



**GOVERNING BOARD MEETING**  
**TUESDAY, AUGUST 24, 2021 – 9:00 A.M.**  
**2379 BROAD STREET, BROOKSVILLE, FL 34604**  
**(352) 796-7211**

**MINUTES**

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**Board Members Present**

Kelly Rice, Chair\* via Zoom  
Joel Schleicher, Vice Chair  
Rebecca Smith, Ph.D., Secretary  
Ed Armstrong, Treasurer\*via Zoom  
Michelle Williamson, Member  
Jack Bispham, Member  
Seth Weightman, Member\*via Zoom  
John Mitten, Member  
John E. Hall, Member  
William Hogarth, Member \*via Zoom  
Ashley Bell Barnett, Member

**Board Members Absent**

Roger Germann, Member

**Staff Members**

Brian J. Armstrong, Executive Director  
Amanda Rice, Assistant Executive Director  
Chris Tumminia, General Counsel  
Brian Werthmiller, Inspector General  
John Campbell, Division Director  
Brian Starford, Division Director  
Michael Molligan, Division Director  
Jennette Seachrist, Division Director  
Michelle Hopkins, Division Director

**Board Administrative Support**

Virginia Singer, Board & Executive Services 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., August 24, 2021, at the Brooksville Office, 2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899.

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 ([www.WaterMatters.org](http://www.WaterMatters.org)).

**1.1 Call to Order**

Vice Chair Joel Schleicher 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. Vice Chair Schleicher 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. To assure that all participants have an opportunity to speak, a member of the public may submit a Request to Speak card to comment on agenda items only during the meeting. If someone wishes to address the Board on an issue not on the agenda, a Request to Speak card may be submitted for comment during "Public Input." Vice Chair Schleicher 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 topic designate a spokesperson.

Vice Chair Schleicher introduced each member of the Governing Board and staff (this served as roll call). A quorum was confirmed.

**1.2 Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

Board Member Ashley Barnett offered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**1.3 Employee Recognition**

Vice Chair Schleicher recognized employees who have reached at least 20 years of service. Mr. Steven Blaschka was recognized.

**1.4 Additions/Deletions to Agenda**

Mr. Brian Armstrong, Executive Director, stated the following item was deleted from the agenda:

**Discussion**

**Resource Management Committee**

**4.3 City of Venice Reclaimed Water Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) – Third-Party Review (Q050)**

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

Mr. Dan Hilliard, representing W.A.R., Inc., spoke regarding the lower Withlacoochee environmental assessment.

Mr. David Ballard Geddes, Jr., spoke against the use of reclaimed water.

**Vice Chair Schleicher stated there was good cause to amend the agenda as allowed by Section 120.525, Florida Statutes. (Audio – 00:08:58)**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Finance/Outreach & Planning Committee**

**2.1 Approval of Recommended Changes to the District's Investment Strategy**

Staff recommended the Board approve and accept the following recommended changes to the District's Investment Strategy:

- Eliminate the Enhanced Cash strategy (average maturity 1 year) and reinvest these funds into a 1–5-year portfolio strategy with a duration of 2.5 years. \$109 million (20%) of \$542 million total invested funds.
- Implement a reinvestment strategy in the 1–3-year portfolio with a current duration of approximately 2.1 years to the longer-term target duration of 1.8 years. \$315 million (58%) of \$542 million total invested funds.
- Return to active management with total return performance for the 1-3- and 1-5-year portfolio strategies on October 1.
- Maintain appropriate levels within liquidity investments for operations and other short-term expenditures. \$118 million (22%) of \$542 million total invested funds.

There are no required modifications needed to the Investment Policy to implement the recommended changes in strategy.

**2.2 Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Board Designated Encumbrance Request**

Staff recommended the Board approve the encumbrance of \$1.0 million from the FY2021 Salary appropriation to carry forward into FY2022 for staff performance-based salary increases.

**2.3 Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Follow-Up Audit**

Staff recommended the Board approve the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Follow-Up Audit.

## **Resource Management Committee**

### **2.4 FARMS – Symons Grove, LLC Phase 2 (H795), DeSoto County**

Staff recommended the Board:

1. Approve the Symons Grove, LLC Phase 2 project for a not-to-exceed project reimbursement of \$238,112 with \$238,112 provided by the Governing Board.
2. Authorize the transfer of \$238,112 from fund 010 H017 Governing Board FARMS Fund to the H795 Symons Grove, LLC Phase 2 project fund.
3. Authorize the Assistant Executive Director to sign the agreement.

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

### **2.5 Amendment to the 2021 Florida Forever Workplan**

Staff recommended the Board authorize the amendment to the District's 2021 Florida Forever Work Plan to include the Hamilton, Stagecoach Ranch, and Horse Creek Ranch properties located within the District's Lake Panasoffkee, Conner Preserve and Horse Creek Projects, respectively, and identify the acquisitions as less than fee/conservation easement acquisitions.

### **2.6 Offer for Surplus Lands – Annutteliga Hammock (AH-4), SWF Parcel No. 15-228-2068S**

Staff recommended the Board:

- Accept the offer and authorize the Executive Director to sign the Contract for Sale and Purchase.
- 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 request of the buyer.
- Authorize staff to execute any other documents necessary to complete the transaction in accordance with the approved terms.

## **Regulation Committee**

### **2.7 Water Use Permit No.20020949.000, GPWCA/Gibson Place Water Conservation Authority (Sumter County)**

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

### **2.8 Approval of Coordination Agreement Between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Jacksonville District) and the Southwest Florida Water Management District - State Programmatic General Permit VI (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**

### **2.9 Approval of Consent Order Between SWFWMD and La Forest at Green Springs the Gardens Homeowners' Association - Permit Condition Violation - Environmental Resource Permit No. 44005187.002 - CT No. 403833 - Pinellas County**

Staff recommended the Board:

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

**2.10 Approval of Consent Order between SWFWMD and Southern Aggregates, LLC. - Unauthorized Construction Activities - Southern Aggregates, LLC. - CT No. 406210 - Sumter County**

Staff recommended the Board:

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

**2.11 Approve Governing Board Minutes - July 27, 2021**

Staff recommended the Board approve minutes as presented.

**2.12 Approve Calendar for Fiscal Year 2022 Meeting Dates**

Staff recommended the Board approve the calendar as presented.

**A motion was made and seconded to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion passed unanimously.** (Audio - 00:16:04)

**DISCUSSION AGENDA**

**Resource Management Committee** (This Committee was moved from the order of the Agenda)  
Board Member Jack Bispham called the Committee meeting to order. (Audio – 00:16:42)

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

**4.2 Polk Regional Water Cooperative – Project Conditions Associated with Governing Board Resolution 18-06 (Amended)**

Mr. Eric DeHaven, Resource Management Assistant Director, presented historical information regarding amended Resolution 18-06. He provided updated information regarding the four scheduled milestones associated with the Southeast LFA (N905), the West Polk LFA (N882), the Peace Creek Integrated Water Supply Plan (N928), and the Peace River/Land Use Transitions (Q133) projects. He outlined the four milestone tasks and reasons associated with the request for excusal. Mr. DeHaven responded to questions.

Staff recommended the Board approve the request to excuse four scheduled milestone exceedances stipulated in Governing Board Resolution 18-06 (Amended) associated with the Southeast Lower Floridan Aquifer Wellfield and Transmission (N905), West Polk Lower Floridan Aquifer Wellfield and Transmission (N882), the Peace Creek Integrated Water Supply Plan (N928) and the Peace River/Land use Transition Treatment Facility and Reservoir Project (Q133) projects.

**A motion was made and seconded to approve staff's recommendation. The motion passed unanimously.** (Audio - 00:28:25)

**~~4.3 City of Venice Reclaimed Water Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) – Third-Party Review (Q050)~~**

~~Staff recommended the Board authorize continuation of the project and approve amending the Cooperative Funding Agreement to include a total project cost of \$5,489,752, with a DISTRICT share of \$2,744,876 for design, third party review, permitting, construction, testing, and Independent Performance Evaluation of the reclaimed water ASR facility.~~

**4.4 Dover/Plant City Water Use Caution Area Update and Approval of Rulemaking to Repeal the Dover/Plant City Water Use Caution Area Recovery Strategy**

Ms. Tamera McBride, P.G., Resource Projects Manager, provided information that included historical information regarding the implementation of the Dover/Plant City Water Use Caution Area (D/PCWUCA) in 2011. She explained the recovery strategy associated with the implementation of the D/PCWUCA. This recovery strategy established two objectives, that included setting and achieving a minimum aquifer level (MAL) and requiring a reduction of cold protection withdrawals by 20 percent based on the cold protection quantities pumped in 2010. Ms. McBride outlined protective measures that have been taken in the D/PCWUCA. She stated that an evaluation of the area indicated that agricultural land use is declining and becoming more urbanized. Additionally, temperature history at the Plant City gage indicates that the estimated return interval for a cold event of similar magnitude to the 2010 event is approximately once in 570 years. Given the decreasing demand for cold-projection withdrawals and the rarity of the January 2010 event, staff concluded that the objective to reduce cold-protection use by 20 percent based on the 2010 event was impractical and unreasonable.

The D/PCWUCA along with the tMAL will continue to be maintained and assessed annually. Ms. McBride stated that outreach has been provided to the Advisory Committees and the public and comments received were positive. Ms. McBride responded to questions. Staff recommended the Board:

1. Approve the initiation of rulemaking and approve proposed rule language to amend Rules 40D-2.091, 40D-2.101, 40D-2.801, 40D-8.626, 40D-80.075, F.A.C., the WUP Applicant's Handbook, and the D/PCWUCA Supplemental Form, to repeal the Recovery Strategy, as shown in the Exhibits.
2. Authorize staff to make any necessary minor clarifying edits that may result from the rulemaking process.

**A motion was made and seconded to approve staff's recommendation. The motion passed unanimously.** (Audio - 00:42:43)

**4.5 Minimum Flows and Minimum Water Levels Priority List and Schedule Update**

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

**4.6 Lower Hillsborough River Recovery Strategy Implementation – Annual Update**

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

**Finance/Outreach & Planning Committee** (This Committee was moved from the order of the Agenda)  
Secretary Rebecca Smith called the Committee to order. (Audio – 00:43:55)

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

**3.2 Knowledge Management: Governing Board Procurement Policy**

Mr. John Campbell, Management Services Director, presented information outlining the District's procurement policy. He explained the policy establishes requirements for the procurement of commodities/goods, services, and other acquisitions. Mr. Campbell explained the proposed changes to the policy. Ms. Felicia Holmes, Procurement Office Chief, responded to questions.

This item was presented for the Board's information only. The revised Procurement policy will be on the Governing Board September 2021 consent agenda for the board's review and approval.

### **3.3 Budget Transfer Report**

Information was provided. No action was required.

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

Board Member Jack Bispham called the Committee to order. (Audio – 00:55:40)

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

Mr. Brian Starford, Director, announced that Mr. Granville Kinsman, Hydrologic Data Manager, will be retiring at the end of September and Ms. Tamera McBride will be assuming his position. He thanked Mr. Kinsman for his service and congratulated Ms. McBride on her new position.

### **5.2 Hydrologic Conditions Report**

Mr. Granville Kinsman, P.G., Hydrologic Data Manager, provided a presentation regarding hydrologic conditions. Mr. Kinsman stated that Tropical Storm Elsa provided abundant rainfall for July. Mr. Kinsman stated that some northern areas received 21 inches of rainfall for the month of August to date. He stated that groundwater levels in the northern counties are above normal, while the central and southern counties are in the normal range. The Northern, Tampa Bay, Polk Upland and Lake Wales Ridge lakes are in the normal range. Streamflow on the Withlacoochee, Hillsborough, and Alafia rivers is in the above normal range, while the Peace River flow is within the normal range. Mr. Kinsman stated the City of Tampa, Bill Young and Peace River reservoirs remain at healthy levels. The monitoring of tropical weather will continue. Developing La Niña conditions suggest drier-than-normal conditions for winter and spring

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

### **5.3 Overview of Land Management Plan Updates**

Ms. Ellen Morrison, Land Resources Bureau Chief, provided an overview of District owned conservation lands. Ms. Morrison explained that Florida Statute directs lands owned by the District be managed and maintained to the extent practicable to ensure a balance of public access, appropriate recreational use, and the restoration and protection of the natural state and condition. She explained to ensure compliance, the District creates Land Management Plans. The District currently has 16 management plans. Ms. Morrison provided an overview of the development process and associated schedule. Ms. Morrison stated that six Management Plan updates will be submitted for the Board's approval at the September Board meeting. Ms. Morrison responded to questions.

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

## **Regulation Committee**

Vice Chair Schleicher called the Committee to order. (Audio – 01:19:06)

### **6.1 Consent Item(s) Moved to Discussion**

None were presented.

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

None were presented.

## **General Counsel's Report**

### **7.1 Consent Item(s) Moved to Discussion**

No information was presented.

## **Committee/Liaison Reports**

### **8.1 Environmental Advisory Committee**

Board Member John Mitten provided a summary of the July 13 meeting. He stated that Ms. Jennifer Hecker, was elected as Chair and Dr. Dave Tomasko was elected as Vice Chair. Mr. Mitten stated that presentations included the 2021 Minimum Flows and Levels list and schedule, stormwater rulemaking update and 2021 seagrass mapping results.

A written summary of the meeting was provided.

## **Executive Director's Report**

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

Mr. Brian Armstrong, Executive Director, introduced Mr. Adam Blalock, Deputy Secretary for Ecosystems Restoration for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

Mr. Armstrong recognized Mr. Pat Lehman, who is retiring as the Executive Director of the Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority, and Mr. Mike Coates, the incoming Executive Director.

Mr. Armstrong congratulated Mr. Granville Kinsman on his upcoming retirement.

## **Chair's Report**

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

No information was presented.

### **10.2 Milestones**

Vice Chair Schleicher recognized employee milestones.

The next meetings are as follows in the Tampa Office: Fiscal Year 2022 Tentative Budget Hearing is scheduled for September 14 at 5:01 p.m.; Governing Board meeting, September 28 at 3:00 p.m.; and the Final Budget Hearing is scheduled for September 28 at 5:01 p.m.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:27 a.m.