1. CONVENE PUBLIC MEETING
Due to the COVID-19 virus, this meeting was held through a combination of in-person attendance and electronic media, via Zoom, to reduce public gatherings and practice social distancing.

The Governing Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) met for its regular meeting at 9:00 a.m., on March 23, 2021, at the Brooksville Office, 2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, Florida 34604.

Approved minutes from previous meetings can be found on the District's website at WaterMatters.org.

1.1 Call to Order
Chair Rice called the meeting to order. He provided a telephone number to any member of the public wishing to address the Governing Board concerning any item listed on the agenda or any item that does not appear on the agenda. Chair Rice stated that comments would be limited to three minutes per speaker, and when appropriate, exceptions to the three-minute limit may be granted by the chair. He also requested that several individuals wishing to speak on the same issue/topic designate a spokesperson.
1.2 **Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**
Secretary Smith offered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Rice introduced each member of the Governing Board (this served as roll call) and staff at the dais. He noted that the Board meeting was being recorded for broadcast on government access channels, and public input was taken during the meeting via electronic media or in person.

1.3 **Additions/Deletions to Agenda**
No additions or deletions were made to the agenda.

1.4 **Public Input for Issues Not Listed on the Published Agenda**
Mr. David Ballard Geddis, Jr., spoke regarding Florida Senate Bill 64.

2. **CONSENT AGENDA**

2.1 **Springs Protection Awareness Month Resolution**
Staff recommended the Board approve and execute Resolution No. 21-02, attached as an exhibit, declaring April 2021 as “Springs Protection Awareness Month.

2.2 **Relocation of Access Easement for the Lake Tarpon Outfall Canal SWF Parcel No. 16-001-155**
Staff recommended the Board approve and accept the easement for relocation of the Access Easement.

2.3 **Governing Board Concurrence - SWFWMD Emergency Order - Emergency Measures Made Necessary by Covid-19**
Staff recommended the Board approve the seventh amended and restated Emergency Order No. SWF 21-007 and concur with the Executive Director's determinations regarding the state of emergency and the actions necessary to meet the emergency.

2.4 **Authorization to Issue Administrative Complaint and Order - Well Abandonment Violations - Waylon J. Howard - License Number 9247 - CT 398945 - Hillsborough County**
Staff recommended the Board:
1. Authorize District staff to issue an Administrative Complaint and Order to Waylon J. Howard to obtain compliance, revoke License No. 9247 for a minimum of one year, recover an administrative fine/civil penalty, and recover any District costs and fees, if appropriate.
2. Authorize District staff to obtain compliance with the terms of the Administrative Complaint and Order in Circuit Court, if necessary.

2.5 **Initiation and Approval of Rulemaking to Repeal the Sunsetted Northern Tampa Bay Water Use Caution Area Recovery Strategy Comprehensive Environmental Resources Recovery Plan**
Staff recommended the Board:
1. Initiate rulemaking and approve proposed rule language to amend Rules 40D-80.073, 40D-801, 40D-2.091, F.A.C., and the WUP Applicant's Handbook, to repeal the Comprehensive Plan, as shown in the Exhibit.
2. Authorize staff to make any necessary minor clarifying edits that may result from the rulemaking process.
2.6 **Acquisition of Mineral Rights - Myakkahatchee Creek Project - SWF Parcel Nos. 21-694-102 and 21-694-103**

Staff recommended the Board approve the new Escrow Agreement and authorize staff to make minor adjustments to the amount retained by the District and Sarasota County upon expiration of the Escrow Agreement.

2.7 **Approve Governing Board Minutes - February 23, 2021**

Staff recommended the Board approve the minutes as presented.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio - 00:10:55)

3. **FINANCE/OUTREACH & PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Treasurer Murphy called the Finance/Outreach & Planning Committee to order. (Audio-00:12:05)

3.1 **Consent Item(s) Moved to Discussion** - None

3.2 **Cybersecurity & Water Supply System Security Overview**

Mr. JP Marchand, P.E., Water Resources Bureau Chief, provided an overview of water supply system security. He outlined the risks and system components associated with those risks. Mr. Marchand provided an overview of the America’s Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) of 2018. He explained that the AWIA requires water systems serving more than 3,300 people to develop or update an existing Risk and Resilience Assessment and Emergency Response Plan. Vice Chair Schleicher expressed concerns regarding the federal government guideline for five-year certification requirements. He stated he would prefer re-certifications be completed on an annual basis.

Vice Chair Schleicher asked about cybersecurity associated with third-party entities related to infrastructure. Mr. Marchand responded that the AWIA requires both physical and cybersecurity certifications for specific types of water utilities.

Mr. Tom Hughes, Information Technology Bureau Chief, provided an overview of District cybersecurity. He outlined the typical threats that are experienced, provided examples and outlined District responses. Mr. Hughes explained the creation of the District Information Security and Risk Management Team.

Mr. Hughes provided an overview of the metrics of threats that are experienced daily at the District. He provided information regarding the Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures (CVEs) that are tracked by the National Vulnerability Database from 2018 to present. Mr. Hughes stated that Microsoft released 1,934 security updates in response to 134 unique CVEs in the last 30 days. He outlined the layered system controls and firewalls utilized by the District. Mr. Hughes presented information outlining the successes of the prevention measures utilized by the District.

Vice Chair Schleicher asked how the District monitors security related to third-party entities. Mr. Hughes explained once the District is made aware of a compromise that a third-party entity has experienced, the Information Security and Risk Management Team responds through an established process.

This item was presented for information only. No action was required.
3.3 **Budget Transfer Report**  
This item was presented for information only. No action was required.

4. **RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**  
Board Member Weightman called the Resource Management Committee to Order. (Audio - 00:44:30)

4.1 **Consent Item(s) Moved to Discussion** - None

4.2 **Septic Tank and Package Plant Conversion Projects Update**  
Mr. Randy Smith, Natural Systems & Restoration Bureau Chief, provided a short recap of the septic tank conversion project discussion that occurred at the December Governing Board workshop and that this presentation was to provide additional information requested by the Board at the workshop.

Mr. Smith provided background and comparison information for the Basin Management Action Plans (BMAPs) and Priority Focus Areas (PFAs) associated with all five Outstanding Florida Springs in our District. He explained that in 2005, Marion County established an area called the Rainbow Primary Protection Zone. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) adopted the Rainbow Primary Protection Zone as the PFA for the Rainbow River. DEP used different criteria when it later adopted PFAs for other springs. This resulted in the Rainbow PFA being significantly smaller than the other PFA’s in our District.

Mr. Smith provided an overview of the eligible number of septic tanks, removal costs, associated District costs and the potential amount of nitrogen removal. He provided an overview of the controls associated with septic systems in all PFA areas. He explained that five septic conversion projects have been funded by the District since 2019. Mr. Smith outlined the funding provided by the state and explained how it is allocated. He stated that staff plan to expand the CFI funding eligibility from the PFA to the BMAP boundary for Rainbow for FY2022. This will increase the District’s funding opportunities to reduce nitrogen loading within the Rainbow River BMAP. With this change, one additional project will be eligible for $178,000 in District funding.

Mr. Smith stated the District will continue to monitor projects and provide outreach to our Northern Region local governments and provide updates to the Governing Board. Staff will also recommend adding CFI Septic/Package Plant controls to the Cooperative Funding Initiative (CFI) policy at a future Board meeting.

Mr. Smith responded to questions from the Board. Discussion ensued.

This item was presented for information only. No action was required.

5. **OPERATIONS, LANDS, AND RESOURCE MONITORING COMMITTEE**  
Board Member Bispham called the Operations, Lands and Resource Monitoring Committee to order. (Audio - 01:21:00)

5.1 **Consent Item(s) Moved to Discussion** – None
5.2 **Offer for Surplus Lands - Lake Panasoffkee Project (LP-1), SWF Parcel No. 19-528-154S**

Ms. Ellen Morrison, Land Resources Bureau Chief, provided background information regarding the acquisition of the Hanover Tract which included parcel LP-1. She outlined the benefits associated with the sale of this surplus property. Ms. Morrison provided information regarding the purchase offer from Werner Enterprises, Incorporated.

Staff recommended the Board:
- Accept the offer of $1,500,000.00, subject to confirmation by survey of total acreage; and
- Approve the Contract for Sale and Purchase and First Addendum to Contract for Sale and Purchase and authorize the Executive Director to sign both on behalf of the District; and
- Authorize the Chairman and Secretary of the Governing Board to execute the Quit Claim Deed; and
- Authorize the conveyance of the District's interest in all phosphate, minerals, metals, and petroleum in or on or under the land upon the request of the buyer; and
- Authorize staff to execute any other documents necessary to complete the transaction in accordance with the approved terms.

A motion was made and seconded to approve staff’s recommendation. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio – 01:25:17)

6. **REGULATION COMMITTEE**

Board Member Germann called the Regulation Committee to order. (Audio-01:26:28)

6.1 **Consent Item(s) Moved to Discussion** - None

6.2 **Denials Referred to the Governing Board**

None were presented.

7. **GENERAL COUNSEL’S REPORT**

7.1 **Consent Item(s) Moved to Discussion**

7.2 **Central Florida Water Initiative Rulemaking Update and Consideration of Polk County Cooperative Funding Initiative Commitments**

Ms. Jennette Seachrist, Resource Management Director, provided background regarding the District’s history with water supply planning in central Florida and its partnership with Polk County, St. Johns Water Management District, and the South Florida Water Management District. This partnership led to the establishment of the Central Florida Coordination Area. Ms. Seachrist explained this partnership also produced a water supply plan that identified alternative water supply (AWS) projects that could be implemented to meet future demands.

Ms. Seachrist provided background information regarding the formation of the Central Florida Water Initiative, outlined the priorities, and provided an organizational overview. She provided information regarding the Governing Board’s funding resolutions that incentivized the formation of the Polk Regional Water Cooperative (PRWC) and the development of AWS projects.

Ms. Seachrist provided an overview of the PRWC AWS feasibility projects that have been funded through the District’s Cooperative Funding Initiative (CFI) and information concerning requests for FY2021 and FY2022 CFI funding for the Southeast Wellfield projects. She stated
that the FY2022 funding requests are ranked low due to PRWC members inability to secure funding commitments and to define the project scopes.

Mr. Chris Tumminia, Deputy General Counsel, provided background regarding the development of uniform water use permitting rules in the central Florida area and the rule challenges that were filed.

Mr. Tumminia stated that a tentative settlement agreement has been decided and he outlined the process of finalizing the settlement. Once the settlement is finalized, he explained the legislature will have to ratify the proposed rules. An update will be presented at the May Governing Board meeting.

Chair Rice indicated a request to speak card was submitted.

Mr. Stephen James, representing the Polk Regional Water Cooperative (PRWC), spoke in favor of the proposed settlement. And expressed appreciation to the District.

Vice Chair Schleicher asked that a presentation be provided once the settlement is finalized, outlining the changes to the original agreement.

The initial staff recommendation was that the Board consider the Cooperative Funding Initiative commitments contained in Southwest Florida Water Management District Resolution No. 18-06, and any amendments thereto, and provide direction to District staff regarding any modification of previously committed funds.

Mr. Brian Armstrong, Executive Director, recommended the Board postpone authorizing any current or future funding for the PRWC until the following occurs: the settlement agreement is executed; final project definition and scopes of work are provided for the proposed projects; and an implementation agreement is executed that establishes a funding commitment from the municipalities for the proposed projects.

A motion was made and seconded to approve Mr. Armstrong’s recommendation. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio – 02:01:00)

8. COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS

8.1 Industrial Advisory Committee
A written summary of the February 9 meeting was provided.

8.2 Public Supply Advisory Committee
A written summary of the February 9 meeting was provided.

9. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

9.1 Executive Director’s Report
Mr. Armstrong, Executive Director, recognized the expertise and dedication provided by the Information Technology Bureau that continues to keep the District safe from cyberattacks.

10. CHAIR’S REPORT
10.1 **Chair's Report**
Chair Rice stated that the next Governing Board meeting is scheduled for April 27 at 9:00 a.m., in the Brooksville Office with the option to join remotely via Zoom.

The regional CFI meetings are as follows: The Northern Region is on April 7, the Southern Region is on April 8, the Heartland Region is on April 14, and the Tampa Region is on April 15.

10.2 **Employee Milestones**
Chair Rice recognized staff who reached at least 20 years of service with the District and thanked them for their service. The following staff were recognized: Ilka Chestnut and Mark Alford.

**ADJOURNMENT**
Chair Rice adjourned the meeting at 11:06 a.m.