



South Florida Water Management District

GOVERNING BOARD MONTHLY MEETING AGENDA

June 11, 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
 - June 2026 Employee of the Month: Harrison Alexander, IT Administrator
 - June 2026 Team of the Month: C-23 Estuary Discharge Diversion Team
 - 25-Year Service Award: Juan Gonzalez, Ph.D., P.E., Chief Engineer, Hydrology and Hydraulics
4. Agenda Revisions
5. Agenda Item Abstentions by Board Members
6. Consider Approval of the Minutes for the May 14, 2026 Meeting
7. Executive Director's Report - Drew Bartlett
 - Flood Control Awareness Month
8. General Public Comment
9. Board Comment
10. Move Consent Agenda Items to Discussion Agenda

11. Public Comment on Consent Agenda Items
12. Board Vote on Consent Agenda

Consent Agenda

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

Agenda Item Background:

Palm Beach County is proposing to place a conservation easement over the existing District's 7,070.46-acre conservation easement to further enhance the preservation of the Loxahatchee Slough Natural Area for its cultural and environmental significance. Palm Beach County has requested the District release existing reservations within the conservation area so that Palm Beach County can enter into an agreement with Conservation Florida, Inc., a member of the Land Trust Alliance, to help the County protect and manage their lands. The property is owned by Palm Beach County and is currently used for conservation, with no proposed change in land use. District canal, road and oil, gas and mineral reservations overlap and cover approximately 4,326.7 acres in the Loxahatchee Slough Natural Area.

Applications for the release of reservations 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 and may require such other terms and conditions determined by the Board. The District is retaining all the existing conservation easements, and the Conservation Florida easement will contain language acknowledging the priority position of the District's easement. The District is also retaining reservation rights for 100 ft. lying northerly of the present State Road 710 Road Right of Way; the present C-18 Canal and C-18 West Canal Rights of Way; and 100 ft. lying on each side of the present C-18 Canal and C-18 Canal West Rights of Way. The District is also retaining oil, gas and mineral reservations, but staff is recommending that issuing a non-use commitment is compatible with the District's conservation purpose. The applicant is a government entity; therefore, release value payments are not required (District Policy No. 140-86). For canal reservations held by the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund (TIITF) and Board of Education (BOE), 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 Palm Beach County's (fee simple owner) release of reservations to facilitate their proposal to place a conservation easement over the Loxahatchee Slough Natural Area, as follows:

Palm Beach County

- Release District road reservations for the Palm Beach County - Loxahatchee Slough Natural Area. The District reservation was reserved in 1944. The property contains 38.48 acres, more or less, of the Conservation land.
- Release District canal reservations and issue Non-Use Commitment for oil, gas and mineral reservations for Palm Beach County - Loxahatchee Slough Natural Area. The District canal and oil, gas and mineral reservations were reserved in 1925, 1944, and 1946, respectively. The property contains 313.53 acres, more or less, of canal reservations and 2,922.06 acres, more or less, of oil, gas, and mineral reservations of the Conservation land.
- Recommend release of Board of Education (BOE) canal reservations for Palm Beach County - Loxahatchee Slough Natural Area. The BOE reservation was reserved in 1955. The property contains 9.60 acres, more or less, of the Conservation land.
- Recommend release of canal reservations held by the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund for Palm Beach County - Loxahatchee Slough Natural Area. The reservations were reserved in 1917, 1946 and 1951, respectively. The property contains 3,254.39 acres, more or less, of the Conservation land.

Recommended Action:

Resolution No. 2026-0601 Authorize the release of certain canal and road reservations; issue a Non-Use Commitment for oil, gas and mineral reservations; and provide a recommendation to the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund for the release of canal reservations.

[Memorandum Exhibit A](#)

[Resolution No. 2026-0601 with Exhibit A Map](#)

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

Agenda Item Background:

Broward County Parks and Recreation Division (Applicant) requests a modification of Standard Right of Way Occupancy Permit Number 6659 (ROW Permit) and associated waivers from District criteria to allow for improvements within the L-38W Canal right of way for the West Broward Boat Ramp facility, a regional recreational use located on the west side of U.S. 27 approximately 2 miles north of Interstate 75 in Broward County. The proposed improvements to be authorized by the ROW Permit include a concrete pad and sidewalk with a kiosk, bench, and trash receptacle and an entry sign. Waivers are required from District criteria to allow the kiosk, bench, and trash receptacle, all of which are non-allowable uses within the right of way and proposed within 40 feet of top of bank. No waiver is required for the concrete pad, sidewalk, or entry sign.

The West Broward Boat Ramp was originally authorized by ROW Permit 6659 issued to Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) in April 1977. By the mid-2010s, the boat ramp had fallen into disrepair. The District did not wish to assume responsibility for the ramp and FDOT indicated that it was no longer maintaining boat ramp facilities it had constructed in the past. Given the condition of the boat ramp and parking at the time, FDOT made the decision to close the boat ramp while it sought monies for removal of the improvements within the right of way.

In 2022, Broward County expressed interest in assuming responsibility for the boat ramp. This interest was welcomed by the District, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and FDOT. The agencies collaborated to identify a process for the ramp and parking to be rehabilitated for public use. Broward County agreed to assume responsibility for the boat ramp if FDOT, the permittee at the time, would make some improvements to the existing parking areas. FDOT completed the necessary parking improvements in 2023. Thereafter, ROW Permit 6659 was transferred to Broward County. Now known as the “West Broward Boat Ramp,” the facility reopened for public use and is being operated and maintained by Broward County.

Applicant’s request for waivers is supported by its demonstration of substantial hardship and the application of principles of fairness. Approval of the requested waivers is consistent with previous Governing Board action for similar recreational facilities both within and outside of Broward County. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has granted Section 408 authorization for the proposed work. If the waivers are approved, construction of the proposed improvements will not adversely impact the District’s ability to perform routine or emergency operations, maintenance, or future construction activities.

Recommended Action:

Approve issuance of a modification of Standard Right of Way Occupancy Permit Number 6659 and approval of the associated petition for waivers for non-allowable uses and improvements within 40 feet of top of bank (Application No. 250804-55599).

[Backup Presentation](#)

15. Approve a Partial Release of up to 4.289 Acres of a Conservation Easement for the Osceola Parkway Extension, Segment 534-242 (Staff contact, Melissa Lawrence, P.E.)

Agenda Item Background:

The Central Florida Expressway Authority (CFX) is advancing a new four-lane limited access highway corridor project known as State Road (SR) 534, also known as the Osceola Parkway Extension. This new corridor will be divided into multiple segments in two phases. Phase I, Segment 534-242, extends from Laureate Blvd. to the east side of Jim Branch Creek. This segment of the corridor will impact up to 4.289 acres of a conservation easement that was granted to the District and recorded in the Official Records of Orange County, Florida.

CFX has purchased an 877-acre property known as KPB Cattle Ranch. Approximately 256 acres of the 877-acre parcel will be preserved and enhanced to offset the conservation easement impacts. The remaining 621 acres may be utilized to offset additional direct and secondary wetland impacts associated with future CFX mitigation needs. KPB Cattle Ranch holds significant conservation value as part of multiple state-wide conservation planning efforts. The property is part of the Florida Forever Big Bend Swamp/Holopaw Ranch Project. The property is also located within the FWC’s 2009 Strategic Habitat Conservation Area and part of the Heart Bar Branch Rural and Family Lands Protection Program.

Staff has determined the mitigation plan is sufficient to fully offset up to 55.52 acres of conservation easement impacts associated with Phase I and II of the project, which includes the 4.289 acres of release for Segment 534-242.

Recommended Action:

Resolution No. 2026-0602 Approve the partial release of up to 4.289 acres of a Conservation Easement, as recorded in Book 9988, Page 2964 of the public records of Orange County, Florida, for a project known as Osceola Parkway Extension, State Road 534-242.

[Resolution No. 2026-0602](#)

[Exhibit A](#)

[Exhibit B](#)

16. Approve a Partial Release of up to 51.23 Acres of Conservation Easements for the Osceola Parkway Extension, Phase II (Staff contact, Melissa Lawrence, P.E.)

Agenda Item Background:

The Central Florida Expressway Authority (CFX) is advancing a new four-lane limited access highway corridor project known as State Road (SR) 534, also known as the Osceola Parkway Extension. This new corridor will be divided into multiple segments in two phases. Phase II of the proposed roadway corridor for the project will impact 51.23 acres of conservation easements that were granted to the District and recorded in the Official Records of Orange and Osceola Counties.

CFX has purchased an 877-acre property known as KPB Cattle Ranch. Approximately 256 acres of the 877-acre parcel will be preserved and enhanced to offset the conservation easement impacts. The remaining 621 acres may be utilized to offset additional direct and secondary wetland impacts associated with future CFX mitigation needs. KPB Cattle Ranch holds significant conservation value as part of multiple state-wide conservation planning efforts. The property is part of the Florida Forever Big Bend Swamp/Holopaw Ranch Project. The property is also located within the FWC's 2009 Strategic Habitat Conservation Area and part of the Heart Bar Branch Rural and Family Lands Protection Program.

Staff has determined that the mitigation plan is sufficient to fully offset up to 55.52 acres of conservation easement impacts associated with the project.

Recommended Action:

Resolution No. 2026-0603 Approve the partial release of up to 51.23 acres of conservation easements, as recorded in Book 1335 Page 0665, Book 1335 Page 0677, and Book 1335 Page 0671 of the public records of Osceola County, Florida, and Book 6861 Page 1189 and Book 5794 Page 3082 of the public records of Orange County, Florida, for a project known as Osceola Parkway Extension, State Road 534, Phase II.

[Resolution No. 2026-0603](#)

[Exhibit A](#)

[Exhibit B](#)

17. Florida Power & Light Distribution Facilities Installation Agreement for the S-456 Structure Project, St. Lucie County (Staff contact, Lucine Dadrian, P.E.)

Agenda Item Background:

As part of maintaining the District’s critical flood control infrastructure, the Florida Power & Light Distribution Facilities Installation Agreement (Agreement) for the S-456 Structure Project, located in St. Lucie County, will install power distribution facilities for a replacement structure to improve flood control operations in the upper east coast on the C-23 Canal. The original G-78 structure was built in 1963, and the replacement S-456 structure is under construction.

The Agreement addresses the replacement of the existing Florida Power & Light (FPL) single-phase distribution facilities with a three-phase service required to power the new S-456 water control structure, a precursor project for the Indian River Lagoon-South authorization of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan. The Agreement includes the removal of the existing single-phase line, installation of a new three-phase distribution line, provides a perpetual easement to FPL for each of the relocated power lines, extends service to S-456 Structure, provides for the removal of the poles, and for FPL to remove infrastructure and release and terminate its existing easement rights. This agreement is needed to support the ongoing construction project by bringing power from north to south to the S-456 structure.

Recommended Action:

Resolution No. 2026-0604 Authorize entering into a Distribution Facilities Installation Agreement with the Florida Power & Light Company for the design, relocation, installation, and removal of power distribution facilities to support the S-456 Structure Project, in an amount not-to-exceed \$4,945,309.50, for which dedicated funds (State Appropriations) are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2025-2026. (Contract No. 4600005351)

[Resolution No. 2026-0604](#)
[Backup Presentation](#)

- 18. CEPP South S-355W Spillway Project, Change Order No. 2, Miami-Dade County (Staff contact, Lucine Dadrian, P.E)

Agenda Item Background:

As part of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, Central Everglades Planning Project - South Phase (CEPP South), the S-355W Spillway Project, located in Miami-Dade County, is a remotely operated divide structure in the L-29 Canal that provides a maximum of 1,200 cubic feet per second flow through a double gated spillway for water deliveries to the eastern L-29 Canal. The CEPP South Phase will remove water flow barriers in the southern portion of the project’s footprint to allow natural flow of water south into Everglades National Park.

On June 5, 2025, the Governing Board awarded the CEPP South S-355W Spillway Project to Kiewit Infrastructure South, Co. for \$49,977,000 (Contract No. 4600005204). The full buildout and operations of CEPP South features will alter existing water levels, resulting in occasional overflow, flooding and submergence of portions of the Airboat Association of Florida property, which is located southeast of the S-355W Spillway site, on the south side of Tamiami Trail, and encompasses approximately 4.5 acres.

To support future operations for CEPP South, the District will elevate the affected

areas of the property by adding fill and the associated drainage, roadway, septic system, and structural modifications. These improvements are intended to preserve the continued use of the property by the Association and its members, such that the functionality, use, service, and utility of the property and its existing improvements will remain substantially equivalent to current conditions. This added scope will expedite the start of construction to finish on time and result in an increase to the Contract price by \$8,450,000 for a revised total contract value of \$58,965,596.24.

Recommended Action:

Resolution No. 2026-0605 Authorize Change Order No. 2 with Kiewit Infrastructure South Co., for the construction of the CEPP South S-355W Spillway Project, for an additional amount not to exceed \$8,450,000, for which dedicated funds (State Appropriations) are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2025-2026. (Contract No. 4600005204-CO02)

[Resolution No. 2026-0605](#)

[Backup Presentation](#)

19. Governing Board Concurrence with Order Rescinding Phase IV Restrictions and Imposing Modified Phase II Restrictions in the Northeastern Portion of the City of Cape Coral and a Portion of Unincorporated Lee County (Northeastern Cape Coral), and Resolution of the Governing Board Delegating Authority Under Chapter 40E-21, Florida Administrative Code, to the Executive Director in Relation to the Modified Phase II Water Shortage Restrictions (Staff contact, Maricruz R. Fincher)

Agenda Item Background:

On May 4, 2026, the District's Executive Director issued Order No. 2026-047-DAO-WS, which rescinded modified Phase IV water shortage restrictions and imposed modified Phase II water restrictions on recreation area, landscape irrigation, nursery, and aesthetic use classes that utilize groundwater from the mid-Hawthorn aquifer within Northeastern Cape Coral. The order was issued due to sufficient improvement in groundwater levels in the mid-Hawthorn aquifer in Northeastern Cape Coral to allow for the rescission of modified Phase IV restrictions. This determination was based upon the cumulative assessment of rainfall received, the groundwater availability, current water demands, and the climate forecast. Pursuant to Rule 40E-21.291(6), Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), the Executive Director's Order No. 2026-047-DAO-WS is subject to ratification by the Governing Board.

In the event that the hydrologic conditions should change in the mid-Hawthorn aquifer in Northeastern Cape Coral, the Governing Board is delegating the Executive Director the authority to reduce water restrictions by modifying or rescinding the Modified Phase II Water Shortage Order (Order No. 2026-047-DAO-WS). The Governing Board further delegates to the Executive Director the authority under Rule 40E-21.275, F.A.C., to issue final orders granting or denying, as well as its authority to revoke or modify, variances submitted to the District pursuant to Order No. 2026-047-DAO-WS.

Recommended Action:

Concur with Order Rescinding Phase IV Restrictions and Imposing Modified Phase II Restrictions in Northeastern Cape Coral and a Portion of Unincorporated Lee County.

Resolution No. 2026-0606 Delegate to the Executive Director its authority under Chapter 40E-21, F.A.C., in relation to the Modified Phase II water shortage restrictions in the northeastern portion of Cape Coral and a portion of unincorporated Lee County.

[Resolution No. 2026-0606](#)

[2026-047-DAO-WS Order Rescinding Phase IV Restrictions and Imposing Modified Phase II Restrictions](#)

20. Authorize Publication of a Notice of Proposed Rule in the Florida Administrative Register and Adopt Amendments to Rules 40E-7.511 and 40E-7.539, Florida Administrative Code, as Required by the District's 2025-2026 Regulatory Plan (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, each agency, in coordination with the Joint Administrative Procedures Committee (JAPC), must review all of its existing rules by July 1, 2030. To comply with these requirements, the District's 2025-2026 Regulatory Plan included substantive changes to Rules 40E-7.511 and 40E-7.539 to ensure congruity with statutory authority.

The District proposes to delete language that paraphrases statutory provisions, delete a statutory reference that is obsolete, and correct a typographical error in rulemaking authority.

The District published a Notice of Rule Development on February 13, 2026. There were no public comments received or requests for a workshop. Upon Governing Board approval of the proposed rule language, District staff will publish a Notice of Proposed Rule in the Florida Administrative Register, and the public will have an additional 21 days to submit comments. After the time period to comment on the proposed rule concludes, if no request for a public hearing is received and no substantive changes are made, District staff will file the proposed rule for adoption with the Department of State.

Recommended Action:

Resolution No. 2026-0607 Authorize publication of a Notice of Proposed Rule in the Florida Administrative Register and adopt amendments to Rules 40E-7.511 and 40E-7.539, Florida Administrative Code, to delete language that paraphrases statutory provisions, delete a statutory reference that is obsolete, and correct a typographical error in rulemaking authority.

[Resolution No. 2026-0607](#)

[Notice of Proposed Rule 40E-7](#)

Discussion Agenda

21. Kissimmee River Restoration and Management Area Update and Ten-Year General Management Plan, 2025-2035 (Staff contact, Zach Welch, Ph.D., and Rory Feeney)

Agenda Item Background:

The Kissimmee River Management Area covers 42,750 acres in Polk, Osceola, Highlands, Okeechobee, and Glades Counties (Management Area). The Management Area stretches from Lake Kissimmee to Lake Okeechobee and encompasses lands within the Kissimmee River's 100-year floodplain, featuring a vast wetland ecosystem interspersed with oxbows and upland communities. These lands were acquired as part of the Kissimmee River Restoration Project authorized by Congress in 1992.

The Kissimmee River Restoration construction began in 1999 and was completed in 2021. The project backfilled 22 miles of the C-38 Canal, re-established flow to 44 miles of the river's historic path, and partially rehydrated more than 40 square miles of floodplain. The construction work involved removal or modification of water control structures to reconnect the system while maintaining flood control and water supply for the region. Comprehensive monitoring of the reconstructed river system is revealing improvements in the river and its floodplain and is documenting steady accrual of benefits over time. A healthy invertebrate community and native vegetation have returned to the river channel, and improved hydrology has reestablished wetland plants over most of the floodplain and increased wading bird use by 360 percent.

To date, the property has been managed in accordance with the Governing Board-approved Kissimmee River Management Area Ten-Year General Management Plan (2014-2024). The District is directed to develop General Management Plans for lands titled to the District to ensure the conservation, preservation, and recreation of those lands, pursuant to Sections 373.1391 and 373.591, Florida Statutes, and subsection 140-25(6)(b) of the South Florida Water Management District Policies Code. 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 property's management, and to present the findings of the land management review team.

In 2025, this plan was reviewed by stakeholders and the land management review team to ensure the property's management remains consistent with the purpose of its acquisition and the District's land management objectives. Based on this review, District staff has updated the Kissimmee River Management Area Ten-Year General Management Plan (2025-2035).

Recommended Action:

Resolution No. 2026-0608 Approve the ten-year update of the Kissimmee River Management Area Ten-Year General Management Plan (2025-2035).

[Resolution No. 2026-0608](#)
[Exhibit A](#)

Technical Reports

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

Staff Reports

23. Monthly Financial Report - Candida Heater, Division Director - Administrative Services
 - Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report Completion
 24. General Public Comment
 25. Board Comment
 26. Adjourn
- Draft Presentation and Project Updates

Agenda Item Background:

[21 Welch Feeney Kissimmee River](#)
[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.