



**GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2022 - 9:00 AM
7601 US 301 NORTH, TAMPA, FL 33637
(813) 985-7481**

MINUTES

Board Members Present

Joel Schleicher, Chair
Ed Armstrong, Vice Chair
Michelle Williamson, Secretary
John Mitten, Treasurer*
Kelly Rice, Former Chair*
Jack Bispham, Member
Seth Weightman, Member
Ashley Bell Barnett, Member
William Hogarth, Member*

Board Members Absent

John E. Hall, 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
Michael Molligan, Division Director
Brandon Baldwin, 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., October 18, 2022, at the Tampa Office, 7601 U.S. Highway 301 North, Tampa, 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

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. 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. 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.

Chair Schleicher 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

Secretary Michelle Williamson offered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.3 Employee Recognition

None were presented.

1.4 Additions/Deletions to Agenda

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

Finance/Outreach & Planning Committee

2.2 Polk Regional Water Cooperative – Peace Creek Integrated Water Supply Plan (N928) and Peace River/Land Use Transition (Q133) Projects, Reduction of Scope, and Budget to Eliminate Third-Party Reviews

1.5 Public Input for Issues Not Listed on the Published Agenda

Mr. David Ballard Geddis spoke against water regulations.

Chair Schleicher stated there was good cause to approve the amended agenda as allowed by Section 120.525, Florida Statutes.

CONSENT AGENDA

Finance/Outreach & Planning Committee

2.1 Office of Inspector General Performance Measures

Staff recommended the Board approve the OIG performance measures.

2.2 ~~Polk Regional Water Cooperative – Peace Creek Integrated Water Supply Plan (N928) and Peace River/Land Use Transition (Q133) Projects, Reduction of Scope, and Budget to Eliminate Third-Party Reviews~~

Staff recommended the Board:

- ~~1. Authorize staff to amend the (N928) Peace Creek Integrated Water Supply Plan Project CFA to eliminate the third party review and integrated water supply plan tasks, reduce the total project budget to \$1,442,250, and transfer the \$269,000 savings to the Polk Partnership Fund (H094).~~
- ~~2. Authorize staff to amend the (Q133) Peace River/Land Use Transitions Project CFA to eliminate the third party review task, reduce the total project budget to \$941,100 and transfer the \$10,000 savings to the Polk Partnership Fund (H094).~~

2.3 FARMS – Sweet Life Acres Phase 1 (H808), Hillsborough County

Staff recommended the Board:

1. Approve the Sweet Life Acres, LLC project for a not-to-exceed project reimbursement of \$294,658 provided by the Governing Board.
2. Authorize the transfer of \$294,658 from fund 010 H017 Governing Board FARMS Fund to the H807 Sweet Life Acres, LLC project fund.
3. Authorize the Assistant Executive Director to sign the agreement.

2.4 Approve the Plant City Watershed Management Plan Floodplain Information for Regulatory Use and to Update Flood Insurance Rate Maps in the City of Plant City (N995)

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

- 2.5 Minimum Flows and Minimum Water Levels Priority List and Schedule Update**
Staff recommended the Board approve the District's Minimum Flows and Minimum Water Levels 2022 Priority List and Schedule for submission to DEP for review and approval as required by Chapter 373, F.S.
- 2.6 Water Use Permit No. 20 010420.012, Peace River/Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority / Peace River Water Treatment Plant Facility (DeSoto County)**
Staff recommended the Board approve the proposed permit attached as an exhibit.
- 2.7 Knowledge Management: Retirement of Governing Board Policy Well Drilling Advisory Committee**
Staff recommended the Board approve retiring the Governing Board Policy for the Well Drilling Advisory Committee.
- 2.8 Approval of Consent Order between SWFWMD and Vatsala Sastry – As-Built Deviations Permit Violations – ERP Number 44029286.000 – CT Number 378487 – Pasco County**
Staff recommended the Board:
1. Approve the Consent Order.
2. Authorize District staff to pursue compliance with the terms and conditions of the approved Consent Order, including filing any appropriate actions in Circuit Court, if necessary.
- 2.9 Governing Board Concurrence – Emergency Order Nos. SWF 22-010 and 22-011 Emergency Measures Due to Hurricane Ian and High-Water Conditions**
Staff recommended the Board concur with the Executive Director's findings in Emergency Order Nos. SWF 22-010 and 22-011.
- 2.10 Approve Fiscal Year 2023 Final Budget Hearing Minutes**
Staff recommended the Board approve the minutes as presented.
- 2.11 Approve Governing Board Minutes - September 20, 2022**
Staff recommended the Board approve the minutes as presented.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously. (00:09:23)

Finance/Outreach & Planning Committee

Board Member Jack Bispham called the committee to order.

- 3.1 Consent Item(s) Moved to Discussion – None**
- 3.2 Investment Strategy Quarterly Update**
Mr. John Grady, Public Trust Advisors, presented current information that included the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), inflation, the housing market, interest rates, labor force information, and short-term investment information
- Mr. Grady provided an overview of the District's portfolio strategy for the last quarter (July 1 – September 30, 2022). He also provided information that compared market yield to unrealized gains/losses and book yield to market yield. Mr. Grady responded to questions.
- Staff recommended the Board accept and place on file the District's Quarterly Investment Reports for the quarter ended September 30, 2022. Exhibit provided under separate cover.

A motion was made and seconded to approve staff's recommendation. The motion passed unanimously. (00:43:16)

3.3 Annual Review of the District's Investment Policy

Mr. Brandon Baldwin, Business and IT Services Division Director outlined the purpose and objectives of the policy and an overview of the proposed modifications.

Mr. Baldwin explained the proposed modifications would include updating performance benchmarks and the addition of two new investment options, which include asset backed securities and asset backed commercial paper. He provided an overview of these proposed options. Mr. Baldwin and Mr. Grady responded to questions.

This item is presented for the Board's information, and no action is requested.

3.4 Development of Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2024

Mr. Brandon Baldwin provided an overview of the FY2024 Budget Development. This included a timeline, budget metrics, operating budget assumptions, project budget assumptions, revenue budget assumptions, fund balance and reserve assumptions, Ad Valorem growth assumptions, and new growth predictions. Mr. Baldwin responded to questions.

Staff recommended the Board approve the general budget assumptions as outlined in the October 18, 2022, budget presentation for the development of the Preliminary Budget for FY2024.

A motion was made and seconded to approve staff's recommendation. The motion passed unanimously. (01:20:00)

3.5 Office of Inspector General Quarterly Update – July 1, 2022, to September 30, 2022

This was for information only. No action was required.

3.6 Budget Transfer Report

This was for information only. No action was required.

Resource Management Committee

Board Member Ashley Bell Barnett called the committee to order.

4.1 Consent Item(s) Moved to Discussion - None

4.2 Thirty-fifth Year Anniversary of the Surface Water Improvement & Management Program (SWIM)

Ms. Viviana Bendixson, SWIM Program Manager, provided a presentation that included a history, purpose of the program, list of priority water bodies, accomplishments, and partnerships. She highlighted restoration projects which included Rock Ponds, Stallion Hammock Restoration at Balm Boyette Scrub Preserve, spring systems, and seagrass mapping. She explained the process of tracking restoration projects and provided information regarding ongoing and future projects.

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

4.3 FARMS – Bay Grove – T&T Environmental, LLC, Phase 1 (H805), DeSoto County

Ms. Carole Estes, FARMS Program Director, provided an overview of the project which included history, location, project purpose, benefits and costs associated. Ms. Estes responded to questions.

Staff recommended the Board:

1. Approve the T&T Environmental Phase 1 project for a not-to-exceed project reimbursement of \$773,364 proved the Governing Board.
2. Authorize the transfer of the \$773,364 from fund 010 H017 Governing Board FARMS fund to the H805 T&T Environmental Phase 1 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 passed unanimously. (01:40:41)

Operations, Lands, and Resource Monitoring Committee

Board Member Jack Bispham called the committee to order.

5.1 Consent Item(s) Moved to Discussion - None

5.2 Hydrologic Conditions, Structure Operations, Hurricane Ian Update

Ms. Tamera McBride, Hydrologic Data Manager, presented the hydrologic conditions report. She stated the southern part of the District received record rainfall as a result of Hurricane Ian. Ms. McBride presented rainfall distribution data before and after Hurricane Ian. She stated that groundwater levels throughout the District remain in the normal range. Polk Upland Lakes are in the above normal range. The Northern, Tampa Bay and Lake Wales Ridge lakes remain in the normal range. Ms. McBride stated the Withlacoochee and Hillsborough rivers remain in the normal range, while the Alafia, and Peace rivers are in the above normal range. She stated that public supply storage within the District remains at adequate levels. As a result of Hurricane Ian, forecast information specifically addressing the Peace River was presented. She presented the near-term and extended climate forecasts.

Ms. Michelle Weaver, General Services Bureau Chief, provided a briefing regarding District Emergency Operation activities prior, during and following Hurricane Ian. She stated wellness checks were performed for staff that may have been impacted.

Ms. Weaver provided information regarding the North Winter Haven Chain of Lakes. She stated water levels remain high but are declining. Board Member Bispham asked if there is consideration for improvement funding for the water control structures. Mr. Brian Starford, Operations, Lands and Resource Monitoring Director, explained that the District is working on the capital improvement plan for the water conservation structures. As part of that effort, we can evaluate if a structure could be improved and would evaluate potential impacts upstream and downstream and the capacity of the conveyance system. In addition, any proposed funding would be included in the District's budget for Board approval.

Chair Schleicher applauded and thanked staff for the extra hours put in serving the public both before and after the storm. He also said the communications associated with the storm were excellent.

These items were for information only. No action was required.

Regulation Committee

Board Member Seth Weightman called the committee to order.

6.1 Consent Item(s) Moved to Discussion - None

6.2 Denials Referred to the Governing Board

No denials were presented.

General Counsel's Report

7.1 Consent Item(s) Moved to Discussion - None

No items were presented.

Committee/Liaison Reports

8.1 Agricultural and Green Industry Advisory Committee

Mr. Michael Molligan, Employee Outreach & General Services Director, presented a summary of the September 13 meeting. He stated presentations included management practices for invasive species and District Land Management activities.

Board Member Weightman asked about best management practices associated with Cogon grass. Mr. Starford stated he would provide that information.

A written summary of the meeting was also provided.

Executive Director's Report

9.1 Executive Director's Report

Mr. Brian Armstrong, Executive Director, provided the Board with a written summary of his FY2024 goals.

Mr. Armstrong thanked staff for their extraordinary efforts of District staff during Hurricane Ian.

Chair's Report

10.1 Chair's Report

Chair Schleicher stated the next meeting is scheduled for November 15 at 9:00 a.m., in the Brooksville office. A Governing Board Workshop will also be held at 10:30 a.m.

10.2 Employee Milestones

Chair Schleicher recognized the following staff: Glen Shell, Denise Johnson, Ramzi Chehaib and Jim Lewis.

10.3 2022 Employee Evaluation and 2023 Performance Goals for the Executive Director and Inspector General

Chair Schleicher stated that based on the Board Members individual evaluations, Treasurer John Mitten recommended an overall grade of 5 on a five-point scale and a \$4,500 raise for Inspector General Brian Werthmiller, which equates to a 3.78 percent increase.

Chair Schleicher expressed his appreciation to the Executive Director, Mr. Brian Armstrong. He stated that based on the Board Members individual evaluations, he recommended an overall grade of 5 and a 3 percent merit increase.

A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's recommendation for a \$4,500 merit increase for the Inspector General and the Chair's recommendation for a 3 percent merit increase for the Executive Director. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. (02:11:58)

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:18 a.m.