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 April 27, 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**
Board Member Murphy 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. 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**
Mr. Brian Armstrong, Executive Director, stated there were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

1.4 **Public Input for Issues Not Listed on the Published Agenda**
Mr. David Ballard Geddis spoke against Senate Bill 1058.

2. **CONSENT AGENDA**

FINANCE, OUTREACH & PLANNING COMMITTEE

2.1 **Resolution No. 21-01 Commending Mark Taylor for His Service as a Member of the Southwest Florida Water Management District Governing Board**
Staff recommended the Board approve Resolution No. 21-01, Commending Mark Taylor for his Service as a Member of the Southwest Florida Water Management District Governing Board.

2.2 **Water Reuse Week Resolution**
Staff recommended the Board approve and execute Resolution No. 21-06 declaring May 16 - 22, 2021 as "Water Reuse Week."

2.3 **Authorization to Dispose of Equipment**
Staff recommended the Board approve the disposition of the Prentice forestry mulching machine (unit 2103) and Interstate trailer (unit 2056) through the auction process.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

2.4 **Approve Use of the Mill Creek Watershed Management Plan Floodplain Information to Update Flood Insurance Rate Maps in Manatee County (N619)**
Staff recommended the Board approve use of the Mill Creek Watershed Management Plan floodplain information to update Flood Insurance Rate Maps in Manatee County.

2.5 **FARMS – Turner Groves Citrus, LP, Phase 2, (H789), Highlands County**
Staff recommended the Board:
1. Approve the Turner Groves Citrus, LP, project for a not-to-exceed project reimbursement of $181,000 with $181,000 provided by the Governing Board.
2. Authorize the transfer of $181,000 from fund 010 H017 Governing Board FARMS Fund to the H789 Turner Groves Citrus, LP, project fund.
3. Authorize the Assistant Executive Director to sign the agreement.
2.6 **FARMS – Wauchula Road Duette, LLC, Phase 2, (H791), Manatee County**  
Staff recommended the Board:  
1. Approve the Wauchula Road Duette, LLC Phase 2 project for a not-to-exceed project reimbursement of $62,713 with $62,713 provided by the Governing Board.  
2. Authorize the transfer of $62,713 from fund 010 H017 Governing Board FARMS fund to the H791 Wauchula Road Duette, LLC Phase 2 project fund.  
3. Authorize the Division Director to sign the agreement.

2.7 **Recommend FY2022 Springs Projects for FDEP Funding Consideration**  
Staff recommended the Board approve the list of six springs projects for submittal to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

**OPERATIONS, LANDS & RESOURCE MONITORING COMMITTEE**

2.8 **Acceptance of a Sovereignty Submerged Lands Easement from the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund of the State of Florida required for Road and Culvert Repair at the Deer Prairie Creek, SWF Parcel No. 21-708-136X**  
Staff recommended the Board:  
1. Approve and accept the Sovereignty Submerged Lands Easement from the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund of the State of Florida; and  
2. Authorize the Governing Board Chair to execute the Easement on behalf of the District.

2.9 **Cypress Creek Cattle Lease, SWF Parcel No. 13-500-402X, Request for Offers (RFO) 21-04**  
Staff recommended the Board approve the award of the Cypress Creek Cattle Lease to Karli Properties LLC., and execute the lease on behalf of the District.

2.10 **Request from Hillsborough County to Rename Ekker Preserve to Jeanie and Pete Johnson Preserve**  
Staff recommended the Board approve renaming the Ekker Preserve to the Jeanie and Pete Johnson Preserve in support of Hillsborough County's request.

2.11 **First Amendment to Cooperative Agreement between Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Florida Forest Service and the Southwest Florida Water Management District**  
Staff recommended the Board:  
1. Approve the First Amendment to Cooperative Agreement between the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Florida Forest Service and the Southwest Florida Water Management District; and  
2. Authorize the Governing Board Chair to execute the amendment retroactive to April 26, 2021.

**REGULATION COMMITTEE**

2.12 **Water Use Permit No. 20011125.005, Swift Ranch Cattle Company / Maggard Manatee County, LLC (Manatee County)**  
Staff recommended the Board approve the proposed permit.

2.13 **Authorization to Issue Administrative Complaint and Order - Operation of a Surface Water Management System Without a Permit and Unauthorized Construction - South Florida Barbeque of Brandon, Inc. - Environmental Resource Permit No. 48012733.000 - CT Number 410967 - Hillsborough County**  
Staff recommended the Board:
1. Authorize District staff to issue and Administrative Complaint and Order to obtain compliance 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.

2.14 Approve Governing Board Minutes - March 23, 2021
Staff recommended the Board approve the minutes as submitted.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio - 00:08:30)

3. RECOGNITION OF FORMER GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS

3.1 Recognition of Former Governing Board Members H. Paul Senft, Jr., and Mark Taylor
Mr. H. Paul Senft was recognized for his term as a Governing Board member. District staff presented Resolution No. 20-16 and a plaque to commemorate his service. Mr. Senft was appointed by Governor Charlie Crist in March 2008 and served until August 2019.

Mr. Mark Taylor was recognized for his term as a Governing Board Member. District staff presented Resolution No. 21-01 and a plaque to commemorate his service. Mr. Taylor was appointed by Governing Rick Scott in August 2016 and served until August 2019.

4. FINANCE, OUTREACH AND PLANNING COMMITTEE
Treasurer Murphy called the Finance/Outreach & Planning Committee to order. (Audio-0:35:36)

4.1 Consent Item(s) Moved to Discussion - None

4.2 Fiscal Year 2019-20 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report
Mr. James Halleran, CPA, representing James Moore & Company, provided a presentation that outlined the results from an Independent Auditor’s Report. He stated the District received an unmodified opinion which provides high assurance from a Certified Public Accountant. Mr. Halleran outlined changes that occurred in the general fund, the Florida Forever Capital Project Fund, and other capital project funds. He provided an overview of the balances in the General Fund. He presented information regarding the pension accounts and Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB).

Staff recommended the Board accept and place on file the District's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, including a single audit pursuant to Chapter 10.550, Rules of the Auditor General, the Management Letter and the Independent Accountants' Report for fiscal year ended September 30, 2020.

A motion was made and seconded to approve staff’s recommendation. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio – 00:47:21)

4.3 Investment Strategy Quarterly Update
Mr. John Grady, representing Public Trust Advisors, provided a presentation that outlined an economic update which included information regarding the stimulus plans, vaccine distribution, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) update, Bloomberg economic forecast survey,
labor market information, manufacturing and service information, inflation impacts, economic expectations and portfolio strategy updates. Mr. Grady provided an overview of the District’s assets and portfolio holdings. Discussion ensued that involved examining long-term investment options for the District.

Staff recommended the Board accept and place on file the District's Quarterly Investment Reports for the quarter ending March 31, 2021.

A motion was made and seconded to approve staff’s recommendation. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio – 01:25:52)


Ms. Jennette Seachrist, Resource Management Director, provided a presentation that outlined an out-of-cycle Cooperative Funding Initiative (CFI) request. Ms. Seachrist stated this was the Hernando County District A, Phase 1a septic to sewer project WW09. She explained that Hernando County requested CFI funding for a larger version of this project which was appropriately submitted for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 funding and recommended by staff. However, it was not selected by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) for the State Springs appropriations and was not included in the FY2021 budget. The FDEP informed the District there was $3.5 million available in state funds from the River and Coastal Springshed appropriations for this project. Ms. Seachrist outlined the costs and benefits associated with this project.

Mr. John Campbell, Management Services Director, provided a presentation that outlined the proposed changes to the FY2021 budget for funds received from state appropriations. He stated $15.8 million in state funding was received and provided an overview of the five projects that will receive this funding.

Staff recommended the Board:

a. Approve to apply 2020 state appropriations for WSWRD and Springs Coast Watershed WQ Improvements to projects selected by DEP.

b. Approve the FY2021 out-of-cycle CFI request for the Hernando County District A, Phase 1a Septic to Sewer project (WW09).

c. Approve Resolution No. 21-03 First Amendment of the Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Service Budget for the inclusion of 2020 state appropriations, as well as District fund balance, for the selected projects in the amount of $16,200,000.

d. Approve Resolution No. 21-04 Request to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for Disbursement of Funds from the General Revenue Fund for Water Supply and Water Resource Development Project(s).

e. Approve the transfer of $3,375,000 from the PRWC Southeast Wellfield Implementation project (Q184) and $2,475,000 from the PRWC Regional Transmission Southeast, Phase 1 project (Q216) to board-committed Polk Partnership Reserves (H094), as a result of receiving 2020 state appropriations. The execution of this transfer contingent upon the PRWC meeting the requirements approved by the Governing Board on March 23, 2021.

A motion was made and seconded to approve staff’s recommendation. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio – 01:37:07)
4.5 **Water Conservation Month: District FY20 Conservation Efforts**
Ms. Robyn Felix, Communications and Board Services Bureau Chief, provided a presentation that outlined the District’s water conservation efforts. She provided an overview of information in the FY20 Water Conservation Summary Report. Ms. Felix presented information that included the four District cost-share programs and water savings associated with them. She provided an overview of the education and outreach programs the District offers. Ms. Felix explained the regulatory programs utilized by the District. Ms. Felix provided an overview of the research funding provided to the University of Florida/Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. This funding is utilized primarily for agricultural best management practices, which includes water conservation.

Staff recommended the Board approve and execute Resolution No. 21-05 declaring April 2021 as "Water Conservation Month.

**A motion was made and seconded to approve staff’s recommendation. The motion passed unanimously.** (Audio – 01:53:04)

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

4.7 **Office of Inspector General Quarterly Update January 1 to March 31, 2021**
This item was presented for information only. No action was required.

5. **RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**
Board Member Weightman called the Resource Management Committee to Order. (Audio – 01:54:05)

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

5.2 **FARMS – Budget Transfer for the Mini-FARMS Program**
Ms. Carole Estes, P.G., Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems (FARMS) Program Manager, provided a presentation that outlined the Mini-FARMS Program. She explained this is a cost-share reimbursement program that provides up to 75 percent of total project costs. Ms. Estes stated the program is limited to farms less than 100 acres that have been in operation for at least two years. She outlined the requirements for applicants and the associated best management practices. Ms. Estes presented information from 2005 to 2020 that included the number of projects, reimbursement information, and groundwater savings. She outlined information for FY2021 which included the amount of budgeted funds, number of projects approved, amount of estimated groundwater reduction, amount of cost per gallons saved, amount of District funding committed, and the number of applications received.

Staff recommended the Board authorize the transfer of $150,000 from fund 010 H017 Governing Board FARMS Fund to the H529 Mini-FARMS Program fund.

**A motion was made and seconded to approve staff’s recommendation. The motion passed unanimously.** (Audio – 02:18:35)
5.3 Alternative Water Supply Sources: Sea Water Desalination, Potable Reuse and Brackish Groundwater

Ms. Amanda Rice, Assistant Executive Director, provided a list of future large-scale alternative water supply projects as presented at the December 2020 Board workshop. This information included costs, projected gallons per day and a development timeline for each category. She introduced for expert speakers.

Mr. Joe Elarde, P.E., representing Jacobs Engineering Group, provided a presentation on the treatment of brackish water. He defined brackish water, the location of treatment plants in Florida, the process, constraints of treating it, expected costs, and challenges associated. Mr. Elarde responded to questions.

Mr. Troy Walker, representing Hazen, provided a presentation that outlined the types of potable reuse, location of plants, safety components, comparative costs, regulatory processes, and examples. Mr. Walker defined indirect and direct potable reuse methods. He provided a map of current and proposed reuse locations globally and in the United States. Mr. Walker explained the multiple steps used to provide safety and assurance and the two main treatment processes. He presented a comparison of the energy requirements associated with reuse methods. A graph was provided that outlined the recovery associated with the treatment systems. An overview was provided of the status of national potable reuse regulations. Mr. Walker presented examples of reuse in California, Virginia, and Florida.

Mr. Neil Callahan, representing WSP Global, provided a presentation concerning global use of seawater desalination (desal). He presented an overview of worldwide plants, the types of plants, plant capacities, cost factors, and constraints. He described desal in the middle east and outlined mega and large plants that are currently operating. Mr. Callahan provided an overview of the Israeli water supply and use of desal. He provided a chart outlining the number of desal plants in the United States and provided an overview of existing plants and proposed plants. Mr. Callahan outlined information used when considering desal as an option. Mr. Callahan responded to questions.

Mr. Ken Herd, P.E., representing Tampa Bay Water, provided a presentation regarding the Tampa Bay Water seawater desal plant. He provided a history of the desal plant, a diagram of the process, a historical timeline of plant production, and costs associated. Mr. Herd explained that although the plant is capable of 25 million gallons per day, 16 million gallons per day is a sustainable annual average. Mr. Herd presented a diagram with actual costs for water supply types operated by Tampa Bay Water. He provided a summary of the pros and cons of desal.

Mr. Herd responded to questions.

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

6. OPERATIONS, LANDS AND RESOURCE MONITORING

Board Member Bispham called the Operations, Lands and Resource Monitoring Committee to order. (Audio – 04:39:23)

6.1 Consent Item(s) Moved to Discussion - None
6.2 **Hydrologic Conditions Report**
Mr. Granville Kinsman, P.G., Hydrologic Data Manager, provided a presentation regarding hydrologic conditions. Mr. Kinsman stated that above-average rainfall in April stabilized the sharp declines from a very dry March. Overall, the dry season has been normal except for drier than normal conditions in the northern part of the District. Groundwater levels in the northern and central counties were in the normal range, while groundwater levels in the southern counties were in the above normal range. Northern lakes were in the below normal range, and Tampa Bay, Lake Wales and Polk Upland lakes remain in the normal range. The Hillsborough, Withlacoochee, Peace and Alafia Rivers were all in the normal range. Mr. Kinsman stated the City of Tampa, Bill Young and Peace River reservoirs are considered at healthy supply levels. The climate forecast anticipates an active hurricane season. La Niña conditions are diminishing, and rainfall is expected to be more abundant for the summer and fall months.

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

7. **REGULATION COMMITTEE**
Vice Chair Schleicher called the Regulation Committee to order. (Audio – 04:45:11)

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

7.2 **Denials Referred to the Governing Board**
None were presented.

8. **GENERAL COUNSEL’S REPORT**

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

Mr. Chris Tumminia, Deputy General Counsel, provided an update of an Administrative Hearing regarding a well driller violation. He stated that the Administrative Law Judge ruled in favor of the District in a case involving licensed well driller, William Going.

9. **Committee/Liaison Reports**

9.1 **Agricultural and Green Industry Advisory Committee**
A written summary of the March 9 meeting was provided.

10. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

10.1 **Executive Director’s Report**
Mr. Brian Armstrong, Executive Director, provided an update regarding the Polk Regional Water Cooperative (PRWC). He stated a settlement was negotiated and executed and the project scope is pending. Mr. Armstrong stated the PRWC has been coordinating with Polk County local governments for approval of the implementation agreement.

Mr. Armstrong informed the Board that a story regarding the Northern Tampa Bay Recovery was aired on CBS and its national affiliates, reaching over a million people.
11. CHAIR’S REPORT

11.1 Chair’s Report
Chair Rice stated the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 25 at 9:00 a.m., at the Tampa Office.

11.2 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 was recognized: Jim Desruisseaux.

Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 1:52 p.m.