



South Florida Water Management District

GOVERNING BOARD MONTHLY MEETING AGENDA

May 8, 2025

10:00 AM

Stephen P. Clark Center
Commission Chambers, 2nd Floor
111 NW 1st Street
Miami, FL 33128

FINAL - REVISED*

*Item 21 was revised

1. Call to Order - Chauncey Goss, Chairman, Governing Board
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Oath of Office Administered to Thomas Hurley and Robert A. Spottswood, Jr.
4. Recognition of Elected Officials
5. Employee Recognitions
 - May 2025 Employee of the Month: William Eldridge, Crew Chief, Miami Field Station
 - May 2025 Team of the Month: S-331 Area Gateway Panel Upgrade Team
6. Executive Director's Report - Drew Bartlett
 - Ceremonial Passing of the Purple Jacket
7. Agenda Revisions
8. Agenda Item Abstentions by Board Members
9. Audit & Finance Committee Report - Jay Steinle, Chairman

10. Consider Approval of the Minutes for the April 10, 2025 Meeting
11. General Public Comment
12. Board Comment
13. Move Consent Agenda Items to Discussion Agenda
14. Public Comment on Consent Agenda Items
15. Board Vote on Consent Agenda

Consent Agenda

16. Land Acquisition, Picayune Strand Restoration Project - Manatee Mitigation Feature, Collier County (Staff contact, Ray Palmer)

Agenda Item Background:

The Manatee Mitigation Feature Maintenance Repairs Project, located in Collier County, is a component of the Picayune Strand Restoration Project. The Manatee Mitigation Feature is located south of US41 in an area known as the Port of the Islands, west of FAKA Union Canal, and within the Ten Thousand Islands National Wildlife Refuge lands owned by the State of Florida. This Manatee Mitigation Feature was originally completed in 2016 as part of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan and is an oxbow-type feature with three flowing pools designed to intercept warm groundwater and serve as a manatee refugia during the cold season. The Manatee Mitigation Feature Maintenance Repairs Project will include dredging back to original design and bank stabilization to prevent redeposition of sediments.

District staff has determined that it is desirable and prudent to perform maintenance that will restore the site to its original design and operational capabilities. The District requires a nearby upland location for certain construction-related activities necessary to perform the maintenance efforts to restore operational capabilities. Temporary work area activities include: (i) moving and storing equipment, materials, and supplies, including but not limited to riprap, pipe, and storage containers; (ii) daily and overnight parking of vehicles and boats; (iii) placement of a construction office trailer using potable water and electric power; and (iv) placement of dirt stockpiles and shell rock. To perform the construction-related activities, the District will acquire an 18-month temporary work area easement containing 3.11 acres, more or less, in the amount of \$50,000.

Recommended Action:

Resolution No. 2025-0501 Authorize the acquisition of land interests containing 3.11 acres, more or less, in the amount of \$50,000, in connection with the Picayune Strand Restoration Project - Manatee Mitigation Feature in Collier County, for which Ad Valorem funds are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

[Resolution No. 2025-0501](#)

[Exhibit A Map](#)

[Exhibit B Map](#)

17. RWF Legacy Ranch, Inc., Cattle Grazing Lease, Martin County (Staff contact, Ray Palmer)

Agenda Item Background:

Staff is seeking Governing Board authorization to issue a cattle grazing lease for lands located in Martin County for an initial term of ten years. The District received six bids in response to its solicitation. After review, RWF Legacy Ranch, Inc., was determined to be the highest responsive and responsible bidder. The lease has a provision for termination by the District for convenience of 180 days. The approximate annual revenue will be \$95,550.

The District acquired the properties in June 2015 for the purpose of natural water storage, rehydration, habitat restoration, and water quality treatment uses. The property has been leased for cattle grazing since acquisition as part of the District's land management program.

Recommended Action:

Resolution No. 2025-0502 Authorize entering into a ten-year cattle grazing lease with RWF Legacy Ranch, Inc., on 1,683.97 acres, more or less, in Martin County as more particularly described herein. (Contract No. 4600005189)

[Resolution No. 2025-0502](#)

[Exhibit A Map](#)

18. Release of Reservations (Staff contact, Ray Palmer)

Agenda Item Background:

The District has certain reserved rights to construct canal rights of way. Applications requesting release of these reservations are received as they constitute a defect on title which must be resolved prior to a property sale, especially when financing is involved. Applications are reviewed to determine if there is a present or future need for the reservations. If it has been determined there is no present or future need, the reservations may be released for a reasonable and appropriate payment based on the value of the land and may require such other terms and conditions determined by the Board. For canal reservations held by the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund (TIITF), the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) requires a recommendation from the District that there is no District or local need for TIITF-held canal reservations prior to a release being issued by DEP.

Staff evaluated the size and location of the properties for future flood control and reclamation purposes related to water storage and conveyance. It has been determined that there is no present or apparent future need for the reservations listed below, therefore staff asks the Board to consider approval of the following:

Okeechobee County

- Release District canal reservations and recommend release of TIITF canal reservations for JPS Construction, Inc. The TIITF and District reservations were reserved in 1926 and 1946, respectively, and cover the same parcel. The parcel contains 16,000+- square feet of retail and warehouse buildings. (File No. 18968) for 2.62+- acres; release value payment of \$5,869.23 is paid

Recommended Action:

Resolution No. 2025-0503 Authorize release of certain canal reservations.

[Memorandum Exhibit A](#)

[Resolution No. 2025-0503 with Exhibit A
Maps](#)

19. Grounds Maintenance Contract, Homestead Field Station Area of Responsibility, Miami-Dade County (Staff contact, Rich Virgil, P.E.)

Agenda Item Background:

Maintenance of vegetation levels ensures adequate and safe access to the flood control structures, which are the primary focus of the District's flood protection and water supply mission. Damage to these structures limits the District's ability to maximize flood control and water storage. The inability to safely access the structures inhibits adequate maintenance and repair to said facilities, resulting in possible degradation of flood protection for the affected region. This project for the Homestead Field Station area of responsibility provides for the annual grounds maintenance of approximately 32 locations which include mowing, trimming, edging, pruning and debris removal for the Homestead Field Station, pump stations, water control structures, and telemetry towers within the Homestead Field Station area of responsibility.

Recommended Action:

Resolution No. 2025-0504 Authorize entering into a three-year contract with two one-year renewal options with Inshape Maintenance, Inc., the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, for grounds maintenance services for the Homestead Field Station, pump stations, water control structures, and telemetry towers in the Homestead Field Station area of responsibility, in Miami-Dade County, in an amount not-to-exceed \$467,346 of which \$84,972 in Ad Valorem funds is budgeted in Fiscal Year 2024-2025 and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of future years' budgets. (Contract No. 4600005188)

[Resolution No. 2025-0504](#)

[Backup Presentation](#)

20. Kissimmee Chain of Lakes Management Area Ten-Year General Management Plan Update for 2025-2035 (Staff contact, Rich Virgil, P.E.)

Agenda Item Background:

Sections 373.1391 and 373.591, Florida Statutes, and Section 140.25(6)(b), South Florida Water Management District Policies Code, direct the District to develop General Management Plans for lands titled to the District to ensure for the conservation, preservation, and recreation of those lands. A General Management Plan describes the historical, physical, and ecological aspects of the property, existing public recreational opportunities, and the various land management functions necessary to properly manage the area. The purpose of a General Management Plan is to provide guidance to District land managers for the implementation of appropriate and consistent land management practices, to identify goals and objectives for the management of the property, and to present the findings of the land management review team. General Management Plans are updated every ten years to ensure the

lands are being managed for the purposes for which they were acquired and in accordance with land management objects.

The Kissimmee Chain of Lakes Management Area covers 28,613 acres in Polk and Osceola Counties. The lands that make up the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes Management Area were acquired as part of the Kissimmee River Restoration Project authorized under the Water Resources Development Act of 1992. These lands have been managed under the Governing Board-approved Kissimmee Chain of Lakes Management Area Ten-Year General Management Plan (2014-2024). In 2024, this plan was reviewed by stakeholders and the land management review team to ensure the management of the property is consistent with the purpose of its acquisition and the District's land management objectives. Based on this review, District staff updated the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes Management Area Ten-Year General Management Plan (2025-2035).

Recommended Action:

Resolution No. 2025-0505 Approve the ten-year update of the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes Management Area Ten-Year General Management Plan (2025-2035).

[Resolution No. 2025-0505](#)

[Exhibit A](#)

21. Collier County Office Lease Extension at the Big Cypress Basin Service Center (Staff contact, Candida Heater)

Agenda Item Background:

In 2009 the District purchased the current facility housing the Big Cypress Basin Service Center (BCBSC). The BCBSC consists of two buildings connected by a breezeway totaling approximately 9,640 square feet and is part of a four-building office condominium complex. It was determined in 2014 that the BCBSC staff could adequately utilize just one of the buildings for their operations and the other building could be leased to generate revenue. The other building was leased to Collier County for five years with three one-year optional extensions that ended on May 31, 2022. The lease was amended to add one three-year extension that ends on May 31, 2025. Collier County has expressed interest in leasing the building for two additional years with three one-year renewal options.

This request is to authorize one two-year extension with three one-year renewal options to the existing Contract No. 4600003056 with Collier County for an amount of \$483,371.97 and total revenue amount of \$1,283,936.67.

Recommended Action:

Resolution No. 2025-0506 Authorize an amendment to the contract with Collier County to extend the original Lease by two additional years, with three one-year renewal options, extend the expiration date, as amended, to May 31, 2027, for an amount of \$483,371.97 and total revenue amount of \$1,283,936.67. (Contract No. 4600003056-A05)

[Resolution No. 2025-0506](#)

22. Authorize Publishing a Notice of Change to the Small Business Enterprise (SBE) Program, Rules 40E-7.668, 40E-7.671, and 40E-7.673, F.A.C., and Adopt Proposed

Rules with Changes to Address Comments Received from the Joint Administrative Procedures Committee (Staff contact, Candida Heater)

Agenda Item Background:

On March 13, 2025, the Governing Board authorized publication of a Notice of Proposed Rule and adopted amendments to the proposed rules, provided no substantive changes were made and no request for a public hearing was received. The Notice of Proposed Rule was published in the Florida Administrative Register on March 24, 2025. Following publication, the District received comments from the Joint Administrative Procedures Committee (JAPC).

District staff made changes to the proposed rules to address the comments received from JAPC. District staff seeks authorization from the Governing Board to publish a Notice of Change that reflects the changes made since the proposed rule language was published and adopt the proposed rules with those changes.

Recommended Action:

Resolution No. 2025-0507 Authorize publishing a Notice of Change in the Florida Administrative Register (F.A.R.) to the Small Business Enterprise (SBE) Program, Rules 40E-7.668, 40E-7.671, and 40E-7.673, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), and adopting the proposed rules with changes to address comments received from the Joint Administrative Procedures Committee (JAPC).

[Resolution No. 2025-0507](#)

[Notice of Change](#)

[Proposed Rule with JAPC Changes](#)

23. C-23 Estuary Discharge Diversion Project - Change Order No. 6, Martin County (Staff contact, Lucine Dadrian, P.E.)

Agenda Item Background:

As part of the Central Everglades Restoration Plan - Indian River Lagoon South Project, the C-23 Estuary Discharge Diversion Project, located in Martin County, will Construct 6.85 miles of canal connecting the C-23 Canal to the C-44 Reservoir seepage canal. To facilitate moving excess flows and reducing harmful discharges to the St. Lucie River and Estuary, the project also includes the construction of a 250 cfs pump station, culverts under CR714 and Coca Cola Road, service bridge for FPL, and spillway structure connecting to the reservoir.

On November 14, 2022, the Governing Board awarded the C-23 Estuary Discharge Diversion Project to Harry Pepper and Associates, Inc. for \$46,227,152.00, Contract No. 4600004680. On April 11, 2024, the Governing Board approved a change order that revised the contract cost to \$47,625,394.42.

During the required construction activities, it was discovered that the dimensions shown on the backwall of the pump station needed a one-foot extension of concrete, additional reinforcing bars, and relocation of the curtain wall. The extension of the limits of sod on the main canal and seepage canals slopes to the groundwater table are necessary to minimize erosion. Also, the project experienced a delay in a power line relocation that interfered with the efficient construction of the pump station.

Negotiated overhead costs and direct dewatering costs associated with the relocation delay are part of this change order. These changes result in an increase to the contract price by \$2,991,936.33 for a revised total contract value of \$51,616,357.49 and adds 196 days to the contract time.

Recommended Action:

Resolution No. 2025-0508 Authorize Change Order No. 6 with Harry Pepper and Associates, Inc., for the construction of the C-23 Estuary Discharge Diversion Project, for an additional amount of \$2,991,936.33, for which dedicated funds (Land Acquisition Trust Fund and State General Revenue) are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2024-2025. (Contract No. 4600004680-CO06)

[Resolution No. 2025-0508](#)

[Backup Presentation](#)

24. C-43 Reservoir (Staff contact, Lucine Dadrian, P.E.)

Agenda Item Background:

The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan will restore and improve freshwater deliveries to the natural system and provide water for other related needs of the system. The C-43 West Basin Storage Reservoir was approved by Congress in 2014 and provides 170,000 acre-feet of water storage to improve ecological conditions in the Caloosahatchee River and Estuary. The reservoir will capture excess water in the river originating from local run-off and Lake Okeechobee, reducing damaging discharges to the Caloosahatchee River and Estuary.

In March 2019, the District contracted with a contractor to build the Bid Package 4 Civil Works project (BP4). The contractor did not adhere to the contract's required schedule, which set forth a mandatory substantial completion date and final completion date. The contractor also refused to make the necessary changes to get back on schedule or prevent further delay. As a result, the District terminated the contractor and filed a breach of contract suit to recover damages.

The District promptly proceeded with construction of BP4. On September 14, 2023, the Governing Board approved an additional \$104,500,000, and on June 6, 2024, the Governing Board, approved an additional \$60,000,000 authority for construction of the reservoir. The project is nearing completion with an initial fill scheduled this summer to start seeing early benefits. Some key activities left to implement include necessary public access infrastructure that will be available after operations, testing, and monitoring is complete for the site to be opened for public activities. In support of project closeout activities and public access features, staff seeks additional budgetary authority in the amount of \$28,000,000. This **does not** change current or projected appropriation needs.

Recommended Action:

Resolution No. 2025-0509 Authorize additional budgetary authority in the amount of \$28,000,000 for which dedicated funds (Land Acquisition Trust Fund and State General Revenue) are budgeted and subject to Governing Board approval of future years' budgets, for construction of the C-43 Caloosahatchee Basin Storage Reservoir.

[Resolution No. 2025-0509](#)

25. Water Reuse Week, May 18-24, 2025 (Staff contact, Mark Elsner, P.E.)

Agenda Item Background:

May typically marks the end of the dry season and can be a time when water needs are most acute. At this time, it is important to increase awareness regarding the re-use of our precious water resources. Since the year 2000, water reuse in the District has increased by 55 percent to approximately 300 million gallons per day and has become integral to South Florida's water supply. WaterReuse Florida, the state section of the WaterReuse Association, has designated May 18-24, 2025 as Water Reuse Week in the State of Florida.

With this resolution, the South Florida Water Management District will join WaterReuse Florida, other water management districts, local governments, and other organizations in supporting water reuse with the adoption of similar resolutions throughout Florida.

Recommended Action:

Resolution No. 2025-0510 Proclaim May 18-24, 2025 as Water Reuse Week.

[Resolution No. 2025-0510](#)

Discussion Agenda

26. Alternative Water Supply Funding Program (Staff contact, Mark Elsner, P.E.)

Agenda Item Background:

This item includes a presentation of the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Alternative Water Supply Funding Program (Program) which includes a recap and the final project list for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) submittal by May 31, 2025. The Program's purpose is to provide financial incentives through matching grants for local alternative water supply (AWS) and water conservation projects. Water resource and water supply development projects help to protect our water resources and ensure that the needs of existing and future users are met.

Recommended Action:

A. Resolution No. 2025-0511 Approve and authorize submittal of the final project list to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for the purpose of funding consideration for projects listed in the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Alternative Water Supply Grant Program in dedicated state appropriations from the 2025 State General Appropriations Act.

B. Resolution No. 2025-0512 Authorize entering into agreement(s) with cooperating entities for alternative water supply and water conservation projects with dedicated state appropriations from the 2025 General Appropriations and delegating authority to the Executive Director to execute the agreements for identified projects that receive state appropriations.

[A. Resolution No. 2025-0511 with Exhibit A](#)

[B. Resolution No. 2025-0512 with Exhibit A](#)

Technical Reports

27. Water and Ecological Conditions Report - John P. Mitnik, P.E., and Cassandra Armstrong, Ph.D.

Staff Reports

28. Monthly Financial Report - Jennifer Smith
- Lake Belt Mitigation Committee Annual Report for 2024
29. General Public Comment
30. Board Comment
31. Adjourn

Draft Presentations and Project Updates

Agenda Item Background:

[26 Elsner Alternative Water Supply Funding Program - Draft](#)
[27 Mitnik Armstrong Water and Ecological Conditions Report - Draft](#)
[CERP Report](#)
[NEEPP Report](#)

Public Comment Procedure

The South Florida Water Management District Governing Board encourages the public to provide comment and input to the Governing Board. Public comment is accepted at the two dedicated General Public Comment periods at the beginning and the end of the meeting. Public comment is also accepted on the Consent Agenda and each Discussion Agenda item.