



South Florida Water Management District

GOVERNING BOARD MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

June 10, 2021

9:00 AM

District Headquarters - B-1 Auditorium
West Palm Beach, FL 33406

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Chauncey Goss	Chairman	Present
Ben Butler		Present
Ron Bergeron		Present
Charlie Martinez		Remote
Cheryl Meads		Remote
Charlette Roman		Remote
Jay Steinle		Present
Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch		Present
Scott Wagner	Vice-Chairman	Remote

1. Call to Order - Chauncey Goss, Chairman, Governing Board

Chairman Goss called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 AM.

Chairman Goss recognized June as Flood Awareness Month and commended staff for the work conducted to operate and maintain the flood control system.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Butler led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Oath of Office Administered to Ben Butler, Cheryl Meads and Charlette Roman

Chairman Goss administered the Oath of Office to Governing Board members Ben Butler, Cheryl Meads, and Charlette Roman.

4. Employee Recognitions

Mr. Bartlett presented employee recognitions for June Employee of the Month, Patrick Burton; June Team of the Month, HR Generalists Team; 25-Years of Service Award, Nirmala Jeyakumar; 40-Years of Service Award, Dennis Morrissey; and, Good Samaritan Award, Ethan Baldino.

Dr. Thomas Reinert, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), presented the Landowner of the Year Award to the District.

5. Agenda Revisions

There were no revisions to the agenda.

6. Agenda Item Abstentions by Board Members

There were no abstentions by Board members.

7. Big Cypress Basin Board Report - Charlette Roman, Chair

Ms. Roman provided a Big Cypress Basin (BCB) Board report for the meeting held on April 22, 2021. Ms. Roman stated the BCB Board had received an overview from Collier County Pollution Control on a water quality monitoring program; a presentation outlining potential capital plan re-allocations for the current fiscal year and project adjustments to the Five-Year Capital Plan; an overview of a new funding request for a field station perimeter security system; and, an update on the Basin's ongoing capital projects. Additionally, Ms. Roman shared a report on the Picayune Watershed Water Quality Feasibility Study and suggested staff consider some of the project options identified in this study to improve water quality south of the Picayune Strand Restoration Project (PSRP).

Board Comment

In response to Chairman Goss' question regarding BCB Board vacancies, Ms. Roman stated the BCB Board had received three appointments and only two vacancies remained.

This item is recorded at:

<http://sfwmd.igmd.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=2058&Format=Agenda>

8. Consider Approval of the Minutes for the May 13th Meeting

RESULT:	ADOPTED [7 TO 0]
MOVER:	Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch
SECONDER:	Jay Steinle
AYES:	Goss, Butler, Bergeron, Meads, Roman, Steinle, Thurlow-Lippisch
AWAY:	Martinez, Wagner

9. General Public Comment

In Person:

Vice Mayor Merritt Matheson, City of Stuart
Newton Cook, United Waterfowlers Florida
Gary Oster
Emily Mauri, Lake Worth Waterkeeper
Eve Samples, Friends of the Everglades

Dan DeLisi
Nyla Pipes, One Florida
Lisa Interlandi, Everglades Law Center

Virtual:

Mayor Holly Smith, City of Sanibel
Becky Harris
Mike Conner
Mike Elfenbein
Gary Ritter
Ryan Rossi
Lucy Caputi
James Evans
Mark Perry
Emma Haydocy
Reinaldo Diaz
Ernie Barnett

This item is recorded at:

<http://sfwmd.igmd.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=2058&Format=Agenda>

10. Board Comment

Mr. Butler thanked Governor DeSantis for reappointment to the Board; encouraged fellow board members to attend the 16-County Coalition meetings and workshops for more information on the Integrated Delivery Schedule (IDS); and, shared details on Lake Okeechobee tours with Don Fox, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), and S-127 Buckhead Ridge pump stations.

Ms. Meads commented on the District's mission statement and the West Palm Beach public drinking water advisory, and asked staff for an update on the District's responsibility to the public to provide safe drinking water. Mr. Bartlett responded utilities were responsible for providing safe drinking water to the public and were regulated by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Palm Beach County Health Department. The District's responsibility was to provide source water to utilities.

Ms. Roman thanked Governor DeSantis for reappointment to the Board and for the opportunity to continue to serve to restore Florida's Everglades and provide water to the residents of south Florida; and thanked Ms. Thurlow-Lippisch for visiting the PSRP and encouraged fellow Board members to visit before the project was completed.

Ms. Thurlow-Lippisch commented on the importance of collaborating with DEP, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), and the District, to address water quality in the State of Florida; shared a 2001 publication from the Florida Harmful Algal Task Force; commented on a tour to Groveland to visit the C-25; and, stated the Board would continue to welcome public comment on updates to the Lake Okeechobee System Operations Manual (LOSOM).

Mr. Steinle commended staff for quickly assisting the City of West Palm Beach with its public water drinking advisory by authorizing the use of well fields until systems improved or stabilized; provided an update on modeling efforts with the City of West Palm Beach to assist with improved water supply; thanked staff for engaging with the City of Pahokee through the installation of temporary pumps and ultrasonic devices at the Pahokee Marina to improve water circulation, performance, and treatment and remove harmful nutrients; and, provided an update on the adoption of the District's Year-Round Irrigation Rule and compliance within municipalities. Additionally, Mr. Steinle requested staff continue to include the Lake Worth Lagoon, and all estuaries receiving Lake Okeechobee discharges, when considering options for LOSOM.

Mr. Steinle, Ms. Thurlow-Lippisch, and staff discussed the District's alternative water supply funding options and incentives.

Mr. Bergeron provided an update on the Python Elimination Program and commended FWC and staff for efforts to remove this harmful invasive; commented on the importance of the Modified Water Delivery project to benefit the rivers, northern Everglades, Lake Okeechobee, Central Everglades, and Everglades National Park (ENP); recommended staff consider developing a workshop to discuss the implementation and status of projects which would remove the remaining barriers to move more water south; and, suggested the District recognize *Everglades Day* for those who championed environmental preservation and restoration.

Chairman Goss recognized Brigadier General Jason Kelly, USACE, for efforts with Everglades restoration and preservation; thanked Governor DeSantis for leadership and remaining engaged on a balanced approach towards LOSOM and innovative technologies for blue green algae; thanked staff for assisted efforts to combat blue-green algae in Pahokee and Franklin Locks in Lee County; and, reaffirmed the Board would be considering all LOSOM public comments received.

This item is recorded at:

<http://sfwmd.iqm2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=2058&Format=Agenda>

Consent Agenda

11. Move Consent Agenda Items to Discussion Agenda

No items were moved from the Consent Agenda to the Discussion Agenda.

12. Public Comment on Consent Agenda Items

Paul Gray
Anna Upton
Laura Reynolds
Mike Elfenbein

This item is recorded at:

<http://sfwmd.iqm2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=2058&Format=Agenda>

13. Revocable Right of Entry/License for Lee County and Florida Gulf Coast University on Tract KC100-024 (Boma Property), Glades County (Staff contact, Stephen M. Collins)
Resolution No. 2021 - 0601 Approve a Revocable Right of Entry/License to Lee County and Florida Gulf Coast University to access the mesocosm research facility located on one acre, more or less, of Tract KC100-024 (Boma Property) in Glades County.
14. Release of Reservations (Staff contact, Stephen M. Collins)
Resolution No. 2021 - 0602 Release District canal reservations, issue a non-use commitment and inform Florida Department of Environmental Protection of no District need for canal reservations held by the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund.
15. Contract Amendment with the Florida Department of Corrections (Staff contact, Stephen M. Collins)
Resolution No. 2021 - 0603 Authorize an amendment to the contract with the Florida Department of Corrections for the purpose of exercising a three-year renewal option effective July 14, 2021; therefore, extending the contract by three years to provide inmate labor and perform land management services on District lands in an amount not to exceed \$172,491 for a total revised contract amount of \$344,982 for which \$12,337 in Ad Valorem funds is budgeted in Fiscal Year 2020-2021 and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of future years budgets. (Contract Number 4600003832-A01)
16. Release of Recorded Conservation Easements (Staff contact, Jill Creech)
 - A. Creeks Edge, Collier County
Full release of a recorded conservation easement for a project known as Creeks Edge (Permit No. 11-02164-P, Application No. 020227-11).
 - B. Davie Estates, Broward County
Full release of a recorded conservation easement for a project known as Davie Estates (Application No. 060516-8, Permit No. 06-05924-P).
17. Governing Board Representative, Biscayne Bay Commission (Staff contact, Sean Cooley)
Resolution No. 2021 - 0604 Appoint Charlie Martinez to serve on the Biscayne Bay Commission for an initial two-year term.
18. Settlement Agreement for Jill Law and Jay Ring v. SFWMD Case (Staff contact, Carolyn Ansay)
Resolution No. 2021 - 0605 Ratify a proposed settlement agreement for the purpose of resolving a quiet title case styled Jill Law and Jay Ring v. South Florida Water Management District, et al., filed in the 17th Judicial Circuit in and for Broward County, Florida, Case No. CACE18000649.

19. Lakeside Ranch STA S-191A Pump Station Change Order No. 8, Okeechobee County (Staff contact, Alan Shirkey)
- Resolution No. 2021 - 0606** Authorize Change Order No. 8 to Contract Number 4600003852 with Kiewit Infrastructure South Co. for construction of the Lakeside Ranch STA S-191A Pump Station Project, for an additional amount of \$455,456.77 for which dedicated funds (Land Acquisition Trust Fund) and Ad Valorem funds are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2020-2021.
20. Board Vote on Consent Agenda (13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19)

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch
SECONDER:	Ben Butler
AYES:	Goss, Butler, Bergeron, Martinez, Meads, Roman, Steinle, Thurlow-Lippisch, Wagner

This item is recorded at:
<http://sfwmd.igm2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=2058&Format=Agenda>

Technical Reports

21. Water Conditions Report - John P. Mitnik

Mr. Mitnik provided the Water Conditions Report for the last 30 days.

Board Comment

Ms. Thurlow-Lippisch, Mr. Mitnik, and Mr. Glenn discussed low water levels in Water Conservation Areas (WCAs)-2 and 3A; system constraints with the south Dade conveyance; and, efforts to send more water to the Loxahatchee River.

Mr. Steinle recommended staff research current modeling efforts with the City of West Palm Beach to potentially assist in identifying opportunities to improve water flows to the Loxahatchee River.

Ms. Roman and Mr. Mitnik discussed the contents on slide 12 regarding total STA inflows and Lake releases to STAs during Water Years 1995 to 2022.

In response to Chairman Goss' suggestion to include total rainfall to the chart represented on slide 12, Mr. Mitnik stated staff would research adding this data to future technical reports.

Ms. Thurlow-Lippisch complimented staff for providing the graph represented on slide 12 as representative of how much water was sent south during the dry season.

The Board and Mr. Mitnik discussed adaptive environmental protocols and the Board's ability to send water to the Caloosahatchee to maintain a healthy ecosystem in weekly recommendations to the USACE.

This item is recorded at:
<http://sfwmd.igm2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=2058&Format=Agenda>

22. Ecological Conditions Report - Lawrence Glenn

Mr. Glenn provided an update on hydrologic and ecologic conditions over the last 30 days throughout the greater aquatic ecosystem of the District.

Board Comment

In response to Ms. Thurlow-Lippisch's question regarding algae or Microcystis concentration fluctuations in Lake Okeechobee, Mr. Glenn elaborated on the different conditions which influence algal species to compete. Ms. Thurlow-Lippisch then asked what safety precautions were taken to protect wildlife during the algaecide application process to which Mr. Glenn stated prior to application of algaecide's certain precautions were taken based upon the approved recommendations provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Mr. Bartlett commended Governor DeSantis for appropriations provided to research innovative technologies to address water quality issues, algal blooms, and public health concerns.

In response to Ms. Meads question regarding what nutrients or conditions feed blue-green algal blooms, Mr. Glenn stated different blooms prefer different nutrient conditions, but present algal blooms in the Lake were reported to prefer nitrogen along with elevated temperature, photosynthesis for energy, and low turbidity. Ms. Meads then asked what sources contributed to nitrogen in or around the Lake to which Mr. Bartlett stated nutrient pollutants were a collection of fertilizer and human and animal waste.

In response to Ms. Thurlow-Lippisch's questions regarding what vegetation was damaged during the Holey Land wildfire and what conditions were prior to the fire, Mr. Glenn stated staff would research and provide an update to the Board. Mr. Bergeron stated approximately eighty percent of the vegetation in this area was sawgrass ridges and willow hammocks.

Ms. Roman and Mr. Glenn discussed the study conducted by the District on the 250 square meter area in WCA-2 represented on slide 40. Mr. Bartlett stated staff were still in the process of collecting data on this study and an update would be provided once phosphorus was under control.

Chairman Goss recessed the meeting at approximately 1:00 PM.

This item is recorded at:

<http://sfwmd.iqm2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=2058&Format=Agenda>

Discussion Agenda

23. Accept the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and Audit Management Letter. (Brett Friedman, Partner, RSM US LLP; Staff contact, Tim Beirnes)

Chairman Goss reconvened the meeting at approximately 1:50 PM.

Mr. Beirnes stated the Government Finance Officers Association had adopted a policy to change the acronym used for the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report

to the full name or shortened term references such as annual report or financial report until a new name was determined.

Mr. Beirnes introduced Brett Friedman, RSM US LLP, to the Board.

Mr. Friedman presented the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and audit management letter. The District received an unmodified opinion.

Board Comment

Mr. Steinle thanked Mr. Friedman for the comprehensive report.

Chairman Goss thanked Mr. Friedman for the report and asked Ms. Heater to provide an update on the two minor issues reported with the Federal Emergency Management Act (FEMA) supervisory reviews.

In response to Ms. Meads' question, Ms. Heater stated potential dollar impacts were less than \$1K compared to the \$20M received from Hurricane Irma; all funds had been received; and, as part of the FEMA process when distributing funds, an audit would be conducted on the project worksheets.

In response to Chairman Goss' question regarding the supervisory review issues reported, Ms. Heater provided an update to the Board on the creation of a process mapping team to review supervisory approvals with the review of the backup provided in support of project worksheets along with the approval of quarterly reports prior to submitting to Federal Department of Emergency Management (FDEM).

Ms. Heater thanked RSM and staff for all the hard work with the completion of the report and addressing issues.

Accept the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and Audit Management Letter.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [7 TO 0]
MOVER:	Ron Bergeron
SECONDER:	Jay Steinle
AYES:	Goss, Butler, Bergeron, Meads, Roman, Steinle, Thurlow-Lippisch
AWAY:	Martinez, Wagner

This item is recorded at:
<http://sfwmd.iqm2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=2058&Format=Agenda>

24. Flood Prevention Awareness Month

Dr. Maran presented the District's flood resiliency initiatives for recognizing June as Flood Awareness Month. Items discussed included the history of flood control for the Central and Southern Florida project (C&SF); major features of the C&SF project; flood protection system responsibilities; climate change observations and projections and implications on flood protection; an overview of the Flood Protection Level of Service (FPLOS) Program; coordination efforts with the USACE and new start funding for the Section 216 C&SF Flood Resiliency Study; and, Senate Bill

1954 establishing the Resilient Florida Program, with funding available for sea level rise and flood resiliency projects/initiatives throughout the State.

Board Comment

In response to Chairman Goss' question regarding FEMA funding for flood resiliency initiatives, Dr. Maran stated FEMA had allocated \$500M nationally in Fiscal Year 2020, received over \$3.6B in requests, and increased the program funding to \$1B for Fiscal Year 2021.

In response to Mr. Butler's question regarding if this program was associated with the FEMA flood map or flood insurance program, Dr. Maran explained FEMA risk modeling with coastal and inland storm conditions does not project future conditions only current conditions. District FPLOS flood inundation assessment anticipated future conditions and informed resiliency priority investments. The FPLOS modeling/assessment effort did not inform FEMA flood insurance cost risk.

At the request of Ms. Thurlow-Lippisch, Dr. Maran provided an overview of the locations for the C-7, C-8, and C-9 Basin's in Broward County; restoration efforts; and, the S-29 and S-27 Coastal Structures being prioritized for resiliency actions.

Mr. DeBold presented June as Flood Awareness Month. Items discussed included history of the flood control systems; flood protection role before and after storms; flood control operations and flood protection scope; system monitoring, project culvert and pump station operations; canal inspections; vegetation, debris, and sediment removal; and, canal/levee repairs. Mr. DeBold also emphasized the importance of recognizing commitment and dedication of the District's staff in operating and maintaining the flood protection system.

Board Comment

Chairman Goss suggested the District continue to recognize June as Flood Awareness Month and highlighted the hard work by staff.

This item is recorded at:

<http://sfwmd.igmd.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=2058&Format=Agenda>

Staff Reports

- 25. Monthly Financial Report - Candida Heater

Ms. Heater provided an update on the monthly financial report through the month ending April.

Board Comment

None

- 26. General Counsel's Report - Carolyn Ansay

Ms. Ansay had no report this month.

- 27. Executive Director's Report - Drew Bartlett

Mr. Bartlett provided an update on the District's transition out of COVID operations and the hybrid work schedule; a suggestion for providing opportunities for public comment going forward; and, details on the LOSOM workshop.

28. General Public Comment

In Person:

Nyla Pipes, One Florida
Newton Cook, United Waterfowlers Florida
Tom MacVicar

Virtual:

Richard Weisskoff
Paul Gray
Ryan Braun
Mike Elfenbein
Gary Ritter
Patty McNally
David Rae
Emily Kenyon

This item is recorded at:

<http://sfwmd.iqm2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=2058&Format=Agenda>

29. Board Comment

Ms. Thurlow-Lippisch requested staff provide an update on the cooperating agreement between DEP, FDACS and the District, and petitioned representatives from each agency to attend monthly Governing Board meetings. The Board concurred with this request.

Mr. Butler shared with the Board that FDACS was performing inspections and data collections, DEP was sending correspondence to landowners regarding Best Management Practices (BMPs) and landowners were being responsive.

Ms. Meads shared details on the United States versus Bar Lab lawsuit regarding water quality.

Ms. Roman commented on the importance of interagency partnership efforts to address a more proactive approach to water quality concerns rather than a reactive approach.

Chairman Goss recommended staff consider Dr. Weisskoff's recommendation from public comment to hire an economist; thanked former DEP Secretary Noah Valenstein for dedicated service to the residents of Florida; and, wished Gary Ritter well as the new Administrator for the City of Okeechobee.

This item is recorded at:

<http://sfwmd.iqm2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=2058&Format=Agenda>

30. Adjourn

Chairman Goss adjourned the meeting at approximately 4:00 PM.

Gina Kamak

Gina Kamak
Deputy District Clerk
South Florida Water Management District