



South Florida Water Management District

GOVERNING BOARD MONTHLY MEETING AGENDA

July 9, 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
 - July 2026 Employee of the Month: Daniel Sartori, Engineering/Construction Manager
 - July 2026 Team of the Month: Homestead Field Station Canal/Levee Team
 - Time Capsule
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 June 11, 2026 Meeting
8. Executive Director's Report - Drew Bartlett
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 reservations to construct road and 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 canal reservations held by TIITF prior to a release being issued by DEP. For reservations held by the State Board of Education (BOE), the BOE requires a recommendation from the District that there is no District or local need for the BOE held canal reservations.

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:

Broward County

Recommend Approval of the release of the TIITF canal reservations for CB 4300 NW 124th Avenue, LLC, a Florida limited liability company. The TIITF reservations were reserved in deed No.16896, Deed Book 40, Page 42, dated December 14, 1912. (File No.18983). The property contains 2.68 acres, more or less, of canal reservation, covering the entire parcel.

Palm Beach County

Release District canal reservations for Thomas E. and Rachael Lowe. The District reservations were reserved in the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund (TIIF) Deed No. 1785, Deed Book 307, Page 116, dated August 15, 1925. (File No. 18984) and North of the C18 W canal and Northeast of State Road 710 (Beeline Hwy.) The property contains 11.34 acres, more or less, of canal reservation, covering the entire parcel. No release value payment due, as the property is classified as Homestead. (Policy No. 140.86)

Recommended Action:

Resolution No. 2026-0701 Authorize release of certain canal 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. 2026-0701 with Exhibit A
Maps](#)

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

Agenda Item Background:

The Village of Palmetto Bay (Applicant) requests a Standard Right of Way Occupancy Permit Number 17457-R (ROW Permit) to authorize an existing linear park within the south, west, and east rights of way of the C-100A Canal lying within and adjacent to Coral Reef Park and replacement of an existing authorized kayak/canoe launch. The existing unauthorized linear park includes an asphalt path, brick pavers, concrete pads, benches, tables, exercise stations, and trees. Linear parks can only be authorized by issuance of a Standard Right of Way Occupancy Permit, which is a permit type that must be approved by the District's Governing Board. Waivers are required for the existing park improvements and amenities located within 40 feet of the top of bank. No waiver is required for the proposed replacement of the authorized kayak/canoe launch.

Coral Reef Park is a 50+ acre public recreational facility owned and maintained by the Village of Palmetto Bay. The District's C-100A Canal abuts the park on its north side and runs north-south through the park. The District's right of way is, for all intents and purposes, part of the park. However, use of the right of way for park purposes has not been authorized by a ROW Permit. Approval of this ROW Permit for a linear park will legitimize the Village's existing use of District right of way as part of the park. Some existing park improvements and amenities lie within 40 feet of top of bank. For these features to remain in the right of way, a waiver to the rule requiring a 40-foot setback from top of bank is required.

Existing flatwork, including the asphalt path, brick pavers, and pads under tables and benches, will be authorized by this ROW Permit; however, no waiver of District criteria is required since flatwork may be located within 40 feet of top of bank. In addition, replacement of the existing authorized kayak/canoe launch does not require a waiver.

The Village would incur a substantial hardship if required to relocate the improvements and/or remove the amenities from the right of way or further than 40 feet from top of bank. Locating the amenities further from the existing path would render them less accessible to park users and removal of the trees would make the park less hospitable. The existing locations are logical and consistent with other waivers granted by the District for linear park facilities.

As a condition of the ROW Permit, the Village will be required to maintain the improvements, amenities, and the entire right of way, thereby relieving the District from mowing and maintenance responsibilities for this segment of the C-100A Canal right of way. In addition, the Village will not be allowed to replace any of the existing trees presently located within the right of way. The ROW Permit does not authorize the planting of any new trees or the addition of any additional amenities within the right of

way.

If approved, the linear park and its related improvements and amenities will not interfere with or adversely impact the District's routine or emergency operations, maintenance, or future construction activities.

Recommended Action:

Approve issuance of Standard Right of Way Occupancy Permit Number 17457-R and approval of the associated petition for waiver for improvements within 40 feet of top of bank (Application No. 250523-53248).

[Backup Presentation](#)

16. Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Proposed Tentative Budget and Submission of Proposed Millage Rates (Staff contact, Candida Heater)

Agenda Item Background:

Pursuant to Section 373.536, Florida Statutes, the District shall, on or before July 15 of each year, submit for consideration by the Governing Board a tentative budget.

Pursuant to Section 200.065, Florida Statutes, the District shall, on or before August 4 of each year, advise each county property appraiser within the boundaries of the District of its proposed millage rates for inclusion in the notice of proposed property taxes. The millage rates that are being proposed for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 are the same rates as last year's rates and are not an increase. With these proposed rates, the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 will be the twenty-ninth year that the District has not increased its millage rates. The Fiscal Year 2026-2027 proposed millage rates remain the lowest rates since Fiscal Year 1978-1979.

Recommended Action:

Resolution No. 2026-0702 Consider the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 proposed tentative budget update and authorize submittal of the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 proposed millage rates to county property appraisers for inclusion in the notice of proposed property taxes.

[Resolution No. 2026-0702](#)

17. Adoption of the 2025 Osceola County Local Mitigation Strategy (Staff contact, Carolina Maran, Ph.D., P.E.)

Agenda Item Background:

Formal adoption of Osceola County's 2025 Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) update by the District's Governing Board is required to receive federal hazard mitigation grant program funding, administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), for the District's projects in Osceola County. There is no cost for the District associated with the formal adoption of this plan.

The LMS was developed and revised by the Osceola County LMS Working Group, in coordination with governmental and non-governmental stakeholders having an interest in reducing the impact of disasters, and with input from the private sector and other members of the public. The purpose of the Osceola County LMS is to mitigate natural, technological, and human-made hazards that pose risks to public health and safety,

threaten economic stability, and impact the quality of the natural environment. The Osceola County LMS provides a rational, managed basis for considering and prioritizing mitigation options, and for developing and executing sound, cost-effective mitigation projects. The Osceola County LMS provides a basis for justifying the solicitation and use of local, state, and federal funding sources to support hazard mitigation projects and initiatives.

Recommended Action:

Resolution No. 2026-0703 Adopt the 2025 Osceola County Local Mitigation Strategy update for the purpose of hazard mitigation funding eligibility.

[Resolution No. 2026-0703](#)

18. Changes to the Administrative Policies

A. Delegation of Authority for Rule Development (Staff contact, Maricruz R. Fincher)

Agenda Item Background:

District staff recommends adding a delegation in Chapter 101, Article II, Governing Board Delegations of Authority, Section 101-41, Agency Administration Delegations, authorizing the Executive Director and General Counsel to initiate rule development and publish a Notice of Rule Development, when applicable, for rules reviewed pursuant to section 120.5435, Florida Statutes (F.S.).

Section 120.5435, F.S., requires the District, in coordination with the Joint Administrative Procedures Committee, to review all existing rules by 2030, evaluating at least 20% each year. If a substantive change is required for a rule under review, the District must publish a Notice of Rule Development in the Florida Administrative Register by April 1 of that year.

The Governing Board must still approve the publication of a Notice of Proposed Rule and final rules for adoption with the Department of State.

Recommended Action:

Resolution No. 2026-0704 Delegate authority to initiate rule development and publish a Notice of Rule Development, and approve an administrative change to Section 101-41 of the District Policies.

[Resolution No. 2026-0704](#)

[Resolution Attachment A - Rule Development](#)

B. Updates to the Investment Policy (Staff contact, Candida Heater)

Agenda Item Background:

District staff recommends updating Chapter 110 - Finance, Article VI, Investment and Banking, to reflect current industry standards, state laws, recommended revisions to authorized investment and portfolio compositions, and organizational labels. These updates were presented to the District Audit and Finance Committee September 2025.

Recommended Action:

Resolution No. 2026-0705 Approve an administrative change to District Policies.

[Resolution No. 2026-0705](#)

Resolution Attachment A - Investment and Banking

C. Updates to Procurement Statements of Policy (Staff contact, Candida Heater)

Agenda Item Background:

District staff recommends updating Chapter 155, Procurement and Contracting, Section 155-4, the Procurement Statements of Policy, including provisions governing the Small Business Enterprise (SBE) Program, to align with rule amendments to the SBE Rules 40E-7.668 through 40E-7.678, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), that went into effect on June 26, 2025.

Recommended Action:

Resolution No. 2026-0706 Approve an administrative change to District Policies.

[Resolution No. 2026-0706](#)

[Resolution Attachment A - Procurement](#)

Discussion Agenda

19. Budget Development Approach for Transitioning from Fiscal Year 2025-26 to Fiscal Year 2026-27 (Staff contact, Drew Bartlett)

Agenda Item Background:

The South Florida Water Management District (District) continues to support South Florida ecosystem restoration and the management of South Florida's primary water management infrastructure that provides flood control and water supply for over nine million residents. The District has a proven record of maximizing resources while delivering essential services effectively and efficiently. The District has become extremely lean but consistently delivers results and optimizes resources to achieve more with less. New critical water infrastructure, the number of acres to manage, and the volume of repairs and replacements for aging infrastructure has increased. The next fiscal year budget must demonstrate the District's longstanding commitment to delivering on its core mission with fiscal discipline, operational efficiency, and the effective stewardship of taxpayer resources.

As the District continues to increase focus on repairing and adapting the flood control system, District data demonstrates the success of operating new restoration project infrastructure across our region - proving recent investments and momentum are working. Major CERP projects including the Caloosahatchee (C-43) Reservoir, the St. Lucie (C-44) Reservoir, Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands and the Picayune Strand Restoration Project are operational.

Over the last seven years, more water is moving through the Everglades, salinity levels in Florida Bay have improved, and harmful estuary discharges from Lake Okeechobee are down dramatically.

Technical Reports

20. Water and Ecological Conditions Report - John P. Mitnik, P.E., and Zach Welch, Ph.D.

Staff Reports

21. Monthly Financial Report - Candida Heater, Division Director - Administrative Services
22. General Public Comment
23. Board Comment
24. Adjourn

Project Updates

Agenda Item Background:

[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.