



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

YouTube Link: <https://www.youtube.com/@SRWMD>
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 as set out in full here and are filed in the permanent files of the District.

October 8, 2024
9:00 a.m.

District Headquarters
Live Oak, Florida

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

Agenda Item No 2 – Roll Call:

Governing Board

| Seat | Name | Office | Present | Not Present |
|-------------------------|-------------------|---------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Aucilla Basin | George Wheeler | | X | |
| Coastal River Basin | Richard Schwab | Vice Chair | | X |
| Lower Suwannee Basin | Larry K. Thompson | | X | |
| Santa Fe & Wacc. Basins | William Lloyd | | X | |
| Upper Suwannee Basin | Larry Sessions | | X | |
| At Large | Virginia H. Johns | Chair | X | |
| At Large | Charles Keith | Sec./Treas. | X | |
| At Large | Harry Smith | | X | |
| At Large | Vacant | | - | - |

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 | |
| Assistant Executive Director | Tim Alexander | X | |
| Deputy Executive Director | Amy Brown | X | |
| Executive Office & Board Coordinator | Robin Lamm | X | |

Agenda Item No. 3 - Governing Board Committee Assignments Updates. Chair Johns included Board Member George Wheeler to the Lands Committee

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

Agenda Item No. 4 - Announcement of any Amendments to the Agenda by the Chair:

DELETION:

Agenda Item No. 17 – Environmental Resource Permitting: General Works of the District Application Number WOD-121-211576-2, Gillard Residence, Denial, Suwannee County

MOTION WAS MADE BY THOMPSON, SECONDED BY KEITH TO APPROVE THE AMENDED AGENDA. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item No. 5 – Public Comment: None

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

- Agenda Item No. 7 - September 10, 2024 Governing Board Meeting, First Public Hearing on Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Millage and Budget, September 23, 2024 Workshops and Final Public Hearing on Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Millage and Budget Minutes
- Agenda Item No. 12 - Renewal of Property and Casualty, Comprehensive General Liability, Public Officials Liability, Auto, and Workers Compensation Insurance Coverage from Public Risk Insurance Agency
- Agenda Item No. 14 - August 2024 Financial Report
- Agenda Item No. 15 - Employee Health Care Insurance Coverages for Calendar Year 2025
- Agenda Item No. 27 - Five-Year Water Resource Development Work Program Report

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

Agenda Item No. 7 - September 10, 2024 Governing Board Meeting, First Public Hearing on Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Millage and Budget, September 23, 2024 Workshops and Final Public Hearing on Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Millage and Budget Minutes. Approved on Consent.

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

- A. Robbie McKinney, Chief, Office of Water Resources, gave a presentation of hydrologic conditions of the District.
- B. Cooperating Agencies and Organizations. None

GOVERNING BOARD LEGAL COUNSEL

Agenda Item No. 9 – Legal Activities Update. Tom Reeves, Board Legal Counsel, updated the Board on the Merryman Declaratory Statement Petition lawsuit.

BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Administration

Agenda Item No. 10 – Facilities Update. Ben Glass, Chief, Office of Administration, provided an update to the Board.

Agenda Item No. 11 – Contract with BluSky Restoration Contractors, LLC. Mr. Glass presented this item to the Board.

MOTION WAS MADE BY THOMPSON, SECONDED BY LLOYD TO APPROVE THE ITEM. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item No. 12 – Renewal of Property and Casualty, Comprehensive General Liability, Public Officials Liability, Auto, and Workers Compensation Insurance Coverage from Public Risk Insurance Agency. Approved on Consent.

Agriculture Projects

Agenda Item No. 13 – Agricultural Cost-Share Contract with Alliance Dairies, LLP, Gilchrist and Levy Counties. Mr. Glass presented this item to the Board.

Mr. Lloyd announced a conflict of interest and abstained from voting on this item. The Conflict of Interest form was completed and signed by Mr. Lloyd and 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 KEITH, SECONDED BY THOMPSON TO APPROVE THE ITEM. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF LLOYD.

Board Member Sessions left the Board Meeting at 9:38 a.m.

Finance

Agenda Item No. 14 – August 2024 Financial Report. Approved on Consent.

Human Resources

Agenda Item No. 15 – Employee Health Care Insurance Coverages for Calendar Year 2025. Approved on Consent.

Environmental Resource Permitting

Agenda Item No. 16 – Permitting Summary Report. This report was provided as an informational item in the Board materials.

Agenda Item No. 17 – General Works of the District Application Number WOD-121-211576-2, Gillard Residence, Denial, Suwannee County, Leroy Marshall, Director, Resource Management/Projects Division, presented this item to the Board. **Deleted**

Environmental Projects

Agenda Item No. 18 – Agriculture and Environmental Projects Monthly Report. This report was provided as an informational item in the Board materials.

OUTREACH AND OPERATIONS

Communications and Outreach

Agenda Item No. 19 – Outreach and Communications Activity Summary. This summary was provided as an informational item in the Board materials.

Agenda Item No. 20 – Communications Summary and 2025 Workplan Presentation. Troy Roberts, Chief, Office of Communications and Outreach, provided a presentation to the Board.

Land Acquisition

Agenda Item No. 21 – Land Acquisition and Disposition Activity Report. This report was provided as an informational item in the Board materials.

Agenda Item No. 22 – Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Land Acquisition Project Ranking. Katelyn Potter, Director, Outreach and Operations Division, presented this item to the Board.

Keith Rowell, Florida Conservation Group, provided comments to the Board.

MOTION WAS MADE BY KEITH, SECONDED BY THOMPSON TO APPROVE THE ITEM. MOTION CARRIED.

Land Management

Agenda Item No. 23 – Land Management Update Report. This report was provided as an informational item in the Board materials.

Hydrologic Data Services

Agenda Item No. 24 – Hydrologic Data Services Summary and 2025 Workplan Presentation. Vince Robinson, Manager, Office of Hydrologic Data Services, provided a presentation to the Board.

WATER RESOURCES

Agenda Item No. 25 – Water Resources Division Updates. Amy Brown, Deputy Executive Director, provided updates to the Board.

Minimum Flows and Levels

Agenda Item No. 26 – 2024 Priority List for Establishment of Minimum Flows and Minimum Water Levels. Sean King, Chief, Office of Minimum Flows and Minimum Water Levels, presented this item to the Board.

MOTION WAS MADE BY THOMPSON, SECONDED BY KEITH TO APPROVE THE ITEM. MOTION CARRIED.

Water Supply

Agenda Item No. 27 – Five-Year Water Resource Development Work Program Report. Approved on Consent.

Water Resources

Agenda Item No. 28 – Surface Water Improvement Plan Update Presentation. Susie Hetrick, Chief, Office of Water Resources, provided this presentation to the Board.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Agenda Item No. 29 - Announcements. Mr. Thomas updated the Board on District activities and updates regarding Hurricane Milton.

Agenda Item No. 30 - Governing Board Comments. None

Agenda Item No. 31 - Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 11:56 a.m.



Chair

ATTEST:





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

YouTube Link: <https://www.youtube.com/@SRWMD>
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Workshop began at 11:56 a.m.

Land Management Summary and 2025 Workplan Presentation

Mrs. Potter provided an update of Land Management storm related activities and salvage timber sales due to hurricanes.

Field Service Building Tour

Postponed at this time.

Workshop adjourned at 12:13 p.m.