



South Florida Water Management District

GOVERNING BOARD MONTHLY MEETING AGENDA

August 13, 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
 - August 2026 Employee of the Month: Mike Cheek, Section Leader, Public Use and Wildlife Unit, Land Stewardship
 - August 2026 Team of the Month: First-of-a-Kind 1043(b) Agreement Team
 - 25-Year Service Award: Melinda Parrott, Principal Policy Analyst
4. Agenda Revisions
5. Agenda Item Abstentions by Board Members
6. Consider Approval of the Minutes for the July 9, 2026 Meeting
7. Executive Director's Report - Drew Bartlett
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. Cooperative Agreement with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission to Provide Funding for Law Enforcement Services on District Lands (Staff contact, Rich Virgil, P.E.)

Agenda Item Background:

In 2023, the District entered into a 25-year Cooperative Agreement with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) to patrol and provide law enforcement services on District lands. Similar agreements have been in place since Fiscal Year 1999. These patrols enforce the District 40E-7 Public Use Rule and State and Federal rules and regulations pertaining to resource protection, access, and public use on District lands. These patrols have been effective in addressing and preventing illegal activities such as target shooting, dumping, unauthorized vehicle use, illegal take of wildlife, and vandalism on District properties. The services provided under this agreement, as well as past agreements, include providing law enforcement patrols and special details on District property that otherwise could not be provided by FWC due to staffing limitations and competing priorities for environmental law enforcement support. This amendment provides funding for equipment and labor costs necessary to provide the requested law enforcement services on behalf of the District for a period of three years (Fiscal Years 2027-2029) under the 25-year Cooperative Agreement in the amount of \$1,931,013 for a total revised contract amount of \$3,647,896.

Recommended Action:

Resolution No. 2026-0801 Authorize an amendment to Cooperative Agreement No. 4600004719 with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, to provide funding for a period of three years under the 25-year Cooperative Agreement for law enforcement services on District lands, in an amount not to exceed \$1,931,013 for a total revised contract amount of \$3,647,896, of which \$643,671 in Ad Valorem funds, Lease Revenue, Wetland Mitigation and Land Acquisition Trust Fund are subject to Governing Board approval of the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Adopted Budget and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of future years' budgets. (Cooperative Agreement No. 4600004719-A01)

[**Resolution No. 2026-0801**](#)

14. Future Kids of West Palm Beach Corp, Daycare Lease Extension (Staff contact, Candida Heater)

Agenda Item Background:

On July 20, 2016, the South Florida Water Management District entered into a lease agreement with Future Kids of West Palm Beach Corp. for 6,216 square feet of office space at the District's Headquarters Complex in West Palm Beach to operate a childcare facility. The original lease term is ten years and expires on September 30, 2026. Pursuant to Article 28.1 of the lease, the Governing Board may approve the

lease's single five-year extension option.

Future Kids has continuously operated the childcare facility throughout the initial lease term, providing a convenient on-site childcare option for District employees and employees of neighboring public agencies. The District has no operational need for the leased space during the proposed extension period, allowing the District-owned space to continue generating revenue while supporting a valued employee amenity.

Both parties desire to exercise the contractual option to extend the lease for an additional five-year period through September 30, 2031. The proposed extension continues to maximize the use of District-owned property by generating revenue from space not needed for District operations while maintaining uninterrupted childcare services at the Headquarters Complex. During the initial ten-year lease term, the District generated \$1,158,679.03 in lease revenue. Approval of the five-year extension, including the lease's contractual 3 percent annual rent increases, is expected to generate an additional \$721,153.36 in lease revenue, bringing the total revenue generated over the fifteen-year lease term to \$1,879,832.39.

Recommended Action:

Resolution No. 2026-0802 Authorize an amendment to the contract with Future Kids of West Palm Beach Corp for the purpose of exercising the optional five-year extension included in the original lease agreement, increasing the contract period by five years, revising the end date of the contract to September 30, 2031, and increasing the contract revenue in the amount of \$721,153.36. (Contract No. 4600003421-A01)

[Resolution No. 2026-0802](#)

15. Authorize Amending the Adopted Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget to Recognize Specific Appropriations 1744B and 1744D from the 2026 Florida Legislative Session in the Amount of \$37,000,000 and Recognize the Refunding of COPs 2015 Series with the Issuance of COPs 2026 Series in the Amount of \$256,714,267 for a Total Budget Amendment of \$293,714,267 (Staff contact, Candida Heater)

Agenda Item Background:

The District's final budget may be amended pursuant to statutory requirements when the District receives unanticipated funds after the adoption of the final budget subject to the Governing Board and Governor's approval.

Specific Appropriations 1744B and 1744D from the 2026 Florida Legislative Session in the Amount of \$37,000,000 were not included in the District's Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Adopted Budget. The District anticipates use of the 2026 GAA Specific Appropriations 1744B and 1744D from the Department of Environmental Protection to facilitate and support payment of invoices for the CEPP South S-355 W Gated Spillway in the amount of \$7,000,000 and the CEPP EAA S-623 Pump Station in the amount of \$30,000,000 respectively.

The District's Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Final Budget will be reduced by the respective amounts, if approved, and the remaining balance of the specific appropriations will remain in the District's Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget subject to Governing Board approval and adoption on September 22, 2026.

Additionally, the District is recording \$256,714,267 in accounting transactions as a result of the issuance of Certificates of Participation, Series 2026, to achieve the equivalent of a refinancing with better terms for the retirement of the outstanding Certificates of Participation, Series 2015. The Certificates of Participation transactions did not result in additional debt nor additional proceeds to the District. The entries are being recorded to solely recognize the refinancing transactions in accordance with accounting and budgetary requirements.

Accordingly, this Budget Amendment will record financial transactions for the specific appropriations and Certificates of Participation series.

Recommended Action:

Resolution No. 2026-0803 Authorize an amendment to the Adopted Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget to implement from the 2026 Legislative Session House Bill 5001-E General Appropriations Act Specific Appropriations 1744B Grants and Aids to Local Governments and Nonstate Entities - Fixed Capital Outlay Everglades Restoration - Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) - Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) South from the General Revenue Fund, and Specific Appropriation 1744D Grants and Aids to Local Governments and Nonstate Entities - Fixed Capital Outlay Everglades Restoration - Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) - Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) EAA from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund, in the amounts of \$7,000,000 from the General Revenue Fund and \$30,000,000 from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund respectively, for a total of \$37,000,000; and to recognize \$256,714,267 for the refunding of the outstanding Certificates of Participation, Series 2015, together with the issuance of Certificates of Participation, Series 2026.

[Resolution No. 2026-0803](#)
[Exhibit A](#)

16. C-43 Reservoir (Staff contact, Maricruz R. Fincher)

Agenda Item Background:

The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) will restore and improve freshwater deliveries to the natural system and provide water for other related needs of the system. The Caloosahatchee 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 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 case is a multi-million-dollar complex construction dispute that the parties are vigorously litigating. The District hired Kirwin Norris P.A., a law firm with Florida Bar Board Certified Construction Lawyers

specializing in construction law to serve as lead trial counsel in this case. The District also hired the law firm of Lawson Huck Gonzalez, PLLC as trial support for appellate purposes and any subsequent appellate work that may be necessary.

The Office of Counsel requests to amend the District's contract with Lawson Huck Gonzalez, PLLC to increase funds by \$250,000.

Recommended Action:

Resolution No. 2026-0804 Authorize an amendment to Contract No. 4600005349 with Lawson Huck Gonzalez, PLLC to increase the contract by \$250,000, for which dedicated funds (State Appropriations) and Ad Valorem funds are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2025-2026, to defend the District's interests and fully prosecute its claims, related to the Caloosahatchee C-43 West Basin Storage Reservoir. (Contract No. 4600005349-A01)

[Resolution No. 2026-0804](#)

Discussion Agenda

17. Supply and Delivery of Plants for Everglades Stormwater Treatment Areas to Improve Resiliency and Performance (Staff contact, LeRoy Rodgers)

Agenda Item Background:

The South Florida Water Management District (District) is committed to delivering clean water to the Everglades. The State of Florida built Everglades Stormwater Treatment Areas (STAs) to improve water quality and reduce nutrient pollution.

The District operates 64,000 acres of Everglades STAs to help restore Everglades water quality and has constructed approximately 19,000 acres of Flow Equalization Basins that further optimize the ability of Everglades STAs to treat water. Over 1 million plants were planted in the STAs during the last water year.

This item requests Governing Board authorization to enter into an agreement for the delivery of aquatic plants to the District's Everglades STAs. The contract will provide for the delivery of aquatic plants to various STA sites throughout the District. Plant installation will be performed by separate contractors under other District contracts.

The aquatic plants are needed to enhance and restore emergent vegetation communities within the STAs to improve resiliency and performance. Based on operational experience and scientific monitoring, the District determined that augmentative planting of emergent vegetation improves STA performance by promoting more uniform distribution of water flows through treatment cells, stabilizing sediments, reducing turbidity, and increasing the resiliency of plant communities through greater species and functional diversity. These improvements help maintain the ecological function of the STAs in support of the District's water quality restoration mission. The agreement will have an initial term of one year and include two 1-year renewal options.

This contract supports the District's core mission by providing aquatic vegetation needed to maintain and enhance the treatment performance of the STAs. Healthy,

diverse emergent plant communities promotes uniform flow distribution, stabilizes sediments, reduces turbidity, and increases ecosystem resiliency. These functions help the District meet its water quality restoration objectives and support state and federal restoration commitments.

Recommended Action:

Resolution No. 2026-0805 Authorize entering into a one-year Agreement with two 1-year renewal options with the firms listed below for supply and delivery of aquatic plants to stormwater treatment areas, in an amount not to exceed \$10 million for all four agreements over three years, of which \$3,500,000 in Ad Valorem funds, Lease Revenue and Land Acquisition Trust Fund are subject to Governing Board approval of the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Adopted Budget and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of future years' budgets.

Firm	Contract Number
CrossCreek Environmental, Inc.	4600005391
EarthBalance Corporation	4600005392
Ground Level, Inc.	4600005393
Sand Hill Native Growers, Inc.	4600005394

[Resolution No. 2026-0805](#)

Technical Reports

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

Staff Reports

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

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.