



**GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 27, 2023 – 9:00 A.M.
2379 BROAD STREET, BROOKSVILLE, FL 34604
(352) 796-7211**

MINUTES

Board Members Present

Ed Armstrong, Chair
Michelle Williamson, Vice Chair
John Mitten, Secretary
Jack Bispham, Treasurer
Joel Schleicher, Former Chair*
Kelly Rice, Member
Ashley Bell Barnett, Member*
John Hall, Member
James Holton, Member*
Dustin Rowland, Member
Robert Stern, 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, Lead 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., June 27, 2023, 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

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. 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. 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. 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

Chair Armstrong recognized employees who have reached at least 20 years of services. The following staff were recognized: Jeff Whealton, Steve Desmith and Rita Harrod.

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 water and the constitution.

Consent Agenda

Finance/Outreach & Planning Committee

2.1 Adopt Resolutions to Identify New Slate of Officers for Financial Documents

Staff recommended the Board:

1. Authorize the new slate of officers to apply their signatures to the required financial documents and;
2. Adopt *Resolution No. 23-04* authorizing the signatures of the newly elected officers of the Governing Board of the District and the use of facsimile or manual signatures on all warrants or checks of the District and;
3. Adopt the *Truist Resolution for Deposit Account* document to identify the new slate of officers as authorized signers on existing accounts and give the officers the authority to give direction or confirmation to the Bank on all matters regarding the District's deposit accounts and;
4. Adopt the *Truist Corporate Resolution* document to identify the new slate of officers as authorized signers on existing accounts and give the officers the authority to give direction or confirmation to the Bank on all matters regarding the District's custody accounts.

2.2 Governing Board Travel - Annual Environmental Permitting Summer School

Staff recommended the Board approve Governing Board travel as presented.

Operations, Lands & Resource Monitoring Committee

2.3 Perpetual Easement for ROMP TR 10-3, Camden Field Well Site, SWF Parcel No. 11-020-043

Staff recommended the Board approve the Perpetual Easement and authorize the Chair to sign on behalf of the District.

2.4 Amendment to Land Lease Agreement - Cell Phone Tower, SWF Parcel No. 20-503-256X

Staff recommended the Board:

- Approve the Amendment to Land Lease Agreement with Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless, for the operation and maintenance of a cell phone tower on District lands, SWF Parcel No. 20-503-256X.
- Authorize the Executive Director to sign the Amendment to Land Lease Agreement, SWF Parcel No. 20-503-256X.

Regulation Committee

2.5 Water Use Permit No. 20001845.005 – Midway Farms, LLC / Fort Meade Expansion South (Polk County)

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

2.6 Water Use Permit No. 20021048.000 – Polk Regional Water Cooperative / West Polk LFA Well Field (Polk County)

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

General Counsel's Report

2.7 Approval of Consent Order between SWFWMD and Wos Properties I Inc - Permit Violations - Environmental Resource Permit No. 43043351.001 - CT No. 414147 - Hillsborough County

Staff recommended the Board:

- Approve the Consent Order.
- 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.

2.8 Approve Governing Board Minutes – May 23, 2023

Staff recommended the Board approve minutes as presented.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously. (Audio – 00:11:05)

Finance/Outreach & Planning Committee

Treasurer Jack Bispham called the committee meeting to order.

3.1 Consent Item(s) Moved to Discussion - None

3.2 Fiscal Year 2024 Recommended Annual Service Budget

Mr. Brandon Baldwin, Business and IT Services Director, provided an overview of the FY2024 Recommended Annual Service Budget (RASB) budget development cycle timeline. He presented budget metrics from FY2020 through FY2024, and a comparison of funding sources and expenditures by category for FY2023 adopted to FY2024 proposed. Mr. Baldwin provided an overview of the Districtwide budget that explained increases and decreases in funding sources and expenditures by category.

Ms. Jennette Seachrist, Resource Management Division Director, provided an overview of the proposed FY2024 division budget. She stated the proposed FY2024 budget is approximately \$118 million dollars which is an approximate increase of 4.4 percent from FY2023. Ms. Seachrist explained the increases and decreases in expenditures.

Mr. Brian Starford, Operations, Lands and Resource Monitoring Division Director, provided an overview of the proposed FY2024 division budget. He stated the proposed FY2024 budget is approximately \$44 million which is an increase of about \$1.16 million from FY2023. Mr. Starford explained the increases and decreases in expenditures.

Ms. Michelle Hopkins, Regulation Division Director, provided an overview of the proposed FY2024 division budget. She stated the proposed budget is approximately \$16.4 million which is an approximate increase of 3.2 percent. Ms. Hopkins explained the increases in expenditures.

Mr. Michael Molligan, Employee, Outreach and General Services Division Director, provided an

overview of the proposed FY2024 division budget. He stated the proposed budget is approximately \$18 million which is an approximate increase of 4.2 percent. Mr. Molligan explained increases and decreases in expenditures.

Mr. Baldwin stated that the Finance, Procurement, and Information Technology bureaus comprise the Business and IT Services Division. He provided an overview of the proposed FY2024 division budget. Mr. Baldwin stated the proposed budget is approximately \$17.2 million which is an approximate increase of 8.3 percent. He explained the increases in expenditures.

Ms. Andrea Shamblin, Budget Manager, responded to questions concerning the decrease in long-term funding projections for FY2025. She explained that in FY2024 the District is projected to receive state revenue for alternative water supply and springs projects in addition to funding associated with land acquisition balances from prior years. These revenues are not anticipated for any additional fiscal years.

Board Member Joel Schleicher stated that although he supports staff and merit increases when appropriate, he is opposed to any across the board merit increases that may be proposed. He also expressed concerns regarding total increase in operating expenses exceeding total increase in project expenditures.

Mr. Brian Armstrong, Executive Director, provided clarification regarding this request, explaining the funds would only be used for performance-based salary increases and would not be a flat across-the-board increase.

Staff recommended the Board authorize staff to prepare the Tentative Budget Submission for FY2024 based on the recommended budget as presented; adjusted for any modifications made by the Governing Board on June 27, changes in estimated ad valorem revenue based on the July 1 certifications of taxable value, and any additional funding provided by the state.

A motion was made and seconded to approve staff's recommendation. The motion passed with ten in favor and one opposed. Board Member Joel Schleicher voted in opposition for reasons he stated during discussion of this item. (Audio – 01:01:29)

3.3 Budget Transfer Report

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

Resource Management Committee

Vice Chair Michelle Williamson called the committee meeting to order.

4.1 Consent Item(s) Moved to Discussion - None

4.2 Declaration of Cooperation of the Tampa Bay Nitrogen Management Consortium (W027)

Ms. Viviana Bendixson, SWIM Program Manager, provided a history of the establishment of the Tampa Bay Estuary Program (TBEP) which is tasked with restoring and protecting Tampa Bay. To assist in that protection, she explained that the District and other governmental agencies partnered with the TBEP and key industries to create the Tampa Bay Nitrogen Management Consortium to manage nitrogen loads entering the bay. Ms. Bendixson explained the updated declaration is a continuation of District support, and no funding is requested.

Mr. Ed Sherwood, TBEP Executive Director, provided an overview of the TBEP partnership members and funding sources. He outlined how the funds are utilized and how the monitoring of

seagrass assists in determining priorities. Mr. Sherwood outlined sources of nitrogen loading, water quality monitoring from 1975 through 2022, recent water quality monitoring data and seagrass trends. He outlined ways the community can help reduce pollutants into Tampa Bay. Mr. Sherwood responded to questions.

A Request to Speak Card was submitted for this item. Mr. David Ballard Geddis spoke in opposition of the declaration.

Staff recommended the Board:

1. Approve the "Declaration of Cooperation of the Tampa Bay Nitrogen Management Consortium."
2. Authorize the Governing Board Chair execute the Declaration of Cooperation.

A motion was made and seconded to approve staff's recommendation. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio - 01:39:41)

4.3 Proposed Minimum Flows for Horse Creek and Charlie Creek Prior to Independent Scientific Peer Review

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

Operations, Lands & Resource Monitoring Committee

Board Member John Hall called the committee meeting to order.

5.1 Consent Item(s) Moved to Discussion - None

5.2 Hydrologic Conditions Report

Ms. Tamera McBride, Hydrologic Data Manager, stated that tropical activity has begun with the start of hurricane season. She presented a rainfall distribution map for May, a 12-month rainfall map, a 12-month rainfall departure from mean graph, and map of average rainfall to date. Districtwide rainfall was higher than average in May. Ms. McBride stated groundwater levels remained in the normal range throughout the District. Surface water levels were in the normal to below normal range. She stated that rivers remained in the normal to above normal range. Water supply levels in the Hillsborough reservoir remained full. The Bill Young Reservoir has a healthy supply and is starting to refill. Ms. McBride presented temperature and precipitation information for upcoming months.

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

Regulation Committee

Board Member Dustin Rowland called the committee meeting to order.

6.1 Consent Item(s) Moved to Discussion - None

6.2 Denials Referred to the Governing Board

None were presented.

General Counsel's Report

7.1 Consent Item(s) Moved to Discussion - None

Committee/Liaison Reports

8.1 Industrial Advisory Committee

A written summary of the May 9 meeting was provided.

8.2 Public Supply Advisory Committee

A written summary of the May 5 meeting was provided.

Executive Director's Report

9.1 Executive Director's Report

Mr. Brian Armstrong, Executive Director, stated that Hannah Kuzlo, Technology Services Manager was awarded the Florida Sterling Council Examiner Excellence Award. This award is given annually to one examiner who demonstrates extraordinary service excellence in Florida.

Mr. Armstrong thanked the Governor and Legislature for providing funding that focused on the environment.

Chair's Report

10.1 Chair's Report

Chair Armstrong stated the next meeting is scheduled for July 25 at 9:00 a.m., in the Tampa Office.

10.2 Employee Milestones

A written summary was provided.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:52 a.m.