



GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2022 – 9:00 AM
2379 BROAD STREET, BROOKSVILLE, FL 34604
(352) 796-7211

MINUTES

Board Members Present

Joel Schleicher, Chair*
Ed Armstrong, Vice Chair (Acting Chair)
Michelle Williamson, Secretary
John Mitten, Treasurer
Kelly Rice, Former Chair
Jack Bispham, Member
Seth Weightman, Member
John Hall, Member
Ashley Bell Barnett, 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., December 13, 2022, 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.

1.1 Call to Order

Vice Chair Ed Armstrong 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 Armstrong 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. Vice Chair Armstrong 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 Armstrong 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 John Hall offered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.3 Employee Recognition

Vice Chair Armstrong recognized Mr. Philip Rhinesmith for 35 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 non-compliant infrastructure development.

CONSENT AGENDA

Finance/Outreach & Planning Committee

2.1 No. 22-16 Commending Seth Weightman for His Service as a Member of the Southwest Florida Water Management District Governing Board

Staff recommended the Board approve Resolution No. 22-16 commending Seth Weightman for his service as a member of the Southwest Florida Water Management District Governing Board.

2.2 Resolution to Request Disbursement of Funds from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund for Land Management

Staff recommended the Board approve Resolution 22-17, Request to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for Disbursement of Funds from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund for Land Management, as shown in the Exhibit.

Resource Management Committee

2.3 7th Street North, 50th Avenue North Vicinity Storm Drainage Improvements - Third-Party Review (Q220) Resource Management Committee

Staff recommended the Board authorize continuation of the project and approve amending the Cooperative Funding Agreement to include a total project cost of \$6,216,690 for third-party review and construction, with the District's share to remain \$2,728,500 for the 7th Street North, 50th Avenue North Vicinity Storm Drainage Improvements project (Q220).

Operations, Lands and Resource Monitoring Committee

2.4 Fifth Amendment to Agreement with District School Board of Hernando County for Springs Coast Environmental Education Center, SWF Parcel No. 15-773-182X

Staff recommended the Board:

- Approve the Fifth Amendment to Operation and Maintenance Agreement Between the Southwest Florida Water Management District and the District School Board for Hernando County for the Springs Coast Environmental Education Center (Fifth Amendment); and
- Authorize the Governing Board Chair to execute the Fifth Amendment on behalf of the District.

Regulation Committee

2.5 Water Use Permit No. 20 006151.014, Marion County Utilities / Marion County Utilities Consolidated WUP (Marion County) Regulation Committee

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

General Counsel's Report

2.6 Approval of Emergency Order No. SWF 22-016 – Emergency Measures Due to Subtropical Storm Nicole

Staff recommended the Board approve Emergency Order No. SWF 22-016.

2.7 Approval of Emergency Order No. SWF 22-018 – Emergency Measures Due to High-Water Conditions

Staff recommended the Board approve Emergency Order No. SWF 22-018.

2.8 Approval of Emergency Order No. SWF 22-019 – Emergency Measures Due to Hurricane Ian

Staff recommended the Board approve Emergency Order No. SWF 22-019.

Executive Director's Report

2.9 Approve Governing Board Minutes - November 15, 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. (00:09:38)

Finance/Outreach and Planning Committee

Treasurer John Mitten called the committee to order.

3.1 Consent Item(s) Moved to Discussion - None

3.2 Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2024

Mr. Brandon Baldwin, Business and IT Services Director, presented the Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) Preliminary Budget. He presented a timeline for the budget development cycle.

Mr. Baldwin provided a comparison table of budget metrics from FY20-FY23 (adopted) through FY24 (preliminary). He stated that the salaries and benefits metric has been modified to remove non-ad valorem funding sources to provide a more appropriate comparison of revenue. This was provided as a result of feedback from the November Governing Board workshop.

Mr. Baldwin stated the FY23 preliminary budget totals \$215.2 million. This is an increase of 1.7 percent from FY23. The projected ad valorem is based on a rolled-back rate with an estimated 3.08 percent in new construction according to recent models.

Mr. Baldwin provided an overview of revenue sources. He stated appropriations would not be known until after the 2023 legislative session and any adjustments would be made before the adoption of the budget. Mr. Baldwin provided a graphic comparison of revenue sources for adopted FY23 budget and the preliminary FY24 budget.

Mr. Baldwin provided an overview of the FY24 preliminary budget. He stated that due to inflationary costs, total expenditures for the FY24 preliminary budget indicate an increase of 1.7 percent. Information included a comparison of expenditures by category, programs, and Areas of Responsibility for FY23 adopted and the FY24 preliminary budgets. Mr. Baldwin stated flood protection and natural systems funding remain unchanged. He stated water quality funding indicates a decrease of \$16 million due to an anticipated decrease in state appropriations for springs. And water supply reflects an increase of \$12.2 million for alternative water supply funding as directed by the Board. Staff responded to questions.

Staff recommended the Board authorize staff to prepare the Preliminary Budget Submission for FY2024 based on the preliminary budget as presented, adjusted for any modifications made by the Governing Board on December 13, for submission to the Florida Legislature on or before January 15, 2023.

A motion was made and seconded to approve staff's recommendation. The motion passed unanimously. (00:32:00)

3.3 Review of Self-Funded Health Plans

Ms. Melanie Stegall, representing Brown & Brown, provided an evaluation of the District's self-funded health plan. She presented a comparison of fully insured versus self-funded plans and the requirements and benefits associated. Ms. Stegall summarized the rebate benefits that are received by the District for prescription drug costs. She provided annual plan performance totals from 2017 to 2022 (estimated).

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

3.4 Budget Transfer Report

Resource Management Committee

Secretary Michelle Williamson called the committee to order.

4.1 Consent Item(s) Moved to Discussion - None

4.2 Fiscal Year 2024 Cooperative Funding Process

Mr. Kevin Wills, Cooperative Funding Initiative Lead, presented the proposed changes to the Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) Cooperative Funding Initiative (CFI) process. CFI projects will be ranked overall rather than by region. Rankings will be presented at the February and April Governing Board meetings rather than regional subcommittee meetings. Mr. Wills provided an overview of the FY24 schedule for the review and scoring process. He summarized the FY24 applications received and presented a comparison from FY20 to current. Mr. Wills provided a draft agenda for the CFI presentation to the Governing Board for February 2024.

Staff recommended the Board approve eliminating the Regional Subcommittee meetings for the FY2024 CFI review process.

A motion was made and seconded to approve staff's recommendation. The motion passed with seven in favor and one opposed. (00:52:20)

Operations, Lands and Resource Monitoring

Board Member Jack Bispham called the committee to order.

5.1 Consent Item(s) Moved to Discussion - None

5.2 Hydrologic Conditions Report

Ms. Tamera McBride, Hydrologic Data Manager, presented the hydrologic conditions update. She stated that Hurricane Nicole assisted in making November wetter than normal. The central and northern regions received the most rainfall. Groundwater levels for the northern counties were in the normal range, central and southern counties were above normal. The lakes throughout the region were in the normal range with the rivers in the above normal range. Public water supply storage was relatively full. La Niña is expected to continue into winter resulting in anticipated warmer temperatures and lower rainfall.

This was for information only. No action was required.

Regulation Committee

Board Member John Hall 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

7.2 Compliance Update On Inverness Village 4 Residential Subdivision – Unauthorized Construction Activities – CT No. 415879 – Citrus County

Ms. Elizabeth Fernandez, Deputy General Counsel, presented information which included background information, a project overview, and compliance/enforcement history. She explained the efforts to establish a Municipal Service Benefit Unit (MSBU) Assessment for the development. Ms. Fernandez responded to questions.

A request to speak card was received from Ms. Anna Long, Attorney for Dean Mead representing DT Villages Eleven, LLC. Ms. Long provided information and spoke in support of the creation of an MSBU. She responded to questions.

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

Committee/Liaison Reports

8.1 Industrial Advisory Committee

Mr. Michael Molligan, Employee Outreach & General Services Director, provided a summary of the November 8 meeting.

A written summary of the meeting was provided.

8.2 Public Supply Advisory Committee

The November 8 meeting was canceled. No summary was provided.

Executive Director's Report

9.1 Executive Director's Report

Mr. Brian Armstrong, Executive Director, congratulated Secretary Michelle Williamson for being presented with the Hillsborough County Annual Harvest Award for the Outstanding Woman in Agricultural.

Chair's Report

10.1 Chair's Report

Vice Chair Armstrong wished everyone a happy holiday season.

10.2 Employee Milestones

A written summary was provided.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:42 a.m.