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## South Florida Water Management District

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### GOVERNING BOARD MONTHLY MEETING AGENDA

May 14, 2026

9:00 AM

District Headquarters, B-1 Auditorium

3301 Gun Club Road

West Palm Beach, FL 33406

#### FINAL

1. Call to Order - Chauncey Goss, Chairman, Governing Board
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Employee Recognitions
  - May 2026 Employee of the Month: Joshua Feltner, Senior Environmental Professional, Real Estate Bureau
  - May 2026 Team of the Month: Future Flood Control Study Delivery Team
  - 35-Year Service Award: Dana Winston-Pate, Human Resources Manager
  - 35-Year Service Award: Mark Wilsnack, Section Leader, Hydraulic Design
  - 45-Year Service Award: Dennis Morrissey, Stationary Diesel Engine Operator/Mechanic-Lead
4. Agenda Revisions
5. Agenda Item Abstentions by Board Members
6. Big Cypress Basin Board Report - Charlette Roman, Chair
7. Consider Approval of the Minutes for the April 9, 2026 Meeting
8. Executive Director's Report - Drew Bartlett
  - Ceremonial Passing of the Purple Jacket

9. General Public Comment
10. Board Comment
11. Move Consent Agenda Items to Discussion Agenda
12. Public Comment on Consent Agenda Items
13. Board Vote on Consent Agenda

## **Consent Agenda**

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

### **Agenda Item Background:**

The District has certain reserved rights for oil, gas and mineral rights and to construct canal rights of way. Applications requesting release of these reservations are received as they constitute a cloud 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. After review by internal subject matter experts and affected external agencies, 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:

### **Palm Beach County**

- Release District canal reservations and issue a Non-Use Commitment for oil, gas and mineral reservations. Recommend release of Board of Education canal reservations and oil, gas and mineral reservations for Myers Huong Pham Trust (File No. 18977). The TIITF and District reservations were reserved in 1926 and 1947, respectively, and cover the same parcels. The two parcels contain 54.47+/- acres of Agricultural land, with a release value payment of \$40,852.50 to be paid.
- Release District canal reservations for the Gary G. Dunkley Irrevocable Trust (File No. 18978). The District reservation was reserved in 1925 and covers one parcel. The parcel contains 10.55 acres of Agricultural land, with a release value payment of \$27,352.50 to be paid.

### **Recommended Action:**

**Resolution No. 2026-0501 Authorize release of certain canal and oil, gas and**

**mineral reservations.**

[Memorandum Exhibit A](#)  
[Resolution 2026-0501 with Exhibit A](#)  
[Maps](#)

15. Surplus and Sale to Thalle Construction Co. Inc., Central Everglades Planning Project, Everglades Agricultural Area A-2 Reservoir Component, Palm Beach County (Staff contact, Ray Palmer)

**Agenda Item Background:**

The District acquired lands in connection with the Central Everglades Planning Project, Everglades Agricultural Area A-2 Reservoir Component in Palm Beach County. The construction of the A-2 Reservoir is well underway, with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) serving as the lead agency for the design and construction. This announcement included the formal signing of a Memorandum of Agreement between the State of Florida and Department of the Army which is implemented through a Memorandum of Understanding between the USACE, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and the South Florida Water Management District. These agreements reflect a shared commitment between Florida and the U.S. Army to get the job done and done right. Recently, the USACE announced that all federally funded contracts for the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Reservoir have been fully executed, which means that all federally managed contracts necessary to meet the accelerated 2029 completion target are now in place, ensuring that funding and resources will remain secured through project completion.

The USACE, the South Florida Water Management District, and the USACE's contractor for the construction of the A-2 Reservoir, Thalle Construction Co. Inc., support having a temporary job site housing area owned and operated by Thalle, to increase productivity and allow around-the-clock site operations. The District owns approximately 155.45 acres of land in connection with the A-2 Reservoir project, and this land is outside of the design and construction footprint of the A-2 Reservoir.

The District and Thalle will enter into an agreement for the sale and purchase of the 155.45 acres. The District will convey the land to Thalle and Thalle will pay \$1,870,000 to the District. This sale is also subject to other terms and conditions, including but not limited to the District's right and option to repurchase the lands for \$2,133,438.09 on or before December 31, 2029 and a restrictive covenant that the lands will only be used, operated, and occupied as temporary job site housing, with associated accessory buildings and improvements, in furtherance of the A-2 Reservoir construction project.

**Recommended Action:**

**Resolution No. 2026-0502 Approve declaring surplus for sale and conveyance fee title land interests containing 155.45 acres, more or less, in connection with the District's Central Everglades Planning Project, Everglades Agricultural Area A-2 Reservoir Component in Palm Beach County, for the payment of \$1,870,000 to the District.**

[Resolution 2026-0502](#)  
[Exhibit A Map](#)  
[Exhibit B Map](#)

16. Request for Right of Way Occupancy Permit, Broward County (Staff contact, Rich Virgil, P.E.)

**Agenda Item Background:**

Broward County (County) requests a new Standard Right of Way Occupancy Permit Number 17584-R (ROW Permit) and a waiver from District criteria to allow for proposed drainage improvements and existing residential parking areas within the north right of way of the G-15 Canal (North New River) between the Florida's Turnpike and U.S. 441/S.R. 7 in Broward County. A waiver of District criteria is required for both the proposed pump stations and the existing parking spaces which are non-allowable uses within the right of way.

To address flooding problems in the neighborhood, the County is proposing to modify and supplement its existing drainage system in the right of way with the addition of two underground pump stations with fence enclosures and associated buried pipes, manholes, and four outfalls connecting to the G-15 Canal (North New River). In addition, the County is requesting approval for 31 existing paved parking spaces which were installed in the right of way without District authorization. Both the pump stations and the existing parking spaces are non-allowable uses in the right of way and require a waiver from District criteria. All other proposed improvements and work comply with District criteria.

The lack of available lands to support much needed drainage improvements and parking for the Broadview Park neighborhood establishes a hardship that justifies granting of the requested waiver. Without granting of the waiver, Broward County has no alternative for resolution of the recurring flooding problem in the neighborhood or lack of off-street parking. The District has historically supported Broward County's requests to use this right of way for utility, roadway, and drainage improvements for the benefit of the adjacent Broadview Park neighborhood. Granting of the waiver will be consistent with the improvements authorized by ROW Permits within this right of way over the past 50 years.

The proposed pump stations, buried pipes, and outfalls/culvert connections, and existing parking spaces are or will be installed at or below-grade. In addition, there will be no above-ground improvements within 40 feet of top of bank. The north right of way of the G-15 Canal (North New River) at this location measures approximately 70 feet to top of bank and is sufficient to accommodate the requested improvements without adversely impacting the District's ability to perform routine or emergency operations, maintenance, or future construction activities.

**Recommended Action:**

**Approve issuance of a new Standard Right of Way Occupancy Permit Number 17584-R and approval of the associated petition for waiver for non-allowable uses in the right of way (Application No. 250618-54010).**

[Backup Presentation](#)

17. Request to Approve the Compensatory Mitigation Plan for the Blount Road Extension and Approve the Full Release of 25.08 acres of a Recorded Conservation Easement in Broward County (Staff contact, Jill S. Creech, P.E.)

**Agenda Item Background:**

Broward County requests the release of 25.08 acres of a recorded conservation easement, located in Broward County, for safety and maintenance issues.

The District was granted a conservation easement over 25.08 acres as required by Environmental Resource Permit No. 06-01949-S, Application No. 990806-15 issued December 9, 1999. The 25.08 acres of the conservation easement were provided to mitigate 1.30 acres of wetland impacts. To replace the mitigation that was provided by the 25.08 acres of conservation easement, Broward County will restore 25.19 acres of wetlands and preserve 17.45 acres of wetlands, totaling 42.64 acres of wetlands.

**Recommended Action:**

**Resolution No. 2026-0503 Approve Broward County’s compensatory mitigation plan and approve the release of a recorded conservation easement for a project known as Blount Road Extension at NW 27th Avenue.**

[Resolution No. 2026-0503](#)

[Exhibit A](#)

[Exhibit B](#)

- 18. Snake Land and Cattle Water and Nutrient Retention Project (Staff contact, Jennifer Reynolds)

**Agenda Item Background:**

As part of the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program (NEEPP), the Snake Land and Cattle Water and Nutrient Retention Project, located in Glades County, is the result of the Caloosahatchee River Watershed Water Storage Initiative Request for Proposals released in May 2025. Snake Land and Cattle, LLC will provide stormwater retention services utilizing 632 acres of the ranch land located in the West Caloosahatchee Basin. The project is estimated to store approximately 1,800 acre-feet of water per year. The ancillary nutrient retention benefits from the project are approximately 700 pounds of phosphorous and 6,000 pounds of nitrogen annually.

The negotiated ten-year agreement includes up to one year for implementation (design, permitting, and construction) and nine years of operation. Funding includes \$716,000 for permitting, design and construction and \$251,600 per year for operations and maintenance. Staff requests Governing Board approval to enter into an agreement with Snake Land and Cattle, LLC to construct and operate the project for a total not to exceed agreement total of \$2,980,400.

**Recommended Action:**

**Resolution No. 2026-0504 Authorize a ten-year contract with Snake Land and Cattle, LLC, to implement water retention and nutrient reduction projects in support of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) goals for the Caloosahatchee River Watershed in an amount not to exceed \$2,980,400, for which \$40,000 in dedicated funds (State Appropriations) was provided by the Florida Legislature and is budgeted in Fiscal Year 2025-2026, and the remainder is solely dependent on future legislative funding and subject to Governing Board approval of future years’ budgets. (Contract No. 4600005272)**

[Resolution No. 2025-0504](#)

## Backup Presentation

19. Authorize Publication of a Notice of Proposed Rule in the Florida Administrative Register and Adopt Amendments to Rules 40E-21.631, 40E-21.671 and 40E-21.691, Florida Administrative Code (Staff contact, Maricruz R. Fincher)

### **Agenda Item Background:**

During the 2025 legislative session, the Florida Legislature passed Senate Bill 108 (SB 108), which created section 120.5435, Florida Statutes (F.S.), and amended section 120.74, F.S.

As part of the new requirements under SB 108, District staff, in coordination with the Joint Administrative Procedures Committee, must review all its existing rules by July 1, 2030. District staff must include in its annual regulatory plan a schedule of the rules it will review each year during the review period.

To comply with these requirements, the District's 2025-2026 Regulatory Plan contains the yearly review schedule for 2025-2026, which includes, but is not limited to, Rules 40E-21.631, 40E-21.671, and 40E-21.691, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.). During this review, District staff identified substantive changes are needed to move Figures 21-1 through 21-8 from Rule 40E-21.671, F.A.C., to Rule 40E-21.631, F.A.C., where the figures are referenced. Substantive changes are also needed in Rule 40E-21.691, F.A.C., to clarify that this rule contains the legal descriptions of the District's water use basins listed in Rule 40E-21.631, F.A.C., which will be utilized by the Governing Board when issuing a water shortage warning or declaring a water shortage in all or part of the District. The District is not proposing any changes to the legal descriptions of the District's water use basin boundaries. The District is also proposing to add sections 373.171 and 373.246, F.S., to the rulemaking authority for these three rules.

The Governing Board approved publication of a Notice of Rule Development on December 11, 2025, for Rule 40E-21.691, F.A.C., and on March 5, 2026, for Rules 40E-21.631 and 40E-21.671, F.A.C. Since the publication dates, the District has not received any requests for workshops or comments on the proposed rules.

### **Recommended Action:**

**Resolution No. 2026-0505 Authorize publication of a Notice of Proposed Rule in the Florida Administrative Register and adopt amendments to Rules 40E-21.631, 40E-21.671 and 40E-21.691, F.A.C., to move figures from Rule 40E-21.671, F.A.C., to Rule 40E-21.631, F.A.C., add language to Rule 40E-21.691, F.A.C., to clarify that this rule contains the legal descriptions of the District's water use basins listed in Rule 40E-21.631, F.A.C., which will be utilized by the Governing Board when issuing a water shortage warning or declaring a water shortage in all or part of the District, and add sections 373.171 and 373.246, Florida Statutes, to the rulemaking authority for these three rules.**

[Resolution No. 2026-0505](#)

[Notice of Proposed Rule 40E-21.631 & 40E-21.671](#)

[Notice of Proposed Rule 40E-21.691](#)

20. Water Reuse Week, May 17-23, 2026 (Staff contact, Carolina Maran, Ph.D., P.E.)

**Agenda Item Background:**

May generally marks the end of South Florida’s dry season and can be a time when water needs are most acute. At this time, it is important to increase awareness regarding the reuse of our precious water resources. Since the year 2000, water reuse within the SFWMD’s jurisdiction has increased by 55 percent to approximately 300 million gallons per day and has become integral to South Florida’s water supply. WateReuse Florida, the state section of the WateReuse Association, has designated May 17-23, 2026 as Water Reuse Week in the State of Florida.

With this resolution, the District will join WateReuse 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. 2026-0506 Proclaim May 17-23, 2026 as Water Reuse Week.**

[Resolution No. 2026-0506](#)

**Discussion Agenda**

- 21. Alternative Water Supply Funding Program (Staff contact, Stacey Payseno)

**Agenda Item Background:**

This item includes a presentation of the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 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, 2026. 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. 2026-0507 Approve and authorize submittal of the final project list to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for the purpose of funding consideration for projects for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Alternative Water Supply Grant Program and authorize the Executive Director or designee to execute reimbursement grant agreements with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for identified projects that receive legislative appropriations.**

**B. Resolution No. 2026-0508 Authorize entering into agreement(s) with cooperating entities for the identified alternative water supply and water conservation projects that receive legislative appropriations from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Alternative Water Supply Grant Program, for which funding is subject to legislative appropriations and Governing Board approval of the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 budget.**

[A. Resolution No. 2026-0507](#)

[B. Resolution No. 2026-0508](#)

[Exhibit A](#)

## **Technical Reports**

22. Water and Ecological Conditions Report - John P. Mitnik, P.E., and Cassondra Armstrong, Ph.D.

## **Staff Reports**

23. Monthly Financial Report - Candida Heater, Division Director - Administrative Services
  - Lake Belt Mitigation Committee Annual Report for 2025
24. General Public Comment
25. Board Comment
26. Adjourn

Draft Presentation and Project Updates

### **Agenda Item Background:**

[Payseno Alternative Water Supply Funding Program](#)  
[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.