GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 2026 – 9:00 A.M.
2379 BROAD STREET, BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA 34604
(352) 796-7211

Board Members Present
Jack Bispham, Chair
Ashley Bell Barnett, Vice Chair
John Hall, Secretary
Dustin Rowland, Treasurer*
Kelly Rice, Member*
Michelle Williamson, Member
John Mitten, Member
James Holton, Member*
Robert Stern, Member*
Nancy H. Watkins, Member
Josh Gamblin, Member
James Turner, Member*
Brian Aungst, Jr., Member

*Attended via Electronic Media

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 June 23 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

The meeting was called to order. It was announced that the Board meeting was being recorded for broadcast on government access channels, and public input would be provided in person. 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. Comments would be limited to three minutes per speaker, and when appropriate, exceptions to the three-minute limit may be granted by the Chair. It was suggested, if there are several individuals requesting to speak on the same topic a spokesperson may be designated. Each member of the Governing Board and staff present at the dais was introduced (this served as roll call). A quorum was confirmed.

1.2 Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance
Vice Chair Ashley Bell Barnett offered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.3 Employee Recognition
Chair Bispham recognized Chris Reed for his milestone years of service with the District.

1.4 Additions/Deletions to Agenda
Mr. Brian Armstrong, Executive Director, stated the following item was being moved from Consent to Discussion:

Resource Management Committee
2.4 FARMS – Longino Ranch, Inc. – Flint Farm – H839 (Sarasota County)

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 Maloney Water Code.

Mr. David Gore spoke regarding water supply sources related to the Lower Floridan aquifer.

Consent Agenda
Finance/Outreach and Planning Committee
2.1 Adopt Resolutions to Identify New Slate of Officers for Financial Documents
Staff recommended the Board:
1. Authorize the new slate of officers to apply their signatures to the required financial documents and;
2. Adopt Resolution No. 26-03 authorizing the signatures of the newly elected officers of the Governing Board of the District and the use of facsimile or manual signatures on all warrants or checks of the District and;
3. Adopt the Truist Resolution for Deposit Account document to identify the new slate of officers as authorized signers on existing accounts and give the officers the authority to give direction or confirmation to the Bank on all matters regarding the District's deposit accounts and;
4. Adopt the Corporate Resolution document to identify the new slate of officers as authorized signers on existing accounts and give the officers the authority to give direction or confirmation to the Bank on all matters regarding the District's custody accounts.

2.2 Governing Board Travel – Annual Environmental Permitting Summer School
Staff recommended the Board approve Governing Board travel as presented.

2.3 Independent Auditing Services Contract
Staff recommended the Board:
1. Exercise the renewal option within the current contract and approve the fifth and final amendment to the agreement engaging JMCO to perform the FY 2025-26 auditing services; and
2. Authorize the Executive Director or designee to execute the fifth amendment to the current contract with JMCO to perform the FY2025-26 auditing services.

Resource Management Committee
~~**2.4 FARMS – Longino Ranch, Inc. – Flint Farm – H839 (Sarasota County)**~~
~~Staff recommended the Board:~~
~~1. Approve the Longino Ranch, Inc. project for a not-to-exceed project reimbursement of $422,161 provided by the Governing Board;~~

2. ~~Authorize the transfer of $422,161 from fund 010 H017 Governing Board FARMS Fund to the H839 Longino Ranch, Inc. project fund;~~
3. ~~Authorize the Assistant Executive Director to sign the agreement.~~

2.5 FARMS – Seaboard Berry Farms, LLC – H850 (Hillsborough County)
Staff recommended the Board:
1. Approve the Seaboard Berry Farms, LLC project for a not-to-exceed project reimbursement of $46,038 provided by the Governing Board;
2. Authorize the transfer of $46,038 from fund 010 H017 Governing Board FARMS Fund to the H850 Seaboard Berry Farms, LLC project fund;
3. Authorize the Division Director to sign the agreement.

2.6 Hammock Creek Watershed Management Plan Floodplain Information for Regulatory Use and Insurance Rate Maps – Q013 (Pasco County)
Staff recommended the Board approve use of the Hammock Creek Watershed Management Plan floodplain information for best information available by the District ERP program and to update Flood Insurance Rate Maps in Pasco County.

2.7 SR 200 Watershed Management Plan Update Floodplain Information for Regulatory Use and to Update Flood Insurance Rate Maps – Q058 (Marion County)
Staff recommended the Board approve use of the SR 200 Watershed Management Plan Update floodplain information for best information available by the District ERP program and to update Flood Insurance Rate Maps in Marion County.

2.8 West Ocala Watershed Management Plan Update Floodplain Information for Regulatory Use and to Update Flood Insurance Rate Maps – Q207 (Marion County)
Staff recommended the Board approve use of the West Ocala Watershed Management Plan Update floodplain information for best information available by the District ERP program and to update Flood Insurance Rate Maps in Marion County.

2.9 Perpetual Easement – Punta Gorda Heights Hawthorn Data Collection Site – SWF Parcel No. 20-020-201 (Charlotte County)
Staff recommended the Board:
- Approve the Perpetual Easement and authorize the Chair and Secretary to execute on behalf of the District; and
- Authorize Staff to execute any other documents necessary to complete the transaction in accordance with the approved terms.

Regulation Committee

2.10 Water Use Permit No. 20 021046.002 – Hillsborough County and Tampa Bay Water/Balm Farm (Hillsborough County)
Staff recommended the Board approve the proposed permit attached as an exhibit.

2.11 Water Use Permit No. 20 020500.002 – Dillard Cattle Company, LLC and Tampa Bay Water/Big Fish Lake Augmentation (Pasco County)
Staff recommended the Board approve the proposed permit attached as an exhibit.

2.12 Water Use Permit No. 20 008036.011 – Leffie M. Carlton Jr Family LLLP/Grange Hall Loop Berries (Hillsborough County)
Staff recommended the Board approve the proposed permit attached as an exhibit.

2.13 Approval of Coordination Agreement Between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer (Jacksonville District) and the Southwest Florida Water Management District – State Programmatic General Permit VI Addendum (SPGP-VI)
Staff recommended the Board approve the Coordination Agreement between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District and the District regarding the Corps' State Programmatic General Permit (SPGP VI).

General Counsel's Report

2.14 Approval of Second 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 Second Amendment to Emergency Order No. SWF 26-004.

2.15 Approval of First Amendment to Emergency Order No. SWF 26-006 – Declaration of Emergency Regarding the Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority's Use of the Peace River (DeSoto County)
Staff recommended the Board approve First Amendment to Emergency Order No. SWF 26-006.

2.16 Approval of First Amendment to Emergency Order No. SWF 26-007 – Declaration of Emergency Regarding the City of Punta Gorda's Use of Shell Creek (Charlotte County)
Staff recommended the Board approve First Amendment to Emergency Order No. SWF 26-007.

2.17 Approve Governing Board Minutes – May 19, 2026
Staff recommended the Board approve minutes as presented.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the amended Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously. (Audio – 00:15:07)

Discussion

Finance/Outreach and Planning Committee

Chair Jack Bispham called the committee to order.

3.1 Consent Item(s) Moved to Discussion – None

3.2 Recommended Annual Service Budget for Fiscal Year 2027
Mr. Brandon Baldwin, Business and Information Technology Services Director, presented a timeline for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Recommended Annual Service Budget (RASB) development cycle. He stated that budget development goals for operating expenditures are equal to 75 percent of ad valorem. This is below the District's goal requiring expenditures be no more than 80 percent. Mr. Baldwin provided information outlining sources of funding and expenditures by categories, programs and areas of responsibility for the proposed budget. Mr. Baldwin stated the proposed FY2027 Districtwide budget amount is $250 million. He explained it is a decrease of 2.4 percent from FY2026.

Ms. Jennette Seachrist, Resource Management Division Director, provided an overview of the proposed FY2027 division budget. She stated the proposed budget is approximately $128.2 million, which is a decrease of approximately 12 percent from FY2026.

Mr. Brian Starford, Operations, Lands & Resource Monitoring Division Director, provided an overview of the proposed FY2027 division budget. He stated the proposed budget is $51 million, which is an increase of $4.2 million compared to the current fiscal year.

Ms. Michelle Hopkins, Regulation Management Division Director, provided an overview of the proposed FY2027 division budget. She stated the proposed budget is approximately $18.6 million, which is an increase of approximately 2.2 percent from FY2026.

Ms. Michelle Weaver, Employee, Outreach and General Services Division Director, provided an overview of the proposed FY2027 division budget. She stated the proposed budget is approximately $23.7 million, which is an increase of approximately 24.9 percent from FY2026.

Mr. Brandon Baldwin, Business and Information Technology Services Director, provided an overview of the proposed FY2027 division budget. He stated the proposed budget is approximately $20.1 million, which is an increase of approximately 9.2 percent from FY2026.

Staff recommended the Board authorize staff to prepare the Tentative Budget Submission for FY2027 based on the proposed budget as presented, adjusted for any modifications made by the Governing Board on June 23, changes in estimated ad valorem revenue based on the July 1 certifications of taxable value, and any additional funding provided by the state.

A motion was made and seconded to approve staff's recommendation. The motion carried unanimously. (Audio – 01:46:10)

3.3 Knowledge Management: Governing Board Committee Responsibilities

Ms. Robyn Felix, Communications and Board Services Bureau Chief, provided background regarding the current Governing Board Committee Responsibilities policy and outlined the proposed changes. The final policy will be presented at the July meeting for Board approval.

This item was for the Board's information only. No action was required.

3.4 Budget Transfer Report

This item was for the Board's information only. No action was required.

Operations, Lands and Resource Monitoring Committee

Chair Jack Bispham called the committee to order.

4.1 Consent Item(s) Moved to Discussion – None

4.2 2026 Hurricane Season Preparedness

Mr. Tim Fallon, Emergency Coordinating Officer, presented the District's 2026 hurricane season preparedness activities. He provided an overview of the 2026 Atlantic Basin Hurricane Forecast. He presented an update of the 2024 storm season recovery efforts. Mr. Fallon outlined the primary responsibilities of the District during emergency operations. He stated that although water management districts are not first responders, they are members of the State Emergency Response Team (SERT). This authorizes the District to provide support to the Florida Department of Transportation and the Florida Environmental Protection. He outlined preparedness and recovery exercises completed by staff.

This item was for the Board's information only. No action was required.

Regulation Committee

Board Member Nancy Watkins 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. She stated that although the rainfall for May was above average, the Districtwide rainfall deficit is 11.4 inches below average. Information was presented regarding rainfall, streamflow, groundwater levels, lake levels, public supply reservoirs and climate forecasts. Ms. McBride stated that stored water supplies are in use to offset dry conditions. She summarized the Climate Prediction Center's near-term climate forecast for July, August and September as related to temperatures and precipitation. A current tropical outlook was presented.

Mr. David Gore spoke regarding the data and verbiage used in the Hydrologic Conditions report.

This item was for the Board's information only. No action was required.

5.3 Extend Modified Phase III Water Shortage Order SWF 25-015

Ms. April Breton, Water Use Permitting Bureau Chief, provided information that included an overview of the Districtwide hydrologic conditions and public supply storage. She presented a summary of the three extended emergency orders that were approved on the Consent agenda.

Staff recommended the Board:

- Approve the Third Modification to Water Shortage Order No. SWF 25-015.
- Authorize the Executive Director to enter an order rescinding Water Shortage Order No. SWF 25-015 prior to October 1, 2026, if necessary.

A motion was made and seconded to approve staff's recommendation. The motion carried unanimously. (Audio – 01:15:11)

Resource Management Committee

Vice Chair Ashley Bell Barnett called the committee to order.

6.1 Consent Item(s) Moved to Discussion

2.4 FARMS – Longino Ranch, Inc. – Flint Farm – H839 (Sarasota County)

Chair Bispham stated this item was moved to Discussion to allow him to recuse himself from voting

Staff recommended the Board:

1. Approve the Longino Ranch, Inc. project for a not-to-exceed project reimbursement of $422,161 provided by the Governing Board;
2. Authorize the transfer of $422,161 from fund 010 H017 Governing Board FARMS Fund to the H839 Longino Ranch, Inc. project fund;
3. Authorize the Assistant Executive Director to sign the agreement.

A motion was made and seconded to approve staff's recommendation. The motion carried with 12 members voting in favor and one abstaining. (Audio – 01:16:20)

General Counsel's Report

7.1 Consent Item(s) Moved to Discussion - None

7.2 Consideration of Orders Denying Petitions to Initiate Rulemaking – Aja Moore, Vaughn E. Hoehn, and Lisa Hoehn – Rules 40D-2 and 40D-21, Florida Administrative Code (Hernando County)

Mr. Andrew Thornquest, Assistant General Counsel, explained the statutory requirements associated with filing a petition for rulemaking. He provided an overview of the three petitions that were submitted. Mr. Thornquest explained the process to initiate rulemaking and the basis for denial of the petitions.

Ms. Aja Moore spoke regarding the denial of the petitions.

Vice Chair Barnett asked for examples when water use permits may be issued during declared droughts. Mr. Chris Tumminia, General Counsel, responded that examples would include agricultural and public supply. He explained that a period of drought does not necessarily impact the demand for water.

Staff recommended the Board approve the Orders Denying Petitions to Initiate Rulemaking.

A motion was made and seconded to approve staff's recommendation. The motion carried unanimously. (Audio – 01:33:00)

7.3 Affirm Governing Board Committee Actions
A motion was made and seconded to approve staff's recommendation. The motion carried unanimously. (Audio – 01:33:51)

Committee/Liaison Reports
8.1 Industrial, Commercial & Institutional Advisory Committee
A written summary was provided.

8.2 Public Supply Advisory Committee
A written summary was provided.

Executive Director's Report
9.1 Executive Director's Report
Mr. Brian Armstrong, Executive Director, recognized that this was the last meeting for Ms. Jennette Seachrist, who is retiring.

Mr. Armstrong wished everyone a Happy Fourth of July.

10.1 Chair's Report
Chair Bispham acknowledged Ms. Jennette Seachrist and her tenure.

Chair Bispham asked if the Board had any matters which they would like to discuss at the next meeting. None were presented.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 28 at 9:00 a.m., at the Tampa office.

10.2 Employee Milestones
A written summary was provided.

Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 10:39 a.m.