



South Florida Water Management District

GOVERNING BOARD MONTHLY MEETING AGENDA

October 8, 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
 - October 2026 Employee of the Month: Suzanne Trimble, Regulatory Specialist Supervisor
 - October 2026 Team of the Month: Southern Everglades Restoration Modeling Team
4. Election of South Florida Water Management District Officers
5. Agenda Revisions
6. Agenda Item Abstentions by Board Members
7. Consider Approval of the Minutes for the September 10, 2026 Monthly Meeting; the September 10, 2026 Public Hearing on Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Tentative Ad Valorem Millage Rates, Non Ad Valorem Tax Rolls, and Tentative Budget; and the September 22, 2026 Final Public Hearing on Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Final Millage Rates and Final Budget
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. Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem Project, Martin County Agreement to Exchange (Staff contact, Ray Palmer)

Agenda Item Background:

The District manages the approximately 900-acre eastern portion of the Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem Project (Project) lands in Martin County, which is owned jointly by the District and the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund of the State of Florida (TIITF). These lands are adjacent to the Medalist golf course. Currently, the far west portion of the Medalist golf course encroaches approximately 0.44 acres into the Project lands. As the encroachment has no adverse effect on the management of the Project lands, the Medalist golf club owners requested a revocable right of entry license agreement to continue to operate the golf course with the encroachment. The District and TIITF have an existing access easement through a portion of lands owned by Medalist Village Club, Inc. and Medalist Homeowners Association, Inc. for the purpose of access to and from the eastern portion of the Project lands. To provide improved access, the District and TIITF requested an amended access easement that contains two usable access routes through the Medalist owned lands containing a total of approximately 0.75 acres. The District, TIITF, and the Medalist owners have agreed to exchange the revocable right of entry license agreement for the amended access easement. For purposes of this exchange, the License and the Amended Access Easement are deemed to be equivalent in value.

Recommended Action:

Resolution No. 2026-1001 Authorize entering into a revocable right of entry license agreement with Medalist Village Club, Inc., with respect to 0.44 acres, more or less, within the District's Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem Project in Martin County, in exchange for entering into an amended access easement with Medalist Village Club, Inc., and Medalist Homeowners Association, Inc., which provides an enhanced and increased access easement area totaling 0.75 acres, more or less, for access to the District's Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem Project lands in Martin County.

[Resolution No. 2026-1001](#)
[Maps](#)

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

Agenda Item Background:

The District has reservations to construct roads. 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 as determined by the Board.

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 recommends the Governing Board consider authorizing release of the following road reservations:

Palm Beach County

- Release District Road reservation for HD-PTM Belvedere Property, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company. The District reservation was reserved in EDD Deed No. 2265, in Deed Book 706, Page 110, dated January 17, 1945, and covers portions of the same parcels (File No. 18985). The property contains 0.0262 acres, more or less, of road reservation with a release value payment of \$1,072.53 to be paid.

Recommended Action:

Resolution No. 2026-1002 Authorize release of certain road reservations.

[Memorandum Exhibit A](#)

[Resolution No. 2026-1002 with Exhibit A
Maps](#)

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

Agenda Item Background:

Palms by the Water Townhome Association, Inc. (Applicant) is applying for a Standard Right of Way Occupancy Permit Number 17771-R (ROW Permit) to authorize a private 6-slip marina with two observation/fishing piers in the south right of way of the Dania Cut-Off Canal, approximately 0.3 miles west of S.W. 30th Avenue in Broward County. The marina is associated with a residential townhome development currently under construction. The proposed marina complies with all District criteria. No waivers are required.

The District authorizes marinas by issuing a Standard Right of Way Occupancy Permit, which is a permit type that must be approved by the District's Governing Board.

The State of Florida is the owner of the submerged lands upon which the marina will be constructed. The State determined that no submerged land lease is required at this location. As a condition of the ROW Permit, Applicant will be responsible for maintenance and management of its facilities. If approved, construction of the proposed marina will not adversely impact the District's ability to perform routine or emergency operations, maintenance, or future construction activities.

Recommended Action:

Approve issuance of Standard Right of Way Occupancy Permit Number 17771-R (Application No. 260804-66502).

[Background Presentation](#)

17. Clewiston Area of Responsibility Watering Services, Hendry County (Staff contact, Rich Virgil, P.E.)

Agenda Item Background:

Maintaining healthy turf vegetation on reservoir embankments, canal side slopes, and other designated areas is an important component of the District's operations and maintenance program. Proper turf cover provides erosion protection, facilitates routine inspections, and helps prevent the establishment of woody and nuisance vegetation that could interfere with inspections and maintenance activities or adversely affect embankment performance.

During prolonged dry conditions, supplemental watering is necessary to maintain adequate soil moisture, support healthy turf growth, and promote root establishment on the high-hazard dam embankment. Maintaining a continuous and healthy turf cover helps minimize erosion and areas of exposed soil while providing appropriate conditions for routine dam safety inspections and maintenance activities.

Approval of the proposed Watering Services in the Clewiston Area of Responsibility in Hendry County, will support the long-term integrity of the Caloosahatchee (C-43) Reservoir embankment, facilitate dam safety inspections, and ensure the continued safe and reliable operation and maintenance of the Caloosahatchee (C-43) Reservoir.

Recommended Action:

Resolution No. 2026-1003 Authorize the official ranking of firms and enter into a three-year contract with two, one-year renewal options with Eagle Engineering and Land Development, Inc., subject to successful negotiations, for Clewiston Area of Responsibility Watering Services, Hendry County, in an amount not to exceed \$3,841,750, of which \$600,000 in Ad Valorem funds are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2026-2027 and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of future years' budgets; if negotiations are unsuccessful with the top-ranked firm, the District may proceed with negotiations in ranked order until a contract is successfully negotiated. (Contract No. 4600005403)

[Resolution No. 2026-1003](#)

[Backup Presentation](#)

18. Geographic Information Systems Software Enterprise Agreement (Staff contact, Akintunde Owosina, P.E.)

Agenda Item Background:

The Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. (Esri) geographic information systems (GIS) software allows the District to manage, deliver, and analyze spatial data and provide map-based applications supporting District programs. For example, the enterprise GIS software provides tools to map and print permit exhibits, visualize water operations alerts, track missions during emergency operations, perform modeling

analysis, and map and analyze invasive species. In addition, desktop and web-based tools are provided to District staff for ad hoc spatial analysis. The GIS software provides tools to visualize data that are not possible with other software.

This request is to authorize amending a geographical information systems software enterprise license agreement with Esri, for an additional three years in the amount of \$2,140,000. This enterprise license agreement was obtained through a special procurement pursuant to Sec. 155-6 of the District's Procurement Policy. This policy provides that licensing, warranty, compatibility requirements that limit the selection to the manufacturer, including purchases of parts, repairs or maintenance services from the original equipment manufacturer, seller or authorized repair facility are exempt from competition.

Recommended Action:

Resolution No. 2026-1004 Authorize amending a contract with Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc., extending the enterprise license agreement for three years, and increasing the amount \$2,140,000 for geographic information systems software, for which \$600,000 of Ad Valorem funds are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2026-2027 and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of future years' budgets. (Contract No. 4600004297-A02)

[Resolution No. 2026-1004](#)

19. Construction Litigation (Staff contact, Maricruz R. Fincher)

Agenda Item Background:

The District is currently litigating two complex construction cases. In one case (C-43 Reservoir), the District terminated the contractor and has sued to recover completion costs; the contractor has counterclaimed for breach of contract. In the other (STA-1W Expansion 2 STA Project), the contractor has sued the District for denying claims for more money; the District has counterclaims for delay damages and other issues. In both cases, the District hired Kirwin Norris P.A., a law firm focusing on construction litigation to serve as lead counsel in one case and co-counsel in the other.

The parties submitted written closing argument in the C-43 Reservoir case, with oral closing arguments scheduled for October 14-15, 2026. The STA-1W Expansion 2 STA Project case is still in the discovery stage.

The Office of Counsel requests to amend the District's contract with Kirwin Norris, P.A., for the C-43 Reservoir case to increase funds by \$600,000 and to amend the District contract with Kirwin Norris, P.A., for the STA-1W Expansion 2 STA Project case to increase funds by \$250,000.

Recommended Action:

Resolution 2026-1005 Authorize amendments to contracts with Kirwin Norris, P.A., to increase the contract funding amounts by \$600,000 to defend the District's interests and prosecute its claims related to the C-43 West Caloosahatchee Basin Storage Reservoir (Contract No. 4600004519-A08) and by \$250,000 to defend the District's interests and support the District's counterclaims related to the STA-1W Expansion 2 STA Project (Contract No. 4600005120-A02); for which dedicated funds (State Appropriations) and Ad

Valorem Funds are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2026-2027 respectively.

[Resolution No. 2026-1005](#)

20. Caulkins Water Farm Expansion Project - Amended and Restated Agreement (Staff contact, Jennifer Reynolds)

Agenda Item Background:

As part of the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program (NEEPP), the Caulkins Water Farm Expansion Project, located in Martin County, supports the St. Lucie River Watershed Protection Plan. The approximately 3,275-acre project retains direct rainfall and pumps water from the C-44 Canal in order to reduce harmful discharges to the St. Lucie Estuary. Originally approved by the Governing Board on November 10, 2016, the project provides an average annual storage benefit of 26,607 acre-feet per year and an average annual water quality benefit of 4.6 metric tons of total phosphorus and 34.9 metric tons of total nitrogen.

The existing Contract No. 4600003437 and its two subsequent amendments included one year of construction and 10 years of operation. Staff requests Governing Board approval to enter into an Amended and Restated Agreement No. 4600003437-A03 with Caulkins Citrus Company, Ltd., to update the terms and conditions, and extend the term of project operation by ten years at the current annual rate of \$7,011,267.72.

Recommended Action:

Resolution No. 2026-1006 Authorize entering into an Amended and Restated Agreement with Caulkins Citrus Company, Ltd., for the Caulkins Water Farm Expansion Project to update the terms and conditions, and extend the term by ten years with an annual service payment of \$7,011,267.72, of which \$7,011,267.72 in dedicated funds (State Appropriations) is budgeted in Fiscal Year 2026-2027, and the remainder is subject to annual legislative appropriations and Governing Board approval of subsequent fiscal years' budgets. (Contract No. 4600003437-A03)

[Resolution No. 2026-1006](#)

21. 2026 Priority Water Body List and Schedule (Staff contact, Jennifer Reynolds)

Agenda Item Background:

Each year, the water management districts are statutorily required to submit a list and schedule to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection prioritizing water bodies for developing or reevaluating minimum flows and minimum water levels (MFLs) and water reservations. MFLs define the point at which further withdrawals would cause significant harm to the water resources or the ecology of the area. Water reservations protect the water needed for fish and wildlife or public health and safety from being allocated to consumptive uses. The District also uses a third water resource protection tool: restricted allocation areas (RAAs), which are defined geographic areas where use of specific water supply sources (e.g. lakes, rivers, canals, aquifers, etc.) is restricted due to concerns regarding water availability or other water resource concerns.

The proposed 2026 Priority Water Body List and Schedule includes MFL reevaluations of the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River, Florida Bay, and Biscayne Aquifer to

adapt to changing hydrological conditions including the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) and sea level rise over a 20-year planning horizon. The proposed list also includes establishment of a Water Reservation and/or RAA for the Western Everglades Restoration Project (WERP) and a RAA for the Lake Okeechobee Component A Reservoir (LOCAR) to ensure water made available by these CERP projects is protected for restoration and not available for consumptive use. Finally, the proposed list includes an update/amendment to the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands water reservation to protect redistributed marsh/creek flows as canal-gauge metrics no longer represent actual ecological deliveries.

Recommended Action:

Resolution No. 2026-1007 Authorize submission of the proposed 2026 Priority Water Body List and Schedule for Minimum Flows and Levels and Water Reservations to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for review and approval pursuant to Section 373.042(3), Florida Statutes.

[Resolution No. 2026-1007](#)

[2026 Priority Waterbody List and Schedule](#)

22. Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Five-Year Water Resource Development Work Program (Staff contact, Carolina Maran, Ph.D., P.E.)

Agenda Item Background:

The Five-Year Water Resource Development Work Program (Work Program) is an update report that includes a draft evaluation of the Work Program's consistency with the District's regional water supply plans and the adequacy of the proposed expenditures pursuant to Section 373.536(6)(a)4, Florida Statutes. The Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Work Program covers the period from October 1, 2026, through September 30, 2031. The Work Program contains projects such as water conservation, alternative water sources, resource evaluation, and regional water resource development which include Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan projects that results in additional water for the environment and in particular cases, for current and future demands of water users. Within 30 days of budget adoption, the water management districts are required to submit the Work Program to several entities, including the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. This item also authorizes District staff to address and incorporate appropriate revisions resulting from agency and/or public comments into the Work Program prior to inclusion into the final Fiscal Year 2027 South Florida Environmental Report.

Recommended Action:

Resolution No. 2026-1008 Authorize the transmittal of the draft Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Five-Year Water Resource Development Work Program pursuant to Section 373.536(6)(a)4., Florida Statutes (F.S.).

[Resolution No. 2026-1008](#)

[Draft FY26-27 Five-Year Water Resource Development Work Program](#)

Discussion Agenda

23. 2026 Upper East Coast Water Supply Plan Update (Staff contact, Carolina Maran, Ph.D., P.E.)

Agenda Item Background:

This presentation will provide an overview of the Draft 2026 Upper East Coast (UEC) Water Supply Plan Update; no action is required by the Governing Board at this stage. Water supply plans are updated every five years and identify sustainable water supplies for all water users while protecting water resources and related natural systems. Development of the five-year update is nearing completion for the UEC Planning Area, which includes all of Martin and St. Lucie counties and the northeast portion of Okeechobee County. The Draft 2026 UEC Water Supply Plan Update was released for public review in September and is scheduled for Governing Board consideration and approval in November 2026.

Technical Reports

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

Staff Reports

25. Monthly Financial Report - Candida Heater, Division Director - Administrative Services
26. General Public Comment
27. Board Comment
28. 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.