



**GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2026 – 9:00 A.M.
2379 BROAD STREET, BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA 34604
(352) 796-7211**

Board Members Present

John Mitten, Chair
Jack Bispham, Vice Chair
John Hall, Treasurer
Michelle Williamson, Member
Kelly Rice, Member
Dustin Rowland, Member
James Holton, Member
Robert Stern, Member*
Nancy H. Watkins, Member
Josh Gamblin, Member
James Turner, Member

*Attended via Electronic Media

Board Member(s) Absent

Ashley Bell Barnett, Secretary
Brian Aungst, Jr., Member

Staff Members

Brian J. Armstrong, Executive Director
Amanda Rice, Assistant Executive Director
Chris Tumminia, General Counsel
Brian Werthmiller, Inspector General
Jennette Seachrist, Division Director
Michelle Hopkins, Division Director
Brian Starford, Division Director
Brandon Baldwin, Division Director
Michelle Weaver, Division Director

Board Administrative Support

Virginia Singer, Manager
Lori Manuel, Administrative Coordinator

1. Convene Public Meeting

The Governing Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) met for its regular meeting on April 28 at 9:00 a.m., in the Brooksville office at 2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, Florida 34604. This meeting was available for live viewing through internet streaming. An attendance roster is archived in the District's permanent records. Approved minutes from meetings can be found on the District's website at WaterMatters.org.

1.1 Call to Order

Chair John Mitten called the meeting to order. He noted that the Board meeting was being recorded for broadcast on government access channels, and public input would be provided in person. Chair Mitten stated that anyone wishing to address the Governing Board concerning any item listed on the agenda or any item that does not appear on the agenda should complete and submit a "Request to Speak" card. He 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. Chair Mitten also requested that several individuals requesting to speak on the same topic designate a

spokesperson. He introduced each member of the Governing Board and staff present at the dais (this served as roll call). A quorum was confirmed.

1.2 Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Board Member Michelle Williamson offered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.3 Employee Recognition

Chair Mitten recognized Jason LaRoche, Danielle Rogers, and David Arnold for their milestone years of service with the District.

1.4 Additions/Deletions to Agenda

Mr. Brian Armstrong, Executive Director, stated there was one addition to the Consent agenda:

General Counsel's Report

2.15 Approval of Emergency Order No. SWF 26-013 Declaration of Emergency Regarding Wildfire Risks

There was good cause to amend the published agenda as allowed by Section 120.525, Florida Statutes.

1.5 Public Input for Issues Not Listed on the Published Agenda

Mr. David Ballard Geddis, Jr., spoke regarding the management of water resources.

Mr. J. Hunter Leiro spoke in opposition to the approval of a Water Use Permit (WUP) for the proposed Stonebridge Artificial Intelligence (AI) data center in the city of Fort Meade.

Mr. Raul Alfonso spoke in opposition to the approval of a WUP for the proposed Stonebridge AI data center in the city of Fort Meade.

Board Member Nancy Watkins asked for confirmation that the Board would not be voting for the proposed WUP associated with the Stonebridge AI data center, during the meeting today. Chair Mitten confirmed that it was not on today's agenda.

Consent Agenda

Finance/Outreach and Planning Committee

2.1 Knowledge Management: Administrative Fees Governing Board Policy

Staff recommended the Board approve the proposed updates to the policy.

2.2 Knowledge Management: Records Management Governing Board Policy

Staff recommended the Board approve the proposed updates to the policy.

Resource Management Committee

2.3 FARMS – 597 Josh Road, LLC – H848 (Hardee County)

Staff recommended the Board:

1. Approve the 597 Josh Road, LLC project for a not-to-exceed project reimbursement of \$85,093 provided by the Governing Board;
2. Authorize the transfer of \$85,093 from fund 010 H017 Governing Board FARMS Fund to the 597 Josh Road, LLC project fund;
3. Authorize the Division Director to sign the agreement.

2.4 Sebring Watershed Management Plan Update Floodplain Information for Regulatory Use and to Update Flood Insurance Rate Maps – Q099 (Highlands County)

Staff recommended the Board approve use of the Sebring Watershed Management Plan Update floodplain information for best information available by the District ERP program and to update Flood Insurance Rate Maps in Highlands County.

2.5 Klosterman Bayou Watershed Management Plan Floodplain Information for Regulatory Use and to Update Flood Insurance Rate Maps – Q083 (Pinellas County)

Staff recommended the Board approve use of the Klosterman Bayou Watershed Management Plan Update floodplain information for best information available by the District ERP program and to update Flood Insurance Rate Maps in Pinellas County.

2.6 Final Sarasota Bay Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Plan – W601

Staff recommended the Board approve the Sarasota Bay SWIM Plan in accordance with Section 373.453, F.S.

2.7 Tampa Bay Estuary Program Third Amended and Restated Interlocal Agreement – W027

Staff recommended the Board approve the Tampa Bay Estuary Program Third Amended and Restated Interlocal Agreement.

Operations, Lands & Resource Monitoring Committee

2.8 Residential Security Lease Agreement for Kirkland Ranch – SWF Parcel No. 13-798-103X (Pasco County)

Staff recommended the Board:

- Approve the Residential Security Lease Agreement Between the Southwest Florida Water Management District and Lieutenant Balfour; and
- Authorize the Governing Board Chair to execute the Agreement on behalf of the District; and
- Authorize staff to make minor changes or corrections to conform documents or correct scrivener's errors; any substantive changes will be subject to Governing Board review and approval; and
- Authorize staff to execute any other documents necessary to complete the transaction in accordance with the approved terms.

2.9 Rockmine Road Timber Harvest Agreement (Sumter County)

Staff recommended the Board approve and execute the Rockmine Road Timber Harvest Agreement No. 2026LMREV002.

2.10 FDACS – SWFWMD Wildland Fire Cooperative Agreement

Staff recommended the Board:

- Approve the Cooperative Agreement between the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Florida Forest Service and the Southwest Florida Water Management District; and
- Authorize the Governing Board Chair to execute the Agreement.

Regulation Committee

2.11 Water Use Permit No. 20000660.011 – Farmland Reserve, Inc./Sun City Parcel (Hillsborough County)

Staff recommended the Board approve the proposed permit attached as an exhibit.

General Counsel's Report

2.12 Approval of First Amendment to Emergency Order No. SWF 26-004 – Declaration of Emergency Regarding the Lower and Middle Pools of the Tampa Bypass Canal (Hillsborough County)

Staff recommended the Board approve the First Amendment to Emergency Order No. SWF 26-004.

2.13 Approval of Emergency Order No. SWF 26-010 – Declaration of Emergency Regarding the Lower Hillsborough River Minimum Flows (Hillsborough County)

Staff recommended the Board approve Emergency Order No. SWF 26-010.

Executive Director's Report

2.14 Approve Governing Board Minutes – March 24, 2026

Staff recommended the Board approve the minutes as presented.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the amended Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously. (Audio – 00:17:52)

Finance/Outreach and Planning Committee

Treasurer John Hall called the committee to order.

3.1 Consent Item(s) Moved to Discussion - None

3.2 Investment Strategy Quarterly Update

Mr. John Grady, PTMA Financial Solutions, summarized the current economic forecast, which included Gross Domestic Product, inflation, consumer confidence, jobs/unemployment rates, labor force participation rate, consumer price index, interest rates and expectations. He provided an overview of the District's investment portfolios. Mr. Grady and Mr. Brandon Baldwin, Business and Information Technology Division Director, responded to questions.

Staff recommended the Board Accept and place on file the District's Quarterly Investment Reports for the quarter ended March 31, 2026.

A motion was made and seconded to approve staff's recommendation. The motion carried unanimously. (Audio – 00:45:10)

3.3 Budget Transfer Report

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

3.4 Office of Inspector General Quarterly Update – January 1, 2026 to March 31, 2026

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

Resource Management Committee

Board Member Dustin Rowland called the committee to order.

4.1 Consent Item(s) Moved to Discussion - None

4.2 Fiscal Year 2027 Cooperative Funding Initiative Update

Mr. Kevin Wills, Cooperative Funding Initiative Lead, presented the final staff evaluation scores and funding recommendations for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Cooperative Funding Initiative (CFI) projects. He summarized projects recommended for funding which included Board prioritized

Alternative Water Supply (AWS), and new projects.

Mr. Wills stated that two projects for the Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority, phases 2B and 3C, are absent from the list as the District's share was fully funded in previous fiscal years. These two projects, along with the five recommended Board Prioritized AWS Projects, will be submitted to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) for funding consideration as part of their AWS grant program.

Mr. Wills noted that seven new CFI projects are recommended with focus on conservation, Environmental restoration and flood protection in the Districts Northern, Tampa Bay and Southern Regions. Per the Board's direction at the December Workshop, FY27 is the final year for new non-prioritized CFI projects. Beginning in FY28, CFI funding will be limited to prioritized Alternative Water Supply, springs and District Initiative projects. This shift will be reflected in upcoming budget assumptions and reviewed and approved through the budget process each year.

Staff recommended the Board:

1. Approve staff recommendation to include FY2027 funding for the five AWS projects in the amount of \$65,270,437 in the District's FY2027 RASB.
2. Approve staff recommendation to include FY2027 and future funding of seven new CFI projects (Q438, Q440, Q456, W024, Q444, Q445 and Q447) in the amount of \$2,520,152 in the District's FY2027 RASB.

A motion was made and seconded to approve staff's recommendation. The motion carried unanimously. (Audio – 00:49:48)

Operations, Lands and Resource Monitoring Committee

Chair Mitten called the committee to order.

5.1 Consent Item(s) Moved to Discussion - None

5.2 Hydrologic Conditions Report

Ms. Tamera McBride, P.G., Hydrologic Data Manager, presented the Hydrologic Conditions report. Although some hydrologic indicators are experiencing short-term improvement from recent rainfall, Districtwide rainfall for March was below average, as was the 12-month rainfall total. Information was presented regarding rainfall, streamflow, groundwater levels, lake levels, public supply reservoirs and climate forecasts. She stated that stored water supplies are in use to offset dry conditions. The Climate Prediction Center's near-term climate forecast for May, June and July indicated chances of above-normal temperatures and precipitation. The National Weather Service anticipates dry conditions with below normal rainfall over the next few weeks. The wet season is anticipated to pick up in late May/early June. Staff responded to questions.

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

Regulation Committee

No items were presented.

6.1 Consent Item(s) Moved to Discussion - None

General Counsel's Report

7.1 Consent Item(s) Moved to Discussion - None

7.2 Affirm Governing Board Committee Actions

A motion was made and seconded to approve staff's recommendation. The motion carried unanimously. (Audio – 01:00:10)

Committee/Liaison Reports

8.1 Agricultural and Green Industry Advisory Committee

A written summary of the March 27 meeting was provided.

Executive Director's Report

9.1 Executive Director's Report

Mr. Brian Armstrong, Executive Director, recognized volunteer staff that received the Meals on Wheels Adopt-a-Route Partner of the Year award.

Mr. Armstrong recognized retiring staff member, Ann Kenny. Ms. Kenny is the accounting manager and has been an integral part of the District receiving positive reviews related to its Comprehensive Annual Financial Reporting.

Chair's Report

10.1 Chair's Report

Chair Mitten asked if the Board had any matters which they would like to present. Vice Chair Jack Bispham commented that recent drought conditions, while challenging, have demonstrated strength in the District's planning efforts.

Board Members asked how the District can protect end users as related to potential applications for a Water Use Permit (WUP) associated with proposed data centers. The proposed Stonebridge data center in the City of Fort Meade (City) was specifically addressed. Mr. Armstrong responded that issuance of a WUP for a proposed data center in this District must be approved by the Board. He stated the District has communicated this to the City. Mr. Armstrong stated that because the City currently has a WUP permit, any request would be considered a modification to the existing permit. He explained there are many factors to be considered before a permit modification can be issued. The District will remain open to any discussion with the City. Mr. Armstrong stated the Board will be kept apprised of this matter. Discussion ensued.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 19 at 9:00 a.m., at the Tampa office.

10.2 Employee Milestones

A written summary was provided.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:13 a.m.