



South Florida Water Management District

GOVERNING BOARD MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

July 15, 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		Present
Cheryl Meads		Present
Charlette Roman		Present
Jay Steinle		Present
Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch		Present
Scott Wagner	Vice-Chairman	Present

1. Call to Order - Chauncey Goss, Chairman, Governing Board
Chairman Goss called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 AM.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
Mr. Bergeron led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Recognition of Elected Officials

Chairman Goss recognized elected officials: Congressman Brian Mast, U.S. House of Representatives; Commissioner Melissa McKinlay, Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners; Vice Mayor Merritt Mattheson, City of Stuart; Congressman Greg Steube, U.S. House of Representatives; Mayor Mali Gardner, City of Clewiston.

3. Employee Recognitions

Mr. Bartlett presented employee recognitions for July Employee of the Month, Robin Clemons and July Team of the Month, SAP S4 HANA Implementation Team.

4. Agenda Revisions

Ms. Byrd stated Consent Agenda item 22 was revised to add a termination order.

5. Agenda Item Abstentions by Board Members

There were no abstentions by Board members.

6. District Response to Algae Conditions - Drew Bartlett, Executive Director

Mr. Bartlett provided an update on the District's response to algae conditions. Items discussed included the District's coordinated efforts with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) to improve water quality conditions in the Northern Everglades; interagency agreement updates, biweekly meetings, and public engagement and agency accountability efforts; DEP Grants; reorganization of the District's Northern Everglades Bureau; monthly Board interagency updates; and, the District's 2021 Blue Green Algae Rapid Response Plan.

Board Comment

In response to Ms. Thurlow-Lippisch's questions, Mr. Bartlett explained the process for interagency efforts between the District, DEP, and FDACS to include public engagement.

Mr. Bartlett announced Adam Blalock, DEP, and Christopher Petit, FDACS, were participating virtually, and Rebecca Elliott, FDACS, was participating in-person.

Mr. Bergeron emphasized the importance of interagency collaboration to address water quality issues and monitoring.

In response to Vice Chairman Wagner's question regarding interagency data collection overlap and efforts to reduce redundancy, Mr. Glenn elaborated on collaborative biweekly monitoring efforts with DEP.

Chairman Goss thanked DEP and FDACS for collaborative efforts to address algal bloom conditions.

Mr. Steinle thanked staff for continued efforts in recognizing the Lake Worth Lagoon as an estuary, and commended efforts utilizing technologies to treat algal blooms.

Mr. Bartlett provided the monthly Executive Director's Report, Item 30. Items discussed included an update on the publishing of the Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Science Plan on the District's website; the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) final grant determination for the C-11 and C-9 canals and efforts to investigate hazard mitigation requirements; the Python Challenge; DEP's approval to operate the C-44 Stormwater Treatment Area (STA) as a fully functional STA; and, the public process for updates to the District's Strategic Plan.

Board Comment

In response to Ms. Thurlow-Lippisch's question regarding suggested updates to the Strategic Plan, Mr. Bartlett stated all suggestions received over the last year would be incorporated in the Strategic Plan.

At this time, Mr. Bartlett shared a video on the S-487 Faka Union Pump Station Picayune Strand Restoration Project.

Ms. Roman thanked Col. Kelly and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for partnering to expedite the S-487 Faka Union Pump Station Picayune Strand Restoration Project.

Ms. Thurlow-Lippisch congratulated Ms. Roman on the success of this project.

This item is recorded at:

<http://sfwmd.igm2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=2060&Format=Agenda>

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

Ms. Roman provided a Big Cypress Basin (BCB) Board report for the meeting held on July 9, 2021. Ms. Roman stated the Basin Board had received an update on Lake Trafford from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and Florida Gulf Coast University, and an overview of the Basin's Fiscal Year 2021-2022 final millage and budget. The Basin Board approved the rolled-back millage rate of 0.1116 Mil for Fiscal Year 2020-2021; requested the Governing Board levy ad valorem taxes within the BCB; and, approved the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Basin budget in the amount of \$17,442,227. Additionally, Ms. Roman shared highlights from the Basin Field Station Report.

8. Consider Approval of the Minutes for the June 10th Meeting and the June 29th Workshop

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

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9. General Public Comment

In-person:

Newton Cook, United Waterfowlers Florida
Nyla Pipes, One Florida Foundation
Michael Collins
Kloe Ciuperger, Martin County
Ernie Barnett

Virtual:

Janet Taylor
Casey Delaney

Olivia Pope
Suzanne Martin
Mike Conner
Mike Elfenbein
Gary McNealy

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10. **Board Comment**

Mr. Butler commented on the ASR Science Plan and commended staff for its completion; stressed the importance of the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project (LOWRP) and keeping projects moving forward on dispersed water projects north of Lake Okeechobee.

Mr. Martinez commented on the importance of Biscayne Bay and Southeastern Everglades Ecosystem Restoration (BBSEER) and suggested Mr. Bartlett provide monthly updates during the Executive Director's Report.

Ms. Meads commented on protecting farmers in Homestead while moving water south and suggested staff provide an update on this subject at a future Board meeting. Also, Ms. Meads requested to meet with Mr. Bartlett to discuss an area in south Miami-Dade that could possibly be restored to help with improving water flows to Florida Bay.

Ms. Thurlow-Lippisch thanked Congressman Mast for attending the meeting and Senator Joe Negron for contributions with the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Reservoir project.

Chairman Goss thanked staff for efforts on Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual planning (LOSOM) and the District's Emergency Operations Center staff for efforts displayed during Tropical Storm Elsa.

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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**

There was no public comment on Consent Agenda items.

13. **Land Acquisition, Shingle Creek Project, Orange County (Staff contact, Stephen M. Collins)**

Resolution No. 2021 - 0701 Acquire land interests containing 2.51 acres, more or less, located in the Shingle Creek Project Area in Orange County, in the amount of \$40,000, for which dedicated funds (Wetland Mitigation Fund) are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

14. Exchange Agreement with Florida Power and Light Company, Palm Beach County (Staff contact, Stephen M. Collins)

Resolution No. 2021 - 0702 Authorize an agreement between the District and Florida Power and Light Company (FPL) whereby the District will consent to utility easements being granted to FPL by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission that encumber real property in Palm Beach County with respect to which the District holds canal easement interests, in exchange for (i) FPL consenting to the District's excavation and construction of canal improvements that conflict with FPL's existing power corridor easement and (ii) FPL crediting the District \$349,101 for increased construction costs associated with the canal easement interests against the future costs the District will pay FPL for relocation of FPL's existing facilities located within the existing FPL power corridor.

15. Release of Reservations (Staff contact, Stephen M. Collins)

Resolution No. 2021 - 0703 Release District canal reservations.

16. C-6 (Miami Canal), Partial Release of Easement to the Florida Department of Transportation, Miami-Dade County (Staff contact, Stephen M. Collins)

Resolution No. 2021 - 0704 Release a portion of a canal easement containing 25.9 acres, more or less, located in Section 33, Township 52 South, Range 40 East, and Sections 3, 4, 10, and 11, Township 53 South, Range 40 East, in Miami-Dade County, C-6 (Miami Canal) project, to the Florida Department of Transportation at no cost.

17. Contracts with the Florida Department of Corrections (Staff contacts, Stephen M. Collins and Rich Virgil)

A. Inmate Labor for Land Management Services, Okeechobee County

Resolution No. 2021 - 0705 Authorize entering into a three-year contract with a three-year renewal option, effective August 15, 2021, with the Florida Department of Corrections to provide inmate labor and perform land management services on District lands in an amount not to exceed \$344,982 for which \$7,490 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 4600004437)

B. Inmate Labor in Work Programs, Okeechobee Field Station Area of Responsibility

Resolution No. 2021 - 0706 Authorize entering into a 3-year contract with one 3-year renewal option with the Florida Department of Corrections for two inmate labor in work programs to be utilized within the Okeechobee Field Station area of responsibility, in an amount not to exceed \$689,964 for which \$14,375 in Ad Valorem funds are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2020-2021 and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of future years budgets. (Contract Number 4600004433)

18. Right of Way Occupancy Permit Request, Miami-Dade County (Staff contact, Rich Virgil)

Approve issuance of Standard Right of Way Occupancy Permit Number 15675 and approval of the associated waivers to the 40-foot setback rule (Application No. 21- 0210-1M).
19. Cooperative Cost-Share Agreement for Water Quality Monitoring Services in Everglades National Park, Florida Bay, Gulf Coast Basins of Everglades National Park, C-111 Basin, and Joe Bay (Staff contact, Lawrence Glenn)

Resolution No. 2021 - 0707 Authorize entering into a five-year cost-share cooperative agreement with the United States National Park Service for the collection of surface water and rain from interior marsh sampling sites within Everglades National Park and physiochemical and meteorological data from sites in the national park coastal areas, in the total amount of \$1,007,850, which is subject to Governing Board approval of the Fiscal Year 2022-2026 budgets. (Contract Number 4600004419)
20. Picayune Strand Restoration Project Forestry Agreement (Staff contact, Jennifer Reynolds)

Resolution No. 2021 - 0708 Authorize entering into a Cooperation Agreement for the purpose of implementation of the Picayune Strand Restoration Project, a component of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan. (Contract Number 4600004443)
21. Significant Construction Contracts (Staff contact, Alan Shirkey)
 - A. Big Cypress Basin Electrification of Cork 2 and FU5 Generator Addition Project, Collier County

Resolution No. 2021 - 0709 Authorize entering into a 271-day contract with Kiewit Infrastructure South Co., the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, for the BCB Electrification of Cork 2 and FU-5 Generator Addition Project, in the amount of \$2,116,200, for which Big Cypress Basin Ad Valorem funds in the amount of \$300,000 are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2020-2021 and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of future years budgets. (Contract Number 4600004446)
 - B. Re-Bid of S-135 Bypass Culvert and Dike Repairs, Martin County

Resolution No. 2021 - 0710 Authorize entering into a 190-day contract with Kiewit Infrastructure South Co., the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, for the Re-Bid S-135 Bypass Culvert and Dike Repairs Project, in the amount of \$1,925,999, for which \$100,000 is budgeted in Fiscal Year 2020-2021, and the remainder is subject to Governing Board approval of future years budgets. (Contract Number 4600004453)
22. Governing Board Concurrence on Emergency Orders 2021-024-DAO; 2021-025-DAO; 2021-026-DAO; and Amended Emergency Order 2021-027-DAO, and Termination Order 2021-028-DAO (Staff contacts, Jennifer Smith and Carolyn Ansay)

Concur with Emergency Orders 2021-024-DAO; 2021-025-DAO; 2021-026-DAO; Amended Emergency Order 2021-027-DAO; and Order 2021-028-DAO Terminating Emergency Authorizations.

23. Board Vote on Consent Agenda (13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22)

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

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Technical Reports

24. Water Conditions Report - John P. Mitnik

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

Board Comment

Mr. Bergeron requested staff continue to monitor the 8.5 Square Mile Area seepage wall project and provide updates in future technical reporting.

Vice Chairman Wagner and Mr. Mitnik discussed the operational flexibility of water flows from Lake Okeechobee through the southern end of the system to Water Conservation Area (WCA)-3A.

Mr. Bergeron provided an update on negotiations related to the opening of the gates and other structure's year-round on the west side of WCA-3A in Zone A. Further, Mr. Bergeron stated a global management effort was underway to create a blueprint of multiple endangered species.

Ms. Thurlow-Lippisch, Mr. Steinle, and Mr. Mitnik discussed the chart represented on slide 11 regarding total STA inflows and lake releases to STAs.

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25. 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 the possibility of expanding the Lake Okeechobee marsh, Mr. Glenn provided an explanation of why the marsh could not be expanded due to the levy.

Vice Chairman Wagner and Mr. Glenn discussed the contents on slide 3 regarding Lake Okeechobee Cyanobacteria bloom potential, expanded monitoring of algal blooms, collection of data, and analysis.

Chairman Goss recessed the meeting at approximately 11:40 PM.

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Discussion Agenda

26. Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual (LOSOM) Recommendation to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District (Staff contact, Jennifer Reynolds)

Chairman Goss reconvened the meeting at approximately 12:20 PM.

Ms. Reynolds presented the LOSOM process. Items discussed included LOSOM schedule and preferred alternatives; LOSOM objective; Governing Board and Governor DeSantis policy statements; Iteration alternatives; Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie flow envelope modeling; 14-day stress and damaging discharge events triggered by Lake Okeechobee regulatory releases; average flows south; Lake Worth Lagoon average annual regulatory flows at S-271; water supply by Water Year simulations; Lake Okeechobee water level stages relative to the Ecological Envelope; historical Lake Okeechobee modeled stages from 1968-1974; and, implementation of policy considerations.

Board Comment

The Board and Ms. Reynolds discussed the contents on slide 12 regarding the number of two-week and damaging discharge events triggered by Lake Okeechobee regulatory releases; iteration three alternatives; and, structural capacity and ecological conditions metrics.

Mr. Bartlett explained the potential of improving and optimizing iterations from model runs and policy considerations.

Col. Kelly explained the USACE would gather an array of preferred alternatives and iterations to share with the public and stakeholders, listen to objections where optimization could be improved, then formalize a plan by August with goals which could result in a fully developed option by September or October.

In response to Mr. Steinle's question on slide 14 regarding the Lake Worth Lagoon's treatment as an estuary instead of primarily a flood control system component, Ms. Reynolds elaborated on the change to operations and structure coding when taking into account the ecological conditions of estuaries.

Ms. Thurlow-Lippisch, Ms. Reynolds, and Mr. Mitnik discussed the degree of change to the Lake Worth Lagoon with the change in policy considerations which treated the Lake Worth Lagoon as an estuary.

The Board and Ms. Reynolds discussed the contents on slide 16 regarding Lake Okeechobee stages relative to the Ecological Envelope; climatic data model simulations; and, the period of simulation which looked at rainfall data and not actual lake levels or operations.

Mr. Butler and Ms. Reynolds discussed slides 19 and 20 regarding implementation of policy considerations. Ms. Reynolds stated these considerations were in addition to the original policy statement provided by the Board.

Ms. Thurlow-Lippisch, Ms. Reynolds, and Mr. Bartlett discussed possibly adding S-308 backflow to the implementation policy consideration.

Public Comment

In-Person:

Commissioner Melissa McKinlay, Palm Beach County

Mayor Holly D. Smith, City of Sanibel

Vice Mayor Merritt Mattheson, City of Stuart

Jay Boodheshwar, Town of Palm Beach

Michael Collins

Ben Hogarth, City of Stuart

Gil Smart, Friends of the Everglades

Poonam Kalkat, City of West Palm Beach

Newton Cook, United Waterfowlers of Florida

Nyla Pipes, One Florida Foundation

Ernie Barnett, Florida Land Council

Congressman Brian Mast, U.S. House of Representatives

Lisa Interlandi, Everglades Law Center

Virtual:

Commissioner Kevin Ruane, Lee County Board of County Commissioners

Kerry Kates

Tommy Strowd

Ryan Rossi

Steve Davis

Susan Gray

Paul Gray

Beth Lewis

Kelly Cox

Becky Harris

Emma Haydocy

Daniel Andrews

Benny Blanco

John Fumero

Holly Milbrandt

Paul Julian

Mike Conner

Richard Weisskoff

Mark Perry

Mike Elfenbein

Kellie Ralston

Additional Board Comment

The Board was in support of the policy considerations presented and expressed gratitude towards staff for efforts with creating and implementing these considerations.

Mr. Butler was in support of policy considerations and providing flexibility to water managers.

Ms. Meads was in support of policy considerations which addressed public health and safety.

Ms. Roman spoke in support of a balanced approach to policy considerations.

Chairman Goss elaborated on flaws with LORS-08 and stated the LOSOM policy considerations offered great improvement.

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27. Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Proposed Tentative Budget and Submission of Proposed Millage Rates (Staff contact, Candida Heater)

Ms. Heater presented an update of the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Proposed Tentative Budget.

Public Comment

In-person:

None

Virtual:

Kelly Cox

Lisa Interlandi

Board Comment

None

Resolution No. 2021 - 0711 Consider the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 proposed tentative budget update and approve submittal of the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 proposed millage rates to county property appraisers for inclusion in the notice of proposed property taxes.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Charlie Martinez
SECONDER:	Scott Wagner, Vice-Chairman
AYES:	Goss, Butler, Bergeron, Martinez, Meads, Roman, Steinle, Thurlow-Lippisch, Wagner

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Staff Reports

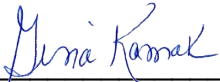
28. Monthly Financial Report - Candida Heater

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

Board Comment

None

29. General Counsel's Report - Carolyn Ansay
Ms. Ansay had no report this month.
30. Executive Director's Report - Drew Bartlett
This item was heard after item 6.
31. General Public Comment
There was no public comment.
32. **Board Comment**
Mr. Butler expressed the importance of providing more storage north of Lake Okeechobee.
33. Adjourn
Chairman Goss adjourned the meeting at approximately 5:10 PM.



Gina Kamak
Deputy District Clerk
South Florida Water Management District