

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

**GoTo Webinar Link:** <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2119912704840872974>

**Call-In Number:** Toll Free 1-888-585-9008 - Conference Room Number: 704-019-452 #

**Public Comment Form Link:** [www.MySuwanneeRiver.com/Comments](http://www.MySuwanneeRiver.com/Comments)

Open to Public

Limited Seating Capacity and Following CDC Guidelines Regarding Social Distancing

Note: A digital recording system was used to record these proceedings and is on file in the permanent files of the District. A copy of the materials and handouts are a part of the record and are filed in the permanent files of the District.

9:00 a.m., Tuesday  
December 8, 2020

District Headquarters  
Live Oak, Florida

Agenda Item No. 1 – Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Agenda Item No 2 – Roll Call

**Governing Board**

Seat	Name	Office	Present	Not Present
Aucilla Basin	Vacant		-	-
Coastal River Basin	Richard Schwab	Vice Chair	X	
Lower Suwannee Basin	Vacant		-	-
Santa Fe & Wacc. Basins	Vacant		-	-
Upper Suwannee Basin	Larry Sessions		X	
At Large	Virginia H. Johns	Chair	X	
At Large	Virginia Sanchez			X
At Large	Charles Keith	Sec./Treas.	X	
At Large	Harry Smith		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:**

Merrilee M. Jipson, Our Santa Fe River	Charles Shinn, Florida Farm Bureau
Adam Collins, ACE, Inc.	Ray Hodge, Southeast Milk
Lu Merritt, Ichetucknee Alliance	George Curtis, City of Live Oak
Andy Townsend, City of Live Oak	Jim Tatum
Forrest Cothron	Jeff Hill
Rick Hutton	Charles Ross
Tony Wallace	Paul Still
Peter Kleinhenz	Madeline Hart
Geoffrey Sample	Bob Moresi

David King  
Kristin Rubin  
The Florida Channel  
Steve Gladin  
Hannah Love  
Stormie Knight

Craig Varn  
Denise Howard  
Stefani Weeks  
Benjamin Wyche  
Kelly Aue

**Staff:**

Pam Shaw  
Christina Green  
Tyler Jordan  
Patrick Webster  
Tara Rodgers  
Lindsey Garland  
Bo Cameron  
Kris Esklin

Warren Zwanka  
Steve Schroeder  
Katelyn Potter  
Leroy Marshall  
Paul Buchanan  
Chrissy Carr  
Alex Blankenship  
Sky Notestein

Agenda Item No. 3 - Announcement of any Amendments to the Agenda by the Chair: Mr. Keith requested Agenda Item No. 15 - Rumberger, Kirk and Caldwell Legal Services – Contract 17/18-015 Amendment, removed from the consent agenda.

Agenda Item No. 4 – Public Comment.

- Merrilee M. Jipson, Our Santa Fe River – Niagara Bottling Company in Columbia County concerns and opposition. Questions regarding the Quail Heights item on the Consent Agenda.
- Lucinda Merritt, Ichetucknee Alliance - Niagara Bottling Company in Columbia County concerns.
- Jim Tatum, Our Santa Fe River – Seven Springs Water Use Permit application letters received by the District.
- Jeff Hill – Waiting for Agenda Item No. 15 before speaking.

Agenda Item No. 5 - Consideration of the Following Items Collectively by Consent:

- Agenda Item No. 6 - November 10, 2020 Board Meeting, Workshops, and Lands Committee Minutes
- Agenda Item No. 10 - Agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation for the Acquisition for the Quail Heights Parcel, Columbia County
- Agenda Item No. 11 - Detailed Assessment and Negotiations for a Fee Acquisition of the Crosby Lake Parcel, Bradford County
- Agenda Item No. 12 - Decline Right of First Refusal on Plantations at Deep Creek Conservation Easement, Columbia County
- Agenda Item No. 14 - October 2020 Financial Report
- ~~Agenda Item No. 15 – Rumberger, Kirk and Caldwell Legal Services – Contract 17/18-015 Amendment.~~ **Removed from Consent Agenda.**
- Agenda Item No. 27 - No Cost Extension for Instream Habitat Studies in the Santa Fe River

MOTION WAS MADE BY SCHWAB, SECONDED BY KEITH TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION WITH AGENDA ITEM NO. 15 REMOVED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item No. 6 – November 10, 2020 Board Meeting, Workshops, and Lands Committee Minutes.  
Approved on Consent.

Agenda Item No. 7 - Items of General Interest for Information/Cooperating Agencies and Organizations.

- A. Tom Mirti, Deputy Executive Director, presentation of hydrologic conditions of the District.
- B. Cooperating Agencies and Organizations – Hugh recognized the City of Live Oak, Florida Farm Bureau, and Southeast Milk for their attendance at the meeting.

**GOVERNING BOARD LEGAL COUNSEL**

Agenda Item No. 8 – Legal Activities Updates. Tom Reeves, Board Legal Counsel, updated the Board on the Still v. Bradford County and Seven Springs Water Use Permit Application Administrative cases.

**BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**

Administration

Agenda Item No. 9 – Land Acquisition and Disposition Activity Report. This report was provided as an informational item in the Board materials.

Agenda Item No. 10 – Agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation for the Acquisition for the Quail Heights Parcel, Columbia County. Approved on Consent.

Agenda Item No. 11 – Detailed Assessment and Negotiations for a Fee Acquisition of the Crosby Lake Parcel, Bradford County. Approved on Consent.

Agenda Item No. 12 – Decline Right of First Refusal on Plantations at Deep Creek Conservation Easement, Columbia County. Approved on Consent.

Agenda Item No. 13 – Detailed Assessment and Negotiations for the Acquisition of the Camp and Abel Tract, Hamilton County. Steve Schroeder, Administration Chief, presented this item to the Board.

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

Finance

Agenda Item No. 14 – October 2020 Financial Report. Approved on Consent.

Agenda Item No. 15 – Rumberger, Kirk and Caldwell Legal Services – Contract 17/18-015 Amendment. **Removed from Consent.** Pam Shaw, Chief Financial Officer, presented this item to the Board.

AMENDED MOTION WAS MADE BY KEITH, SECONDED BY SCHWAB TO PAY THE CURRENT OUTSTANDING BILLS, NOT TO EXCEED \$10,000 AND AN ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZATION OF \$10,000 TO COVER THE LEGAL SERVICES FEES FOR ANY FUTURE HEARING(S) RELATED TO THIS CASE. ANY AMOUNT OVER THE \$10,000 ADDITIONAL DOLLARS ARE TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD FOR APPROVAL. MOTION CARRIED.

Agenda Item No. 16 – Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Preliminary Budget Submission. Christina Green, Senior Budget and Fiscal Analyst, presented this item to the Board.

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

Resource Management

Agenda Item No. 17 – Permitting Summary Report. This report was provided as an informational item in the Board materials.

Agenda Item No. 18 –2020 FEMA Risk MAP Program Five-Year Business Plan. Leroy Marshall, Chief Professional Engineer, presented this item to the Board. Amended recommendation to change to 2021 FEMA Risk MAP Program Five-Year Business Plan instead of 2020 FEMA Risk MAP Program Five-Year Business Plan.

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

Agenda Item No. 19 – Rulemaking to Amend Rule 40B-400.091, Florida Administrative Code Warren Zwanka, Resource Management Division Director, presented this item to the Board.

MOTION WAS MADE BY SMITH, SECONDED BY SESSIONS TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item No. 20 – Emergency Variance Request for General Works of the District Permit Application WOD-029-237339-1, Cothron Residence, Dixie County. Mr. Marshall presented this item to the Board.

Additional information was received today, December 8, 2020, day of Board Meeting, and have not been reviewed by staff.

Adam Collins, ACE, Inc., and Forrest Cothron provided comments to the Board.

AMENDED MOTION MADE BY SCHWAB, SECONDED BY SMITH TO EXTEND THIS RECOMMENDATION TO THE FEBRUARY 9, 2021, BOARD MEETING AND EXTEND THE ENFORCEMENT ACTION UNTIL APRIL 9, 2021. MR. COLLINS, AGENT FOR MR. COTHRON, AGREED TO THE EXTENTIONS. MOTION CARRIED.

Agriculture and Environmental Projects

Agenda Item No. 21 – Agreements with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to Receive Alternative Water Supply Grant Funds and to Enter into Cooperative Agreements. Pat Webster, Chief Professional Engineer, presented this item to the Board.

George Curtis, City of Live Oak Manager, and Rick Hutton, Gainesville Regional Utilities, provided comments to the Board.

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

Agenda Item No. 22 – Contract to Provide Cost-Share Funding to North Florida Holstein, L.C., Gilchrist County. Matt Cantrell, Project Manager, presented this item to the Board.

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

Agenda Item No. 23 - Contract to Provide Cost-Share Funding to Lee Peanut Farms, LLC, Madison County. Mr. Cantrell presented this item to the Board.

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

## **WATER AND LAND RESOURCES**

### Land Management Program

Agenda Item No. 24 - District Land Management and Twin River State Forest (TRSF) Activity Summary. This summary was provided as an informational item in the Board materials.

### Water Resources Program

Agenda Item No. 25 – Agricultural Monitoring Report. This report was provided as an informational item in the Board materials.

### Water Supply / MFL Programs

Agenda Item No. 26 – Minimum Flows and Minimum Water Levels Update. Sean King, MFL Office Chief, provided an update to the Board.

Agenda Item No. 27 – No Cost Extension for Instream Habitat Studies in the Santa Fe River. Approved on Consent.

Agenda Item No. 28 – Update to the Lake Butler Minimum Flows and Minimum Water Levels Report. Mr. King presented this item to the Board.

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

Agenda Item No. 29 – Water Supply Update. Mr. Mirti provided an update to the Board.

## **EXECUTIVE OFFICE**

Agenda Item No. 30 - District's Weekly Activity Reports. These reports were provided as an informational item in the Board materials.

Agenda Item No. 31 - Announcements. Mr. Thomas updated the Board on District activities.

Agenda Item No. 32 - Governing Board Comments. None

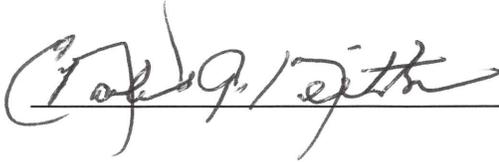
Agenda Item No. 33 - Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 12:12 p.m.



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Chair

ATTEST:



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**SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
GOVERNING BOARD WORKSHOP**

December 8, 2020  
Following Board Meeting

District Headquarters  
Live Oak, Florida

Workshops began at 12:20 p.m.

Fanning Springs Wastewater Infrastructure Improvement Projects Update

Pat Webster introduced Tripp Lancaster, Mayor of Fanning Springs, who provided a powerpoint presentation regarding the Fanning Springs Wastewater Infrastructure Improvement Project. Joe Mittauer and Greg Lang, Mittauer & Associates, provided additional information.

Strategic Plan Update.

Katelyn Potter provided a powerpoint presentation regarding the Annual 2020 Strategic Plan and the District's accomplishments for last fiscal year.

Enforcement Policy Directive Update

Warren Zwanka provided a powerpoint presentation regarding updates to be made to the Enforcement Policy Directive which will be presented at the January 2021 Board Meeting for approval.

Workshop adjourned at 2:19 p.m.

**SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF DISTRICT LANDS COMMITTEE MEETING**

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December 8, 2020  
Following Board Workshops

District Headquarters  
Live Oak, FL

1. Call to Order / Committee Roll Call. Meeting began at 2:20 p.m.

Board Members Smith and Sessions also attended the Lands Committee Meeting and will be voting members of this month's Lands Committee Meeting.

<b>Committee Members</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Not Present</b>
Richard Schwab (Chair)	X	
Charles Keith	X	
Virginia Sanchez		X
Harry Smith	X	
Larry Sessions	X	

2. Public Comment. None

**General Discussion / Updates.**

3. 2021 Florida Forever Work Plan. Katelyn Potter, Communications and Organizational Development Chief, presented this item to the Committee

MOTION WAS MADE BY SMITH, SECONDED BY SESSIONS TO APPROVE RECOMMENDATION. MOTION CARRIED.

**Land Acquisition / Property Offers**

4. Rio Lindo Conservation Easement – Gilchrist County. Steve Schroeder, Administration Chief, presented this item to the Committee.

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

**Conservation Easement Modification Requests:** None

**Surplus Lands:** None

5. Announcements:
6. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 2:31 p.m.

  
Chair

ATTEST:



