair Tappouni turned the gavel over to Chair Jenkins.

**Presentation by Petitioner**

James Richardson made a presentation to the EPB on behalf of the petitioner; the Administration is asking for a \$180,000 appropriation of the Environmental Protection Fund to provide funding, for a two year period (FY13/14 & FY14/15), for the annual City of Jacksonville Manatee Study. For continuing and ongoing duties of the program a waiver of Sec. 360.602 Ordinance Code is requested to authorize use of the fund. The Manatee Protection Plan has been mandated by the state since 1989.

**Board Discussion and Staff Clarification**

Board discussion of the funding request ensued. Several questions were raised by board members as to why the request for monitoring manatee activity is coming before the EPB and why does the administration feel that the monitoring of manatee activity is a part of the Boards purview? Jody McDaniel stated that a review of other counties with Manatee Protection Plans showed that with the exception of two counties, all are housed in environmental areas of government. Concerns were raised that no one from JU was present to address how the funding would be used, and that no one from the administration was present. EPB Counsel Brooks raised a concern that the COJ Manatee Study would not fall under the purview of the EPB and it was likely not appropriate for the EPB to approve the funding request.

Chair Jenkins stated that the Board did not appear to have support to approve the request and shared that the options available to the board were to take no action and continue the hearing, approve or deny the request.

**Comments from Public**

None.

The Board is not clear whether this same funding request will return to the Board after the two year period. Is there a plan, grant funding or other sources to continue the Manatee Study?

**Board Vote**

A motion was made to defer the funding request for additional information and tie in the Manatee Study to Section 360.602 Ordinance Code continuing the public hearing. Board Vote 4-1. It was noted that in order to not have to republish the public notice, the hearing needed to be continued to the next meeting of the board.

A motion was made to rescind the previous action and that the public hearing on the funding request be continued until the next board meeting and request for additional information and tie in the Manatee Study to section 360.602 O.C. Board Vote 4-1.

**Procedural Summary**

Jody Brooks, OGC, stated that the funding proposal will be continued as a public hearing at the next board meeting, a representative will prepare a response to the questions and the connection of the request in Section 360.602 of the ordinance code.

**Adjournment**

The Public Hearing was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Ruby Tucker, Executive Secretary I  
Environmental Protection Board