



South Florida Water Management District

GOVERNING BOARD WORKSHOP MINUTES

June 10, 2020

1:00 PM

via Communications Media Technology

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The purpose of today's workshop is to provide an overview of the Districts Real Estate, Leasing and Land Management activities. The Workshop session is informative in nature and no final decisions will be made by the Governing Board.

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

1. Call to Order - Chauncey Goss, Chairman, Governing Board
Chairman Goss called the workshop to order at approximately 1:00 PM.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
Mr. Martinez led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Real Estate and Leasing - Stephen M. Collins, Director, Real Estate and Land Management

Mr. Collins provided an overview of the District's Real Estate Division. Items discussed included real estate rules and responsibilities; acquisition process; leasing process; interim use opportunities; policies governing leasing; cattle land leasing; leasing summary; real estate sales process; policies governing surplus; real estate operational support; and, real estate managed by the District and land use.

4. Land Management Activities - Rory Feeney, Bureau Chief, Land Resources

Mr. Feeney provided an overview of the Land Resources Bureau. Items discussed included vegetation management; environmental impacts; Integrated Pest Management (IPM); maintenance control; vegetation management enhancement strategies; aquatic vegetation management; Lake Okeechobee and Pennsuco Mitigation Area success stories; Stormwater Treatment (STA) operations, coordination and vegetation management; invasive and hazardous tree removal; canal and levee management; invasive and exotic animal management; the python elimination program; and, land stewardship core functions.

Board Comment

In response to Mr. Martinez's question regarding environmental assessment due diligence, Mr. Collins stated environmental assessments were handled in-house utilizing a desktop assessment program and the results from the desktop assessment determined whether to necessitate a site investigation or hire a contractor to conduct a detailed site investigation or remediation.

Mr. Martinez, Mr. Feeney and Mr. Mitnik discussed canal maintenance and conveyance, and embankment and levee erosion.

In response to Ms. Roman's question on slide 8, Mr. Collins elaborated on the relationship between District leased acreage and total acreage. Ms. Roman then asked if the District explored opportunities for additional leases or waited for landowners to approach the District to which Mr. Collins stated staff proactively sought leasing opportunities and evaluated landowner inquiries for leasing. At the request of Ms. Roman, Mr. Collins to provide data on available District owned leasable acreage for consideration with additional leasing opportunities.

Ms. Thurlow-Lippisch and Mr. Collins discussed conservation of leased lands, cattle grazing leases, site inspections on leased lands, and the acquisition and amount of leased lands the District currently had.

Mr. Bergeron and Mr. Collins discussed the use of conservation lands with wetland banks to receive wetland credit uplift and create revenue for future projects.

In response to Mr. Steinle's question on slide 23 regarding efforts to reduce herbicide use, Mr. Feeney stated the District partnered with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) on vegetation management and reduced herbicide use. Additionally, Mr. Feeney stated the

District partnered with the FWC on a mechanical aquatic plant removal project in Lake Okeechobee and would provide analysis to the Board at a future meeting.

In response to Chairman Goss's questions, Mr. Collins stated the standard lease for conservation lands was 10 years and project lands was 5 years, and interested parties looking to conduct leases with the District should contact the Real Estate Division for assistance with the leasing process. Chairman Goss then asked if the fire management tool was used in controlling exotics, to which Mr. Feeney stated prescribed burning was used in conjunction with exotic plant control and also assisted with reducing herbicide use.

This item is recorded at:

sfwmd.ig2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=2029&Format=Agenda

5. Public Comment

Nyla Pipes, One Florida Foundation

This item is recorded at:

sfwmd.ig2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=2029&Format=Agenda

6. Adjourn

Chairman Goss adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:25 PM.



Gina Kamak
Deputy District Clerk
South Florida Water Management District