GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2026 – 9:00 A.M.
7601 U.S. HIGHWAY 301 NORTH, TAMPA, FLORIDA 33637
(813) 985-7481

<u>Board Members Present</u>
Jack Bispham, Chair
Ashley Bell Barnett, Vice Chair
John Hall, Secretary*
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

<u>Board Members Absent</u>
Dustin Rowland, Treasurer

<u>Staff Members</u>
Brian J. Armstrong, Executive Director
Amanda Rice, Assistant Executive Director
Chris Tumminia, General Counsel
Brian Werthmiller, Inspector General
Michelle Hopkins, Division Director
Brian Starford, Division Director
Brandon Baldwin, Division Director
Michelle Weaver, Division Director
Randy Smith, Division Director

<u>Board Administrative Support</u>
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 July 28 at 9:00 a.m., in the Tampa office at 7601 U.S. Highway 301 North, Florida 33637. 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

Board Member Robert Stern offered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.3 Employee Recognition

Chair Bispham recognized Dave Testerman and Michelle Hopkins for their milestone years of service with the District. Mr. Brian Armstrong, Executive Director, recognized Dave Testerman's upcoming retirement.

1.4 Additions/Deletions to Agenda

Mr. Brian Armstrong, Executive Director, stated the following agenda items were being moved from Consent to Discussion:

General Counsel's Report

2.5 Partial Release of Easement – SWF Parcel No. 19-528-103P and 19-528-104 (Sumter County)

2.6 Approval of Consent Order – Water Use Permit Violations; Permit Condition Violations – Taylor Woodrow Communities at Artisan Lakes, LLC, BTR at Artisan Lakes, LLC, and Artisan Lakes Community Development District – Water Use Permit Nos. 20003744.012 & 20003744.013 (Manatee 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 non-ad valorem levies.

Mr. Joe Obusek spoke regarding levels associated with Lake Carroll.

Mr. Randy Smith, Resource Management Division Director, stated that staff have been in contact with the residents of Lake Carroll and will continue to communicate. He responded to questions.

Consent Agenda

Finance/Outreach and Planning Committee

2.1 Knowledge Management: Governing Board Committee Responsibilities Policy

Staff recommended the Board approve the proposed changes to the Policy.

Operations, Lands & Resource Monitoring Committee

2.2 Perpetual Easement – ROMP TR 10-3 Camden Field Data Collection Site – SWF Parcel No. 11-020-043 (Hillsborough County)

Staff recommended the Board:

- Approve the Perpetual Easement and the Temporary Construction Easement Agreement and authorize the Chair and Secretary to sign on behalf of the District.
- Authorize staff to execute any other documents necessary to complete the transaction in accordance with approved terms.

2.3 Third Amendment to Lease Agreement for Management and Use of the Jeanie and Pete Johnson Preserve – Hillsborough County – SWF Parcel No. 11-728-105X (Hillsborough County)

Staff recommended the Board:

- Approve the Third Amendment to Lease Agreement and authorize the Chair and Secretary to execute on behalf of the District; and

- Authorize staff to execute any other documents necessary to finalize the amendment to lease agreement in accordance with the approved terms.

2.4 Budget Transfer Request for Additional Overtime in Support of Field Operations
Staff recommended the Board Approve the budget transfer of $40,000 from salaries for the Water Supply Section of the Water Supply Bureau to the Field Operations Section of the Operations Bureau or overtime expenses to support the rehabilitation of the Wysong-Coogler Dam.

General Counsel's Report
~~**2.5 Partial Release of Easement – SWF Parcel No. 19-528-103P and 19-528-104 (Sumter County)**~~
~~Staff recommended the Board approve, accept, and execute the attached Partial Release of Easement and Quit Claim Deed.~~

~~**2.6 Approval of Consent Order – Water Use Permit Violations; Permit Condition Violations – Taylor Woodrow Communities at Artisan Lakes, LLC, BTR at Artisan Lakes, LLC, and Artisan Lakes Community Development District – Water Use Permit Nos. 20003744.012 & 20003744.013 (Manatee County)**~~
~~Staff recommended the Board:~~
1. ~~Approve the Consent Order.~~
2. ~~Authorize District staff to pursue additional enforcement measures against any necessary party to obtain compliance with the terms and conditions of the Consent Order, including filing any appropriate actions in circuit court, if necessary.~~

Executive Director's Report
2.7 Approve Governing Board Minutes – June 23, 2026
Approve minutes as presented.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the amended Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously. (Audio – 00:17:42)

Discussion
Finance/Outreach & Planning Committee
Chair Bispham 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, gasoline prices, consumer confidence, jobs/unemployment rates, labor force participation rate, consumer price index, interest rates and expectations. He presented an overview of the District's investment portfolios.

Staff recommended the Board accept and place on file the District's Quarterly Investment Reports for the quarter ended June 30, 2026.

A motion was made and seconded to approve staff's recommendation. The motion carried unanimously. (Audio – 00:35:51)

3.3 Proposed Millage Rate and Tentative Budget Update for Fiscal Year 2027
Mr. Brandon Baldwin, Business and Information Technology Services Director, provided an overview of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 budget development calendar. He presented metrics for the budget development goal, proposed millage rate, sources of funds, and expenditures by category. Mr. Baldwin stated there were no changes to the proposed budget since the June meeting.

Mr. Baldwin stated the total for the proposed FY27 budget amount is $250 million. He responded to questions.

Staff recommended the Board:
1. Approve Resolution No. 26-04, *Adoption of Proposed Millage Rate for Fiscal Year 2027.*
2. Approve the budget changes presented, adjusted for any modifications made by the Governing Board on July 28 and authorize staff to submit the *Tentative Budget Submission* for FY2027.

A motion was made and seconded to approve staff's recommendation. The motion carried unanimously. (Audio – 00:40:12)

3.4 Office of Inspector General Quarterly Update – April 1, 2026 to June 30, 2026
This was for information only. No action was required.

3.5 Budget Transfer Report
This was for information only. No action was required.

Operations, Lands & Resource Monitoring Committee
Board Member James Holton called the committee to order.

4.1 Consent Item(s) Moved to Discussion - None

4.2 Knowledge Management – Land Management Governing Board Policy
Mr. Allen Milligan, Land Resources Project Manager, provided background regarding the current Land Management policy and outlined the proposed changes. The final policy will be on the Consent agenda at the August meeting for approval.

This was for information only. No action was required.

4.3 Hydrologic Conditions Report
Ms. Tamera McBride, P.G., Hydrologic Data Manager, presented the Hydrologic Conditions report. She stated that rainfall for June was below average and the Districtwide 12-month rainfall total also remained in a deficit. Information was presented regarding rainfall, streamflow, groundwater levels, lake levels, public supply reservoirs and climate forecasts. Ms. McBride stated that stored water supplies remain in use to offset dry conditions. She summarized the Climate Prediction Center's near-term climate forecast for August, September and October as related to temperatures and precipitation. A current tropical outlook was presented.

This was for information only. No action was required.

4.4 Offer for Surplus Lands – Green Swamp East SWF 10-200-1314S (GSE-8) (Polk County)
Ms. Ellen Morrison, Land Resources Bureau Chief, provided a presentation which included historical information, a description of the property, and the offer amount.
Staff recommended the Board:
- Accept the offer of $23,000;
- Approve the Contract for Sale and Purchase and authorize the Executive Director to sign on 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 carried

unanimously. (Audio – 00:56:27)

4.5 <u>Offer for Surplus Lands – Lake Hancock (LH-1), SWF Parcel No. 20-503-251S (Polk County)</u>
Ms. Ellen Morrison, Land Resources Bureau Chief, provided a presentation which included historical information, a description of the property, and the offer amount.

Staff recommended the Board:
- Accept the offer of $7,100,000;
- 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 carried unanimously. (Audio – 00:59:44)

Mr. Brian Starford recognized staff's management of District lands consistent with Board approved management plans.

4.6 <u>Fiscal Year 2026 Land Management Review Summary</u>
This was for information only. No action was required.

5. Resource Management Committee
No Items were presented.

6. Regulation Committee
No Items were presented.

General Counsel
7.1 <u>Consent Item(s) Moved to Discussion</u>

2.5 <u>Partial Release of Easement – SWF Parcel No. 19-528-103P and 19-528-104 (Sumter County)</u>
Mr. Chris Tumminia, General Counsel, provided the Board with a history and a description of the easement. He presented a summary of negotiations that occurred with the property owner and outlined considerations that assisted in determining what would be in the District's best interest. Mr. Tumminia responded to questions.

Staff recommended the Board approve, accept, and execute the attached Partial Release of Easement and Quit Claim Deed.

A motion was made and seconded to approve staff's recommendation. The motion carried unanimously. (Audio – 01:04:27)

2.6 <u>Approval of Consent Order – Water Use Permit Violations; Permit Condition Violations – Taylor Woodrow Communities at Artisan Lakes, LLC, BTR at Artisan Lakes, LLC, and Artisan Lakes Community Development District – Water Use Permit Nos. 20003744.012 & 20003744.013 (Manatee County)</u>
Mr. Chris Tumminia, General Counsel, stated this item was moved to Discussion due to a conflict of interest for Board Member James Turner. Board Member Turner stated his conflict and recused himself from voting.

Staff recommended the Board:

1. Approve the Consent Order.
2. Authorize District staff to pursue additional enforcement measures against any necessary party to obtain compliance with the terms and conditions of the Consent Order, including filing any appropriate actions in circuit court, if necessary.

A motion was made and seconded to approve staff's recommendation. The motion carried unanimously. (Audio – 01:05:30)

7.2 <u>Affirm Governing Board Committee Actions</u>
A motion was made and seconded to approve staff's recommendation. The motion carried unanimously. (Audio – 01:06:05)

Committee/Liaison Reports

8.1 <u>Agricultural & Green Industry Advisory Committee</u>
A written summary of the June 9 meeting was provided.

Executive Director's Report

9.1 <u>Executive Director's Report</u>
Mr. Brian Armstrong, Executive Director, recognized Randy Smith as the new Resource Management Division Director.

Mr. Armstrong recognized the Information Technology Bureau for a Technology Achievement Award that was received at the Florida Local Government Information Systems Association (FLGISA) Annual Conference. This statewide association represents technology leaders across local government agencies, recognizing innovation, leadership, and excellence in public/sector. The District was recognized specifically for the innovative use of technology to service and improve the internal operations of the District.

Mr. Armstrong recognized the Operations staff for their exceptional work on Wysong-Coogler dam repairs. He stated that by utilizing staff and approving overtime at a cost of $40,000, the District saved taxpayers approximately $370,000 associated with hiring a contractor.

Chair's Report

10.1 <u>Chair's Report</u>
Chair Bispham acknowledged the Florida Environmental Permitting Summer School that he and other Board Members had recently attended. He recognized the presentations made by District staff that contributed to the success of the event.

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, August 25 at 9:00 a.m., in the Brooksville office.

10.2 <u>Employee Milestones</u>
A written summary was provided.

<u>Adjournment</u>
The meeting adjourned at 10:12 a.m.