

AGENDA
SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING

GoTo Webinar Link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/359867273716484112>

Public Comment Form Link: www.MySuwanneeRiver.com/Comments

Open to Public

August 10, 2021
9:00 a.m.

District Headquarters
Live Oak, Florida

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Announcement of any Amendments to the Agenda
Amendments Recommended by Staff: None
4. Public Comment
5. Consideration of the following Items Collectively by Consent:
 - Agenda Item No. 6 - July 13, 2021 Governing Board Meeting Minutes
 - Agenda Item No. 11 - Renewal of Contract #19/20-051 with North Florida Land Trust
 - Agenda Item No. 12 - June 2021 Financial Report
 - Agenda Item No. 14 - Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Annual Regulatory Plan
 - Agenda Item No. 23 - Task Work Assignment for Contract 19/20-009 with HSW Consulting LLC
 - Agenda Item No. 27 - Statement of Agency Organization and Operation
6. July 13, 2021 Governing Board Meeting Minutes - **Recommend Consent**
7. Items of General Interest for Information/Cooperating Agencies and Organizations
 - A. Hydrologic Conditions Report
 - B. Cooperating Agencies and Organizations
 - C. Service Recognitions – Hugh Thomas (5 years)

Page 6

GOVERNING BOARD LEGAL COUNSEL

Tom Reeves

8. Update on Legal Activities / Enforcement Status Report

BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Tim Alexander, Deputy Executive Director

Administration

BCS Page 1

9. Land Acquisition and Disposition Activity Report

BCS Page 4

10. Florida Power and Light North Florida Resiliency Corridor Amendment to Permanent Access Easement, Madison County

- BCS Page 6 11. Renewal of Contract #19/20-051 with North Florida Land Trust - **Recommend Consent**

Finance

- BCS Page 7 12. June 2021 Financial Report – **Recommend Consent**

Resource Management

- BCS Page 12 13. Permitting Summary Report

- BCS Page 16 14. Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Annual Regulatory Plan – **Recommend Consent**

- BCS Page 22 15. Administrative Complaint and Proposed Order, Unlicensed Water Well Construction, Brandon Creasy, Gilchrist County

OUTREACH AND OPERATIONS

Katelyn Potter, Division Director

Communications and Outreach

No Items

Land Management

- OPS Page 1 16. District Land Management and Twin Rivers State Forest Activity Summary

- OPS Page 6 17. Renewal of Contract 19/20-015 with Agriculture Construction Services for Featured Site and Dispersed Recreation Services

- OPS Page 7 18. Renewal of Contracts 20/21-033, 20/21-036, and 20/21-037 for Construction and Maintenance of Hydrologic Improvements and Roads

- OPS Page 8 19. Renewal of Contract 05/06-131 with Florida Forest Service – Twin Rivers State Forest for Land Management Activities Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022

- OPS Page 17 20. 2020-2021 Land Management Review Team Report

Hydrologic Data Services

No Items

WATER RESOURCES

Amy Brown, Deputy Executive Director

Agriculture and Environmental Projects

- WR Page 1 21. Contract with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to Administer the Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning Program

Minimum Flows and Levels

22. Minimum Flows and Minimum Water Levels Update

WR Page 2 23. Task Work Assignment for Contract 19/20-009 with HSW Consulting LLC – **Recommend Consent**

Water Supply

24. Water Supply Update

Water Resources

WR Page 3 25. Agricultural Water Use Monitoring Report

EXECUTIVE OFFICE
Hugh Thomas, Executive Director

26. 2022-2026 Strategic Plan Update

EO Page 1 27. Statement of Agency Organization and Operation – **Recommend Consent**

28. Announcements

29. Governing Board Comments

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are at District Headquarters in Live Oak, Florida

September 14, 2021 (Tuesday)	3:00 p.m.	Board Meeting
	5:05 p.m.	First Public Hearing on FY 2021-2022 Budget
September 27, 2021 (Monday)	3:00 p.m.	Workshops and/or Committee Meetings
	5:05 p.m.	Final Public Hearing on FY 2021-2022 Budget

Workshops and Committee Meetings will begin following the Board Meeting unless otherwise noted.

30. Adjournment

Any member of the public, who wishes to address the Board on any agenda item, or any other topic, must sign up (including the completion of the required speaker forms) with the Executive Director or designee before the time designated for Public Comment. During Public Comment, the Chair shall recognize those persons signed up to speak on agenda items first. To the extent time permits, the Chair shall thereafter recognize those persons signed up to speak on non-agenda items. Unless, leave is given by the Chair, (1) all speakers will be limited to three minutes per topic, (2) any identifiable group of three persons or more shall be required to choose a representative, who shall be limited to five minutes per topic. When recognized by the Chair during Public Comment, a speaker may request to be allowed to make his or her comments at the time the Board considers an agenda item. The Chair may grant or deny such request in the Chair's sole discretion.

Definitions:

- "Lobbies" is defined as seeking to influence a district policy or procurement decision or an attempt to obtain the goodwill of a district official or employee. (112.3261(1)(b), Florida Statutes [F.S.]
- "Lobbyist" is a person who is employed and receives payment, or who contracts for economic consideration, for the purpose of lobbying, or a person who is principally employed for governmental affairs by another person or governmental entity to lobby on behalf of that other person or governmental entity. (112.3215(1)(h), F.S.)

The Board may act upon (including reconsideration) any agenda item at any time during the meeting. The agenda may be changed only for good cause as determined by the Chair and stated in the record. If, after the regular time for Public Comment, the agenda is amended to add an item for consideration, the Chair shall allow public comment on the added agenda item prior to the Board taking action thereon.

All decisions of the Chair concerning parliamentary procedures, decorum, and rules of order will be final, unless they are overcome by a majority of the members of the Board in attendance.

If any person decides to appeal any decision with respect to any action considered at the above referenced meeting and hearing, such person may need to ensure a verbatim record of the proceeding is made to include testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is made.

AGENDA
SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
GOVERNING BOARD WORKSHOP

August 10, 2021
Following Board Meeting

District Headquarters
Live Oak, Florida

- University of Florida - Forest Management for Ecosystem Services
- Water Quality Presentation

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

GoTo Webinar Link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/9008350859167038990>
Public Comment Form Link: www.MySuwanneeRiver.com/Comments
 Open to Public

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.

July 13, 2021,
9:00 a.m.

City of Alachua Commission Meeting Room
Alachua, FL 32615

Agenda Item No. 1 – Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 8:59 a.m.

Agenda Item No 2 – Roll Call

Governing Board

Seat	Name	Office	Present	Not Present
Aucilla Basin	Dr. George Cole			X
Coastal River Basin	Richard Schwab	Vice Chair	X	
Lower Suwannee Basin	Larry Thompson		X	
Santa Fe & Wacc. Basins	William Lloyd		X	
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	Amy Brown	X	
Deputy Executive Director	Tim Alexander	X	
Executive Office & Board Coordinator	Robin Lamm	X	

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

Updated:

Agenda Item No. 13 – Business and Community Services - Tentative Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Millage and Budget

Deleted:

Agenda Item No. 35 – Executive Office - 2022-2026 Strategic Plan Update

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

Agenda Item No. 4 – Public Comment.

- Kevin Smith – Turkey Creek flooding concerns.
- Kevin Ferris – Turkey Creek flooding concerns.
- Robert Battaglia – Turkey Creek flooding concerns.
- Patricia Urbano - Turkey Creek flooding and erosion concerns. Request site visit with staff.
- Jerry Meriwether - Turkey Creek flooding concerns.
- Lucinda Merritt – Alternative water supply and water use permit issuance concerns.
- Jeff Hill – Legal concerns with the District.
- Sabrina Anderson - Turkey Creek flooding concerns.
- Charles Houder, Alachua County Land and Trust – Thanked the District for visiting Alachua County and for Springs projects funding.

Hugh Thomas, Executive Director, and Warren Zwanka, Director, Resource Management Division, provided an update regarding flooding and erosion issues in Turkey Creek.

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

- Agenda Item No. 6 - June 8, 2021, Governing Board Meeting, Executive Director Performance Evaluation Committee Meeting, and Workshop Minutes
- Agenda Item No. 9 - Performance Evaluation Review of Executive Director and Contract Amendment
- Agenda Item No. 12 - May 2021 Financial Report
- Agenda Item No. 16 - Interagency Agreement with St Johns River Water Management District to Transfer Water Use Permitting Responsibility of Melrose Water Association
- Agenda Item No. 17 - Governing Board Directive Number 21-0005, Educational Water Resource Grant Funding Program
- Agenda Item No. 20 - Big Shoal Tract and Bell Springs House Lease Agreement with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection
- Agenda Item No. 22 - Contract with John A. Cruce Inc. for the Holton Creek #4 Timber Sale
- Agenda Item No. 23 - Discharge Measurements and Calculation of Daily Discharge Values of Streamflow for Fiscal Year 2021-2022
- Agenda Item No. 27 - Task Work Assignment Amendment to Revise the Lake Hampton 2017 Minimum Flows and Minimum Water Levels Report
- Agenda Item No. 28 - Task Work Assignment Amendment for Lakes Hampton, Santa Fe, and Alto Hydrologic Modeling Report Updates and Status Assessment Technical Memos
- Agenda Item No. 31 - United States Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Services Lower Suwannee Cooperative Agreement
- Agenda Item No. 32 - Memorandum of Agreement with St. Johns River Water Management District for Surface and Groundwater Chemistry Analysis for Fiscal Year 2021-2022
- Agenda Item No. 33 - Renewal of Task Work Assignment 19/20-041.009 with Wood Environmental and Infrastructure Solutions, Inc., for Water Quality and Biological Sampling

~~MOTION WAS MADE BY SCHWAB, SECONDED BY SMITH TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. **Motion withdrawn.**~~

Mr. Reeves and Board Member Schwab recognized a Conflict of Interest on Agenda Item No. 5 with Mr. Schwab. The original motion was withdrawn and revoted on at the end of the agenda under Executive Office.

Agenda Item No. 6 – June 8, 2021, Governing Board Meeting, Executive Director Performance Evaluation Committee Meeting, and Workshop Minutes. Approved on Consent.

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

- A. Cooperating Agencies and Organizations. Mr. Thomas introduced Tom Kay, Alachua Conservation Trust, to the Board.
- B. Robbie McKinney, Hydrologist, Office of Water Resources, gave a presentation of hydrologic conditions of the District.

Chair Johns requested that Agenda Item No. 18 be presented at this time.

Agenda Item No. 18 – Presentation - Educational Water Resource Grant Funding Program. Lindsey Covington, Communications and Outreach Manager, introduced Chet Collins, Bell Middle/High School, and Janora Crowe, Columbia Career and Adult Education Center, who provided presentations to the Board and thanked the Board for the Grant Funding Program.

GOVERNING BOARD LEGAL COUNSEL

Agenda Item No. 8 – Legal Activities Update. Tom Reeves, Board Legal Counsel, updated the Board on the Defenders of the Wildlife legal case.

Agenda Item No. 9 – Performance Evaluation Review of Executive Director and Contract Amendment. Approved on Consent.

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 – Conservation Easement Amendment - Bailey Brothers, Dixie County. Steve Schroeder, Chief, Office of Administration, presented this item to the Board.

Carl Salifrio, Environmental Consulting and Design, provided comments to the Board.

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

Finance

Agenda Item No. 12 – May 2021 Financial Report. Approved on Consent.

Agenda Item No. 13 – Tentative Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Millage and Budget - **UPDATED**. Christina Green, Senior Budget and Fiscal Analyst, presented this item to the Board.

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

Agenda Item No. 14 – Resolution Number 2021-03, Release of Fiscal Year 2021-2022 State Appropriations. Mrs. Green presented this item to the Board.

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

Resource Management

Agenda Item No. 15 – Permitting Summary Report. This report was provided as an informational item in the Board materials.

Agenda Item No. 16 – Interagency Agreement with St Johns River Water Management District to Transfer Water Use Permitting Responsibility of Melrose Water Association. Approved on Consent.

OUTREACH AND OPERATIONS

Communications and Outreach

Agenda Item No. 17 – Governing Board Directive Number 21-0005, Educational Water Resource Grant Funding Program. Approved on Consent.

Agenda Item No. 18 – Presentation - Educational Water Resource Grant Funding Program. This Item was moved following Agenda Item No. 7 on the agenda.

Land Management

Agenda Item No. 19 - 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. 20 - Big Shoal Tract and Bell Springs House Lease Agreement with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Approved on Consent

Agenda Item No. 21 – Management Plan Amendment for J. H. Anderson, Jr., Memorial Park – Rock Bluff Springs Tract. Bill McKinstry, Chief, Office of Land Management, presented this item to the Board.

MOTION WAS MADE BY SESSION, SECONDED BY THOMPSON TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item No. 22 – Contract with John A. Cruce Inc., for the Holton Creek #4 Timber Sale. Approved on Consent

Hydrologic Data Services

Agenda Item No. 23 – Discharge Measurements and Calculation of Daily Discharge Values of Streamflow for Fiscal Year 2021-2022. Approved on Consent

Agenda Item No. 24 – Interagency Joint Funding Agreement with the United States Geological Survey for Streamgaging Services for Fiscal Year 2021-2022. Tara Rodgers, Chief, Hydrologic Data Services, presented this item to the Board.

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

WATER RESOURCES

Agriculture and Environmental Projects

Agenda Item No. 25 – Bradford/Starke Update. Dave Christian, Professional Engineer, Office of Agriculture and Environmental Projects, provided an update and presentation to the Board.

Paul Still provided comments to the Board.

Minimum Flows and Levels

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

Agenda Item No. 27 – Task Work Assignment Amendment to Revise the Lake Hampton 2017 Minimum Flows and Minimum Water Levels Report. Approved on Consent.

Agenda Item No. 28 – Task Work Assignment Amendment for Lakes Hampton, Santa Fe, and Alto Hydrologic Modeling Report Updates and Status Assessment Technical Memos. Approved on Consent.

Water Supply

Agenda Item No. 29 – Water Supply Plan Update. Amy Brown, Deputy Executive Director, provided an update to the Board.

Water Resources

Agenda Item No. 30 – Agricultural Monitoring Report. This report was provided as an informational item in the Board materials.

Agenda Item No. 31 – United States Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Services Lower Suwannee Cooperative Agreement. Approved on Consent.

Agenda Item No. 32 – Memorandum of Agreement with St. Johns River Water Management District for Surface and Groundwater Chemistry Analysis for Fiscal Year 2021-2022. Approved on Consent.

Agenda Item No. 33 – Renewal of Task Work Assignment 19/20-041.009 with Wood Environmental and Infrastructure Solutions, Inc., for Water Quality and Biological Sampling. Approved on Consent.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Mr. Reeves announced a Conflict of Interest with Mr. Schwab on Agenda Item No. 5. The Chair called for a revote on this item.

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

- Agenda Item No. 6 - June 8, 2021, Governing Board Meeting, Executive Director Performance Evaluation Committee Meeting, and Workshop Minutes
- Agenda Item No. 9 - Performance Evaluation Review of Executive Director and Contract Amendment
- Agenda Item No. 12 - May 2021 Financial Report

- Agenda Item No. 16 - Interagency Agreement with St Johns River Water Management District to Transfer Water Use Permitting Responsibility of Melrose Water Association
- Agenda Item No. 17 - Governing Board Directive Number 21-0005, Educational Water Resource Grant Funding Program
- Agenda Item No. 20 - Big Shoal Tract and Bell Springs House Lease Agreement with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection
- Agenda Item No. 22 - Contract with John A. Cruce Inc. for the Holton Creek #4 Timber Sale
- Agenda Item No. 23 - Discharge Measurements and Calculation of Daily Discharge Values of Streamflow for Fiscal Year 2021-2022
- Agenda Item No. 27 - Task Work Assignment Amendment to Revise the Lake Hampton 2017 Minimum Flows and Minimum Water Levels Report
- Agenda Item No. 28 - Task Work Assignment Amendment for Lakes Hampton, Santa Fe, and Alto Hydrologic Modeling Report Updates and Status Assessment Technical Memos
- Agenda Item No. 31 - United States Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Services Lower Suwannee Cooperative Agreement
- Agenda Item No. 32 - Memorandum of Agreement with St. Johns River Water Management District for Surface and Groundwater Chemistry Analysis for Fiscal Year 2021-2022
- Agenda Item No. 33 - Renewal of Task Work Assignment 19/20-041.009 with Wood Environmental and Infrastructure Solutions, Inc., for Water Quality and Biological Sampling

Mr. Schwab publicly announced a conflict of interest and abstained from voting on this agenda item. The conflict-of-interest form was completed and signed by Mr. Schwab. This form is hereby made part of these minutes and is filed in the permanent Governing Board Meeting minutes files of the District.

MOTION WAS MADE BY SESSIONS, SECONDED BY THOMPSON TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION. MOTION CARRIED WITH THE EXCEPTION OF MR. SCHWAB.

Agenda Item No. 34 – Governing Board Directive Number 21-0004, Delegation of Expenditure Authority for the Executive Director. Mr. Thomas presented this item to the Board.

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

Agenda Item No. 35 – 2022-2026 Strategic Plan Update. **Deleted**

Agenda Item No. 36 - Announcements. Mr. Thomas updated the Board on the Interlocal Agreement with Columbia County regarding the Country Club Road property.

Agenda Item No. 37 - Governing Board Comments. None

Agenda Item No. 38 - Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 11:43 a.m.

A tour highlighting water resource projects in Alachua County followed the meeting.

Chair

ATTEST:

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board
FROM: Stephen Schroeder, Chief, Office of Administration
THRU: Tim Alexander, Deputy Executive Director, Division of Business and Community
DATE: Services July 30, 2021
RE: Land Acquisition and Disposition Activity Report

Attached for your information is the Land Acquisition and Disposition Activity Report.

SS/tm
Attachments

LAND ACQUISITION AND DISPOSITION ACTIVITY REPORT MAY 2021

Property Offers							
Owner	Tract	Acres	County	Submittal Date	Asking Price	Acquisition Type	Comments
	Gilchrist Lyne	17,854	Gilchrist	03.2019	Exchange acreage dependent on configuration/ Sandlin Bay 2,023 acre (USFS)	Conservation Easement	Tabled by Lands Committee 6.11.2019. Offeror has contract for sale of property. On hold.
Approved for Detailed Assessment							
Owner	Project Name	Acres	County	Submittal Date	Asking Price	Acquisition Type	Comments
McB-Pinehatchee	Steinhatchee North/ RO Ranch West-Equestrian	2950/1,277	Lafayette		Exchange	Exchange - Fee for Fee	Approved by Governing Board 11.12.2019. Negotiations in progress. Appraisals received 8.18.2020. Staff reviewing values with NFLT and McB for negotiations. 10.13.2020 Governing Board authorized release of appraisals. Appraisals provided and negotiations ongoing. NFLT to conduct mineral rights exploitation feasibility study as it relates to a portion of the proposed exchange tract. Proposed final offer being submitted to Lands Committee 3.9.21 for recommendation to Governing Board. LC approved offer on Governing Board agenda 4.13.21. Governing Board approved offer on 4.13.21. Final steps underway including surveys and ESA Phase 1 inspection. Update provided to Governing Board 5.11.21. Negotiations continue on survey cost sharing. Awaiting response from McB re: cost sharing for surveys. May need Board approval for surveying contract.
Hickman	Alapaha Point	39.8	Hamilton	08.21.19	\$159,200	Fee	Staff recommendation to proceed with detailed analysis and negotiations approved by Lands Committee on 12.12. 2019. Approved by Governing Board on 1.14.2020. Appraisal received on 5.15.2020. Staff preparing an offer. Offer submitted. Counter-offer received. Counter-offer raised some title concerns. Title issues clarified through public records research and will be verified through formal title search. Staff is accepting counter-offer and will move forward with assessments and negotiations. ESA Phase 1 being ordered. ESA Phase 1 conducted July 12 (delayed due to TS Elsa). Report due 7.26.21.
Michael and Freda Shaw	Shaw Conservation Easement Exchange	1,099	Lafayette			Conservation Easement	Negotiations ongoing.
Crosby Lake	Crosby Lake	1,380	Bradford		TBD	TBD - possibly mixed fee and CE	Approved for detailed assessment and negotiations 12.8.2020. Staff proceeding with discussions and project assessment including Bradford County and the City of Starke. Staff met with Offeror on 2.25.21 to update on status and timelines. Staff met with County and City staff 3.8.21. Joint meeting of County and City commissions being scheduled possibly April or May. Joint meeting scheduled for June 17. Interlocal agreement being developed between Bradford County, City of Starke and SRWMD. ESA Phase 1 to be conducted in July with report due in August.
Camp and Abel	Camp and Abel	266	Hamilton	09.23.20	\$948,000	Fee	Approved for detailed assessment and negotiations 12.8.2020. Property being tasked to NFLT for negotiation and assessment.
Pfleiger	Riverbend Estates	1.1	Dixie	03.20.20	\$11,000/Possible exchange	Fee	Staff recommendation to proceed with detailed assessment and negotiations. Approved by Lands Committee on 6.9.2020. Approved by Governing Board agenda on 7.14.2020. In discussions with Offeror to exchange for Timber River parcel in Madison County. Offeror has tentatively agreed to exchange. Contract being prepared. Draft contract submitted to Counsel for review on 3.3.21. Awaiting additional guidance from Counsel regarding appraisals. Contract revised and submitted to Pfleiger. Staff will order an ESA Phase 1 and appraisal the River Bend property; Pfleiger will order an appraisal on the District land in Timber River.
Alachua Conservation Trust	Santa Fe Springs (ACT) a/k/a Zow, Graham Springs	282	Columbia		\$139,041	Conservation Easement	Staff recommendation to proceed with detailed analysis and negotiations approved by Lands Committee on 12.12.2019. Approved by Governing Board on 1.14.2020. Due diligence documentation submitted by ACT and being reviewed. Drafting CE to prepare for closing after Springs Grant Funding released. Funded on Springs Grant list. Staff beginning process to finalize transaction including completion of CE terms. Draft CE submitted to ACT for review 12.9.2020. ACT comments received and being reviewed. Internal review complete. Will be submitted to legal for final approval. CE submitted for legal review 3.3.21. Legal comments received. Revised CE submitted to ACT for review on 6.9.21. Final revisions being made to CE language; expect completion before 7.31.21
Florida Department of Transportation	Quail Heights	40.63	Columbia		\$651,105	Fee	Staff review on 8.8.2019 recommended purchase in partnership with FDOT. Approved by Lands Committee on 2.11.2020. Approved by Governing Board 3.10.2020. Submitted for Springs Grant funding. Springs Grant funding not obtained for FY 2020. Property acquired by FDOT on 9.10.2020. Lands Committee approved contribution to acquisition costs 11.10.2020. Governing Board approved on consent agenda 12.8.2020. Draft agreement provided by FDOT under review. FDOT contract completed. Resolution for acquisition on Governing Board agenda 5.11.2021. Resolution approved by Governing Board 5.11.21. Final revisions and resolution of all contingencies complete and satisfied. Funds will be distributed to FDOT before 6.1.21. Agreement with FDOT executed. Funds transferred after due diligence. Staff is working on obtaining appropriate surveys and negotiating agreement with Columbia County. Interlocal agreement being drafted with Columbia County.
Harpo Holdings, LLC	Rio Lindo Conservation Easement	313	Gilchrist	10.2.20	TBD based on appraisal	Conservation Easement	Lands Committee requested additional information at its 11.10.2020 meeting. Requested information submitted at the 12.8.2020 meeting and staff recommendation to proceed with detailed assessments and negotiations was unanimously approved. On Governing Board agenda 1.12.21. Approved by Governing Board on 1.12.21. Discussions underway with seller on due diligence cost sharing. Seller is editing SRWMD Template CE for property. Sellers edits received, being reviewed internally. Revised language submitted to offeror.
Lasky	Lasky	351.74	Gilchrist	11.2020	\$855,000	Fee	Being submitted to Lands Committee 3.9.21. Approved for detailed assessment and negotiation by LC 3.9.21. On Governing Board agenda 4.13.21. Approved by Board. Request for quotes for ESA Phase 1 being prepared. ESA Phase 1 ordered. Should be completed in July with report due in August.
R.L. Henderson	Telford Springs	94	Suwannee	12.2020	\$1,135,000	Fee	Submitted to Lands Committee 3.9.21 as a Springs Restoration program acquisition. Approved by LC on Governing Board agenda 4.13.21. Approved by Governing Board as part of Spring Restoration Grant application. Submitted as a Springs Grant project. Notification of awards are expected late summer 2021.
Adams	Adams Tract	231.1	Madison	08.2020	TBD	Fee	Submitted to Lands Committee 3.9.21 as a Springs Restoration program acquisition. Approved by LC on Governing Board agenda 4.13.21. Approved by Governing Board as part of Spring Restoration Grant application. Submitted as a Springs Grant project. Notification of awards are expected late summer 2021
Rayonier	Lake Sampson (Rayonier)	30+/-	Bradford	District Initiated	TBD	Fee	Submitted to Lands Committee on 5.11.21 to be funded through FDEP grant; acquisition if AWS project related. Approved by Lands Committee. On Governing Board Agenda for 6.8.21. Approved by Board. TWA opened with NFLT for negotiations with Rayonier.

Proposed for Surplus

Tract	Acres	County	Acquired Date	Funding	Appraisal Date	Price	Comments
-------	-------	--------	---------------	---------	----------------	-------	----------

None pending.

Authorized for Surplus

Tract	Acres	County	Acquired Date	Funding	Appraisal Date	Price	Comments
Forest Woodlands	11	Gilchrist	10.11.1996	Save Our Rivers	TBD	To be determined by appraisal.	Staff recommended for surplus. Approved by Lands Committee on 10.10.2019. Approved by Governing Board 11.12.2019. Will be offered to adjacent property owners.
Santa Fe Oasis	1	Gilchrist	4.28.1998	Save Our Rivers	TBD	TBD by appraisal update.	Approved by Lands Committee on 4.14.2020. Approved by Governing Board 5.12.2020. Offered for surplus via District website. Offered for sale to adjacent owners, two offers received. Approved by Lands Committee 8.11.2020 to accept highest offer. Scheduled for Governing Board agenda 9.8.2020. Withdrawn from Board on 9.8.2020. Being resubmitted to Lands Committee for its 9.21.2020 meeting for staff recommendation to reject all offers and offer for sale to the general public. Governing Board approved Lands Committee recommendation on 10.13.2020. All bids rejected and property will be offered for sale to the general public. Staff is trying to obtain a review appraisal to reconcile disparate appraisals received and determine minimum price for bids. Awaiting legal guidance on establishing minimum price for public notice of intent to sell.
Suwannee Run Shores	1.175	Dixie	12.30.1997	Save Our Rivers	TBD	To be determined by appraisal.	Staff recommended for surplus. Approved by Lands Committee 7.9.2019. Approved by Governing Board 8.13.2019. To be offered to adjacent property owners. Adjacent Property owners notified, responses/bids with appraisals due 4.15.2020. No responses received, will be posted on website and offer for sale to general public.
Three Rivers Estates	1	Columbia	12.30.1997	Save Our Rivers	N/A	TBD by appraisal update.	Staff recommended for surplus. Approved by Lands Committee 7.9.2019. Approved by Governing Board 8.8.2019. To be offered to adjacent property owners. Adjacent Property owners notified, responses/bids with appraisals due 4.15.2020. Two offers received, highest offer approved by Lands Committee 6.9.2020. On Governing Board agenda for 7.14.2020. Approved by Governing Board 7.14.2020. <u>Contract being drafted.</u>
Turtle Spring Surplus Tract	32	Lafayette	5.13.2015	Florida Forever	5.24.2015	TBD by appraisal update.	Suspended until further review. Attempting to verify final surplus status/approval by Governing Board.
Newberry Wellfield	58.66	Alachua	1.11.00	P-2000	N/A	\$0	3.9.21 Lands Committee recommended surplus and conveyance to the City of Newberry with specified conditions. Approved by Governing Board 4.13.21. Conveyance documents being drafted for legal review. Conveyance on hold pending resolution of issues relating to timber operations by the District. Additional concerns have been noted by District staff regarding certain commercial activities being conducted on the property. Staff is considering options for resolution. Final conveyance has not been completed.

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Stephen Schroeder, Chief, Office of Administration

THRU: Tim Alexander, Deputy Executive Director, Division of Business and Community Services

DATE: July 30, 2021

RE: Florida Power and Light North Florida Resiliency Corridor Amendment to Permanent Access Easement, Madison County

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the request for amendment to the Florida Power and Light North Florida Resiliency Corridor permanent access easement in Madison County.

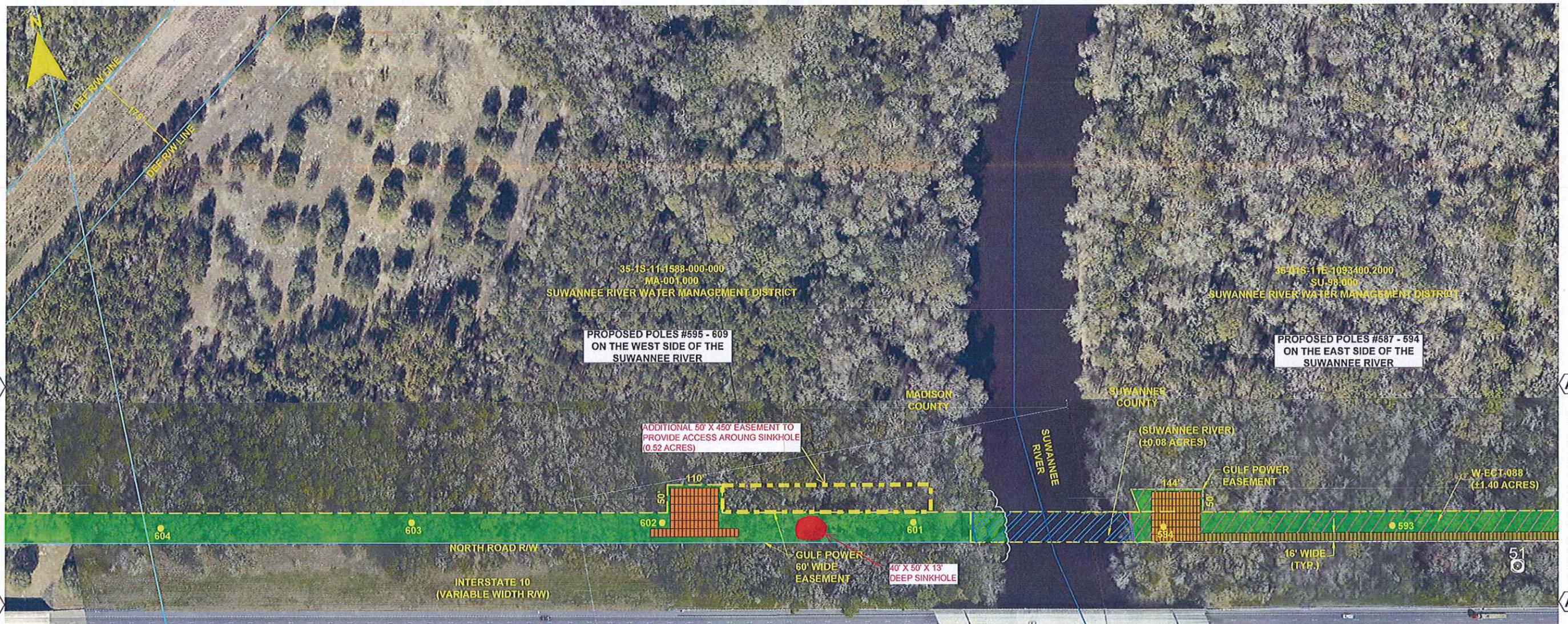
BACKGROUND

In October 2020, the Governing Board approved the conveyance of various temporary and permanent access easements to Florida Power and Light (FPL) over parcels of land-owned by the District. The permanent access easement in Madison County is identified as MA 001.000, consisted of 13 acres and was valued at \$2,250.21 per acre with a value for trees in the amount of \$133.60 per acre. While preparing for construction within the easement area, FPL observed that a large sinkhole has opened within the area of the previously conveyed permanent access easement and has rendered the easement unusable for the purpose intended. FPL approached the District and has proposed an additional area for the permanent access easement as depicted on the attached map. The new easement includes 0.52 acres +/- north of the original easement area.

FPL has proposed using the appraised values from the previous transaction and staff is in agreement with that proposal. The land is substantially similar to the land in the original easement area and the trees are also of the same type and volume. Granting the new permanent access easement will not negatively impact management activities on the subject parcel.

FPL has prepared a proposed amended and restated easement document which has been submitted to legal counsel for review. Additionally, FPL has agreed to pay all costs of recording and legal fees for the amendment. If approved, FPL will pay to the District \$1,250 which reflects a rounded total of value calculated as \$1,170.11 (0.52 acres x \$2,250.21/acre) and a tree value of \$69.47 (0.52 acres x \$133.60/acre) in addition they will pay legal fees incurred by the District and the cost of recording the documents.

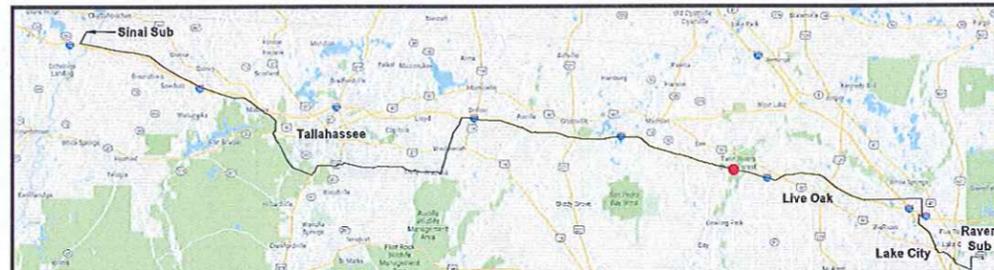
SCS/tm
Attachment
File # 19-007



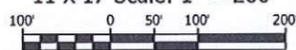
AREA #1 - SUWANNEE RIVER
 PLAN VIEW
 SCALE: 1"=200'

NOTES:
 1. SURVEY BOUNDARIES AND WETLAND DELINEATION PROVIDED BY OTHERS.

LEGEND	
	WETLAND
	DITCH, STREAM & WATERBODY
	LIMITS OF UPLAND CLEARING
	LIMITS OF WETLAND CLEARING
	EXISTING FPL EASEMENT
	PROPOSED EASEMENT
	PROJECT BOUNDARY
	PROPERTY LINE
	FEMA FLOODWAY LIMITS
	278A2 TRANSMISSION POLE TO BE INSTALLED
	278A2 EXISTING TRANSMISSION POLE TO REMAIN
	278A2 TRANSMISSION POLE TO BE REMOVED
	1 PROJECT MILE MARKER



24 x 36 Scale: 1" = 100'
 11 x 17 Scale: 1" = 200'



REV	DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY	CKD	APP
0	05/15/19	FOR INITIAL PERMIT SUBMITTAL	GCC	JJB	MKL

GULF POWER COMPANY		NORTH FLORIDA RESILIENCY CONNECTION	
SCALE: AS SHOWN	DATE: 05/15/19		
DRAWN BY: GCC	CHECKED BY: JJB		
ENGINEER: MKL	SECTION: AS SHOWN		
COUNTIES: SUWANNEE & MADISON	FILE NAME: NFRC SRWMD EXHIBIT		
SHEET 3 OF 11			

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Stephen Schroeder, Chief, Office of Administration

THRU: Tim Alexander, Deputy Executive Director, Division of Business and Community Services

DATE: July 30, 2021

RE: Renewal of Contract #19/20-051 with North Florida Land Trust

RECOMMENDATION

Approval of a one-year renewal for Contract #19/20-051 with North Florida Land Trust for land acquisition services.

BACKGROUND

In November 2019, the District entered into a contract with North Florida Land Trust (NFLT) for a period of two years with the option of renewing the agreement for two additional one-year terms. The initial term will expire on September 30, 2021 and the District wishes to extend the agreement on the same terms and conditions. NFLT has agreed to the renewal on the same terms and conditions. This will be a renewal for one year to expire September 30, 2022 unless again renewed.

NFLT assists District staff in complex or time-consuming acquisition projects and performs other services, such as identifying potential acquisitions, providing potential project partnerships and suggesting lands for surplus (on request of District staff). From the inception of the current contract NFLT has been actively engaged on the District's behalf in the exchange transaction involving R.O. Ranch, negotiated terms for the Madison Avenue LLC conservation easement in Levy County and is currently working with the District's Agricultural and Environmental Projects team on a potential acquisition in Bradford County. There is currently one other acquisition project in Hamilton County that will be delegated to NFLT based on the complex nature of the transaction which involves multiple owners and multiple parcels.

Services rendered by NFLT to date have been to the standards of performance expected and acceptable to the District.

Funding for this agreement is provided within the FY 22 Tentative Budget. Funding for specific Task work assignments made under this agreement are funded from various sources within the District budget based on the type, purpose and location of the acquisition.

SCS/tm

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Pam Shaw, Chief, Office of Finance

THRU: Tim Alexander, Deputy Executive Director, Division of Business and Community Services

DATE: July 30, 2021

RE: June 2021 Financial Report

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the June 2021 Financial Report and confirm the expenditures of the District.

BACKGROUND

Section 373.553(1), Florida Statutes (F.S.), authorizes the delegation of authority by the Governing Board to the Executive Director to disburse District funds, providing certification is made to the Board at the next regular meeting that such disbursement is proper, in order, and within budgetary limits. In compliance with the statutory provisions in Chapter 373, F.S., the Governing Board of the Suwannee River Water Management District has directed staff to prepare a Financial Report as attached.

PS/tm
Attachments

**Suwannee River Water Management District
Cash Report
June 2021**

Financial Institution/Account	Monthly Interest	Interest Rate %	Closing Balance
First Federal Permit Fee	\$0.00		\$500.00
First Federal Accounts Payable	\$0.00		\$35,000.00
First Federal EFT Disbursements	\$0.00		\$37,114.22
First Federal Depository	\$49.69	0.00%	\$1,324,148.80
Special Purpose Investment Account (SPIA)*	<u>\$38,557.19</u>	1.03%	<u>\$45,289,436.77</u>
TOTAL	<u><u>\$38,606.88</u></u>		<u><u>\$46,686,199.79</u></u>

*SPIA is part of the Treasury Investment Pool administered by Florida Department of Financial Services.

Suwannee River Water Management District
Statement of Sources and Uses of Funds
For the Month ending June 30, 2021
(Unaudited)

	Current Budget	Actuals Through 6/30/2021	Variance (Under)/Over Budget	Actuals As A % of Budget
Sources				
Ad Valorem Property Taxes	\$ 6,034,682	\$ 6,144,293	\$ 109,611	101.8%
Intergovernmental Revenues	\$ 39,950,983	\$ 8,789,559	\$ (31,161,424)	22.0%
Interest on Invested Funds	\$ 130,000	\$ 491,665	\$ 361,665	378.2%
License and Permit Fees	\$ 163,000	\$ 200,259	\$ 37,259	122.9%
Other	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 742,864	\$ (257,136)	74.3%
Fund Balance ¹	\$ 11,789,923	\$ 1,323,379	\$ (10,466,544)	11.2%
Total Sources	\$ 59,068,588	\$ 17,692,019	\$ (41,376,569)	30.0%

	Current Budget	Expenditures	Encumbrances ²	Available Budget	%Expended	%Obligated ³
Uses						
Water Resources Planning and Monitoring	\$ 11,309,318	\$ 3,909,148	\$ 5,631,477	\$ 1,768,692	35%	84%
Acquisition, Restoration and Public Works	\$ 37,812,028	\$ 5,005,655	\$ 24,418,162	\$ 8,388,211	13%	78%
Operation and Maintenance of Lands and Works	\$ 6,127,699	\$ 2,835,593	\$ 659,037	\$ 2,633,069	46%	57%
Regulation	\$ 1,894,389	\$ 1,165,855	\$ 44,761	\$ 683,773	62%	64%
Outreach	\$ 243,657	\$ 132,417	\$ 76	\$ 111,163	54%	54%
Management and Administration	\$ 1,681,497	\$ 1,099,681	\$ 66,636	\$ 515,180	65%	69%
Total Uses	\$ 59,068,588	\$ 14,148,350	\$ 30,820,150	\$ 14,100,089	24%	76%

¹ Actual Fund Balance used is recorded at the end of the fiscal year. This amount represents Fund Balance used for the Agricultural and RIVER Cost-Share, Regional Water Resource Development, and Project Effectiveness Metrics Programs.

² Encumbrances represent unexpended balances of open purchase orders and contracts.

³ Represents the sum of expenditures and encumbrances as a percentage of the available budget.

This financial statement is prepared as of June 30, 2021 and covers the interim period since the most recent audited financial statements.

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY - REVENUE AND EXPENSE ROLLUP (UNAUDITED)
FOR 6/30/2021

	Y-T-D ACTUAL	ENCUMBRANCE	ANNUAL BUDGET
<u>Report Recap -</u>			
REVENUES			
DISTRICT REVENUES	7,579,081	0	7,327,682
LOCAL REVENUES	86,480	0	86,480
STATE REVENUES	8,055,813	0	36,208,503
FEDERAL REVENUES	647,266	0	3,656,000
FUND BALANCE UTILIZATION	1,323,379	0	11,789,923
TOTAL REVENUES	17,692,019	0	59,068,588
EXPENDITURES			
SALARIES AND BENEFITS	4,535,735	0	6,709,559
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	4,526,761	13,072,229	22,052,900
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	691,316	116,528	1,810,700
OPERATING CAPITAL OUTLAY	670,953	71,078	410,044
FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY	842,070	0	5,077,000
INTERAGENCY EXPENDITURES	2,881,514	17,560,315	23,008,385
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	14,148,349	30,820,150	59,068,588
EXCESS REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	3,543,670	(30,820,150)	0
<u>General Fund -</u>			
REVENUES			
DISTRICT REVENUES	6,692,964	0	4,938,432
LOCAL REVENUES	86,480	0	86,480
STATE REVENUES	2,764,556	0	2,740,000
FEDERAL REVENUES	0	0	0
FUND BALANCE UTILIZATION	0	0	1,866,522
TOTAL REVENUES	9,544,000	0	9,631,434
EXPENDITURES			
SALARIES AND BENEFITS	3,562,886	0	5,181,595
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	584,300	507,597	2,074,290
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	400,143	59,897	1,016,233
OPERATING CAPITAL OUTLAY	67,092	32,948	253,336
FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY	0	0	0
INTERAGENCY EXPENDITURES	466,195	417,230	1,105,980
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	5,080,616	1,017,672	9,631,434
EXCESS REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	4,463,384	(1,017,672)	0
<u>Land Management Operations -</u>			
REVENUES			
DISTRICT REVENUES	689,870	0	2,314,250
LOCAL REVENUES	0	0	0
STATE REVENUES	2,157,907	0	2,290,119
FEDERAL REVENUES	0	0	40,000
FUND BALANCE UTILIZATION	0	0	2,020,330
TOTAL REVENUES	2,847,777	0	6,664,699
EXPENDITURES			
SALARIES AND BENEFITS	537,896	0	786,979
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	1,399,867	581,271	3,328,610
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	282,536	42,447	722,467
OPERATING CAPITAL OUTLAY	9,253	4,544	156,708
FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY	190,144	0	977,000
INTERAGENCY EXPENDITURES	440,390	33,677	692,935
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	2,860,086	661,939	6,664,699
EXCESS REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	(12,309)	(661,939)	0

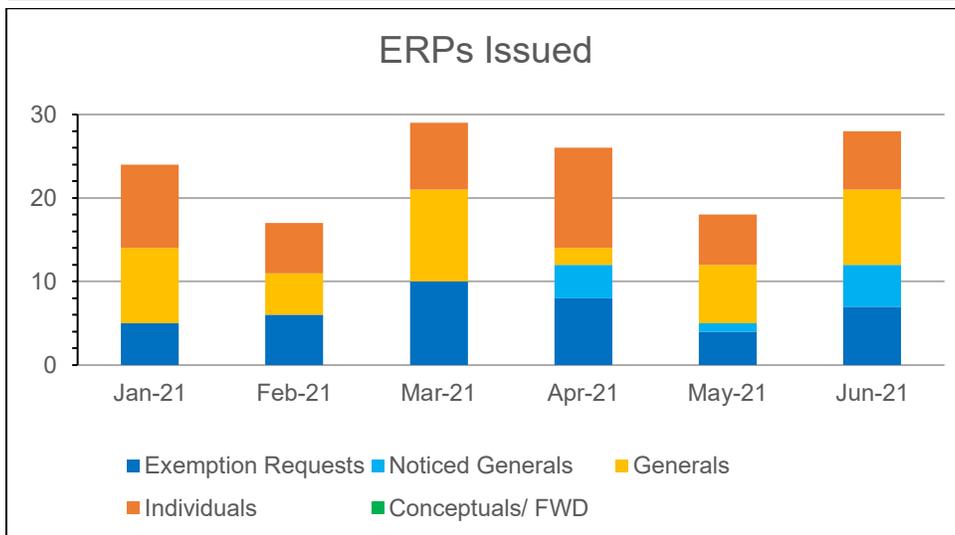
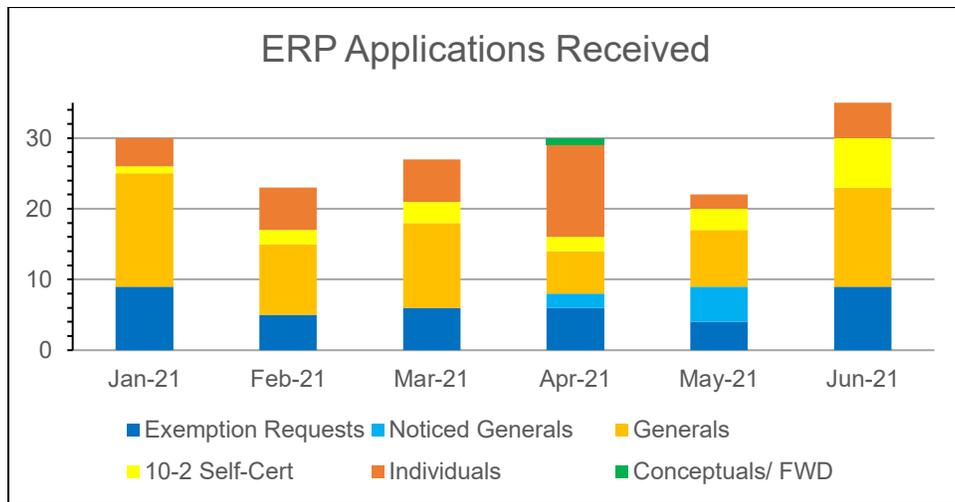
SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY - REVENUE AND EXPENSE ROLLUP (UNAUDITED)
FOR 6/30/2021

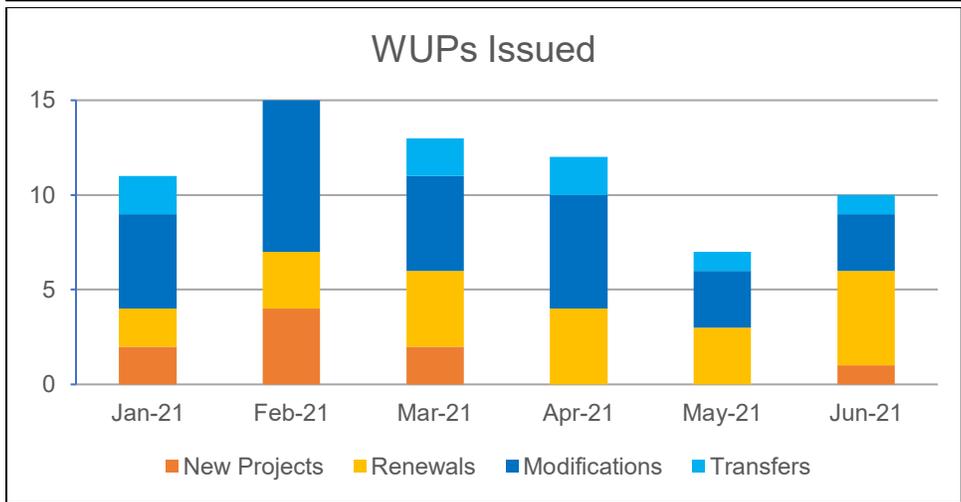
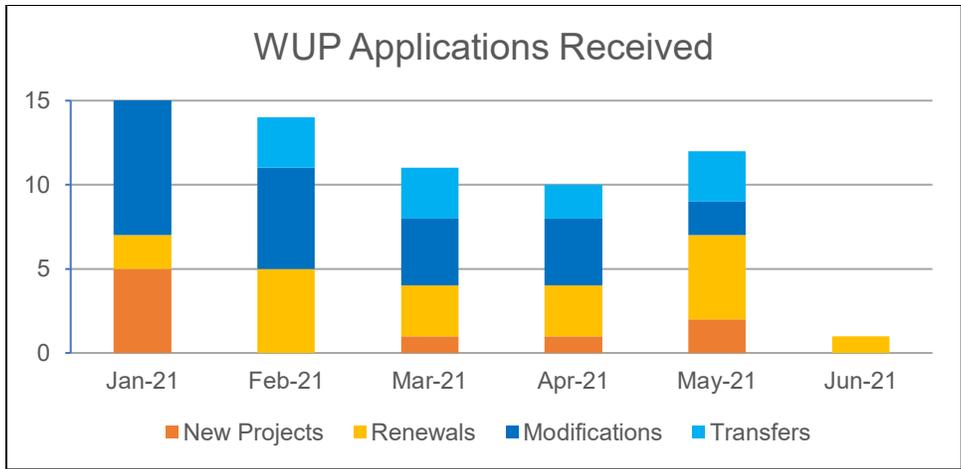
	Y-T-D ACTUAL	ENCUMBRANCE	ANNUAL BUDGET
<u>District Special Revenue -</u>			
REVENUES			
DISTRICT REVENUES	0	0	0
LOCAL REVENUES	0	0	0
STATE REVENUES	0	0	0
FEDERAL REVENUES	0	0	0
FUND BALANCE UTILIZATION	752,752	0	5,319,470
TOTAL REVENUES	752,752	0	5,319,470
EXPENDITURES			
SALARIES AND BENEFITS	0	0	0
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	484,604	1,386,013	2,250,000
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	4,671	9,319	30,000
OPERATING CAPITAL OUTLAY	15,265	0	0
FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY	0	0	0
INTERAGENCY EXPENDITURES	248,212	1,643,671	3,039,470
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	752,752	3,039,003	5,319,470
EXCESS REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	0	(3,039,003)	0
<u>State Special Revenue -</u>			
REVENUES			
DISTRICT REVENUES	196,246	0	0
LOCAL REVENUES	0	0	0
STATE REVENUES	3,133,351	0	31,178,384
FEDERAL REVENUES	0	0	0
FUND BALANCE UTILIZATION	570,627	0	2,583,601
TOTAL REVENUES	3,900,224	0	33,761,985
EXPENDITURES			
SALARIES AND BENEFITS	430,165	0	724,985
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	1,358,482	6,923,938	10,749,000
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	2,839	4,865	36,000
OPERATING CAPITAL OUTLAY	579,344	33,586	0
FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY	651,926	0	4,100,000
INTERAGENCY EXPENDITURES	1,726,717	15,465,736	18,152,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	4,749,473	22,428,125	33,761,985
EXCESS REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	(849,249) *	(22,428,125)	0
<i>*To be reimbursed by state grants</i>			
<u>Federal Special Revenue -</u>			
REVENUES			
DISTRICT REVENUES	0	0	75,000
LOCAL REVENUES	0	0	0
STATE REVENUES	0	0	0
FEDERAL REVENUES	647,266	0	3,616,000
FUND BALANCE UTILIZATION	0	0	0
TOTAL REVENUES	647,266	0	3,691,000
EXPENDITURES			
SALARIES AND BENEFITS	4,788	0	16,000
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	699,508	3,673,410	3,651,000
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	1,127	0	6,000
OPERATING CAPITAL OUTLAY	0	0	0
FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY	0	0	0
INTERAGENCY EXPENDITURES	0	0	18,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	705,423	3,673,410	3,691,000
EXCESS REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	(58,157) *	(3,673,410)	0
<i>*To be reimbursed by federal grants</i>			

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

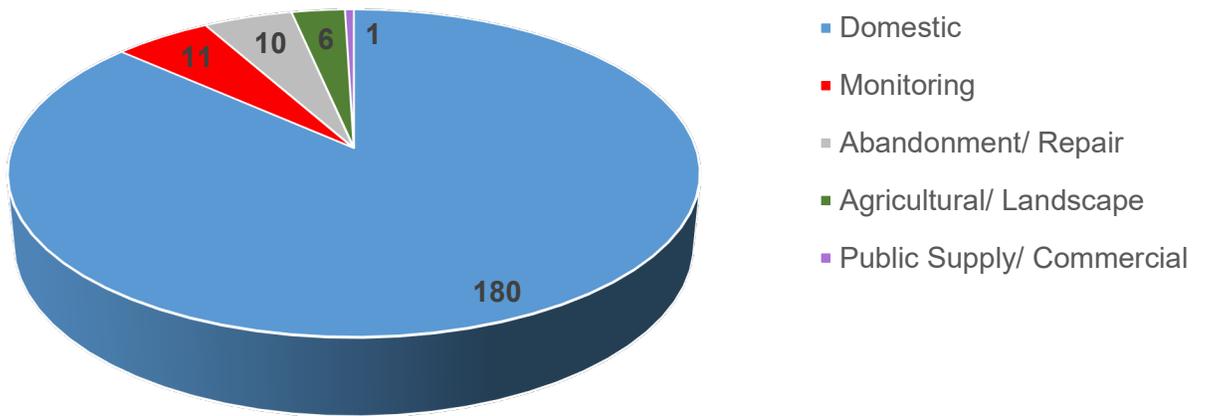
MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board
FROM: Warren Zwanka, Director, Division of Resource Management
THRU: Tim Alexander, Deputy Executive Director, Division of Business and Community Services
DATE: July 30, 2021
RE: Permitting Summary Report





Water Well Permits Issued June 2021



40B-400.091 Statewide Stormwater Rules

GB Authorized Rulemaking	12/8/2020
Notice of Rule Development	12/21/2020
Public Workshop	
Notice of Proposed Rule	
Notice of Rule Change	
Mail to DOS	
Effective Date	

40B-4.1110 Modification of Permits

GB Authorized Rulemaking	5/11/2021
Notice of Rule Development	6/11/2021
Public Workshop	N/A
Notice of Proposed Rule	6/29/2021
Notice of Rule Change	7/19/2021
Mail to DOS	
Effective Date	

40B-4.1140 Limiting Conditions on Permits

GB Authorized Rulemaking	5/11/2021
Notice of Rule Development	6/11/2021
Public Workshop	N/A
Notice of Proposed Rule	6/29/2021
Notice of Rule Change	7/19/2021
Mail to DOS	
Effective Date	

40B-4.3020 Content of WOD Permit Apps

GB Authorized Rulemaking	5/11/2021
Notice of Rule Development	6/11/2021
Public Workshop	N/A
Notice of Proposed Rule	6/29/2021
Notice of Rule Change	7/19/2021
Mail to DOS	
Effective Date	

40B-4.3040 Unlawful Use of WOD

GB Authorized Rulemaking	5/11/2021
Notice of Rule Development	6/11/2021
Public Workshop	N/A
Notice of Proposed Rule	6/29/2021
Notice of Rule Change	N/A
Mail to DOS	
Effective Date	

40B-8.021 Definitions

GB Authorized Rulemaking	5/11/2021
Notice of Rule Development	6/1/2021
Public Workshop	5/18/2021
Notice of Proposed Rule	6/21/2021
Notice of Rule Change	N/A
Mail to DOS	7/20/2021
Effective Date	8/9/2021

40B-8.121 Minimum SWL's for Lakes

GB Authorized Rulemaking	5/11/2021
Notice of Rule Development	6/1/2021
Public Workshop	5/18/2021
Notice of Proposed Rule	6/21/2021
Notice of Rule Change	N/A
Mail to DOS	7/20/2021
Effective Date	8/9/2021

40B-1.703 Permit App. Procedures

GB Authorized Rulemaking	6/8/2021
Notice of Rule Development	7/20/2021
Public Workshop	N/A
Notice of Proposed Rule	
Notice of Rule Change	
Mail to DOS	
Effective Date	

40B-1.704 Bond

GB Authorized Rulemaking	6/8/2021
Notice of Rule Development	7/20/2021
Public Workshop	N/A
Notice of Proposed Rule	
Notice of Rule Change	
Mail to DOS	
Effective Date	

40B-1.706 Fees

GB Authorized Rulemaking	6/8/2021
Notice of Rule Development	7/20/2021
Public Workshop	N/A
Notice of Proposed Rule	
Notice of Rule Change	
Mail to DOS	
Effective Date	

40B-1.709 Permit Suspension, Revoc., Mod.

GB Authorized Rulemaking	6/8/2021
Notice of Rule Development	7/20/2021
Public Workshop	N/A
Notice of Proposed Rule	
Notice of Rule Change	
Mail to DOS	
Effective Date	

40B-1.1010 Pt. of Entry into Proceedings

GB Authorized Rulemaking	6/8/2021
Notice of Rule Development	7/20/2021
Public Workshop	N/A
Notice of Proposed Rule	
Notice of Rule Change	
Mail to DOS	
Repealed	

Compliance Agreements:

None to report

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Warren Zwanka, Director, Division of Resource Management

THRU: Tim Alexander, Deputy Executive Director, Division of Business and Community Services

DATE: July 30, 2021

RE: Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Annual Regulatory Plan

RECOMMENDATION

Certify the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Annual Regulatory Plan and authorize staff to submit it to the Governor's Office of Fiscal Accountability and Regulatory Reform, the Joint Administrative Procedures Committee, the Speaker of the House, and the Senate President.

BACKGROUND

Section 120.74, Florida Statutes (F.S.), requires state agencies to submit an Annual Regulatory Plan (plan) to the Office of Fiscal Accountability (OFARR), Joint Administrative Procedures Committee (JAPC), the Speaker of the House and the Senate President by October 1 each year, in order that they may have an expectation of the rules that will be updated and/or created during the upcoming year. Furthermore, Governor DeSantis requested expedited reporting of the plan from all agencies by September 1.

The District is not required to complete all proposed rulemaking in the plan, however, any amendments to or initiation of new rules are required be listed on the plan before the agency proceeds with rulemaking. Additionally, a list of laws enacted during the previous 12 months that affect the duties or authority of the District, and whether the District must adopt rules to implement those laws, is also included with the plan.

For Fiscal Year 2021-2022 (FY 2022), significant anticipated rule amendments include a new Chapter 40B-0, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), to codify exceptions to Uniform Rules of Procedure, incorporating Department of Environmental Protection rules by reference into Chapter 40B-3, F.A.C., additional minimum levels for lakes in Chapter 40B-8, F.A.C., and adoption of new comprehensive statewide stormwater requirements in Chapter 40B-400, F.A.C. The attached plan must be certified by the Governing Board Chair and legal counsel, published on the District website and noticed in the Florida Administrative Register pursuant to paragraph 120.74(1)(d), F.S.

WZ/tm
Attachment

Suwannee River Water Management District 2021-2022 Annual Regulatory Plan

Rule Number	Rule Title	Rulemaking Action	Description of current Rule	Description of Changes to be Made in Rulemaking	Reason for Rulemaking	Economic Impact	Highly Technical or Complicated
40B-0.001	Scope	New Rule		Identify exceptions to Uniform Rules of Procedure	Required pursuant to S. 120.54(5), F.S.	None	No
40B-0.004	Governing Board	New Rule		Identify exceptions to Uniform Rules of Procedure	Required pursuant to S. 120.54(5), F.S.	None	No
40B-0.010	Point of Entry into Proceedings	New Rule		Identify exceptions to Uniform Rules of Procedure	Required pursuant to S. 120.54(5), F.S.	None	No
40B-1, F.A.C.	General and Procedural Rules	Rule Amendment	Implements District operational procedures	Reflect operational or procedural changes	Update rule	None	No
40B-1.706	Fees	Rule Amendment	Establishes a fee schedule for permits, exemptions, and variances	Provide for nominal fee for processing variances to District rules	Update rule	Minor	No
40B-2, F.A.C.	Permitting of Water Use	Rule Amendment	Implements Part II, Chapter 373, F.S. (Water Use Permitting)	Implement MFL prevention or recovery regulatory strategies specific to SRWMD	Update rule	Yes	No
40B-2.041	Permits Required	Rule Amendment	Implements Part II, Chapter 373, F.S.	Update forms and clarify rule language	Update rule	None	No
40B-2.301	Conditions for Issuance of Permits	Rule Amendment	Implements Part II, Chapter 373, F.S.	Revise Applicant Handbook to reflect implementation of impact offsets,	Update rule	None	No

Suwannee River Water Management District
2021-2022 Annual Regulatory Plan

Rule Number	Rule Title	Rulemaking Action	Description of current Rule	Description of Changes to be Made in Rulemaking	Reason for Rulemaking	Economic Impact	Highly Technical or Complicated
				substitution credits, reservation of water resource/ supply development project benefits, and any new MFL prevention or recovery strategies			
40B-2.331	Modification of Permits	Rule Amendment	Implements Part II, Chapter 373, F.S.	Clarify letter modification criteria	Update rule	None	No
40B-2.501	Classification of Permits	Rule Amendment	Implements Part II, Chapter 373, F.S.	Revise groundwater sources and organize water use types	Update rule	None	No
40B-3, F.A.C.	Permitting of Well Construction	Rule Amendments	Implements Part III, Chapter 373, F.S.	Adopt current FDEP rules and address JAPC recommendations	Update rules	Reduction in cost of doing business	Yes
40B-4, F.A.C.	Works of the District Permits	Rule Amendments	Implements Part IV, Chapter 373, F.S.	Incorporate bank stabilization guide, clarify rule language, and revise flood maps	Update rules	Reduction in cost of doing business	Yes
40B-8.021	Definitions	Rule Amendment	Rules defines terms related to the establishment of minimum flows and levels	Add definitions as new MFLs are established	Update rule	None	No
40B-8.031	Minimum Flows and Levels for Madison Blue Spring	Rule Amendment	Implements Sections 373.042 and 373.0421, F.S.	Re-evaluate MFL for Madison Blue Spring	Update rule	Dependent on MFL status	Yes

Suwannee River Water Management District
2021-2022 Annual Regulatory Plan

Rule Number	Rule Title	Rulemaking Action	Description of current Rule	Description of Changes to be Made in Rulemaking	Reason for Rulemaking	Economic Impact	Highly Technical or Complicated
40B-8.121	Minimum water levels for Lakes (Hampton, Santa Fe, Alto, and Cherry)	Rule Amendments	Implements Sections 373.042 and 373.0421, F.S.	Provide criteria for determining whether the MFL for a water body is being met and the accompanying prevention or recovery strategy if necessary	Update rule	Dependent on MFL status	Yes
40B-21.631	Water Shortage Plan, Phase II	Rule Amendment	Rules provide for the conservation, protection, and management of water during periods of water shortage	Revise so that language for Phase II is at least as restrictive as current year-round lawn watering restrictions	Update rule	None	No
40B-21.641	Water Shortage Plan, Phase III	Rule Amendment	Rules provide for the conservation, protection, and management of water during periods of water shortage	Revise so that language for Phase III is at least as restrictive as current year-round lawn watering restrictions	Update rule	None	No
40B-400.091	Publications and Agreements Incorporated by Reference	Rule Amendments	Implements Part IV, Chapter 373, F.S. (Environmental Resource Permitting)	Reflect changes resulting from adopting statewide stormwater requirements and ACOE Section 404 program; and to revise flood maps	Update rules	Under evaluation	Yes

Suwannee River Water Management District
2021-2022 Annual Regulatory Plan

Laws enacted or amended during the previous 12 months that affect the duties or authority of SRWMD	Description	Rulemaking Action	Must SRWMD adopt rules to implement?	Proposed NOPR date
HB 35	Amends publication requirements for legal notices for newspapers; authorizes the online publication of specific government agency notices on newspaper websites in lieu of print publication if certain requirements are met; requires the Florida Press Association to ensure equitable access for minority populations to legal notices and requires the association to publish and maintain certain reports on the statewide legal notice website	Amendment	No	N/A
SB 64	Requires certain new and existing domestic wastewater utilities to submit a plan to FDEP for eliminating nonbeneficial surface water discharge within a specified timeframe; recognizes potable reuse as an alternative water supply and authorizes AWS funding for projects relating to such reuse; incentivizes counties, municipalities, and special districts to implement graywater technologies	Amendment	No	N/A
HB 169	Authorizes WMDs to purchase commodities and contractual services from purchasing contracts of specified entities; provides conditions for such purchases	New	No	N/A
SB 912	Tolls and extends the expiration of specified consumptive use water permits, development permits, and agreements during a natural emergency declared by the Governor; extends the time period for local governments to administer local incentive programs for projects within certain enterprise zone boundaries	Amendment	No	N/A
SB 1954	Establishes the Resilient Florida Grant Program within FDEP; requiring a comprehensive statewide flood vulnerability and sea level rise data set and assessment by specified dates, an annual Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience Plan, and implementation of a scoring system for assessing projects eligible for inclusion in the plan	New	No	N/A
SB 2514	Creates the Resilient Florida Trust Fund within FDEP	New	No	N/A

Suwannee River Water Management District
2021-2022 Annual Regulatory Plan

Previous Years Laws Enacted Requiring Rulemaking	Description	Rulemaking Action	Must SRWMD adopt rules to implement?	Proposed NOPR date
Subsection 373.219(3), F.S.	Developes unified definition of “harmful to the water resources” for Outstanding Florida Springs	Amendment	Yes – 40B-2, F.A.C.	5/1/2019*
SB 712	Implements statewide review of District rules regarding stormwater design and operations	Amendment	Yes	Upon completion

* Awaiting FDEP guidance on rulemaking

We hereby certify that we have reviewed the Suwannee River Water Management District’s (District) 2021-2022 Annual Regulatory Plan, pursuant to paragraph 120.74(1)(d), F.S. All District rules have been reviewed as of August 10, 2021, to determine if they remain consistent with the District’s rulemaking authority and the laws implemented.

Virginia H. Johns
Chair

Date

George T. Reeves
Legal Counsel

Date

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Warren Zwanka, Director, Division of Resource Management

THRU: Tim Alexander, Deputy Executive Director, Division of Business and Community Services

DATE: July 30, 2021

RE: Administrative Complaint and Proposed Order, Unlicensed Water Well Construction, Brandon Creasy, Gilchrist County

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the Executive Director to serve an Administrative Complaint and Proposed Order to Brandon Creasy for a violation of section 373.336, Florida Statutes for the construction of an unpermitted eight-inch diameter agricultural irrigation well on Gilchrist County parcel number 03-10-14-0000-0007-0010 without a Florida Water Well Contractor's license.

BACKGROUND

Water management districts are delegated the authority to regulate water well construction and licensing of water well contractors in the state by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection as set forth in Part III of Chapter 373, Florida Statutes (F.S.) During the review of Water Use Permit 233688, District staff determined the non-functioning irrigation well (Station ID 135270) was drilled by Brandon Creasy, an unlicensed individual, on or about March 2021. Mr. Creasy is a resident of Hahira, Georgia who has previously constructed agricultural irrigation wells in the District under the supervision of other licensed water well contractors, an activity which is authorized by rule. The subject well construction, however, was not authorized by a permit issued to licensed contractor.

A Notice of Violation was sent to Mr. Creasy by certified mail on April 29, 2021, with corrective actions to cease and desist further well construction, and to pay the \$5,000.00 penalty set forth in section 373.336, F.S. Mr. Creasy called District staff on May 7, 2021 and agreed to have a licensed contractor abandon the well within a week in lieu of the penalty. District staff called Mr. Creasy again on June 22, 2021, as a reminder and giving him until the week of July 12 to have the well abandoned to avoid the penalty and enforcement consideration at the August Governing Board meeting. To date, no further correspondence from Mr. Creasy has been received by District Staff.

Enforcement will include the \$5,000.00 penalty, a requirement to hire a licensed contractor to abandon the well, and a restriction from licensure as a Florida Water Well Contractor.

WZ/tm

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board
FROM: Bill McKinstry, Chief, Office of Land Management
THRU: Katelyn Potter, Director, Division of Outreach and Operations
DATE: July 30, 2021
RE: District Land Management and Twin Rivers State Forest Activity Summary

BACKGROUND

District staff removed most of the COVID-19 signs from District lands.

District staff inspected District lands following Tropical Storm Elsa. District contractors are correcting damages and issues that have been identified.

The following tracts were closed due to flooding and damage from Tropical Storm Elsa: Steinhatchee River – Rattlesnake Ford Section, LA Bennett Grade Bridge on Steinhatchee Springs Tract, and Steinhatchee Falls Park; Suwannee River – Camp Branch; Alapaha River – Jennings Bluff; Waccasassa River – Andrews Grade on Devil's Hammock Tract.

District contractors conducting ditch edge mowing finished Natural Well Branch Tract and moved to the Little River Tract.

District road contractors completed grading and improvements to the road that leads to the Steinhatchee Falls Recreation Site in Taylor County.

District contractors completed road edge mowing on the Mossy Hammock Tract in Taylor County allowing staff to remove old trash, appliances, and tires in the Econfina River floodplain. The road work will also allow future road improvements for a planned timber sale.

District staff completed a road assessment of some of the roads associated with the pending acquisition of the Steinhatchee Springs addition.

District road contractors completed Upper and Middle Suwannee and Sandlin Bay Road improvement projects.

District staff met with the US Fish and Wildlife Service grant coordinator for this area on June 16, 2021 to discuss grant opportunities.

District contractors completed woods mowing in Mallory Swamp Tract.

District contractors removed approximately seventy tires that were illegally dumped on the Ruth Springs Tract. The illegal dumping is being investigated by FWC and DEP.

FFS staff completed mowing of the forest roads on the Ellaville, Withlacoochee, and Black tracts of TRSF.

The FFS OPS park ranger completed an invasive plant survey on the TRSF Sullivan and Chitty Bend West tracts.

The TRSF annual action plan and prescribed burn plan was completed for Fiscal Year 2021-2022.

Brad Ellis of the FFS held a pre-harvest meeting for the Ellaville #20 timber sale and harvesting operation has commenced.

The attached report summarizes the status of current District and TRSF activities for the preceding month.

Conservation Easement Monitoring: One conservation easement was inspected and completed for term compliance: Mill Creek.

Vegetation Management Projects: During the reporting period, 286 additional acres of woods mowing and 21 additional miles of ditch edge mowing were completed on various tracts.

Vegetation management work is conducted for fuel reduction, natural community restoration, and wildfire mitigation purposes.

Vegetation Management (10/01/2020 – 07/16/2021)

ACTIVITY	ACRES		MILES	
	Planned	Complete	Planned	Complete
Herbicide	300	79	0	0
Roller Chop Uplands	248	254	0	0
Roller Chop (Mallory Swamp)	1,000	0	0	0
Woods Mowing	2,000	2,007	0	0
Ditch Edge Mowing	0	0	25	79

Invasive Plant Monitoring Program: During the reporting period, no additional plant infestations were monitored or treated.

Invasive Plant Treatments (10/01/2020 – 07/16/2021)

ACTIVITY	INFESTATIONS	
	Planned	Complete
Invasive Plant	153	98

Rare Plant Monitoring/Surveying Program: During the reporting period, 70 additional rare plant occurrences were monitored or surveyed.

Rare Plant Monitoring (10/01/2020 – 07/16/2021)

ACTIVITY	OCCURRENCES	
	Planned	Complete
Rare Plant Species Monitoring	140	151
Rare Species Surveying	0	89

Prescribed Fire Program:

- Contractors conducting prescribed burns on District lands include B&B Dugger (B&B), Schmidt Reforestation Services (SRS), and Wildlands Services (WS). Also included in this report are the acres the Florida Forest Service (FFS) burns on TRSF. When available, the FFS will provide a crew to burn additional acres on both District tracts and TRSF.
- The following table provides information on the District’s Prescribed Burn Program through the reporting period. No additional acres were burned during the reporting period.

Prescribed Fire Summary Table (10/1/2020 – 07/16/2021)

	2021 TARGET ACRES	ACRES COMPLETED
SRWMD	7,000	5,045
FFS TRSF	2,000	1,744
TOTAL	9,000	6,789

Timber Sales: Open and Recently Completed Timber Sales

Open Timber Sales

SALE NAME	COUNTY	ACRES	HARVEST TYPE
Wolf Creek #1	Jefferson	72	Thinning
Cuba Bay	Madison	315	Thinning
Steinhatchee Springs #19	Lafayette	330	Thinning
Steinhatchee Springs #20	Lafayette	208	Thinning
Steinhatchee Springs #21	Lafayette	366	Thinning
Ellaville #20	Madison	276	Thinning
Nature Coast Wellfield #2	Levy	110	Clear-cut
Seven Bridges #1	Jefferson	224	Thinning
Sandlin Bay #6	Columbia	192	Thinning
Sandlin Bay #7	Columbia	219	Thinning
Sandlin Bay #8	Columbia	233	Thinning
High Springs Wellfield #1	Alachua	239	Thinning
Ellaville Chipping 2021	Madison	172	Site-Prep Chipping
Holton Creek #4	Hamilton	130	Hardwood Removal

Recently Completed Timber Sales

SALE NAME	COUNTY	ACRES	HARVEST TYPE	REVENUE
Ellaville Salvage 2021	Madison	5	Salvage	\$276.70
Ellaville #19	Madison	176	Clear-cut	\$300,507.17
Westwood West #4	Madison	89	Clear-cut	\$133,107.77
Natural Well Branch #1	Taylor	240	Thinning	\$236,996.71

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board
FROM: Bill McKinstry, Chief, Office of Land Management
THRU: Katelyn Potter, Director, Division of Outreach and Operations
DATE: July 30, 2021
RE: Renewal of Contract 19/20-015 with Agriculture Construction Services
for Featured Site and Dispersed Recreation Services

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the Executive Director to renew Contract 19/20-015 with Agriculture Construction Services for feature site and dispersed recreation services for an amount not to exceed \$192,000.

BACKGROUND

Contractual services include featured site recreation maintenance services for the following sites: Suwannee Springs Park, Falmouth Springs Park, and Goose Pasture Campground. Dispersed recreation maintenance services include all four management regions in the District: Northeast, Northwest, Southeast, and Southwest.

Dispersed recreation maintenance is an integral part of owning public lands. The vast majority of District lands are open to the public, and District staff strive to provide quality, resource-based recreation opportunities. Contractor services are general upkeep of all areas visible to the public, road mowing, removal of litter and downed trees, repair or installation of signs, and gates, vegetation mowing in parking areas, around signs, kiosks, and gates, checking for vandalism, and coordinating with the District on opening or closing tracts.

Additional work may include building fences around parking areas, constructing erosion control measures, repairing any recreational structure or facilities, or installing barricades to protect resources from damage. Any additional work requested will be on a task work assignment basis with prior written approval from District.

The contract contains a provision that upon satisfactory performance and pending approval by the District's Governing Board, the contract may be extended up to two years upon the same terms and conditions or upon terms more favorable to the District. The contractor and the District have agreed to renew the contract. If authorized, this will be the second renewal for one year.

Funding for this contract is included in the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 (FY 2022) Tentative Budget under codes 13-2-586-3-3100-06-07 and 13-2-586-3-3100-05-06 and is contingent upon approval of the FY 2022 Final budget.

EM/pf

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board
FROM: Bill McKinstry, Chief, Office of Land Management
THRU: Katelyn Potter, Director, Division of Outreach and Operations
DATE: July 30, 2021
RE: Renewal of Contracts 20/21-033, 20/21-036, 20/21-037 for Construction and Maintenance of Hydrologic Improvements and Roads

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the Executive Director to renew contracts for construction and maintenance of hydrologic improvements and roads with Perpetual Contracting LLC Contract 20/21-033, Sunshine Outdoor Services LLC Contract 20/21-036, and TSI Disaster Recovery, LLC Contract 20/21-037, for a total amount not to exceed \$305,000.

BACKGROUND

Road and hydrological maintenance are an integral part of land management. All roads and hydrological facilities on District properties require maintenance at a level commensurate with their use. For roads, there use can be a combination of drivable surface and fire barrier while others are routinely used by the public for recreation. Yet others are used for access to revenue generating timber sale and other restoration activities. Hydrological facilities are generally comprised of culverts, low-water crossings, hard-surface crossings, or ditch blocks. Hydrologic facilities must be maintained or replaced so they achieve their intended function. To perform installation, repair, and regularly scheduled maintenance on District roads and hydrologic facilities contractor services are required.

On July 28, 2020, staff advertised Request for Proposal (RFP) 19/20-025 WLR and received nine response proposals. Of the nine responses, eight firms were recommended by the selection committee in October 2020. The Governing Board approved the recommendation and contracts were developed with the pre-qualified firms.

Upon satisfactory performance and pending approval by the District's Governing Board, the contracts may be extended up to two years upon the same terms and conditions or upon terms more favorable to the District. The performance of 20/21-033 Perpetual Contracting, LLC, 20/21-036 Sunshine Outdoor Services, LLC, and 20/21-037 TSI Disaster Recovery, LLC. have proven satisfactory for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 (FY 2021). Staff plans to conduct similar road and hydrological maintenance or facility improvements in different locations in FY2022. The renewal of these contracts will represent the first of two possible renewals.

Funding for this work is included in the FY 2022 Tentative Budget under codes: 13-2586-3-3100-05-07 and 13-2586-3-3100-09-01 and is contingent upon approval of the FY 2022 Final Budget.

WI/pf

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Bill McKinstry, Chief, Office of Land Management

THRU: Katelyn Potter, Director, Division of Outreach and Operations

DATE: July 30, 2021

RE: Renewal of Contract 05/06-131 with Florida Forest Service and Twin Rivers State Forest for Land Management Activities Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the Executive Director to renew Contract 05/06-131 with Florida Forest Service and approve the Twin Rivers State Forest Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 for an amount not to exceed \$274,635.

BACKGROUND

The District has leased approximately 12,300 acres to Florida Forest Service (FFS) for comprehensive management within Twin Rivers State Forest (TRSF) located in Hamilton, Suwannee, and Madison counties. The revenues from timber sales on TRSF are retained by the District.

The attached budget for FFS is \$140,435 for the "state" expenses. In addition to state expenses, proposed expenses totaling \$134,200 from private contractors are included. These funds will be for reforestation, site preparation, and tree planting costs on 670 acres. The FFS will bid out these services to be contracted by the District. After FFS approval of invoices for satisfactory delivery or completion of work, the District will pay these expenses.

This contract is a twenty year agreement and shall remain in effect until terminated by either party by giving a twelve months' notice in writing of its intent to do so.

Funding for this recommendation is included in the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 (FY2022) Tentative Budget under codes 13-6-930-3-3100-08-01 and 13-6-930-3-3100-08-02 and is contingent upon approval of the FY 2022 final budget.

The Twin Rivers 2020-2021 Annual Report is included for the Governing Board's information. The report shows the FFS goals for FY 2022.

WVM/pf
Attachments

Twin Rivers State Forest

SRWMD

2020-21 Annual Report

INTRODUCTION

Twin Rivers State Forest (TRSF) is located along the banks of the Withlacoochee and Suwannee Rivers in eastern Madison, western Hamilton, and northwest Suwannee counties. The state forest totals 15,286 acres and is comprised of 16 noncontiguous tracts. Thirteen of the tracts, totaling over 12,000 acres, are owned by the Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD), with the Florida Forest Service (FFS) owning the Damascus, Hardee Springs, and Blue Springs Longleaf tracts.

The Suwannee River Water Management District acquired their portion of the TRSF property through the Save Our Rivers (SOR) Program, created by the Florida Legislature in 1981, and the Preservation 2000 Program, established by the Legislature in 1990. In 1995, the FFS was given lead management responsibility for the property under a lease agreement with the SRWMD. Since that time, a new lease agreement was negotiated with the same terms of the original agreement in full force and effect.

Using the multiple-use management concept, the FFS balances environmental, recreational, and resource use needs. This concept allows public use of the area while protecting the long-term health of the forest ecosystems and their resources. The TRSF is frequently used for hiking, biking, fishing, picnicking, horseback riding, primitive camping, and paddling. In addition, over 11,000 acres are designated as a Type I Wildlife Management Area (WMA), and the Twin Rivers WMA is very popular for hunting. Natural features such as historic ecological communities are being protected, restored, and maintained. Timber management and associated silvicultural practices play an important role in the restoration and maintenance of the forest ecosystems. Various silvicultural practices, including vegetation management using herbicides and prescribed fire, are used solely or in combination to accomplish resource management goals. Particularly, prescribed burning is an efficient and cost-effective tool that serves to control hardwoods and stimulate the recovery of herbaceous plants and native grasses.

2020-21 UPDATES

The FFS staff assigned to the management of TRSF includes a Forestry Supervisor II and a Forester. For the past four years, a full-time OPS Park Ranger position has been funded under the Florida Forest Services' "Non-native Invasive Species Plant Control" budget. This position has provided the opportunity to greatly enhance the invasive plant control program on the state forest. Operational support is provided by the FFS Operations Administrator, Forest Area Supervisor, Senior Forest Rangers, and Forest Rangers. The TRSF office is located at the Live Oak Forestry Station in Suwannee County.

Since Twin Rivers' inception, through an agreement with the Department of Corrections (DOC) and the FFS, additional support has been provided by an Inmate Supervisor and a 4-person inmate squad. DOC invoices the FFS on a monthly basis for all labor hours performed on the state forest. To outfit the squad, the FFS has always provided a heavy-duty crew cab pickup, double-axle trailer, lawnmowers, and all the necessary power and hand tools, safety gear, and other items necessary to perform maintenance work safely. This squad has been primarily responsible for site maintenance, mowing parking areas, and designated entrances, and providing trash removal from recreational sites, roads, and public access areas. However, the past 15 months have been an exception on Twin Rivers as FFS has not received this support. Moreover, there is a proposal to suspend all DOC supervised work squads. FFS is exploring alternatives to provide the needed support via OPS labor and/or contractual services on the state forest. The following report provides an overview of the major accomplishments for the SRWMD-owned portions of the TRSF for the 2020-21 fiscal year.

Continuation of the ongoing forest-wide, land-based survey for invasive/exotic plants consisted of transect-based sampling throughout the Westwood, Nekoosa, Ellaville, Black, Mill Creek North, and Mill Creek South tracts. These tracts were treated for various invasive exotic plants including Japanese climbing fern, chinaberry, mimosa, tropical soda apple, Chinese wisteria, and cogon grass. FFS staff continues to maintain a GIS database for invasive plants and update it as necessary with incidental occurrences. Controlling invasive exotics plants is challenging and diligence is necessary to limit their adverse effects on the natural ecosystems on the state forest.

FFS entered into an agreement last year with the F4 Tech company to provide an improved forest inventory system on all its state forests, over 1,000,000 acres of public land, including Twin Rivers. The new system is currently operational and has served to streamline inventory procedures such as data collection and reporting. It provides timber growth and yield estimates on a stand level basis which should help improve long-term resource management planning.

This fiscal year, FFS staff inventoried 3,295 acres on the Ellaville Tract. The FFS continues to maintain a 10-year inventory cycle. For all pine stands, planted or natural, one plot is installed for every 5 acres with up to a 30-plot maximum per stand. The exception is for all timber sales or pre-harvest inventories, in which one plot for every 2 acres is installed with no maximum per stand. In hardwood stands, one plot is measured for every 100 acres. The inventory data collected is used to make resource management decisions on the state forests.

Proper consideration and careful planning for various silvicultural treatments, including species selection, site preparation, and tree planting are crucial to ensure a successful reforestation effort. This past year, 210 acres were hand planted to longleaf pine on the Ellaville and Black tracts. A seedling survival count is conducted on all tree plantings once at least 6 months have elapsed. A seedling survival count is scheduled for August 2021, but from recent observations, a favorable survival rate is anticipated, despite a somewhat “droughty” spring season.

Timber harvests are completed annually to meet forest resource management goals, improve forest health, and generate revenue to offset the costs of state forest operations. During the 2020-21 fiscal year, a total of \$789,381 was generated from timber sales on TRSF. The following details the individual timber sales that were advertised and sold.

The **Ellaville #19** was a lump-sum sale of a mostly clear-cut 182-acre, 39-year-old, planted loblolly pine stand which generated \$300,507 in revenue. The harvesting operation was completed. A site prep chipping contract was executed subsequently to remove the residual non-merchantable hardwoods and generate some revenue. Following site preparation, the clearcut portion of this stand will be reforested to longleaf pine.

The **Ellaville #20** timber sale was also advertised and sold for \$355,777. This 281-acre sale includes an 88-acre clearcut and 193-acre marked, selective thinning of 44-year-old, planted slash pine. The clearcut portion will be reforested to longleaf pine.

The **Westwood West #4** was an 88-acre clear-cut of 35-year-old, planted loblolly pine which generated \$133,107 in revenue. The final harvest was completed and the clearcut will be reforested to longleaf pine.

In preparation for next fiscal year’s timber sales, field-work on the Withlacoochee #4, a 114-acre final harvest of 59-year-old planted slash pine and Ellaville #21, a 141-acre final harvest of 47-year-old planted slash pine is completed and the Mill Creek South #10, a 125-acre marked, selective thinning of 22-year-old planted longleaf pine is ongoing.

For obtaining state forest management goals, one of the most effective tools utilized is the application of prescribed fire. Prescribed burning serves to improve wildlife habitat, maintain forest health, recycle nutrients, and restore natural systems. Favorable weather for burning and experienced personnel are essential to accomplishing annual goals. For 2020-21, the FFS was unable to conduct any prescribed burning during the 2020 summer and fall seasons due to agency mandates associated with the pandemic. Moreover, the weather conditions were particularly wet throughout much of the dormant season. The late spring was a sharp contrast with droughty conditions eliciting unfavorable conditions for prescribed burning. Nonetheless, FFS staff was able to prescribe burned 2,011 acres last year, 67 percent of the annual goal of 3000 acres on SRWMD owned portion of TRSF. Next year’s goal on the SRWMD owned portion is 3,000 acres.

Providing outdoor recreation opportunities to the public is an important goal in the state forest. The District-funded Pot Springs river access steps and streambank stabilization project was completed this year on the Withlacoochee Tract. The TRSF Pot Springs

recreation area, like Anderson Springs, is a popular destination that receives a lot of visitors. This year there were an estimated 97,000 day-use visitors. FFS staff issued 12 special use permits for various activities including fishing, horseback riding, camping, and mountain biking. FFS continues to maintain recreational facilities including hunter parking areas, 20 recreational sites, and 47 miles of hiking, horseback riding, and bicycle trails.

An important part of land maintenance is the continual clearing, marking, and replacing of signage along perimeter boundaries. This allows the public and adjacent landowners to know and respect where state property boundaries are located. This year we cleared, repainted, and placed new fence posts and signage on the Withlacoochee, Ellaville, Black, Mill Creek North, and Mill Creek South tract boundaries.

Another maintenance activity requiring constant vigilance is the upkeep of cables and gates on the state forest. These are used exclusively to keep motor vehicle traffic off the state forest trails, service roads, and environmentally sensitive areas. Other woods roads are maintained and opened to provide public access. This year FFS replaced 6 cables with metal pipe gates.

Inmate labor has traditionally played a large role in the general maintenance of the recreation sites, parking areas, entrances, gates, and trails on TRSF. As mentioned previously, the inmate supervisor and crew were not available during the last quarter of the 2019-20 fiscal year and the entire 2020-21 fiscal year. The FFS will explore options to fill this sizable void in the near future.

Despite occasional setbacks, FFS staff will continue to strive to provide quality recreational opportunities for state forest visitors while managing the other forest resources in a manner that ensures healthy ecosystems, resource protection, conservation, and sustainability. The following is a list of significant goals and planned activities for the next fiscal year.

Goals and Action Plan Items for Next Year

- Prescribe burn 3,000 acres.
- Site prep, herbicide ,and V-blade and handplant plant Westwood West, Withlacoochee, and Ellaville tracts (380 acres).
- Continue ongoing invasive exotic plant survey and complete an invasive survey within all stands harvested within the previous year.
- Complete in-house spot treatment of invasive exotics on applicable Twin Rivers tracts based on former invasive exotic survey and respective Annual Action Plan.
- Monitor the timber harvesting operations on Withlacoochee #4, Ellaville Fuelwood Harvest, Ellaville #20, Ellaville #21, and Mill Creek South #10.
- Pick up and deliver to planting site pine seedlings from Andrews Nursery and monitor the V-blade planting of 88 acres on the Westwood West Tract and 313 acres on the Withlacoochee and Ellaville tracts.
- Inspect 20% of all the known archeological sites on the state forest
- Conduct annual timber inventory on the remaining 50% of Ellaville Tract and seedling survival checks on Ellaville and Black tracts

- Repaint and replace fence posts and put new state forest signage on the Deese, Nekoosa, and Anderson Springs tracts boundary lines.
- Maintain 70+ miles of roads by mowing, harrowing, and/or single drum chopping
- Maintain 47 miles of recreational trails
- Maintain 100 cables/gates
- Maintain 20 recreational sites and all parking areas

Twin Rivers State Forest 2021-22 Budget Request

Expense

Fuel	\$9,000.00	
Equipment Maintenance	\$10,000.00	
Utilities	\$3,500.00	
Supplies (Office, Shop, Field)	\$8,000.00	
Uniforms	\$1,800.00	
Inmate Crew or Contract Maintenance	\$8,000.00	
	Total	\$40,300.00

Salaries & Benefits

Foresters	\$61,684.00	
Forest Rangers	\$38,451.00	
	Total	\$100,135.00

Resource Operations/Maintenance

Site Preparation

Ellaville Broadcast Herbicide (#19 Sale area - 182 acres)	\$18,200.00	
Ellaville Broadcast Herbicide (#20 CC Sale area - 88 acres)	\$8,800.00	

V-Blade Planting

Withlacoochee tract (272 acres)	\$32,640.00	
Ellaville tract (Ellaville Salvage Sale area - 40 acres)	\$4,800.00	
Westwood West (#4 Sale area - 88 acres)	\$10,560.00	
Containerized Longleaf Pine seedlings (231,000)	\$46,200.00	
Bareroot Slash Pine seedlings (60,000)	\$3,000.00	

Road Maintenance

DOT Grade Limerock Base (500 tons)

\$10,000.00

Total **\$134,200.00**

Grand Total **\$274,635.00**

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board
FROM: Bill McKinstry, Chief, Office of Land Management
THRU: Katelyn Potter, Director, Division of Outreach and Operations
DATE: July 30, 2021
RE: 2020-2021 Land Management Review Team Report

RECOMMENDATION

Acceptance of the 2020-2021 Land Management Review Team Report.

BACKGROUND

The Land Management Review Team (LMRT) process is required by Florida Statutes, 373.591. The process allows the public and other participants an opportunity to determine whether District land management activities were deficient, meeting, or exceeding the goals adopted by the Governing Board. The LMRT also scores the District on whether land management activities are in compliance with Florida Statutes (section 259.036, F.S.).

The review focused on land management activities that were conducted in Fiscal Years 2019 and 2020. These activities are summarized in the Fiscal Year 2019 and 2020 Annual Land Management Reports. The annual reports were presented to the Governing Board during the regularly scheduled January 2020 and January 2021 board meetings.

On June 2, 2021, staff led a field tour of lands in the Upper Suwannee River basin in Suwannee and Columbia counties. This basin contains 21,053 acres of fee lands or 13% of total fee ownership District-wide. The main area of emphasis on the tour was the protection of surface and groundwater resources, managing natural communities, and public use.

The LMRT process continues to provide an opportunity for dialogue between the staff, members of our communities, and other agencies regarding the management of District lands. The participants' scores indicate substantial acceptance of the programmatic achievement of the management strategies set by the Governing Board and Florida Statutes. Overall, the participants approve of the planning and methods used by District staff in managing the District's fee-owned lands in Fiscal Years 2019 and 2020.

WVM/pf
Attachment

Suwannee River Water Management District

Fiscal Year 2021 Land Management Review Team Report

Executive Summary

District staff conducted a Land Management Review Team (LMRT) meeting and field tour on June 2, 2021. The review focused on District-wide land management activities that were conducted in Fiscal Years (FY) 2019 and 2020. Program areas reviewed include water resources, natural resource management, public use, and facilities in representative areas. The field tour focused on the 21,053 acres of fee-owned lands located in the Upper Suwannee River basin. The review team visited Mattair Springs, Blue Sink, Woods Ferry, and Gar Pond tracts.

The LMRT participants scored the District on ten management strategies from the District Land Management Plan (DLMP) and two core statutory requirements.

- For the activities conducted in FY 2019, the scores ranged from a low of 1.19 for Rare Species management to a high score of 1.81 for Soils, Topography, and Natural Community management. Water resource management obtained a 1.62. The overall average score of the ten management strategies was 1.59. The score for “managed for purposes acquired” was 1.76 and the score for “in accordance with Management Plan” was 1.67; these scores are required statutorily.
- For activities conducted in FY 2020, the scores ranged from a low of 1.24 for Rare Species management to a high score of 1.81 for Forest Resource management. Water resource management obtained a 1.62. The overall average score of the ten management strategies was 1.58. The score for “managed for purposes acquired” was 1.76 and the score for “in accordance with Management Plan” was 1.71; these scores are required statutorily.

Both fiscal year scores signify the land management activities meet and exceed the Governing Board’s management strategies outlined in the DLMP and Florida Statutes.

Introduction

Florida Statutes 373.591 requires that the District annually establish LMRT to determine if lands titled to the Governing Board are being managed for the purposes for which they were acquired and in accordance with land management strategies set forth in the DLMP. Following the LMRT meeting staff creates a report of the findings and presents the findings to the Governing Board. However, last year’s LMRT meeting was canceled due to the pandemic so no report could be created.

To ensure we obtain the necessary information for FY 2019 land management activities staff asked LMRT participants to score the District for two fiscal years during the June 2021 meeting. Last year’s meeting was scheduled to be held in the Aucilla, Wacissa, and Econfina River basins (AWE) for April 1, 2020, and staff had already created the FY 2019 annual report and the area-specific tour handout. These documents, especially the annual report, are the steering documents for the review team to score the land management program each year. Additionally, the land management program is centered on a programmatic land management plan whereby the goals, objectives, and strategies in the land management plan are designed to work on all

District lands no matter the region or tract. For example, what the review team toured in the Upper Suwannee River basin during the June 2021 meeting can be and is replicated across District on other tracts. Furthermore, the review team is scoring the District not on individual basins or regions but for all District land holdings. Therefore, staff believes that the scores obtained this year for last years' canceled meeting are accurate because the participants saw examples of land management activities that is being done on District lands. Participants were given all the information they would need for a review team meeting. Not providing the field tour portion of the meeting last year during the pandemic would have left participants without the crucial information they would have needed to score the land management program accurately.

Background

The LMRT was provided with the District's 2019 Annual Land Management Report and 2020 Annual Land Management Report. The reports summarize all activities conducted during those two fiscal years. The annual reports provide the LMRT a programmatic summary of projects and activities.

A field inspection was led by District staff and included lands in the Upper Suwannee River basin. This inspection allows the LMRT to observe the conditions on the ground and personally inspect the properties and management activities to assist in developing scores for the DLMP management strategies.

On June 2, 2021, staff led a field tour of lands in the Upper Suwannee River basin in Suwannee and Columbia counties. This basin contains 21,053 acres of fee lands or 13% of total fee ownership District-wide. The main area of emphasis on the tour was the protection of surface and groundwater resources, managing natural communities, and public use.

Twenty-two individuals representing private landowners, interest groups, non-profits, local governments, colleges, and agencies participated in the LMRT. Twenty-one participants completed the scorecard. Staff provided the District Land Management Plan, FY 2019 and 2020 Annual Land Management Reports, and the SRWMD LMRT tour handouts to the members for their use during the review.

Staff conducted the tour on multiple areas to indicate to the participants the natural hydrology, actions taken by the District to protect and improve resources including natural community management and public use management.

The District's "Excellence in Land Management" (ELM) program was established to quantify land management operations in meeting the management strategies set forth by the Governing Board in the DLMP. The LMRT was provided with the ELM Scorecards to document their determination on whether the activities they saw or discussed were deficient, meeting, or exceeding the strategies adopted by the Governing Board. The LMRT also scored, using the same criteria, whether actions were in compliance with statutes (259.036, F.S.).

The ELM scorecard is calculated annually based on completed District land management operations from prior years. LMRT members score District land management efforts on the following scale:

- 0 – District is not meeting the strategies of the DLMP;
- 1 – District is meeting the strategies of the DLMP; and
- 2 – District is meeting and exceeding the strategies outlined in the DLMP.

The ELM scores represent the average totaled from all participating member's scores.

Results

The ten management strategies from the DLMP and two core statutory requirements were scored.

- For FY 2019 the management strategies scores ranged from a low of 1.19 for Rare Species management to a high score of 1.81 for Soils, Topography, and Natural Community management. Water resource management obtained a 1.62. The overall average score of the ten management strategies was 1.59. The score for “managed for purposes acquired” was 1.76 and the score for “in accordance with Management Plan” was 1.67; these scores are required statutorily.
- For FY 2020 the management strategies scores ranged from a low of 1.24 for Rare Species management to a high score of 1.81 for Forest Resource management. Water resource management obtained a 1.62. The overall average score of the ten management strategies was 1.58. The score for “managed for purposes acquired” was 1.76 and the score for “in accordance with Management Plan” was 1.71; these scores are required statutorily.

The participant's scores indicate substantial acceptance of the programmatic achievement of the management strategies set by the Governing Board and Florida Statutes. Overall, the participants approve the planning and methods used by District staff in managing the District's fee owned lands in FY 2019 and 2020.

Suwannee River Water Management District

Excellence in Land Management Scorecard

Land Management Review Team Findings FY 2019 Land Management Activities

District Land Management Plan Strategies

1. Water Resource Strategies

Score: 1.62

- Minimize structural floodplain management on District-managed lands.
- Maintain surface and groundwater quantity and quality during land management activities by using Silviculture best management practices (BMPs).
- Restore hydrologic regimes to the designated DFC where possible.
- Design and maintain water control structures to simulate natural hydrology.

Water Resource Comments/Opportunities for Improvement

The District should be commended on its effort to improve public access to the Jennings Bluff facility and to control erosion issues along the Alapaha and Dead Rivers
The monitoring well project should help meet your goals.
It appears information systems have really aided these efforts, e.g. culvert data collection.
Continued BMP's
Clearly accomplished important water resource projects and proactive timber BMPs for water quality.
The District excels in the use of GIS in its land management program. The hydro-facilities geodatabase is an excellent example. It allows for the timely inspection and maintenance of culverts, low water crossings, and other structures.
It is good to see work such as the Seven Bridges project despite wet conditions.
The hydrological facilities geodatabase improvements show good proactivity.

2. Soils, Topography, and Natural Community Strategies

Score: 1.81

- Minimize soil degradation (erosion, compaction).
- Manage and/or restore historic natural plant communities using designated DFC guidelines where practical.
- Update and maintain current forest/natural community reference data.

Soils, Topography, and Natural Community Comments/Opportunities for Improvement

The District has been proactive in developing the Disturbance Intervals for the five upland community types and implementing various methods to ensure these take place as much as feasible
The 24,000 acres of RxFire over 2019-2020 is impressive.
It was helpful to learn that the % within Disturbance Interval is: a) Water levels, and b) Slash pines too young to burn. Hopefully, compliance will reach higher levels.
Good work in the past with DOT on mitigation projects in the basin. Good work on repairing the roads into Goose Pasture.

Not seen any erosion
Doing a great job with the small staff available. Approaches in a very organized way to get good data.
Impressive use of GIS capabilities and reintroduction of fire – use of FNAI indexing
Total area of invasive exotic plants expanded slightly, but staff does an excellent job of monitoring identified infestations and obtaining grants for herbicide treatments and other groundcover management.
Appreciate the delineation of natural communities and the deference to fire as the preferred disturbance.

3. Ground Cover Resource Strategies

Score: 1.62

- Reduce degradation of the existing native groundcover.
- Restore/maintain designated Fire Return Intervals for natural plant communities following DFC guidelines.
- Monitor the grass, herbaceous, and shrub layers to detect if the resource falls within DFC guidelines.
- Reintroduce or supplement current native ground covers with local stock where needed to achieve ecosystem functions.

Ground Cover Resource Comments/Opportunities for Improvement

I would like to see the % core areas within D.I. using RxFire increase from 57% to 65% +. Good work and innovative thought in using mowing 2,379 acres and roller chopping 147 acres as a placeholder to future prescribed burning.
The mechanical treatments followed by fire each year are impressive
Excellent use of prescribed fire within the prescribed disturbance interval.
Managed well
More use of fire where feasible and desirable.
Tremendous effort
As discussed, fire continues to be a primary tool for natural community management and the District has a great record of using its available resources to get areas burned. Efforts to increase the acreage that can be designated as core areas should continue. In terms of reporting, plantations that are too young to burn should be removed from “acres out of disturbance interval” as this artificially lowers the percentage of core areas that are within the disturbance interval.

4. Forest Resource Strategies

Score: 1.76

- Manage for natural community heterogeneity to attain a multi-aged and vertically diverse forest, including retaining dominant and/or old-growth trees and snags.
- Maintain the dominant and co-dominant tree species within the DFC acceptable parameter range.
- Reforest within DFC parameters using techniques that minimize damage to other natural resources.
- Utilize silvicultural BMPs.
- Maintain an accurate and current forest resource inventory.
- Ensure that commercial harvests provide the maximum financial returns possible with the consistent attainment of primary natural resource values.

Forest Resource Comments/Opportunities for Improvement

It looks like the District sold the most timber, acreage-wise, in the last 5 years during 2019. This is commendable and should be far-reaching in better mimicking a natural forest condition, as well as promoting forest health.
Even if you have a slow year due to really wet weather or pandemic, the forestry program is very active for such a small staff. Impressive.
Fully approve efforts as described and what I've witnessed.
From the written report it is difficult to tell if any forest resource management work was completed in the AWE basin, other than a single first thinning was accomplished.
Like the multiage strategy
Thoughtful use of tools available to evaluate site after treatment to see what best next strategies. Good that this can reduce the use of chemicals and improve diversity.
SRWMD seems to do a great job focusing on primary natural resources values first then financial. Too often it's the other way around. Kudos.
Coordinated and well-planned timber management strategies to achieve DFC and maximum financial return.
Kudos on getting the new inventory system underway.

5. Rare Species Resource Strategies

Score: 1.19

- Protect and manage biodiversity on District lands.
- Identify and monitor rare species on District lands.
- Provide staff with the most current rare species locations, status, and Rare Species Best Management Practices (BMP).
- Maintain and/or increase existing rare and imperiled species populations on District lands.

Rare Species Comments/Opportunities for Improvement

It seems the District is doing due diligence to identify and document rare species. Future sustained or ongoing monitoring should help determine species population levels status, whether maintaining or increasing.
Look forward to receiving a list of rare plant species known on your properties. I will send coordinates and photos should I happen to encounter them.
From the text of the report, it is apparent that no rare species monitoring inventory or restoration improvements were accomplished in the AWE basin.
Done well

6. Cultural and Historic Resource Strategies

Score: 1.33

- Protect and prevent negative impacts to cultural and historical resources during all activities.
- Document location of significant cultural and historical resources on District-managed lands and share information with the Division of Historic Resources within the Department of State.
- Monitor the condition of cultural and historical resources on District-managed lands.

Cultural and Historic Resource Comments/Opportunities for Improvement

Because of the significance this area is to our cultural record, this area should have additional priority for monitoring and enforcement especially on the lands south of US98.
LE and continued monitoring
Staff documented 24 additional sites.

7. Aesthetic and Visual Resource Strategies

Score: 1.57

- Maintain or enhance overall visual quality of District lands.
- Minimize or mitigate short-term negative appearances of land management activities.

Aesthetic and Visual Resource Comments/ Opportunities for Improvement

Excellent job performed by District staff and contractors maintaining a positive visual quality on District lands especially at entrances and parking areas.
The mowing and fire are great for improving the look of the uplands.
Appreciate efforts to open road shoulders both for fire control and visual access.
Lands are looking so much better
Staff seems very aware of maintaining the best possible appearance where the public will use land.
Beautiful!

8. Public Use Strategies

Score: 1.71

- Establishing and maintaining public use on District lands.
- Provide Special Use Authorizations (SUA) for compatible public use activities.
- Follow Governing Board Directives 90-2 and 92-1 for exclusive use requests.
- Provide hunting and fishing opportunities on District lands.
- Coordinate with law enforcement agencies to enforce Florida statutes and administrative rules on District-managed lands.
- During emergency situations, staff will assist persons in danger and communicate responses with the appropriate agency.

Public Use Comments/Opportunities for Improvement

Public use facilities are great considering the overall approach is minimalist.
As a frequent user of District lands, I very much appreciate SRWMD's public use policies.
Provision of the Goose Pasture campground and boat ramp are tremendous opportunities for the public to enjoy and experience the AWE. Thank you for your support for The Florida National Scenic Trail which you should promote much more in your report instead of just calling it a hiking trail. The Natural Forest in Florida partners with U.F. to estimate use on the FNST which you could include in your report.
Continued LE work. Providing opportunities for public use!
Providing opportunities for the public to access SRWMD lands is obviously important to staff. SRWMD lands provide many and varied recreational opportunities.
Your agency's commitment to public use is admirable and critical for public support.
Extra credit for proactively applying technological advances to this effort. Appreciate the apparent special effort to make the site "public friendly."

9. Communications Strategies

Score: 1.62

- Obtain public and private stakeholder's input in the management of District lands.
- Use applicable modes of communication to encourage and promote public recreation on District lands.
- Ensure public inquiries into management activities or public use are addressed in a timely manner.

- Complete an annual land management report and conduct the annual LMRT following the guidance of the DLMP.

Communications Comments/Opportunities for Improvement

SRWMD seems very transparent and good at communicating to the public about goals and challenges.
All District participants in the review were open to questions and input. I hope kiosks and signage will get funding for improvements.
Excellent list serve system to communicate activities on public land and Governing Board meetings and decisions.
Monthly meetings and public meetings for community input
Grand outreach and use of LMRT

10. Fiscal Responsibility Strategies

Score: 1.62

- Ensure revenues are derived from operations conducted to achieve land management objectives.
- Minimize structural operational management approaches wherever practical.
- Contract with the most cost-effective and experienced firms to complete land management activities following District policies.
- Coordinate with other land management agencies and organizations to complete land management activities to reduce District costs.
- Attempt to locate and obtain grants to help fund projects on District lands.
- Assist with the surplus lands program to ensure funds derived from the disposals of unneeded land holdings are redirected to fund the purchase of higher value, water-resource lands.

Fiscal Responsibility Comments/Opportunities for Improvement

The land management team seems to do a lot with just a few employees and has good operational flexibility as a result.
Balancing harvest with both fiscal and land management needs seems extraordinarily well managed.
The District does an excellent job of squeezing the turnip and uses funding from other sources. It is apparent the District bases funding allocation on past budgets instead of demonstrated needs.
Well financially managed!
Coordinated focus on efficiency and partnering to help achieve District goals.
The degree to which staff augments legislative appropriations with grants and timber sales is impressive.
Seems to be a strong awareness of budget considerations among all members of the team.

Florida Statute 259.036, states that the Land Management Review Team shall evaluate the extent to which the existing management plan provides enough protection to threatened or endangered species, unique or important natural or physical features, geological or hydrological functions, or archaeological features. The review shall also evaluate the extent to which the land is being managed for the purposes for which it was acquired and the degree to which actual management practices, including public access, are following the adopted management plan.

- Are District lands being managed in a manner consistent with the purpose for which they were acquired, including public access?

Comments

Score: 1.76

This is an active/proactive LM program with dedicated staff.
SRWMD staff is committed to the objectives as outlined.
The District does not allocate sufficient resources to listed species identification, monitoring, and restoration due to inadequate budget and staff allocation.
Yes
Overall District lands appear to be managed in a superior way.
Clearly focused on mission and achievement of public purpose
I believe so.
There appears to be a constant reevaluation of the relevance of the land holdings to the District's purposes.

- Are District land managers implementing the District Land Management Plan? This includes sufficient protection to threatened or endangered species, unique or important natural or physical features, geological or hydrological functions, and/or archaeological features.

Comments

Score: 1.67

Yes. The land management report makes this easy to review. Great summary.
Everything I've witnessed at land management review and in the field indicates effective implementation of plans/objectives.
No. The District should contract with FNAI and DHR to inventory and monitor listed species and cultural resources and allocate sufficient funding for the restoration of habitat for listed and more comment species.
Yes
District land managers doing the above after job in all aspects of plan implementation.
Staff is doing a great job.
Goals and objectives were developed so all staff is working to implement the plan.
In general, the staff meets and often exceeds standards in all areas.
This team seems to be very aware of DLMP and guides itself accordingly.

General Comments

Thanks
Although it's been a couple of years since I have been able to attend a review meeting, you are continuing to demonstrate excellence in land management.
Very proud of SRWMD. Great team!
Considering the limited staff who are responsible for so much land I was extremely impressed with their productivity in meeting or exceeding goals. Practices will produce an enhanced hiking experience.
I was very impressed with the staff's work and presentations.
Impressive work output from a team of 6! Ditch the bottled water – do the tour with urns and reusable containers.
Based on what I saw, what I heard from SRWMD's Land Management Team, I believe they are doing an excellent job in protecting and managing the lands from erosion while preserving and restoring the areas through conservation.

Suwannee River Water Management District

Excellence in Land Management Scorecard

**Land Management Review Team Findings
FY 2020 Land Management Activities**

District Land Management Plan Strategies

4. Water Resource Strategies

Score: 1.62

- Minimize structural floodplain management on District-managed lands.
- Maintain surface and groundwater quantity and quality during land management activities by using Silviculture best management practices (BMPs).
- Restore hydrologic regimes to the designated DFC where possible.
- Design and maintain water control structures to simulate natural hydrology.

Water Resource Comments/Opportunities for Improvement

Hydrological facilities geodatabase is proactive. Very cool.
Appreciate the hydrological facilities geodatabase. Blue Sink access looks great!
The District did a good job to stabilize the original Blue Sink River Access project and make additional improvements before opening it up to the public once again.
Following BMPs while controlling erosion and provide public access to minimize damage from public access/traffic while working through setbacks/issues (i.e. funding, fire damage, and intermitted high water levels).
Continue to work with landowners/farmers to avoid farming or using marginal lands to decrease nutrient loads, erosion, and improve water quality in the process.
Greater and quicker hydrological restoration could be accomplished with more funding.
Monitoring, analyzing. Looking to the future based on the past. Following DFC guidelines.
Continuing implementation of high value projects.

5. Soils, Topography, and Natural Community Strategies

Score: 1.76

- Minimize soil degradation (erosion, compaction).
- Manage and/or restore historic natural plant communities using designated DFC guidelines where practical.
- Update and maintain current forest/natural community reference data.

Soils, Topography, and Natural Community Comments/Opportunities for Improvement

14,545 acres total and 10,768 RxBurn is awesome.
Noted increase in core areas within disturbance intervals.
The District is to be commended on its ongoing efforts to restore the natural community to its historic condition using DFCs and DI schedules to plan/implement management activities.
Good work reducing hardwoods and sunlight to promote natural plant communities minimizing soil disturbance, not an overnight fix but a good start. Collecting and monitoring of data are needed for continued evaluation and progression.
Use of multiple approaches; chemical, physical, and fire is apparently well applied.
Contract with FNAI to monitor listed plants and animals.
Ground vegetation is continuous. Moving to longleaf and natural plant communities. Surely native species will occur one canopy is open. Chopping is making a positive difference.

Doing a great job with small staff available. Approach is a very organized way of getting useful data.

Strategies clearly centered around the achievement of restoration and erosion protection.

6. Ground Cover Resource Strategies

Score: 1.62

- Reduce degradation of the existing native groundcover.
- Restore/maintain designated Fire Return Intervals for natural plant communities following DFC guidelines.
- Monitor the grass, herbaceous, and shrub layers to detect if the resource falls within DFC guidelines.
- Reintroduce or supplement current native ground covers with local stock where needed to achieve ecosystem functions.

Ground Cover Resource Comments/Opportunities for Improvement

Turning overgrown upland sites around with mulching/mowing and then fire is great. 1,043 acres of roller chopping is a lot.

Hardwood removal efforts are impressive and should lead to improvement in groundcover. It is too easy to tell if hardwood control efforts will be successful and species composition will meet objectives without augmentation.

Appreciate the preferred use of fire and the reluctance to use herbicides. Also, appr. The targeted prescriptions of herbicide.

Outside the 37%, the strategies used to create a disturbance whether chemically or mechanically, when not prescribed fire, should be the minimal needed in both time and expense, to be able to switch to a fire regime as soon as feasible. Commendations for implementing the DI schedule on applicable areas.

Use caution on wait and see method for retreating hardwood resprouting – resprouts could multiply original stems of hardwoods.

Would love to see some more dispersal of native seeds on lands in restoration if it could be done by volunteers and with donated seeds.

I'm impressed by the level of attention to groundcover and monitoring as was explained to us.

Restoration of native ground cover should be a priority including purchasing equipment or hiring contractors to accelerate current restoration rates.

Fire intervals are regular. Continuous monitoring of vegetation with plots. Wiregrass stocking. More fire when you can.

I would suggest prioritizing prescribed fire as the primary disturbance tool in appropriate areas. It would make sense to track the use of prescribed fire both along with and outside of other disturbance activities.

Great program to restore upland pine forests and herbaceous cover.

4. Forest Resource Strategies

Score: 1.81

- Manage for natural community heterogeneity to attain a multi-aged and vertically diverse forest, including retaining dominant and/or old-growth trees and snags.
- Maintain the dominant and co-dominant tree species within the DFC acceptable parameter range.
- Reforest within DFC parameters using techniques that minimize damage to other natural resources.
- Utilize silvicultural BMPs.
- Maintain an accurate and current forest resource inventory.

- Ensure that commercial harvests provide the maximum financial returns possible with the consistent attainment of primary natural resource values.

Forest Resource Comments/Opportunities for Improvement

2,095 acres of timber sales is no small task.
Pine thinning and hardwood removal projects have dramatically moved the stand toured towards DFCs.
Appreciate the eye on the budget without allowing the budget to dictate optimal practices.
Great news about the new forest resource inventory system. This should greatly improve the accuracy of the max allowable harvest data and ensure forest sustainability down the road.
Remarkable work with the resources on hand. Again the tracking, recording, and thoughtful planning on managing the forest resources is impressive.
Pine stands look much different from the time we started burning here in 2004. Reduction of loblolly. Chopping. Tree cutters. Good use of BMPs.
Thoughtful use of tools available to evaluate site after treatment to see what the next best step is. Good that this can reduce the use of chemicals and improve diversity.
Kudos for putting NR values first, then financial returns.
Doing a great job of reclaiming and restoring upland pine where appropriate.
Begin to focus on ways to encourage natural regeneration in areas where the overstory has reached a desirable condition.
Very well versed on appropriate techniques to achieve DFC based on natural community types.

5. Rare Species Resource Strategies

Score: 1.24

- Protect and manage biodiversity on District lands.
- Identify and monitor rare species on District lands.
- Provide staff with the most current rare species locations, status, and Rare Species Best Management Practices (BMP).
- Maintain and/or increase existing rare and imperiled species populations on District lands.

Rare Species Comments/Opportunities for Improvement

It seems like the LM staff is on top of this and the GIS improvements with collector will help a lot with managing/tracking rare plants.
It is impressive how you all are collecting data, creating inventories, and mapping where your rare species are being seen on District lands as well as where exotics are being identified. Is this data being shared with other state and local agencies?
Management efforts appear to consider rare species at every level of management activity.
Does not appear the District has an active monitoring program for rare fauna species but does have a good monitoring system for flora species. Fauna species monitoring should be proactive and not one off as other agencies are available.
There has been a change in wildlife and plant species with silvicultural management. More expertise in staff and diversity. Staff knows where rare species occur.

6. Cultural and Historic Resource Strategies

Score: 1.33

- Protect and prevent negative impacts to cultural and historical resources during all activities.

- Document location of significant cultural and historical resources on District-managed lands and share information with the Division of Historic Resources within the Department of State.
- Monitor the condition of cultural and historical resources on District-managed lands.

Cultural and Historic Resource Comments/Opportunities for Improvement

Maybe putting up signs might help?
Like the idea of hiring off duty law enforcement officers to patrol and assist on District properties and the flexibility to move officers to needed areas or tracks.
The use of law enforcement to help protect cultural resources is a good call. It is the only way to stop looters.
Sad that this is such a problem, and that control seems so challenging. I hope emerging technologies may provide affordable real-time monitoring.
More regular monitoring of sites may be necessary where disturbance is noted.
Monitoring of sites by law enforcement and staff reporting of locations of sites. Prosecute violators.

7. Aesthetic and Visual Resource Strategies

Score: 1.62

- Maintain or enhance overall visual quality of District lands.
- Minimize or mitigate short-term negative appearances of land management activities.

Aesthetic and Visual Resource Comments/ Opportunities for Improvement

The fire and mechanical work help with this a lot even if the public doesn't get this initially.
Team appears to do a real nice job keeping properties looking good.
The lands managed by the District are aesthetically appealing. The roads, entrances, and recreational facilities are being well maintained. Improving road access for timber harvesting has other far reaching benefits. Good job!
Daylighting and mowing of roads and parking areas well done – presents a positive and inviting appearance to visitors.
The minimalist approach to facilities is very appealing to me. There is enough there to orient a visitor but the focus is on the natural resources. The amenities at Woods Ferry were top notch. The primitive campsites as well as the chickees. It was very appealing for a family camp out.
Mallory Swamp is a great example. Thank you!
Pine stands we visited looking better every year. Chopping has definitely helped.
Staff seems very aware of maintaining the best possible appearance where the public will use land.
All of the lands we visited on the field tour appear to be in good condition and well managed.

8. Public Use Strategies

Score: 1.67

- Establishing and maintaining public use on District lands.
- Provide Special Use Authorizations (SUA) for compatible public use activities.
- Follow Governing Board Directives 90-2 and 92-1 for exclusive use requests. Provide hunting and fishing opportunities on District lands.
- Coordinate with law enforcement agencies to enforce Florida statutes and administrative rules on District-managed lands.
- During emergency situations, staff will assist persons in danger and communicate responses with the appropriate agency.

Public Use Comments/Opportunities for Improvement

For a 2-man recreation crew is pretty amazing what you guys get completed.
Staff did an excellent job of rehabilitating the Blue Sink canoe launch at a very modest cost.
Great emphasis on keeping properties usable by the public.
Using 90-2 and 92-1 to promote public youth hunting and women in the outdoors events is a very worthwhile endeavor. The District is doing a good job providing outdoor resource based recreational opportunities for the general public and their multifaceted interests.
Stay the course. You all are doing an exceptional job with your public use of District lands. You balance many public user interests well.
While I understand that stopping vehicle access is problematic, I question whether signs alone will do much good as gates are removed. Again I hope emerging technologies may come to the aid eventually.
Support for fee-simple acquisition is key to providing public use opportunities. The current emphasis on less than fee acquisition is contrary to providing public outdoor recreation opportunities.
District listens to the input from the public and develops fair public use policies. Allows for more quality hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation. Excellent for handicap.
Providing opportunities for the public to access SRWMD lands is obviously important to staff. SRWMD lands provide many varied recreational opportunities.
Great public use program = public support.
Appreciative of the additional effort applied to issues associated with public use during 2020.

9. Communications Strategies

Score: 1.57

- Obtain public and private stakeholder's input in the management of District lands.
- Use applicable modes of communication to encourage and promote public recreation on District lands.
- Ensure public inquiries into management activities or public use are addressed in a timely manner.
- Complete an annual land management report and conduct the annual LMRT following the guidance of the DLMP.

Communications Comments/Opportunities for Improvement

Anyone who wants to better understand what the goals and objectives are for District lands can just read the Management Plan. It's actually clear.
Staff did an excellent job communicating the objectives and accomplishments during the LMR.
The District's communications have really stepped up over the last several years, including its social media postings. They are informative and engaging. And of course, these LMRT meetings are incredibly informative and much appreciated.
Management Review Team and materials provided were concise and helpful.
Great use of list serves for communicating with the public.
Much public input. Using BMP's and LMRT.
Great outreach strategies and openness – consistently achieve LMRT goals for review.

10. Fiscal Responsibility Strategies

Score: 1.57

- Ensure revenues are derived from operations conducted to achieve land management objectives.
- Minimize structural operational management approaches wherever practical.

- Contract with the most cost-effective and experienced firms to complete land management activities following District policies.
- Coordinate with other land management agencies and organizations to complete land management activities to reduce District costs.
- Attempt to locate and obtain grants to help fund projects on District lands.
- Assist with the surplus lands program to ensure funds derived from the disposals of unneeded land holdings are redirected to fund the purchase of higher value, water-resource lands.

Fiscal Responsibility Comments/Opportunities for Improvement

Small crew. Seems fiscally responsible. Doing a lot with just a few employees.
Whole team seems to be constantly aware of revenue and expenditure streams but, as said earlier, without allowing it to degrade accomplishments of goals.
Approve of current District approach on fiscal responsibility. Given the number of acres it seems like adding a staff member or two would be beneficial – just a note for the legislature and Governing Board. It is clear the District staff are dedicated and passionate about the work they do each day.
It appears staff are directed to manage according to allocated resources rather than to manage land based on need resulting in the backlog of management needs, especially for public access sites.
District watches their dollars for the most benefit.
Great use of partnerships and land assessments to achieve the greatest public benefit.
Seems to be a strong awareness of budget considerations among all members of the team.

Florida Statute 259.036, states that the Land Management Review Team shall evaluate the extent to which the existing management plan provides enough protection to threatened or endangered species, unique or important natural or physical features, geological or hydrological functions, or archaeological features. The review shall also evaluate the extent to which the land is being managed for the purposes for which it was acquired and the degree to which actual management practices, including public access, are following the adopted management plan.

- Are District lands being managed in a manner consistent with the purpose for which they were acquired, including public access?

Comments

Score: 1.76

Yes!
It is apparent through the presentations that staff understands the objectives of the program and are dedicated to meeting them.
Constant consideration of land for acquisition and surplus to optimize the goals of the plan is a plus.
Yes. The sites visited today seem well managed and on the path to their DFC.
From all I've seen in the presentation and my own use of your properties your management is great!
The District could do a better job with additional staff and allocation of funding for acquisition and management.
Yes
Overall District lands appear to be managed in a superior way.
Very much so – focus on water protection.

- Are District land managers implementing the District Land Management Plan? This includes sufficient protection to threatened or endangered species, unique or important natural or physical features, geological or hydrological functions, and/or archaeological features.

Comments

Score: 1.71

Yes. Goals are very clear. Staff follow-up is proactive.
Awareness of DLMP appears to be predominant in the minds of all team members leading to a good common focus and synergy.
Yes. It is clear staff is tracking their efforts, implementing the plans, working to create safe environments for public use while protecting the resources on and around District lands.
Everything was explained in the context of the plan.
To protect listed species the District needs to monitor listed species to denote a change in conditions/population. The District only monitors listed plants and does not monitor fauna.
Yes.
District land managers doing above average job in all aspects of plan implementation.
Staff is doing a great job.
District LM staff clearly well versed on DLMP and goal orientated to achieve results.

General Comments

Appreciate using chemical herbicide operation as the last reset over fire/mechanical practices. Great job! Natural environments are preferred over timber management for hiking experience.
1 st time being involved with the LMRT and I was very impressed. Thank you for the opportunity to participate.
As a citizen and as an environmental advocate I am very comfortable with the work of this team. Very impressive output for a team of 6! (Ditch the bottled water – use urns and reusable containers instead. Thanks!)
Although, not a scientist, I was impressed with the methods implemented in maintaining and restoring the lands belonging to SRWMD and the community resources that are a partnership in this endeavor.
This was a very well run meeting and tour. Allowing stakeholders, partners, and the general public to review the District's land management plans, offer input, and learn about the District's process for making land management decisions should be applauded. I am grateful for the opportunity to participate in the process and to pick the staff's minds on land management techniques and methods. This is a significant and time-consuming undertaking for District staff, but I believe it is a valuable exercise. I would encourage a Governing Board member to attend in the future, maybe only one to avoid Sunshine issues. In the past, it seemed like one would attend. The groups/agencies present were fairly diverse and I would encourage you to continue to think of other groups who might benefit from attending and/or provide useful feedback to the District land management team.
Impressed with the look of timber stands over 17 years I have seen them change toward longleaf away from planted pine look!
Excellent job of great land management at scale!
Great job in 2019 and 2020. Continue the good work, it is a process.
Good job folks!
Blue Sink is impressive. Woods Ferry facilities and boardwalk are excellent.

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Leroy Marshall, Chief, Office of Agriculture and Environmental Projects

THRU: Amy Brown, Deputy Executive Director, Division of Water Resources

DATE: July 30, 2021

RE: Contract with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to Administer the Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning Program

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the Executive Director to enter into contract with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to receive an estimated \$1,904,527 to implement the Fiscal Year 2021 Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning Program in the Alapaha and Aucilla river basins.

BACKGROUND

The District has been a Cooperating Technical Partner implementing Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA's) Map Modernization and Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning (Risk MAP) programs for 20 years. Each December, the Governing Board considers the five-year FEMA business plan which identifies the District's vision and level of participation for supporting the Risk MAP program. FEMA's Risk MAP program is an ongoing program in the District's river basins.

To implement this plan, District staff has developed a Mapping Activity Statement (MAS) for Federal FY 2021 that details a step-by-step process to enhance the regulatory flood maps and provide Risk MAP products for the stated basins. The District expects the proposed MAS for Federal FY 2021 to be approved and monies allocated by FEMA by August 31, 2021. When received, it is important that award documents be executed as quickly as possible. With the addition of the FY 2021 allocation, the District will have 11 active contracts totaling \$14,296,811 with FEMA and subcontractors. All information created or provided by the District, such as computer models, and staff time are used as the local match.

LM/tm

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Sean King, Chief, Office of Minimum Flows and Minimum Water Levels

THRU: Amy Brown, Deputy Executive Director, Division of Water Resources

DATE: July 30, 2021

RE: Task Work Assignment for Contract 19/20-009 with HSW Consulting LLC

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the Executive Director to approve Task Work Assignment 19/20-009.018 with HSW Consulting, LLC for technical services to collect field data for instream habitat as part of minimum flows and minimum water levels for the Withlacoochee and Alapaha rivers for an amount not to exceed \$60,700.

BACKGROUND

Studies on the Withlacoochee and Alapaha rivers and associated priority springs are needed to support minimum flows and minimum water levels (MFLs) development. This work order follows Phase B of the intended overall project, outlined in Work Order 14/15-030.05, completed in September 2017. Phase B consisted of collecting field data to support instream habitat modeling and hydraulic model updates for the rivers, which included data collection during low and medium flows on the rivers. This TWA will support a similar data collection effort during high flow events. Subsequent studies will include developing instream habitat models and updating hydraulic models for the Florida portions of the Withlacoochee and Alapaha rivers along with the assessment of potential environmental impacts and MFL development.

Funding for this project is included in the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 (FY2021) Final Budget under code 20-2-586-1-1102-18-00 and will be assigned the Alapaha and Withlacoochee rivers MFL code 20-2-586-1-1102-04-00. Funding for this project is also included in the FY 2022 Tentative Budget under code 20-2-586-1-1102-18-00 and will be assigned the Alapaha and Withlacoochee rivers MFL code 20-2-586-1-1102-04-00 and is contingent upon approval of the FY 2022 Final Budget.

SK/pf

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Susanna Hetrick, Chief, Office of Water Resources

THRU: Amy Brown, Deputy Executive Director, Division of Water Resources

DATE: July 30, 2021

RE: Agricultural Water Use Monitoring Report

BACKGROUND

In September 2012, the District began a program of water use monitoring for agricultural water use reporting on wells of 8" diameter or greater. As of July 26, 2021, the District has permitted 1,847 (235.5 MGD) irrigation wells which include a water use monitoring condition, of which 1,511 (207.6 MGD) wells are active, i.e., the wells have been drilled already. The District is monitoring 1,412 (200.1 MGD) of the 1,511 active wells. The remaining 99 active wells not yet monitored are scheduled for site visits to determine the type of monitoring that will be implemented.

Where possible, agricultural water use is estimated using monthly electric power consumption records provided by the electrical power provider. Estimation by power use is the most cost-effective method of water use reporting. To date, the farmer agreements authorizing the District to receive power usage reports directly from the cooperatives are in effect on 706 (126.8 MGD) monitoring points.

Not all withdrawal points are suitable for estimation using power consumption. Diesel-powered pumps and complex interconnected irrigation systems still require direct methods of monitoring. The District employs telemetry to conduct water use monitoring on diesel-power systems. There are currently 265 (43.3 MGD) telemetry systems installed by the District for this purpose.

Some withdrawal points have very limited use (< 0.05 MGD each) and are monitored for status changes by individual site visits. There are currently 439 (29.9 MGD) limited use monitoring points in the District. Some users monitor their own water use and report that data to the District. There are currently two (0.3 MGD) self-monitored points.

Since April 2017, the District has consistently had over 93% of active wells and permitted allocation being monitored. To date, the District is monitoring approximately 93.45% of existing active wells (96.5% of allocation) with water use permit monitoring conditions.

The attached figure shows the current well status and monitoring type for all wells with water use monitoring conditions (Figure 1).

Agricultural Water Use Stations with Monitoring Conditions

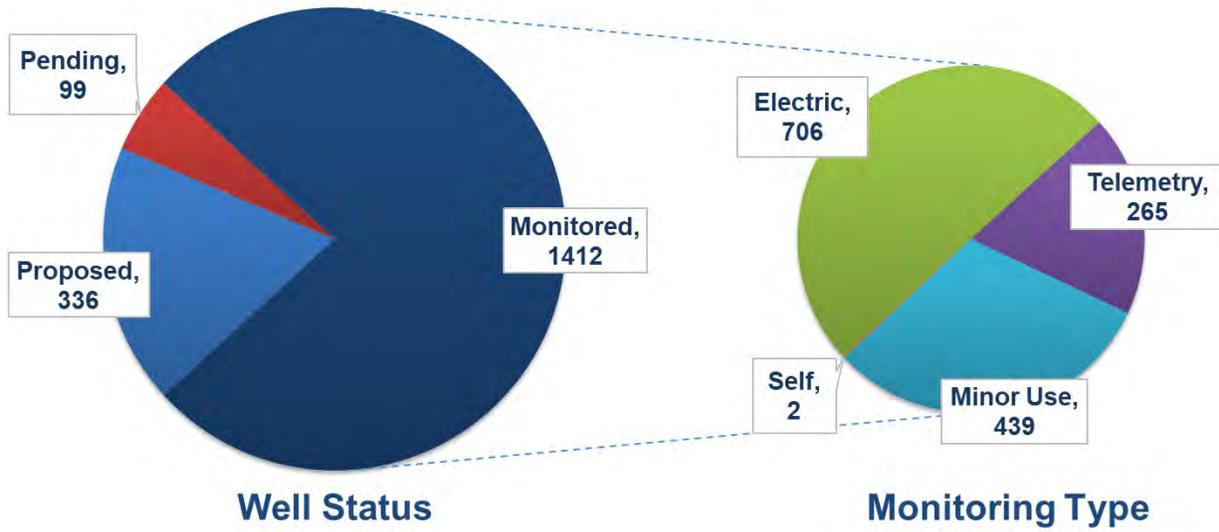


Figure 1: Graph on the left shows the current status of all permitted wells with a water use monitoring condition. The graph on the right shows the monitoring type for all currently monitored wells.

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board
FROM: Hugh Thomas, Executive Director
DATE: July 30, 2021
RE: Statement of Agency Organization and Operation

RECOMMENDATION

Accept the Statement of Agency Organization and Operation.

BACKGROUND

The Statement of Agency Organization and Operation (statement) is issued and maintained as required by sections 120.53 and 120.54, Florida Statutes (F.S.), and chapter 28-101, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.). This statement intends to assist the public in understanding how the District operates, its program and organization, and how to do business or interact with the District, specifically regarding permits, variances, and appeals.

Florida Statutes requires the statement be posted on the District website. The revised version reflects the District's updated organizational structure.

Select the following link to view a draft version of the plan - [Statement of Agency Organization and Operation](#).

HT/kcp