



**GOVERNING BOARD MEETING  
TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 2024 – 9:00 AM  
2379 BROAD STREET, BROOKSVILLE, FL 34604  
(352) 796-7211**

**MINUTES**

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Board Members Present

Michelle Williamson, Chair  
John Mitten, Vice Chair  
Jack Bispham, Secretary  
Ashley Bell Barnett, Treasurer  
Ed Armstrong, Member\*  
Kelly Rice, Member  
John Hall, Member\*  
Dustin Rowland, Member  
James Holton, Member\*  
Robert Stern, Member  
Nancy H. Watkins, Member

\*Attended via electronic media

Board Members Absent

Joel Schleicher, 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 at 9:00 a.m., June 25, 2024, at the Brooksville Office, 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](http://WaterMatters.org).

**1.1 Call to Order**

Chair Michelle Williamson called the meeting to order. She noted that the Board meeting was being recorded for broadcast on government access channels, and public input would be provided in person. Chair Williamson 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. She 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 Williamson also requested that several individuals wishing to speak on the same topic designate a spokesperson. She 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**

Vice Chair John Mitten offered the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

**1.3 Employee Recognition**

Chair Williamson recognized Mr. Xinjian Chen for 30 years of service.

**1.4 Additions/Deletions to Agenda**

Mr. Brian Armstrong, Executive Director, stated there were no additions or deletions to the agenda

**1.5 Public Input for Issues Not Listed on the Published Agenda**

Mr. David Ballard Geddis spoke regarding overdevelopment of agricultural land.

**Consent Agenda**

**Finance/Outreach and Planning Committee**

**2.1 Governing Board Travel - Annual Environmental Permitting Summer School**

Staff recommended the Board approve travel as presented.

**2.2 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. 24-03 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 Truist 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.

**2.3 Independent Auditing Services Contract**

Staff recommended the Board:

1. Exercise the renewal option within the current contract and approve the second amendment to the agreement engaging JMCO to perform the fiscal year 2023-24 auditing services; and
2. Authorize the Executive Director or designee to execute the second amendment to the current contract with JMCO to perform the fiscal year 2023-24 auditing services.

**Resource Management Committee**

**2.4 Approve Springs SWIM Plan Refinements**

Staff recommended the Board approve the Weeki Wachee River, Chassahowitzka River, Homosassa River, Crystal River/Kings Bay, and Rainbow River SWIM Plan refinements in accordance with Section 373.453, F.S.

**2.5 Approve the Brooker Creek Watershed Management Plan Floodplain Information for Regulatory Use and to Update Flood Insurance Rate Maps in Pinellas County (Q034)**

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

**2.6 Approve the North Citrus Withlacoochee River Watershed Management Plan Floodplain Information for Regulatory Use and to Update Flood Insurance Rate Maps in Citrus County (N891)**

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

**2.7 FARMS – Farm Road Port Charlotte FL, LLC Phase 2 (H824) Charlotte County**

Staff recommended the Board:

1. Approve the Farm Road Port Charlotte FL, LLC Phase 2 project for a not-to-exceed project reimbursement of \$554,200 provided by the Governing Board;
2. Authorize the transfer of \$554,200 from fund 010 H017 Governing Board FARMS Fund to the H824 Farm Road Port Charlotte FL, LLC Phase 2 project fund;
3. Authorize the Assistant Executive Director to sign the agreement.

**Operations, Lands and Resource Monitoring Committee**

**2.8 Perpetual Easement Lake Bonnie CFWI Well Site, SWF Parcel No. 20-020-142**

Staff recommended the Board:

- Approve the easement on behalf of the District; and
- Authorize Staff to execute any other documents necessary to complete the transaction in accordance with the approved terms.

**2.9 Perpetual Easement North Lake Wales CFWI Well Site, SWF Parcel No. 20-020-145**

Staff recommended the Board:

- Approve the easement 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 005599.012, Merced and Deyanira Chavez / Chavez Farm (Manatee County)**

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

**2.11 Consider Modification of Water Shortage Order No. SWF 23-041**

Staff recommended the Board approve the Second Modification to Water Shortage Order No. SWF 23-041 attached as an exhibit.

**General Counsel's Report**

**2.12 Authorization to Issue Administrative Complaint and Order – Permit Condition Violations; Failure to Complete Corrective Construction – Hunsader Farms, Inc. – Environmental Resource Permit No. 43012840.001 – Manatee County**

Staff recommended the Board:

1. Authorize District staff to issue an Administrative Complaint and Order to Hunsader Farms, Inc., and any other necessary party, to obtain compliance, to recover an administrative fine/civil penalty, and to recover District costs and attorney's fees, if appropriate.
2. Authorize District staff to pursue additional enforcement measures to obtain compliance with the terms and conditions of the Administrative Complaint and Order, including filing any appropriate actions in circuit court, if necessary.

**Executive Director's Report**

**2.13 Approve Governing Board Minutes – May 21, 2024**

Staff recommended the Board approve minutes as presented.

**A motion was made and seconded to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously. (Audio – 00:10:43)**

## **Discussion**

### **Finance/Outreach and Planning Committee**

Treasurer Ashley Bell Barnett called the committee to order.

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

#### **3.2 Fiscal Year 2025 Recommended Annual Service Budget**

Mr. Brandon Baldwin, Business and IT Services Director, provided an overview of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Recommended Annual Service Budget (RASB) development cycle timeline. He presented a budget development goal history from FY2021 through FY2025, and a comparison of funding sources and expenditures by category for FY2024 adopted to FY2025 proposed. Mr. Baldwin provided an overview of the Districtwide budget that explained increases and decreases in funding sources and expenditures by category.

Ms. Jennette Seachrist, Resource Management Division Director, provided an overview of the proposed FY2025 division budget. She stated the proposed FY2025 budget is approximately \$121.5 million dollars which is an approximate decrease of 0.3 percent from FY2024. Ms. Seachrist explained the increases and decreases in expenditures.

Mr. Brian Starford, Operations, Lands and Resource Monitoring Division Director, provided an overview of the proposed FY2025 division budget. He stated the proposed FY2025 budget is approximately \$50 million which is an increase of about \$6.2 million from FY2024. Mr. Starford explained the increases and decreases in expenditures.

Ms. Michelle Hopkins, Regulation Division Director, provided an overview of the proposed FY2025 division budget. She stated the proposed budget is approximately \$16.9 million which is an approximate increase of 3.3 percent. Ms. Hopkins explained the increases in expenditures.

Ms. Michelle Weaver, Employee, Outreach and General Services Division Director, provided an overview of the proposed FY2025 division budget. She stated the proposed budget is approximately \$17.3 million which is an approximate decrease of 2.1 percent. Ms. Weaver explained increases and decreases in expenditures.

Mr. Baldwin stated that the Finance, Procurement, and Information Technology bureaus comprise the Business and IT Services Division. He provided an overview of the proposed FY2025 division budget. Mr. Baldwin stated the proposed budget is approximately \$17.4 million which is an approximate increase of 1.5 percent. He explained the increases in expenditures.

Mr. Baldwin provided a summary of District expenditures by programs and Areas of Responsibility (AOR).

Staff recommended the Board authorize staff to prepare the Tentative Budget Submission for FY2025 based on the recommended budget as presented, adjusted for any modifications made by the Governing Board on June 25, changes in estimated ad valorem revenue based on the July 1 certifications of taxable value, any additional funding provided by the state, and changes recommended by staff.

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

#### **3.3 Budget Transfer Report**

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**

### **Operations, Lands and Resource Monitoring Committee**

Board Member Robert Stern 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 update. She stated the 12-month rainfall total is in the below normal range. Ms. McBride stated the probability of transition to La Niña increases through the summer, which could increase the chance of hurricanes. She stated an extremely active Atlantic hurricane season has been predicted.

Ms. McBride provided information regarding rainfall, streamflow, groundwater levels, lake levels, public supply reservoirs and climate forecasts. She stated the near-term climate forecast indicates above normal temperatures and precipitation.

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

#### **5.3 Offer for Surplus Lands - Annettliga Hammock (AH-2), SWF Parcel No. 15-228-1664S**

Mr. Mike Singer, Real Estate Services Manager, presented information that included background information, an area map and the offer amount.

Staff recommended the Board:

- Accept the offer and authorize the Executive Director to sign the Contract for Sale and Purchase; 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 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 – 01:00:47)

#### **5.4 Offer for Surplus Lands - Lake Hancock (MHR-1), SWF Parcel No. 20-503-262S**

Ms. Ellen Morrison, Land Resources Bureau Chief, presented information that included background information, an area map and the offer amount.

Staff recommended the Board:

- Accept the offer of \$2,262,000;
- Approve the Contract for Sale and Purchase and authorize the Executive Director to sign on the behalf of the District;
- Authorize the Chairman and Secretary of the Governing Board to execute the Quit Claim Deed;
- 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;
- 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 – 01:04:00)

### **Regulation Committee**

Chair Michelle Williamson called the Committee to order.

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

#### **6.2 Denials Referred to the Governing Board**

None were presented.

### **General Counsel's Report**

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

#### **7.2 Affirm Governing Board Committee Actions**

Staff recommended the Board affirm the actions taken by the Governing Board Committees.

**A motion was made and seconded to approve staff's recommendation. The motion passed unanimously.** (Audio – 01:05:20)

### **Committee/Liaison Reports**

#### **8.1 Industrial Advisory Committee**

A written summary of the May 10 field trip was provided.

#### **8.2 Public Supply Advisory Committee**

A written summary of the May 10 field trip was provided.

### **Executive Director's Report**

#### **9.1 Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Brian Armstrong, Executive Director, commended staff for their efforts in development of the FY2025 RASB.

### **Chair's Report**

#### **10.1 Chair's Report**

Vice Chair John Mitten commended staff and recognized the allotment of time and effort related to the FY2025 RASB. Chair Williamson reaffirmed this sentiment.

Chair Williamson stated the next meeting is scheduled for July 23 at 9:00 a.m., in the Tampa office.

#### **10.2 Employee Milestones**

A written summary was provided.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:08 a.m.