

**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 Houser, 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
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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:

