



**GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2025 – 9:00 A.M.
7601 U.S.HIGHWAY 301 NORTH, TAMPA FL 33637
(813) 985-7481**

Board Members Present

John Mitten, Chair
Jack Bispham, Vice Chair
Ashley Bell Barnett, Secretary*
John Hall, Treasurer
Michelle Williamson, Member
Dustin Rowland, Member
James Holton, Member
Robert Stern, Member
Nancy H. Watkins, Member
Josh Gamblin, Member
James Turner, Member

*Attended via Electronic Media

Board Member(s) Absent

Kelly Rice, 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 on November 18 at 9:00 a.m., in the Tampa Office at 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 John Mitten 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 Mitten 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. He 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 Mitten also requested that several individuals requesting to speak on the same topic designate a spokesperson. He 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

Board Member James Turner offered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.3 Employee Recognition

Chair Mitten recognized Ms. Robyn Felix and Ms. Tammy Plazak, for their milestones with the District.

1.4 Additions/Deletions to Agenda

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

Three Request to Speak cards were received for the following item:

General Counsel's Report

2.8 Authorization to Issue Administrative Complaint and Order – Environmental Resource Violations; Unauthorized Activities – Placida Pointe Homeowners Association, Inc. (Charlotte County)

There was good cause to approve the amended agenda as allowed by Section 120.525, Florida Statutes.

1.5 Public Input for Issues Not Listed on the Published Agenda

Mr. David Ballard Geddes, Jr., spoke regarding population and water resources.

Mr. David Gore spoke regarding Florida hydrology.

Consent Agenda

Finance/Outreach and Planning Committee

2.1 Authorization to Dispose of Equipment

Staff recommended the Governing Board approve the disposition of one 2007 Stearling Crane Truck (Unit 2074) through the auction process.

2.2 Knowledge Management: Approval of Governing Board Policy, Investments

Staff recommended the Board approve the District's Investment Policy as presented and accept the recommended updates, if any.

Resource Management Committee

2.3 Cooperative Funding Initiative Policy Deviation Request For Fiscal Year 2027 (FY2027)

Staff recommended the Board approve a one-time deviation of the multijurisdictional criteria requirement and RWSA prioritization in the CFI Policy for the purpose of evaluating and scoring the City of Plant City's Direct Potable Reuse FY2027 CFI Application.

Operations, Lands and Resource Monitoring Committee

2.4 Right of First Refusal – Priede Conservation Easement, CW Deen Family Farm – SWF Parcel No. 10-200-1173C (Polk County)

Staff recommended the Board:

- Decline the right of first refusal to purchase the remainder fee interest over SWF Parcel No. 10-200-1173C encumbered by a District Perpetual Conservation Easement.
- Authorize the Executive Director to execute the necessary documents to decline the right of first refusal on SWF Parcel 10-200-1173C.

Regulation Committee

2.5 Water Use Permit No. 20 013343.006, Manatee County BOCC/Manatee Co. Utilities Consolidated Permit (Manatee County)

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

2.6 Water Use Permit No. 20 004352.010, Tampa Bay Water/South Central Hillsborough Regional Wellfield (Hillsborough County)

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

2.7 Land Donation – Tallstone Enterprises LLC (Tallstone Parcel), SWF Parcel No. 20-013-135 (Highlands County)

Staff recommended the Board:

- Approve acceptance of the land donation, pending final approval of ERP 43044785.001; and
- Authorize Staff to execute any other document necessary to complete the transaction in accordance with the approved terms.

General Counsel's Report

~~2.8 Authorization to Issue Administrative Complaint and Order – Environmental Resource Violations; Unauthorized Activities – Placida Pointe Homeowners Association, Inc. (Charlotte County)~~

~~Staff recommended the Board:~~

- ~~1. Authorize District staff to issue an Administrative Complaint and Order to Placida Pointe Home Owner's Association, Inc., and any other necessary party to obtain compliance with District rules.~~
- ~~2. Authorize District staff to initiate an action in Circuit Court against Placida Pointe Homeowner's Association, Inc., and any other necessary party to recover a civil penalty/administrative fine, enforcement costs, litigation costs, and attorney's fees, if appropriate.~~
- ~~3. Authorize District staff to obtain compliance with the terms of the Administrative Complaint and Order in Circuit Court, if necessary.~~

Executive Director's Report

2.9 Approve Governing Board Minutes

Staff recommended the Board approve minutes as presented.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously. (Audio – 00:14:56)

Recognition of Former Governing Board Member

3.1 Recognition of Former Governing Board Member Rebecca Smith

Past Board Member Rebecca Smith was recognized for her tenure on the Governing Board.

Finance/Outreach and Planning Committee

No items were presented for discussion.

4.1 Consent Item(s) Moved to Discussion – None

4.2 Budget Transfer Report

A written report was provided.

Resource Management Committee

Board Member Dustin Rowland called the committee to order.

5.1 Consent Item(s) Moved to Discussion – None

5.2 Draft Sarasota Bay Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Plan (W601)

Dr. Chris Anastasiou, Ph.D., Chief Water Quality Scientist, presented a brief history of the Surface Water improvement and Management (SWIM) Program and the basis for creating SWIM plans. He stated that Sarasota Bay (Bay) is a priority water body and provided background information regarding the ecological status of the Bay and its five estuary bays. Dr. Anastasiou explained that although the Bay is a highly urbanized watershed, the nutrient water quality has improved, and it has been removed from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) impaired water quality list in recent years. However, the Sarasota Bay Estuary Program, the District, FDEP and other partners are developing a water quality protection plan. Dr. Anastasiou stated that a positive indicator of a healthy estuary can be seen in the mapping of seagrass. He provided a table that outlined the amount of seagrass improvements that have been mapped in the Bay. Dr. Anastasiou provided an overview of the draft 2025 SWIM Plan Update. He outlined water quality and natural system goals, which included monitoring/research, protection/restoration, and education/outreach. Dr. Anastasiou responded to questions.

Staff recommended the Board authorize staff to submit the draft Sarasota Bay SWIM Plan to the FDEP, Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and appropriate local governments.

A motion was made and seconded to approve staff's recommendation. The motion carried unanimously. (Audio – 00:53:12)

5.3 2025 Central Florida Water Initiative Regional Water Supply Plan

Mr. Ryan Pearson, Water Supply Manager, presented a history and overview of the Central Florida Water Initiative (CFWI). He provided a table that displayed categories of current and projected water demands in the CFWI area. Mr. Pearson presented information regarding groundwater availability based on environmental criteria. This included minimum flows and levels and wetlands. A map was presented that outlined primary areas susceptible to groundwater withdrawals. Mr. Pearson presented categories of projected 2045 water demand and water conservation savings. He summarized water source options which included traditional and alternatives sources. Mr. Pearson outlined outreach that has occurred and summarized funding options. Staff responded to questions.

A Request to Speak card was received for this item.

Mr. David Gore spoke regarding his concerns related to the CFWI Plan.

Staff recommended the Board approve the Draft Final 2025 Central Florida Water Initiative Regional Water Supply Plan.

A motion was made and seconded to approve staff's recommendation. The motion carried unanimously. (Audio – 01:10:29/01:14:46)

Operations, Lands and Resource Monitoring Committee

Board Member Robert Stern called the committee to order.

6.1 Consent Item(s) Moved to Discussion – None

6.2 Offer for Surplus Lands – Tampa Bypass Canal SWF 13-004-319S (TBC-21) (Hillsborough County)

Mr. Mike Singer, Real Estate Services Manager, provided a presentation which included historical information, an area map, and the offer amount.

Staff recommended the Board:

- Accept the offer of \$310,500;
- 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 – 01:18:06)

Regulation Committee

Board Member James Holton called the committee to order.

7.1 Consent Item(s) Moved to Discussion – None

7.2 Consider Water Shortage Order(s) as Necessary

Ms. April Breton, Water Use Permitting Bureau Chief, presented information that indicated rainfall deficit of 1.4 inches for October, a 12-month distribution rainfall deficit of 13 inches and an overview of District-wide conditions. She outlined the Florida Statute and the phases associated with District water shortage plans. Ms. Breton provided an overview of the proposed Water Shortage Order No. SWF25-015.

Staff recommended the Board approved Water Shortage Order No. SWF25-015 as outlined.

A motion was made and seconded to approve staff's recommendation. The motion carried unanimously. (Audio – 01:23:58)

General Counsel's Report

8.1 Consent Item(s) Moved to Discussion

2.8 Authorization to Issue Administrative Complaint and Order – Environmental Resource Violations; Unauthorized Activities – Placida Pointe Homeowners Association, Inc. (Charlotte County)

Ms. Taylor Greenan, District Attorney, provided a historical timeline and outlined activities that led to the issuance of the consent order. Staff responded to questions and explained the good-faith efforts on behalf of the District.

There were three Request to Speak Cards received for this item.

Ms. Arelle Poulos, environmental consultant, representing the Placida Point Homeowners Association (HOA), did not speak.

Ms. Susan Roeder Martin, Attorney, representing the Placida Point HOA, provided a presentation. She suggested alternative language to be considered in the consent order.

Mr. Craig Brearley, HOA President, requested consideration be provided regarding lowering the amount of the penalty.

Staff recommended the Board:

1. Authorize District staff to issue an Administrative Complaint and Order to Placida Point Home Owner's Association, Inc., and any other necessary party to obtain compliance with District rules.
2. Authorize District staff to initiate an action in Circuit Court against Placida Point Homeowner's Association, Inc., and any other necessary party to recover a civil penalty/administrative fine, enforcement costs, litigation costs, and attorney's fees, if appropriate.
3. Authorize District staff to obtain compliance with the terms of the Administrative Complaint and Order in Circuit Court, if necessary.

A motion was made and seconded to approve staff's recommendation. The motion carried unanimously. (Audio – 01:50:09/1:54:32)

8.2 Affirm Governing Board Committee Actions

A motion was made and seconded to approve staff's recommendation. The motion carried unanimously. (Audio – 01:55:10)

Mr. Chris Tumminia, General Counsel, provided an update on the administrative challenge that was filed by the Polk Regional Water Cooperative for Water Use Permit No. 20011794. He stated the Administrative Law Judge has scheduled a hearing beginning March 4 through March 11, 2026, at the District's Tampa Office.

Committee/Liaison Reports

9.1 Environmental Advisory Committee

A written summary was provided.

Executive Director's Report

10.1 Executive Director's Report

Mr. Brian Armstrong, Executive Director, expressed appreciation to the Board for always leading with thoughtful discussions. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Chair's Report

11.1 Chair's Report

The next Governing Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 16 at 9:00 a.m., in the Brooksville Service Office. There is also a Governing Board Workshop following the meeting.

11.2 Employee Milestones

A written summary was provided.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:01 a.m.