

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF  
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING

Note: A digital recording system has been used to record these proceedings and is on file in the permanent files of the District. A copy of the Governing Board materials and handouts are a part of the record as if set out in full herein and are filed in the permanent files of the District.

9:00 a.m., Tuesday  
March 10, 2020

District Headquarters  
Live Oak, Florida

Agenda Item No. 1 – Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 9:08 a.m.

Agenda Item No 2 – Roll Call

**Governing Board**

Seat	Name	Office	Present	Not Present
Aucilla Basin	Vacant		-	-
Coastal River Basin	Richard Schwab	Sec./Treas.	X	
Lower Suwannee Basin	Don Quincey, Jr.	Vice Chair		X
Santa Fe & Wacc. Basins	Vacant		-	-
Upper Suwannee Basin	Vacant		-	-
At Large	Virginia H. Johns	Chair	X	
At Large	Virginia Sanchez		X	
At Large	Gary Jones		X	
At Large	Charles Keith	Vice Sec./Treas.	X	

**Governing Board Legal Counsel**

Name	Firm	Present	Not Present
George T. Reeves	Davis, Schnitker, Reeves & Browning, P.A.	X	

**Leadership Team**

Position	Name	Present	Not Present
Executive Director	Hugh Thomas	X	
Deputy Executive Director	Tom Mirti	X	
Deputy Executive Director	Steve Minnis		X
Executive Office & Board Coordinator	Robin Lamm	X	

**Guests:**

Joe White, Gray Construction Services	James Batts, Gray Construction Services
George Ring, Nestle Waters	John Quarterman, WWALS
Andy Jackson, SCCD	Glenn Horvath, FDACS
Bob Moresi, Black & Veatch	Madeline Hart, FDACS OAWP
Jennifer Sagan, Wood Consulting	Walker Wrenn, Locklear & Associates
Kelly Aue, SRP	Erica Hernandez, Alachua Conservation Trust
Michael Roth, Our Santa Fe River	Cory Mikell, H2O Mobile Lab
Shelby Lindsay, CBS 4	Peter Kleinhenz, Tall Timbers
Landen Jones, Explica Media	Doug Manson, Manson & Bolves
Lucinda Merritt, Ichetucknee Alliance	Rhonda Long, Our Santa Fe River
Abdul Mukston, Explica Media	Andrew Gude, Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge
Sue Mullins	Ezra Remer
Patty Street	Alex Musca
Michael McMahon	Georgia Schmitz
James Wicklz	Steve Gladin

James McBrayer  
Lucy Anstey  
Karen Mullins  
Hilda Gilchrist  
Derek Dunlap  
R. N. McDonald  
Merrilee M. Jipson  
Kathleen Still  
Jacqueline Sulak  
Bruce Karchen  
Dianne Damico  
Carol Luby  
Alice Brown

Martha Straughn  
Eileen Box  
Dwayne Perser  
Laura Dailey  
Kristin Rubin  
Jo Wicker  
Laverne Hodge  
Paul Still  
Bruce Yancey  
Catherine Devine  
Beth Archinal  
Paul Luby  
Oscar Corral

**Staff:**

Katelyn Potter  
Warren Zwanka  
Tilda Musgrove  
Mat Cantrell  
Steve Schroeder  
Fay Baird

Lindsey Garland  
Tyler Jordan  
Pat Webster  
Tara Rodgers  
Leroy Marshall

Agenda Item No. 3 - Announcement of any Amendments to the Agenda by the Chair:

Deletions:

Agenda Item No. 4 - Consideration of Agenda Item No. 20 – BCS Page 61 - Authorization to Deny Water Use Permit Renewal Application 2-041-218202-3, Seven Springs Water Company Project, Gilchrist County

Agenda Item No 20 – Business and Community Services - Authorization to Deny Water Use Permit Renewal Application 2-041-218202-3, Seven Springs Water Company Project, Gilchrist County

~~Agenda Item No. 4 – Consideration of Agenda Item No. 20 – BCS Page 61 – Authorization to Deny Water Use Permit Renewal Application 2-041-218202-3, Seven Springs Water Company Project, Gilchrist County - (Public comment on this item will be allowed at this time). Deleted~~

Agenda Item No. 5 – Public Comment.

The following attendees waived speaking. The Board Chair read the names into the record for support against the approval of the Seven Spring Water Use permit application:

Alice Brown  
Paul Luby  
Beth Archinal  
Landen Jones  
Bruce Yancy

Rhonda Long  
Carol Luby  
Dianne Damico  
Catherine Devine  
Bruce Karchen

**Public Speakers:**

- Merrilee M Jipson - Opposition to the Seven Springs Water Use permit application approval.
- Laverne Hodge - Opposition to the Seven Springs Water Use permit application approval.
- Martha Straughn - Opposition to the Seven Springs Water Use permit application approval.
- Lucy Anstey - Opposition to the Seven Springs Water Use permit application approval.
- Eileen Box - Opposition to the Seven Springs Water Use permit application approval
- Karen Mullins - Opposition to the Seven Springs Water Use permit application approval.

- Dewayne Perser - Opposition to the Seven Springs Water Use permit application approval.
- Hilda Gilchrist - Opposition to the Seven Springs Water Use permit application approval.
- Laura Daily - Opposition to the Seven Springs Water Use permit application approval.
- Michael Roth, Our Santa Fe River - Opposition to the Seven Springs Water Use permit application approval.
- Derek Dunlap - Opposition to the Seven Springs Water Use permit application approval.
- Kristin Rubin, Our Santa Fe River - Opposition to the Seven Springs Water Use permit application approval.
- John Quarterman, WWALS - Invited Board to Clean-up & Paddle Tour in April 2020.

Agenda Item No. 6 - Consideration of the Following Items Collectively by Consent:

- Agenda Item No. 7 - Approval of Minutes – February 11, 2020 Board Meeting, Workshops, Lands, and Audit Committee Minutes
- Agenda Item No. 12 - Approval of Amendment to Carter Estate – Tract 2, Conservation Easement, Columbia County
- Agenda Item No. 13 - Approval to Enter into Negotiations to Convey an Easement for a Powerline Over a Portion of the Ellaville Parcel to Lee Peanut Farms, LLC., Madison County
- Agenda Item No. 14 - Approval of Corrective Deed for the Jennings Bluff Tract Donation to Hamilton County
- Agenda Item No. 17 - Approval of January 2020 Financial Report
- Agenda Item No. 18 - Acceptance of the Inspector General Internal Audit Report #20-01
- Agenda Item No. 26 - Authorization to Execute a Contract for the Sale of Timber with H.B. Tuten Logging, Inc., for the Steinhatchee Springs #20 Timber Sale
- Agenda Item No. 27 - Authorization to Execute a Contract for the Sale of Timber with H. B. Tuten Logging, Inc., for the Steinhatchee Springs #21 Timber Sale

MOTION WAS MADE BY KEITH, SECONDED BY SANCHEZ TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- James McBrayer - Soil sampling and contaminated well concerns in Hamilton County.
- John Quarterman, WWALS – Madison County contaminated well concerns.

Agenda Item No. 7 – Approval of Minutes - February 11, 2020 Board Meeting, Workshops, Lands and Audit Committee Minutes. Approved on Consent.

Agenda Item No. 8 - Items of General Interest for Information/Cooperating Agencies and Organizations.

- Fay Baird gave a presentation of hydrologic conditions of the District.
- Cooperating Agencies and Organizations – None

**GOVERNING BOARD LEGAL COUNSEL**

Agenda Item No. 9 – Legal Activities Update. Tom Reeves, Board Legal Counsel, updated the Board on the Jeff Hill litigation cases.

## **BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**

### *Administration*

Agenda Item No. 10 – Land Acquisition and Disposition Activity Report. This report was provided as an informational item in the Board materials.

Agenda Item No. 11 – Approval of Final Design for Restroom Renovations. Steve Schroeder, Office of Administration Chief, presented this item to the Board.

Joe White and James Batts, Gray Construction Services, provided comments to the Board.

MOTION WAS MADE BY SANCHEZ, SECONDED BY JONES TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item No. 12 – Approval of Amendment to Carter Estate – Tract 2, Conservation Easement, Columbia County. Approved on Consent.

Agenda Item No. 13 – Approval to Enter into Negotiations to Convey an Easement for a Powerline Over a Portion of the Ellaville Parcel to Lee Peanut Farms, LLC., Madison County. Approved on Consent.

Agenda Item No. 14 – Approval of Corrective Deed for the Jennings Bluff Tract Donation to Hamilton County. Approved on Consent.

Agenda Item No. 15 – Approval to Proceed with Detailed Analysis and Negotiations for the Acquisition of a 1.0 +/- Acre Parcel of Real Property, Riverview Road, Gilchrist County. Mr. Schroeder presented this item to the Board.

MOTION WAS MADE BY SANCHEZ, SECONDED BY JONES TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item No. 16 – Approval of Springs 2020 Grant Acquisition Projects. Mr. Schroeder presented this item to the Board.

MOTION WAS MADE BY SANCHEZ, SECONDED BY JONES TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

### *Finance*

Agenda Item No. 17 – Approval of January 2020 Financial Report. Approved on Consent.

Agenda Item No. 18 – Acceptance of the Inspector General Internal Audit Report #20-01. Approved on Consent.

### *Resource Management*

Agenda Item No. 19 – Permitting Summary Report. This report was provided as an informational item in the Board materials.

~~Agenda Item No. 20 – Authorization to Deny Water Use Permit Renewal Application 2-041-218202-3, Seven Springs Water Company Project, Gilchrist County. (Moved to Agenda Item No. 4) - Deleted~~

Agenda Item No. 21 – Approval of Final Order 20-0001 Authorizing Revocation of Water Use Permit 222584-1, Still Blueberry, Bradford County. Mr. Zwanka presented this item to the Board.

Steve Gladin, Paul Still, and Kathy Still provided comments to the Board.

MOTION WAS MADE BY JONES, SECONDED BY KEITH TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION. MRS. SANCHEZ VOTED AGAINST. MOTION CARRIED.

Agriculture and Environmental Projects

Agenda Item No. 22 – Approval to Enter into Contract with Gwinn Brothers Farm, LLC., to Provide Agricultural Cost-Share Funding. Matt Cantrell, Project Manager, presented this item to the Board.

MOTION WAS MADE BY SANCHEZ, SECONDED BY SCHWAB TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item No. 23 – Approval to Enter into Contract with George Wedsted to Provide Water Conservation and Nutrient Reduction Cost-Share Funding. Mr. Cantrell presented this item to the Board.

MOTION WAS MADE BY SCHWAB, SECONDED BY SANCHEZ TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item No. 24 - Approval of a Task Work Assignment for Engineering Services on District Lands. Pat Webster, Chief Professional Engineer, presented this item to the Board.

MOTION WAS MADE BY SANCHEZ, SECONDED BY JONES TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**WATER AND LAND RESOURCES**

Land Management Program

Agenda Item No. 25 - District Land Management & Twin River State Forest (TRSF) Activity Summary. This summary was provided as an informational item in the Board materials.

Agenda Item No. 26 - Authorization to Execute a Contract for the Sale of Timber with H.B. Tuten Logging, Inc., for the Steinhatchee Springs #20 Timber Sale. Approved on Consent.

Agenda Item No. 27 – Authorization to Execute a Contract for the Sale of Timber with H. B. Tuten Logging Inc., for the Steinhatchee Springs #21 Timber Sale. Approved on Consent.

Water Resources Program

Agenda Item No. 28 – Agricultural Monitoring Report. This report was provided as an informational item in the Board materials.

Tom Mirti, Deputy Executive Director, provided an updated powerpoint presentation on the Sample Collection Summary regarding the river spills and testing in Georgia:

The following attendees provided comments to the Board:

- John Quarterman, WWALS
- James McBrayer
- Merrilee M. Jipson, Our Santa Fe River
- Doug Manson, Manson & Bolves
- Lucinda Merritt, Ichetucknee Alliance

Agenda Item No. 29 – Authorization to Enter into a Cooperative Agreement with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Mr. Mirti presented this item to the Board.

Andrew Gude, Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge Manager, provided comments to the Board.

MOTION WAS MADE BY SANCHEZ, SECONDED BY JONES TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item No. 30 – Authorization to Purchase Sierra Wireless RV50x Modems and Antennas. Tara Rodgers, Hydro Data Services Chief, presented this item to the Board.

MOTION WAS MADE BY SCHWAB, SECONDED BY JONES TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

#### Water Supply / MFL Programs

Agenda Item No. 31 – MFL Update. John Good, Chief Professional Engineer, provided an update to the Board.

#### EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Agenda Item No. 32 - District's Weekly Activity Reports. These reports were provided as an informational item in the Board materials.

Agenda Item No. 33 – Springs Protection Awareness Month Proclamation. Hugh Thomas, Executive Director, presented this item to the Board.

MOTION WAS MADE BY JONES, SECONDED BY SCHWAB TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item No. 34 – Water Conservation Month Proclamation. Mr. Thomas presented this item to the Board.

MOTION WAS MADE BY SCHWAB, SECONDED BY JONES TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item No. 35 – Authorization to Enter into an Agreement with Moore Communications for Education and Outreach. Katelyn Potter, Communications Chief, presented this item to the Board.

MOTION WAS MADE BY SANCHEZ, SECONDED BY KEITH TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item No. 36 - Announcements. Mr. Thomas updated the Board on District activities. Chair Johns requested Mr. Thomas to update the Board on the current Senate confirmations. Tom Reeves updated the Board on what happens if the Senate does not confirm Mr. Thomas and gave several alternatives for the Board to consider.

MR. SCHWAB MADE A MOTION TO AMEND THE AGENDA TO CONSIDER DELEGATING TO THE CHAIR THE AUTHORITY TO TEMPORARILY APPOINT AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IF THE POSITION BECOMES VACANT. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. JONES. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Public Comments on amending the agenda and possibly making such delegation:

Michael Roth  
Steve Gladin  
Lucinda Merritt

MR. SCHWAB MADE A MOTION TO DELEGATE TO THE CHAIR THE AUTHORITY TO APPOINT A PERSON TO SERVE TEMPORARILY AS THE DISTRICT'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PROVIDED THAT (1) SUCH AUTHORITY MAY ONLY BE EXERCISED BY THE CHAIR IN THE EVENT THE POSITION OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OTHERWISE BECOMES VACANT, (2) SUCH TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT SHALL ONLY BE EFFECTIVE UNTIL THE CLOSE OF THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD FOLLOWING THE TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT, AND (3) DURING SUCH TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT, THE PERSON TEMPORARILY APPOINTED, SHALL RECEIVE THE SAME SALARY AND SERVE UNDER THE SAME TERMS AND CONDITIONS AS PROVIDED IN THE PRESENT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CONTRACT. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MS. SANCHEZ. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item No. 37 - Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 1:06 p.m.

  
Chair

ATTEST:

  
  

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Agenda Item No. 37 - Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 1:06 p.m.

  
Chair

ATTEST:

  
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