



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

Open to Public

March 11, 2025
9:00 a.m.

UF/IFAS NFREC-Suwannee Valley (Farm)
8202 CR 417 Live Oak, FL

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Announcement of any Amendments to the Agenda by the Chair
Amendments Recommended by Staff: None
4. Public Comment
5. Consideration of the following Items Collectively by Consent:
 - Agenda Item No. 6 - February 11, 2025, Governing Board Meeting, Meeting Minutes
 - Agenda Item No. 10 - January 2025 Financial Report
 - Agenda Item No. 12 - Florida Department of Transportation Mitigation Plan
 - Agenda Item No. 13 - Water Well Permitting Interagency Agreement between Suwannee River Water Management District and St. Johns River Water Management District for Bradford County
6. February 11, 2025, Governing Board Meeting, Meeting Minutes - **Recommend Consent**
7. Items of General Interest for Information/Cooperating Agencies and Organizations
 - A. Hydrologic Conditions Report
 - B. Cooperating Agencies and Organizations

**GOVERNING BOARD LEGAL COUNSEL
Tom Reeves**

8. Update on Legal Activities

**BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
Tim Alexander, Assistant Executive Director**

Administration

9. Facilities Update

Finance

10. January 2025 Financial Report – **Recommend Consent**

Resource Management

- BCS Page 6 11. Permitting Summary Report
- BCS Page 9 12. Florida Department of Transportation Mitigation Plan – **Recommend Consent**
- BCS Page 22 13. Water Well Permitting Interagency Agreement between Suwannee River Water Management District and St. Johns River Water Management District for Bradford County – **Recommend Consent**

Environmental Projects

- BCS Page 29 14. Environmental and Agriculture Projects Monthly Report

OUTREACH AND OPERATIONS

Katelyn Potter, Division Director

Communications and Outreach

- OPS Page 1 15. Outreach and Communications Activity Summary
- OPS Page 3 16. Water Conservation Month Proclamation
- OPS Page 5 17. Springs Protection Proclamation

Land Acquisition

- OPS Page 7 18. Land Acquisition and Disposition Activity Report
- OPS Page 9 19. Resolution Number 2025-02, Conveyance of District-Owned Country Club Road Lots to Columbia County
- OPS Page 14 20. Resolution Number 2025-03, Acquisition of a Perpetual Conservation Easement over Property Owned by John and Melissa Taylor in Gilchrist County

Land Management

- OPS Page 24 21. Land Management Update Report

WATER RESOURCES

Amy Brown, Deputy Executive Director

22. Water Resources Division Updates

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Hugh Thomas, Executive Director

23. Announcements
24. Governing Board Comments

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

April 8, 2025 9:00 a.m. Board Meeting
Workshops and/or Committee Meetings

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

25. 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(S)

March 11, 2025
Following Board Meeting

UF/IFAS NFREC-Suwannee Valley (Farm)
8202 CR 417 Live Oak, FL

- IFAS Farm Tour

**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 herein and are filed in the permanent files of the District.

February 11, 2025
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 - Announcement of any Amendments to the Agenda by the Chair:

ADDITION:

Supplemental Item 1 – Legal Counsel - Common Interest Agreement for Joint Defense with Florida Department of Environmental Protection

DELETION:

Agenda Item No. 29 – Water Resources - Funding Agreement with the United States Geological Survey for Sturgeon Research

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

Agenda Item No. 4 – Public Comme. None

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

- Agenda Item No. 6 - January 14, 2025 Governing Board Meeting Minutes
- Agenda Item No. 10 - Agricultural Cost-Share Contract and Task Work Assignment with Beaver Lake, LLC, Suwannee and Madison Counties
- Agenda Item No. 11 - Agricultural Cost-Share Contract and Task Work Assignment with Alliance Grazing Group, LLP, Levy and Gilchrist Counties
- Agenda Item No. 12 - Agricultural Cost-Share Contract and Task Work Assignment with Beach Farms, Inc., Gilchrist County
- Agenda Item No.13 - Agricultural Cost-Share Contract and Task Work Assignment with Michael Wilkerson, Levy and Gilchrist Counties
- Agenda Item No. 15 - Agricultural Cost-Share Contract and Task Work Assignment with Sanchez Farms, LLC., Dixie, Levy, Gilchrist, Suwannee and Lafayette Counties
- Agenda Item No. 16 - December 2024 Financial Report
- Agenda Item No. 19 - Task Work Assignment with AtkinsRealis, Inc. for Federal Emergency Management Agency Fiscal Year 2024 Risk Mapping Assessment and Planning Program Services
- Agenda Item No. 24 - 2025 Florida Forever Work Plan

Mr. Lloyd announced a conflict of interest and abstained from voting on Agenda Item Number No. 5, Consideration of the Following Items Collectively by Consent, which includes Agenda Item No. 11 - Agricultural Cost-Share Contract and Task Work Assignment with Alliance Grazing Group, LLP, Levy and Gilchrist Counties. The conflict-of-interest form was completed and signed by Mr. Lloyd for this item. 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 THOMPSON, SECONDED BY SESSIONS TO APPROVE THE ITEM.
MOTION CARRIED WITH THE EXCEPTION ON MR. LLOYD.

Agenda Item No. 6 - January 14, 2025 Governing Board Meeting Minutes. Approved on Consent

Agenda Item No. 7 - 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

Supp Item 1 - *Common Interest Agreement for Joint Defense with Florida Department of Environmental Protection.* Tom Reeves, Board Legal Counsel, presented this item to the Board.

The Florida Springs Council has challenged the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (FDEP) proposed rules concerning Outstanding Florida Springs. This rule challenge is styled, *Florida Springs Council, v. Florida Department of Environmental Protection*, DOAH Case No. 25-000274RP. The final hearing is scheduled for March 18 through 20, 2025. FDEP may be interested in using some of the District's professionals as expert witnesses in the above rule challenge. If so, the parties will need to enter into a joint defense agreement for such purposes. Staff requests that the Governing Board delegate to the Executive Director the authority to execute any such joint defense agreements between the District and FDEP as well as any other cooperating water management districts or agencies, if any.

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

Agenda Item No. 8 – Legal Activities Update. None

BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Administration

Agenda Item No. 9 – Facilities Update. Ben Glass, Chief, Office of Administration, provided this update to the Board.

Agriculture Projects

Agenda Item No. 10 – Agricultural Cost-Share Contract and Task Work Assignment with Beaver Lake, LLC, Suwannee and Madison Counties. Approved on Consent.

Agenda Item No. 11 – Agricultural Cost-Share Contract and Task Work Assignment with Alliance Grazing Group, LLP, Levy and Gilchrist Counties. Approved on Consent.

Agenda Item No. 12 – Agricultural Cost-Share Contract and Task Work Assignment with Beach Farms, Inc., Gilchrist County. Approved on Consent.

Agenda Item No. 13 – Agricultural Cost-Share Contract and Task Work Assignment with Michael Wilkerson, Levy and Gilchrist Counties. Approved on Consent.

Agenda Item No. 14 – Agricultural Cost-Share Contract and Task Work Assignment with Shenandoah Dairy, Inc., Suwannee County. Mr. Glass presented this item to the Board.

Cody Darling, Shenandoah Dairy, provided comments to the Board.

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

Agenda Item No. 15 – Agricultural Cost-Share Contract and Task Work Assignment with Sanchez Farms, LLC., Dixie, Levy, Gilchrist, Suwannee and Lafayette Counties. Approved on Consent.

Finance

Agenda Item No. 16 – December 2024 Financial Report. Approved on Consent.

Resource Management

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

Environmental Projects

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

Agenda Item No. 19 – Task Work Assignment with AtkinsRealis, Inc. for Federal Emergency Management Agency Fiscal Year 2024 Risk Mapping Assessment and Planning Program Services. Approved on Consent.

Agenda Item No. 20 – Agreement with the Waccasassa Water and Wastewater Cooperative. Leroy Marshall, Director, Resource Management/Projects Division, presented this item to the Board.

Dennis Davis, Wright-Pierce Engineering, provided comments to the Board.

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

Agenda Item No. 21 – Amendment to Agreement with the Town of Brooker. Mr. Marshall presented this item to the Board.

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

Mr. Marshall discussed the Waccasassa Watershed Flood Risk Review overview with the Board.

OUTREACH AND OPERATIONS

Communications and Outreach

Agenda Item No. 22 – Outreach and Communications Activity Summary. This summary was provided as an informational item in the Board materials.

Agenda Item No. 23 – Consolidated Annual Report. Troy Roberts, Chief, Communications and Outreach Division, presented this report to the Board.

Agenda Item No. 24 – 2025 Florida Forever Work Plan. Approved on Consent.

Land Acquisition

Agenda Item No. 25 – Land Acquisition and Disposition Activity Report. This report was provided as an informational item in the Board materials.

Agenda Item No. 26 – Resolution 2025-01, Conveyance of District-Owned LA Bennett Road to Lafayette County. Katelyn Potter, Director, Outreach and Operations Division, presented this item to the Board,

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

Land Management

Agenda Item No. 27 – Land Management Update Report. This report was provided as an informational item in the Board materials.

WATER RESOURCES

Agenda Item No. 28 – Water Resources Division Updates. Amy Brown, Deputy Executive Director, provided updates to the Board.

Minimum Flows and Levels

~~Agenda Item No. 29 – Funding Agreement with the United States Geological Survey for Sturgeon Research.~~ **Deleted**

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Agenda Item No. 30 - Announcements. Mr. Thomas updated the Board on District activities and announced the off-site Board Meeting on March 11, 2025, at the North Florida Research Center/IFAS Farm in Live Oak.

Agenda Item No. 31 - Governing Board Comments. None

Agenda Item No. 32 - Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 10:43 a.m.

Chair

ATTEST:

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board
FROM: Pam Shaw, Chief, Office of Finance
THRU: Tim Alexander, Assistant Executive Director, Business and Community Services
DATE: February 28, 2025
RE: January 2025 Financial Report

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the January 2025 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
January 2025**

Financial Institution/Account	Monthly Interest	Closing Balance
First Federal Permit Fee	\$18.65	\$518.65
First Federal Accounts Payable	\$52.65	\$35,000.00
First Federal EFT Disbursements	\$0.00	\$0.00
First Federal Depository	\$831.11	\$586,305.80
Florida PRIME (SBA LGIA)	\$19,507.72	\$5,046,837.09
First Federal ICS Custodian Account	\$63,877.74	\$18,132,073.35
Special Purpose Investment Account (SPIA)*	\$56,063.50	\$19,184,549.07
TOTAL	<u>\$140,351.37</u>	<u>\$42,985,283.96</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 January 31, 2025
(Unaudited)**

	Current Budget	Actuals Through 1/31/2025	Variance (Under)/Over Budget	Actuals As A % of Budget
Sources				
Ad Valorem Property Taxes	\$ 7,094,781	\$ 5,523,558	\$ (1,571,223)	77.9%
Intergovernmental Revenues	\$ 59,799,239	\$ 2,570,613	\$ (57,228,626)	4.3%
Interest on Invested Funds	\$ 130,000	\$ 461,925	\$ 331,925	355.3%
License and Permit Fees	\$ 223,000	\$ 85,180	\$ (137,820)	38.2%
Other	\$ 1,410,288	\$ 1,071,001	\$ (339,287)	75.9%
Fund Balance ¹	\$ 11,309,970	\$ 66,023	\$ (11,243,947)	0.6%
Total Sources	\$ 79,967,278	\$ 9,778,300	\$ (70,188,978)	12.2%

	Current Budget	Expenditures	Encumbrances ²	Available Budget	%Expended	%Obligated ³
Uses						
Water Resources Planning and Monitoring	\$ 11,586,257	\$ 1,479,701	\$ 9,212,552	\$ 894,004	13%	92%
Acquisition, Restoration and Public Works	\$ 53,303,940	\$ 1,873,530	\$ 30,528,807	\$ 20,901,604	4%	61%
Operation and Maintenance of Lands and Works	\$ 10,391,632	\$ 1,368,214	\$ 3,792,413	\$ 5,231,006	13%	50%
Regulation	\$ 2,335,426	\$ 478,117	\$ 56,039	\$ 1,801,270	20%	23%
Outreach	\$ 211,283	\$ 70,786	\$ 1,602	\$ 138,895	34%	34%
Management and Administration	\$ 2,138,740	\$ 616,558	\$ 116,466	\$ 1,405,716	29%	34%
Total Uses	\$ 79,967,278	\$ 5,886,905	\$ 43,707,878	\$ 30,372,495	7%	62%

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, contracts, and task work assignments.

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

This financial statement is prepared as of January 31, 2025 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 1/31/2025**

	Y-T-D ACTUAL	ENCUMBRANCE	ANNUAL BUDGET
<u>Report Recap -</u>			
REVENUES			
DISTRICT REVENUES	7,141,664	0	8,858,069
LOCAL REVENUES	0	0	0
STATE REVENUES	2,437,585	0	52,326,239
FEDERAL REVENUES	133,028	0	7,473,000
FUND BALANCE UTILIZATION	66,023	0	11,309,970
TOTAL REVENUES	9,778,300	0	79,967,278
EXPENDITURES			
SALARIES AND BENEFITS	2,373,665	0	8,987,702
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	1,751,097	24,176,234	26,484,784
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	676,367	160,255	2,588,248
OPERATING CAPITAL OUTLAY	117,234	45	288,044
FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY	71,220	598,451	10,551,000
INTERAGENCY EXPENDITURES	897,322	18,772,893	31,067,500
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	5,886,905	43,707,878	79,967,278
EXCESS REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	3,891,395	(43,707,878)	0
<u>General Fund -</u>			
REVENUES			
DISTRICT REVENUES	5,994,377	0	6,528,787
LOCAL REVENUES	0	0	0
STATE REVENUES	1,174,431	0	4,632,000
FEDERAL REVENUES	0	0	0
FUND BALANCE UTILIZATION	20,033	0	2,862,739
TOTAL REVENUES	7,188,841	0	14,023,526
EXPENDITURES			
SALARIES AND BENEFITS	2,043,552	0	7,816,845
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	153,396	1,247,457	2,952,675
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	417,028	93,901	1,683,792
OPERATING CAPITAL OUTLAY	37,442	45	149,714
FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY	0	0	0
INTERAGENCY EXPENDITURES	220,865	753,157	1,420,500
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	2,872,283	2,094,560	14,023,526
EXCESS REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	4,316,558	(2,094,560)	0
<u>Land Management Operations -</u>			
REVENUES			
DISTRICT REVENUES	1,051,786	0	2,329,282
LOCAL REVENUES	0	0	0
STATE REVENUES	232,505	0	5,660,119
FEDERAL REVENUES	0	0	30,000
FUND BALANCE UTILIZATION	0	0	2,667,231
TOTAL REVENUES	1,284,291	0	10,686,632
EXPENDITURES			
SALARIES AND BENEFITS	329,921	0	1,165,305
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	628,790	2,687,562	4,031,489
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	259,339	66,354	855,508
OPERATING CAPITAL OUTLAY	79,792	0	113,330
FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY	71,220	598,451	3,551,000
INTERAGENCY EXPENDITURES	0	440,000	970,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	1,369,062	3,792,367	10,686,632
EXCESS REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	(84,771) *	(3,792,367)	0

**To be covered by State Appropriations and Ad Valorem*

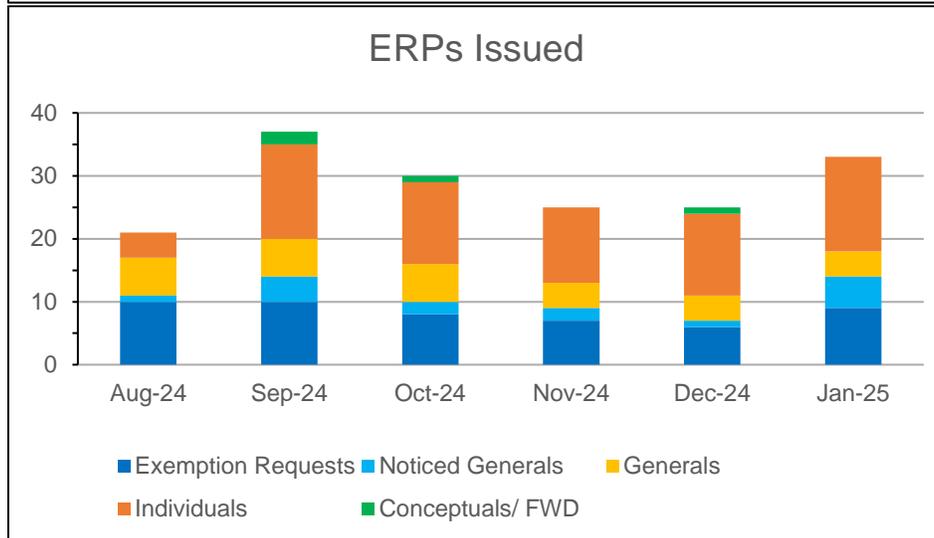
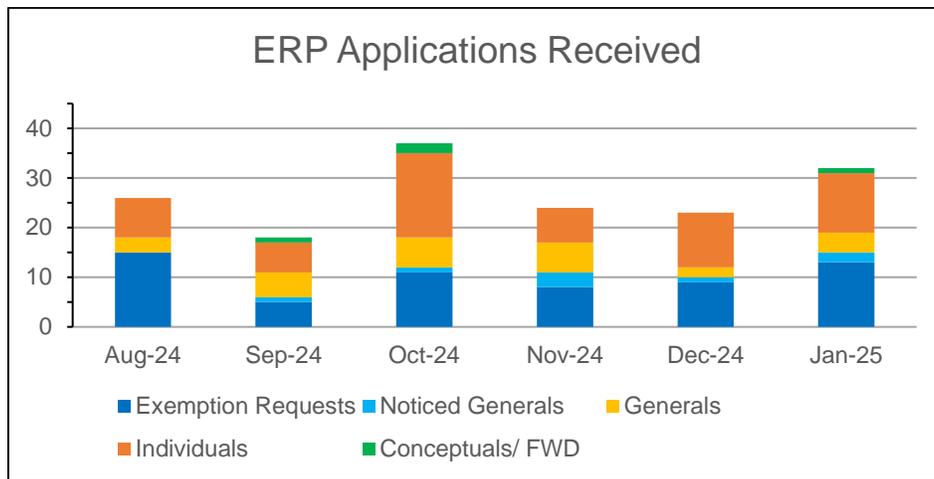
SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY - REVENUE AND EXPENSE ROLLUP (UNAUDITED)
FOR 1/31/2025

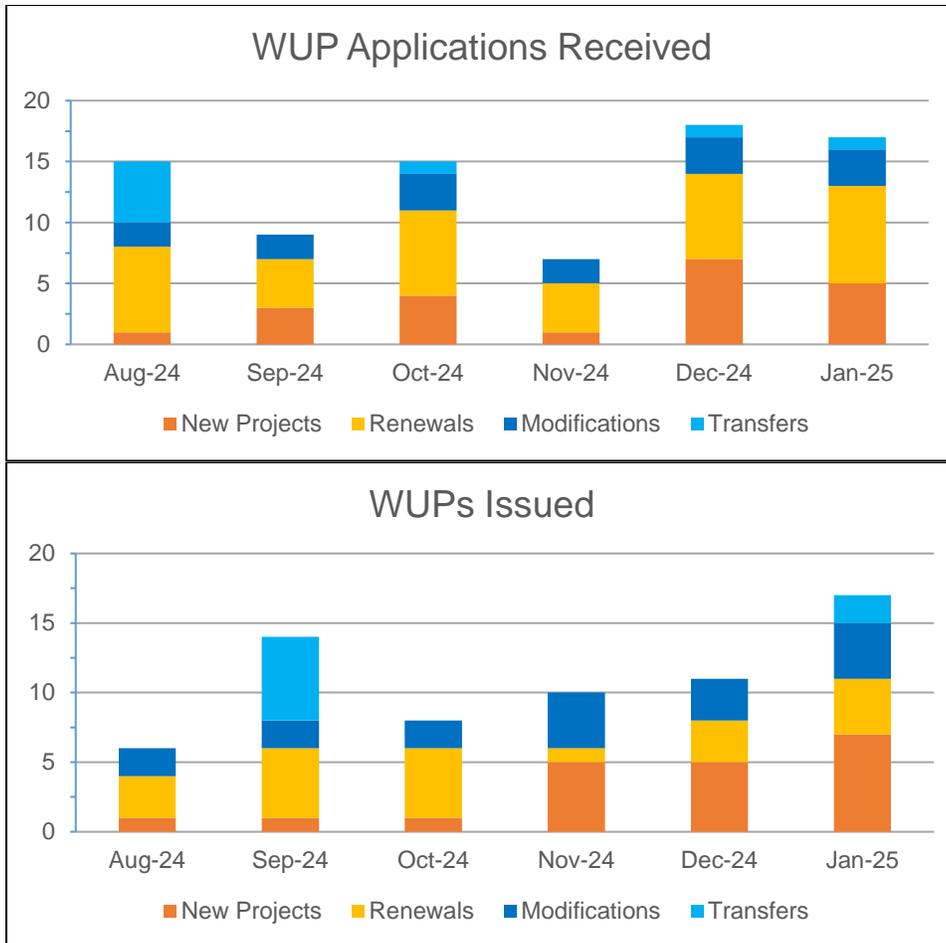
	Y-T-D ACTUAL	ENCUMBRANCE	ANNUAL BUDGET
<u>District Special Revenue -</u>			
REVENUES			
DISTRICT REVENUES	0	0	0
LOCAL REVENUES	0	0	0
STATE REVENUES	0	0	0
FEDERAL REVENUES	0	0	0
FUND BALANCE UTILIZATION	23,582	0	3,340,000
TOTAL REVENUES	23,582	0	3,340,000
EXPENDITURES			
SALARIES AND BENEFITS	0	0	0
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	14,819	760,167	1,150,000
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	0	0	30,000
OPERATING CAPITAL OUTLAY	0	0	25,000
FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY	0	0	0
INTERAGENCY EXPENDITURES	8,764	1,406,401	2,135,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	23,583	2,166,568	3,340,000
EXCESS REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	(1)	(2,166,568)	0
<u>State Special Revenue -</u>			
REVENUES			
DISTRICT REVENUES	95,501	0	0
LOCAL REVENUES	0	0	0
STATE REVENUES	1,030,648	0	42,034,120
FEDERAL REVENUES	0	0	0
FUND BALANCE UTILIZATION	22,408	0	2,440,000
TOTAL REVENUES	1,148,557	0	44,474,120
EXPENDITURES			
SALARIES AND BENEFITS	0	0	5,552
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	836,286	11,684,098	13,915,620
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	0	0	10,948
OPERATING CAPITAL OUTLAY	0	0	0
FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY	0	0	7,000,000
INTERAGENCY EXPENDITURES	652,474	13,039,774	23,542,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	1,488,760	24,723,872	44,474,120
EXCESS REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	(340,203) *	(24,723,872)	0
<i>*To be reimbursed by State Grants</i>			
<u>Federal Special Revenue -</u>			
REVENUES			
DISTRICT REVENUES	0	0	0
LOCAL REVENUES	0	0	0
STATE REVENUES	0	0	0
FEDERAL REVENUES	133,028	0	7,443,000
FUND BALANCE UTILIZATION	0	0	0
TOTAL REVENUES	133,028	0	7,443,000
EXPENDITURES			
SALARIES AND BENEFITS	193	0	0
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	117,808	7,796,950	4,435,000
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	0	0	8,000
OPERATING CAPITAL OUTLAY	0	0	0
FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY	0	0	0
INTERAGENCY EXPENDITURES	15,220	3,133,560	3,000,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	133,221	10,930,510	7,443,000
EXCESS REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	(193) *	(10,930,510)	0
<i>*To be reimbursed by Federal Grants</i>			

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

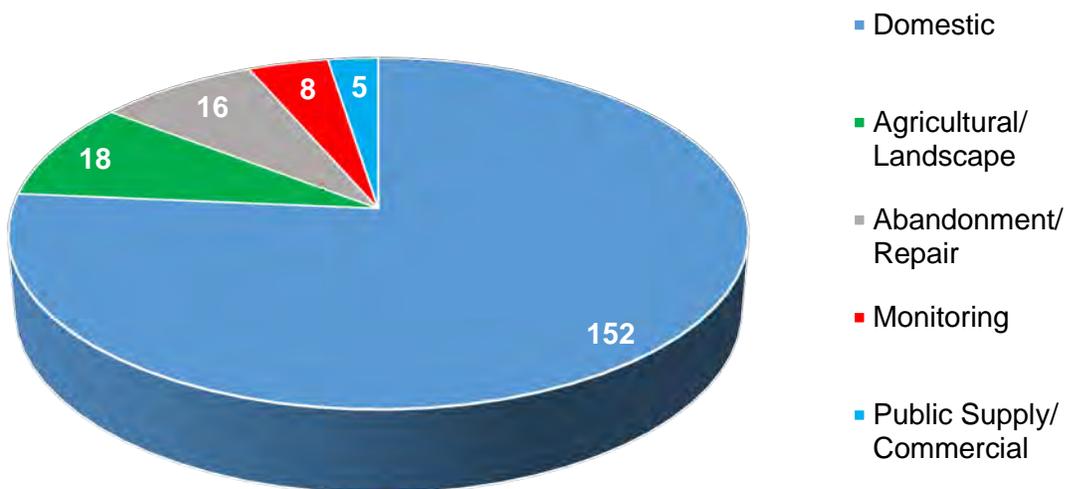
MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board
FROM: Leroy Marshall, Director, Resource Management/ Projects Division
THRU: Tim Alexander, Assistant Executive Director, Business and Community Services
DATE: March 3, 2025
RE: Permitting Summary Report





Water Well Permits Issued - January 2025



40B-0 Point of Entry into Proceedings

GB Authorized Rulemaking	TBD
Notice of Rule Development	
Public Workshop	
Notice of Proposed Rule	
Notice of Correction/ Change	
File with DOS	
Effective Date	

GB Authorized Rulemaking	
Notice of Rule Development	
Public Workshop	
Notice of Proposed Rule	
Notice of Correction/ Change	
File with DOS	
Effective Date	

GB Authorized Rulemaking	
Notice of Rule Development	
Public Workshop	
Notice of Proposed Rule	
Notice of Correction/ Change	
File with DOS	
Effective Date	

GB Authorized Rulemaking	
Notice of Rule Development	
Public Workshop	
Notice of Proposed Rule	
Notice of Correction/ Change	
File with DOS	
Effective Date	

ERP/ WUP Compliance Agreements:

None to report

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board
FROM: Leroy Marshall, Director, Resource Management/ Projects Division
THRU: Tim Alexander, Assistant Executive Director, Business and Community Services
DATE: March 3, 2025
RE: 2025-2029 Florida Department of Transportation Mitigation Plan

RECOMMENDATION

Accept the 2025-2029 Florida Department of Transportation Mitigation Plan.

BACKGROUND

Section 373.4137, Florida Statutes, identifies an environmental mitigation process for state transportation projects. The statute requires that mitigation for transportation projects be accomplished through regional, long-term planning instead of on a project-by-project basis. The statute also requires that Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) fund the mitigation and the District carry out the plans.

Each year, FDOT submits a work plan to the District that identifies environmental impacts from planned transportation projects. District staff develops a mitigation plan for each project that secures all state and federal permits for the impacts, and streamlines staff review of the permit application once submitted. All projects and their mitigation strategies are contained in the mitigation plan, which is updated each year for approval by the District's Governing Board. In this year's plan, FDOT changed the status of the County Road 18 Trail Segment in Bradford County and the Northwest Bascom Norris Drive Project in Columbia County to complete.

LM/tm
Attachment

Florida Department of Transportation Mitigation Plan 2026-2029



Suwannee River Water Management District



Executive Summary

In accordance with section 373.4137, Florida Statutes (F.S.), the Suwannee River Water Management District (District) must develop and implement regional, long-range mitigation planning for wetland impacts associated with Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) projects.

A total of 21 FDOT projects that include wetland mitigation have been initiated since 1996; 18 have been completed successfully and three new projects have been included for this planning period. One mitigation site for the Starke Bypass Project remains under adaptive management. The District has received a sum total of \$7,146,155.00 from FDOT to manage these wetland mitigation activities.

Background

Section 373.4137, F.S., states that environmental mitigation for the impact of transportation projects proposed by the FDOT can be more effectively achieved by regional, long-range mitigation planning rather than on a project-by-project basis. The statute sets forth specific language designed to provide funding to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and the Water Management Districts (WMDs) to develop a mitigation plan to offset environmental impacts from FDOT road projects that require an Environmental Resource Permit (ERP). By July 1st of each year, the FDOT must submit to the WMDs an environmental impact inventory containing a list of projects with proposed wetland impacts. The list is typically published at least three years prior to planned construction. Based on the yearly inventory, WMD staff develop a mitigation plan capable of securing all local, regional, state, and federal permits for the proposed impacts.

The statute requires each WMD, in consultation with the FDEP, the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and other appropriate federal, state, and local governments, to develop a mitigation plan for presentation to the WMD Governing Board prior to March 1st of each year. Once the mitigation plan is approved by the Governing Board it shall be submitted to FDEP for approval. Upon approval by FDEP, the WMDs can implement mitigation projects as outlined in the plan.

FDOT wetland impacts in the District have occurred or will occur in the following eight river basins: Alapaha, Aucilla, Coastal Rivers, Santa Fe, Suwannee River, Upper Suwannee River, Waccasassa, and Withlacoochee (Figure 1). This mitigation plan is designed to provide in-kind mitigation for impacted wetlands within the same basin the impacts occur. The plan consists of one or more mitigation alternatives for each FDOT site (Figure 2). In some cases, alternatives include more than one mitigation site that, when combined, yield an alternative that will offset the FDOT impacts and secure the appropriate permits.

Mitigation planning projects undertaken since February of 2004 have used the Uniform Mitigation Assessment Method (UMAM), in accordance with Chapter 62-345, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), to calculate the functional loss from the proposed FDOT activities and the functional gain for each mitigation proposal.

New Projects

Santa Fe River Basin

FDOT Project: Palatka to Lake Butler State Trail from SW County Road 18 (Hampton) to County Road 227

Mitigation Site 1: Edwards Bottomland (EBL)

The District issued ERP-007-249417-1 for the Palatka to Lake Butler rails-to-trails segment 3 in Bradford County, which lies in the Santa Fe River basin. The construction is anticipated to begin in July 2025 and be completed in August 2026. FDOT determined 1.54 acres of wetlands will be impacted by the project. State mitigation is required pursuant to 62-330.301 F.A.C. and 0.68 UMAM credits are being utilized from EBL to fully offset the functional loss incurred by the project.

FDOT Project: Palatka to Lake Butler State Trail from SW 102nd Avenue/County Road 225 to County Road 235

Mitigation Site 1: EBL

The District issued ERP-007-249431-1 for the Palatka to Lake Butler rails-to-trails segment 2 in Bradford County, which lies in the Santa Fe River basin. The construction is anticipated to begin in July 2025 and be completed in April 2027. FDOT determined 1.62 acres of wetlands will be directly impacted by the project. State mitigation is required pursuant to rules 62-330.301 F.A.C. and 0.76 UMAM credits are being utilized from EBL to fully offset the functional loss incurred by the project.

FDOT Project: Palatka to Lake Butler State Trail from County Road 235 to County Road 237

Mitigation Site 1: EBL

The District issued ERP-007-249181-1 for the Palatka to Lake Butler rails-to-trails segment 1A in Bradford County, which lies in the Santa Fe River basin. The construction is anticipated to begin in July 2025 and be completed in April 2027. FDOT determined 0.32 acres of wetlands will be directly impacted by the project. State mitigation is not required for this project pursuant to rules 62-330.443 F.A.C. and 62-330.447.

Ongoing Projects

None to report

Completed Projects

Aucilla River Basin

FDOT Project: US Highway 98 Aucilla River Bridge Replacement

Mitigation Site 3: San Pedro Bay Mitigation Bank Credit Purchase

The District issued ERP-123-212754-1 on October 24, 2011, for the replacement of US Highway 98 Bridge across Aucilla River. The bridge replacement impacted 5.7 acres of wetlands. Mitigation included purchase of mitigation credits from San Pedro Bay Mitigation Bank, and water quality improvements for District owned Cabbage Grove and Mt. Gilead tracts. Mitigation credits (0.87 units) were purchased in November 2010 by the District using a total of \$43,500.00 in funding received from the FDOT for this project. District staff met with USACE and FDOT representatives in 2016 to evaluate the success of the mitigation project. It was determined that an additional 0.42 mitigation credits would be required to complete the project. FDOT purchased these mitigation credits from the San Pedro Bay Mitigation Bank on October 27, 2017.

Withlacoochee River Basin

FDOT Project: State Road 53 Widening and Resurfacing (US90 to State Line)

Mitigation Site 4: West Farm Lake Stormwater Pond Project

The District issued ERP-079-204218-1 on June 9, 1998, for the widening of SR53 from US Highway 90 in the City of Madison to the Georgia State Line, impacting 1.6 acres of wetlands. Mitigation created wetland and lake habitat at the West Farm Lake Storm Water Facility in Madison County. Mitigation activities were completed in March 2001. The District received \$260,325.00 from FDOT for this project.

FDOT Project: State Road 14 Widening (I-10 to CSX Transportation Railroad)

Mitigation Site 5: Cabbage Grove Wetland Enhancement

The District issued ERP-079-209145-1 on March 11, 2003, for the widening of SR14 from Interstate 10 to the CSX Transportation Railroad in the City of Madison. The widening of SR14 impacted 0.89 acres of wetlands. Mitigation restored natural water flow in wetlands within District-owned property, Cabbage Grove Tract, in Taylor County. The District received \$75,594.00 from FDOT. The mitigation project was completed in 2006. The District conducted operation and maintenance improvements at this site in December 2011.

Upper Suwannee River Basin

FDOT Project: County Road 143 Widening (CR146 to I-75)

Mitigation Site 6: Woods Ferry Hydrologic Enhancements

The District issued ERP-047-209544-1 on December 13, 2005, for the widening of CR143 in Hamilton County from CR146 to Interstate 75, impacting 1.23 acres of wetlands. The District contracted with consultants to identify, evaluate, and construct mitigation activities within the District's Woods Ferry Tract in Suwannee County. Mitigation involved hydrologic enhancement of seven wetland sites by improving drainage features to restore natural water flow. Mitigation activities were completed in November 2006. The District received \$110,970.00 from FDOT for the mitigation. Evaluation of mitigation success was conducted by Jones, Edmunds and Associates in 2010 and shown to have met mitigation requirements.

Coastal Rivers Basin

FDOT Project: State Road 51 Widening Lafayette County

Mitigation Site 7: Steinhatchee River Basin Hydrological Improvements

The District issued ERP-067-223712-1 on March 13, 2001, for the widening of SR51 from the City of Mayo to the Taylor County line impacting 3.5 acres of wetlands in 2002. The mitigation project restored natural water flow for wetlands located on the District's Steinhatchee Springs tract. The District received \$279,174.00 from FDOT for this project.

FDOT Project: State Road 51 Widening Taylor and Dixie Counties

Mitigation Site 3: San Pedro Bay Mitigation Bank Credit Purchase

The District issued ERP-123-210590-1 on October 10, 2006, for the widening of SR51 from the Town of Steinhatchee to the Lafayette County line, impacting 1.27 acres of wetlands. Mitigation was achieved by purchase of mitigation credits from San Pedro Bay Mitigation Bank. The District received \$10,200.00 from FDOT for mitigation and purchased 0.6 mitigation credits from San Pedro Mitigation Bank in 2006.

Santa Fe River Basin

FDOT Project: US Highway 441 Santa Fe River Bridge Replacement

FDOT Project: State Road 121 Santa Fe River Bridge Replacement

Mitigation Site 8: Alligator Lake Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Program

The District issued ERP-001-206684-1 and ERP-125-205839-1 on June 13, 2000 and May 13, 1999, respectively, for the replacement of bridges crossing the Santa Fe River in Alachua and Union Counties. These projects impacted 2.3 acres of wetlands. The mitigation project restored natural

water flow between wetlands adjacent to Alligator Lake and Price Creek (both in Columbia County). Mitigation activities were completed in March 2001. The District received \$60,000.00 from FDOT for this project. District staff inspected the Alligator Lake and Price Creek surface water improvements project in January 2017.

FDOT Project: County Road 231 Widening (SR100 to Baker County Line)

Mitigation Site 9: Cellon Creek Floodplain Restoration at San Felasco Hammock State Preserve

The District issued ERP-125-209144-1 on March 11, 2003, for the widening of CR231 in Union County from SR100 to the Baker County line, impacting 1.96 acres of wetlands. The mitigation project restored natural water flow and exotic plant species were removed within wetlands in San Felasco Hammock State Preserve (Alachua County). Construction activities were completed in August 2004, and exotic plant removal was completed in June 2011. The District received a total of \$166,476.00 from FDOT for wetland mitigation and a final report from FDEP in January 2011.

FDOT Project: County Road 229 New River Bridge Replacement

Mitigation Site 10: Lake Rowell Tract Restoration and Enhancement

The District issued ERP-125-210531-1 on April 12, 2005, for the replacement of the CR229 bridge over New River at the Union/Bradford County's line, impacting 2.44 acres of wetlands. The mitigation project, located at the District-owned Lake Rowell tract, restored natural water connections between Alligator Creek and Lake Rowell (both in Bradford County). The District received \$180,214.00 from FDOT for this project. Mitigation activities were completed in 2006, evaluated in 2013, and deemed to be a success.

FDOT Project: Starke Bypass Project (SR223)

Mitigation Site 2: Starke Bypass Mitigation Area (SBMA)

The District issued ERP-007-213985-1 on October 22, 2017, for the construction of a new roadway corridor, SR223, that routes traffic around the City of Starke in Bradford County. The project impacted 58.06 acres of wetlands with a total UMAM functional loss of 46.47. Construction of SR223 was completed on September 12, 2019. Starke Bypass Mitigation Area, permitted under SRWMD ERP-007-223088-1 on November 6, 2015, and USACE permit SAJ-2013-00113 (SP-AWP) on March 4, 2016, to create sufficient mitigation credit, was deemed partially successful in 2022. To date, physical site alteration for target hydrology is complete, but no target wetland community has been fully achieved and additional planting (adaptive management) will be necessary. Maintenance of invasive and nuisance species resumed in 2022 and will continue annually through 2027. Supplemental tree planting was completed by District contractor in fall/winter of 2024. District contractor will continue to conduct site maintenance work until the 2027 in accordance with the Adaptive Management Plan approved by USACE in late 2023.

FDOT Project: County Road 231 New River Bridge Replacement

Mitigation Site 1: EBL

The District issued ERP-007-228291-2 on April 2, 2019, for the construction of a new bridge over the New River on CR231 in Bradford and Union counties, which lies in the Santa Fe River basin. The construction began March 3, 2020, and was completed on December 14, 2021. FDOT determined 1.27 acres of wetlands will be impacted by the project, and FDOT will acquire 0.61 palustrine wetlands credits from the EBL mitigation area. The EBL mitigation area project consists of 43.6 acres of wetland/hydrologic restoration, enhancement, and creation implemented in three phases, plus ongoing invasive species removal and control. Baseline monitoring of the mitigation area commenced in 2021 and, upon successful completion of monitoring, a total UMAM functional gain of 7.56 credits will have been created. USACE authorized partial release of 5.49 functional gain

credits, and 1.73 credits are currently reserved or used for the ongoing and completed projects listed below. FDOT has contributed \$1,085,299.00 to EBL.

FDOT Project: County Road 200A Alligator Creek Bridge Replacement

Mitigation Site 1: EBL

The District issued ERP-007-212720-3 on March 27, 2019, for bridge replacement over Alligator Creek in Bradford County, which lies in the Santa Fe River basin. The construction began November 3, 2020, and was completed on April 6, 2021. FDOT determined 0.47 acres of wetlands will be impacted by the project, and FDOT acquired 0.22 palustrine wetlands credits from the EBL mitigation area.

FDOT Project: County Road 18 Hampton Trail and Trailhead

Mitigation Site 1: EBL

The District issued Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) application ERP-007-240538-1 for CR18 rails-to-trails segment three in Bradford County, which lies in the Santa Fe River basin. The construction was completed November 9, 2022, and FDOT acquired 0.05 credits from the EBL mitigation area.

FDOT Project: County Road 18 Trail (SE 36th Avenue to CR325)

Mitigation Site 1: EBL

The District issued ERP-007-239071-1 on April 23, 2021, for CR18 rails-to-trails segment four in Bradford County, which lies in the Santa Fe River basin. The construction was completed May 5, 2022. FDOT determined 0.865 acres of wetlands will be impacted by the project, and FDOT acquired 0.2 herbaceous freshwater wetland credits from the EBL mitigation area.

FDOT Project: County Road 18 Trail (SR100 to SE 36th Avenue)

Mitigation Site 1: EBL

The District issued Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) application ERP-007-240605-1 for CR18 rails-to-trails segment five in Bradford County, which lies in the Santa Fe River basin. The construction was completed in December 2023. FDOT determined 0.355 acres of wetlands were impacted by the project, but mitigation was not required pursuant to rules 62-330.443 and 62-330.447, F.A.C.

FDOT Project: Northwest Bascom Norris Drive

Mitigation Site 1: EBL

The District issued ERP-023-204915-12 on May 10, 2021, for the construction of a roundabout at the intersection of Bascom Norris Road and US Highway 41 in Columbia County, which lies in the Santa Fe River basin. Construction commenced on August 21, 2021, and was completed on January 23, 2023. FDOT determined 0.925 acres of wetlands (FLUCCS 630) were impacted by the project, and FDOT acquired 0.37 herbaceous freshwater credits from the EBL mitigation area.

Waccasassa River Basin

FDOT Project: State Road 500 Widening (Chiefland to Bronson)

Mitigation Projects:

- Cedar Key Storm Water Quality Restoration Project
- Cow Creek Road Restoration in Goethe State Forest
- Wetland Preservation in Levy County

The District issued ERP-075-206226-1 on May 9, 2002, for the widening of SR500 from Chiefland to Bronson. The project impacted 23.0 acres of wetlands. Mitigation involved improvements to the

Cedar Key stormwater system to prevent discharge of sediments, nutrients, bacteria, and heavy metals into the Gulf of Mexico. In addition, natural water flow into wetlands was restored within the Goethe State Park, and approximately 1,000 acres of wetlands in Levy County were preserved by conservation easements to the District. Mitigation activities were completed in May 2007. The District received \$1,713,490.00 from FDOT for this project. The Cedar Key Water Quality Restoration Project was evaluated by District staff in 2019 and the Cow Creek Road Restoration project was evaluated November 2017, and both were determined to be successful. In 2003 the District acquired and recorded conservation easements for the Meeks and Mann parcels (1,000 acres) in Levy County.

FDOT Project: State Road 24 Widening (Otter Creek to Rosewood)

Mitigation Site 14: Devil's Hammock Hydrological Enhancement and Preservation

The District issued ERP-075-210019-1 on March 8, 2005, for the widening of SR 24 in Levy County, impacting 9.95 acres of wetlands. The District contracted with consultants to identify, evaluate, and construct the mitigation project that restored natural water flow for wetlands located on the District-owned Devil's Hammock property. Mitigation activities were completed in January 2007. The District received \$180,913.00 from FDOT for this project. Evaluation of mitigation success was conducted by Jones, Edmunds and Associates in 2010 and shown to have met mitigation requirements.

Figure 1. FDOT Construction Projects

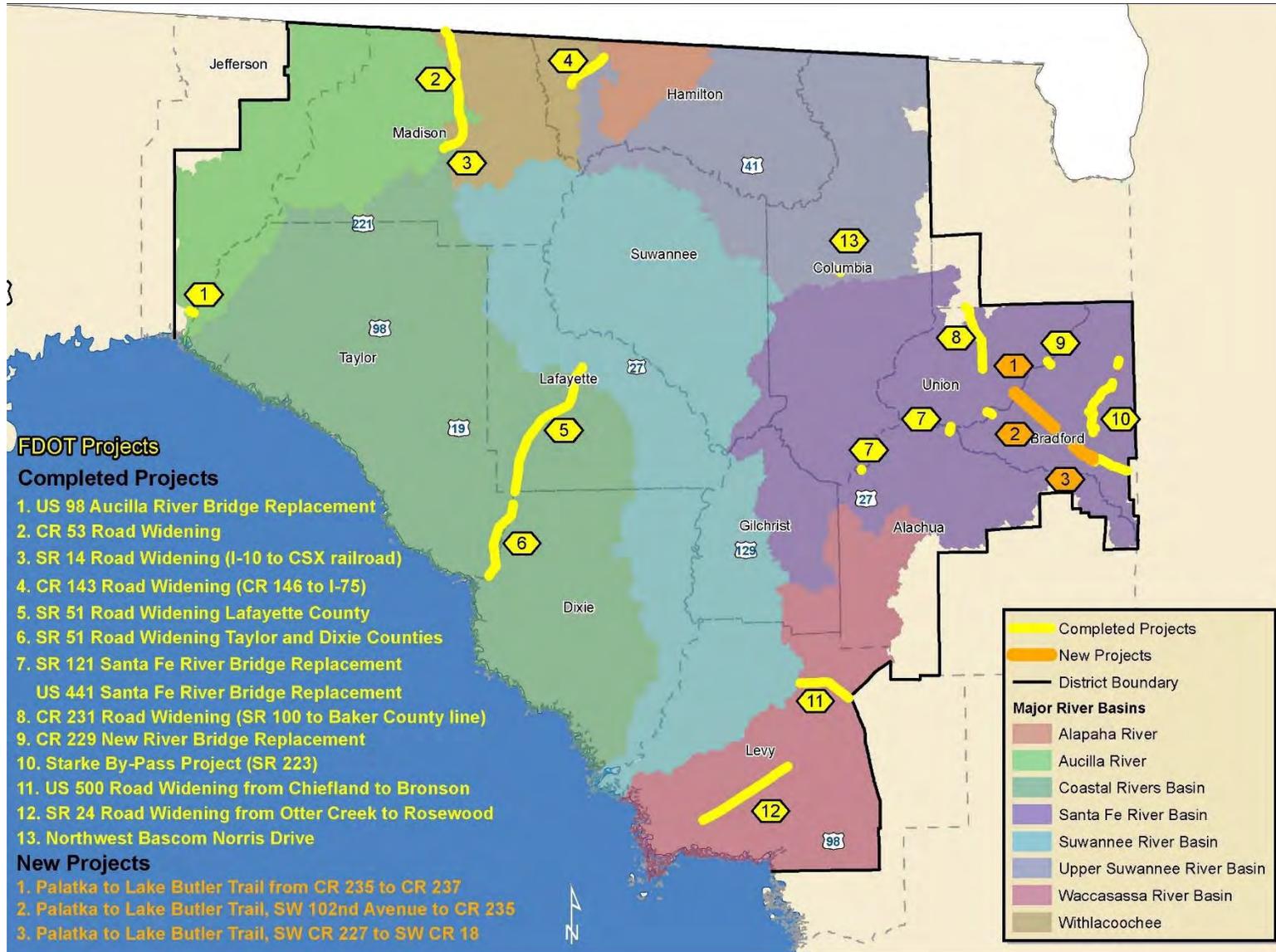


Figure 2. Wetland Mitigation Sites

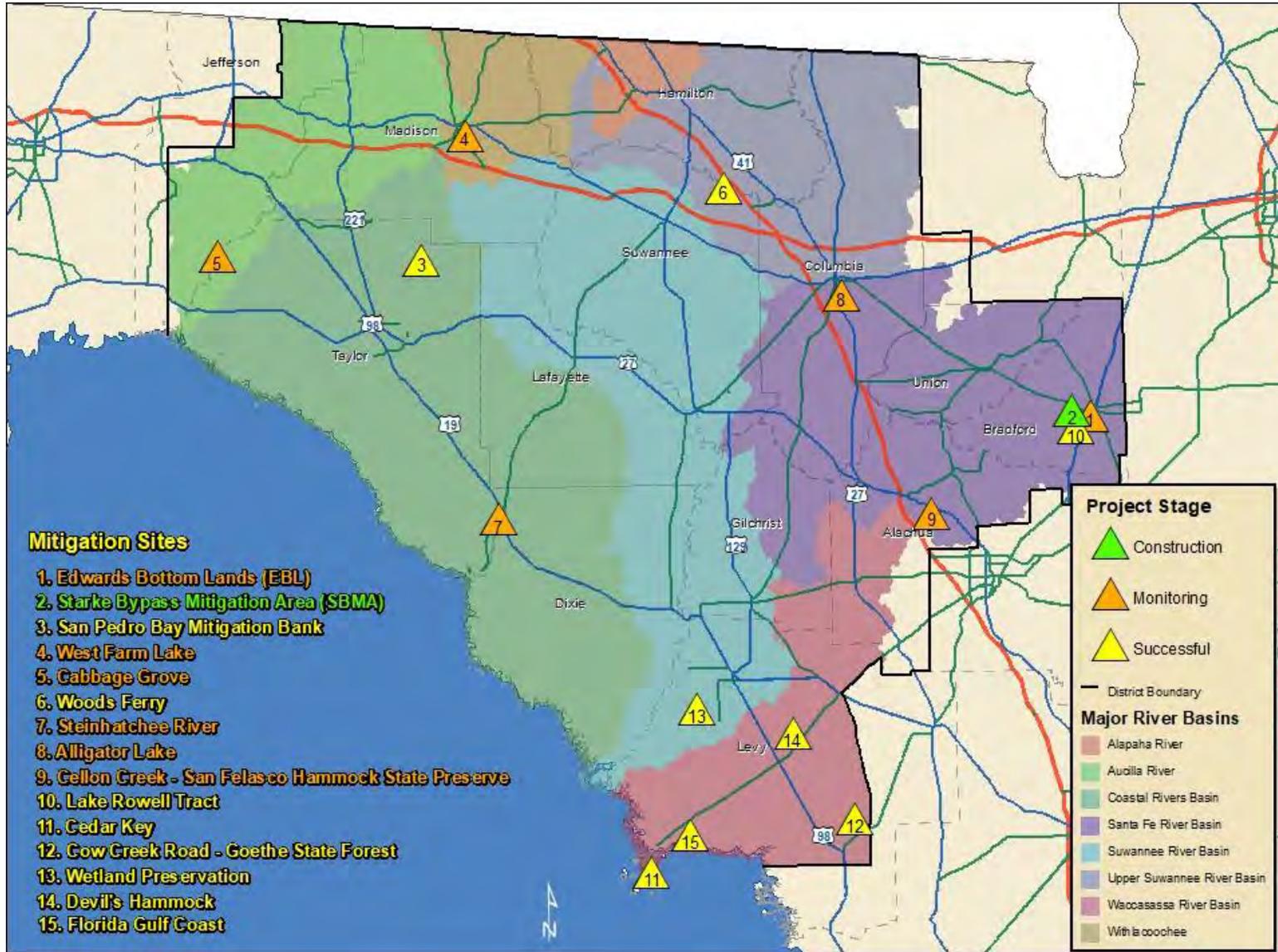


Table 1. FDOT Construction Projects and Associated Mitigation Sites

FDOT Project Status	River Basin	Project No.	FDOT Project	FDOT Work Number	ERP Number	Impact Acres	Mitigation Site	Revenue from FDOT	Total Fund Expended
New	Currently, there are no projects for the Alapaha or Suwannee River basins								
	Santa Fe	1.	Palatka to Lake Butler State Trail from SW County Road 18 (Hampton) to County Road 227	211522-1	249417-1	1.54	Edwards Bottomland (EBL)	\$1,085,299.00	\$1,036,065.00
		2.	Palatka to Lake Butler State Trail from SW 102 nd Avenue/County Road 225 to County Road 235	434277-1	249431-1	1.62	Edwards Bottomland (EBL)	\$1,085,299.00	\$1,036,065.00
		3.	Palatka to Lake Butler State Trail from County Road 235 to County Road 237	434276-1	249181-1	0.32	Edwards Bottomland (EBL)	\$1,085,299.00	\$1,036,065.00

FDOT Project Status	River Basin	Project No.	FDOT Project	FDOT Work Number	ERP Number	Impact Acres	Mitigation Site	Revenue from FDOT	Total Fund Expended
COMPLETED	Currently, there are no projects for the Alapaha or Suwannee River basins								
	Aucilla	1.	US Highway 98 Aucilla River Bridge Replacement	2108732	212754-1	5.70	San Pedro Bay Mitigation Bank Credit Purchase	\$43,500.00	\$43,500.00
	Withlacoochee	2.	State Road 53 Widening and Resurfacing (US90 to State Line)	2117565	204218-1	1.60	West Farm Lake Stormwater Pond Project	\$260,325.00	\$260,325.00
		3.	State Road 14 Widening (I-10 to CSX railroad)	2105281	209145-1	0.89	Cabbage Grove Wetland Enhancement	\$75,594.00	\$46,459.00
	Upper Suwannee River	4.	County Road 143 Widening (CR146 to I-75)	2122181	209544-1	1.23	Woods Ferry Hydrologic Enhancements	\$110,970.00	\$53,848.00
	Coastal Rivers (Steinhatchee)	5.	State Road 51 Widening Lafayette County	2100751 2100851	223712-1	3.50	Steinhatchee River Hydrological Improvements	\$279,174.00	\$279,174.00
		6.	State Road 51 Widening Taylor and Dixie Counties	2108502 2084662	210590-1	1.27	San Pedro Bay Mitigation Bank Credit Purchase	\$10,200.00	\$10,200.00
	Santa Fe	7.	US Highway 441 Santa Fe River Bridge and State Road 121 Santa Fe River Bridge Replacements	2110486	206684-1	1.00	Alligator Lake Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Program	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00
					205839-1	1.30			
8.	County Road 231 Widening (SR100 to Baker County line)	2128801	209144-1	1.96	Cellon Creek Floodplain Restoration at San Felasco Hammock State Preserve	\$166,476.00	\$72,180.00		

Santa Fe	9.	County Road 229 New River Bridge Replacement	2128761	210531-1	2.44	Lake Rowell Tract Restoration and Enhancement	\$180,214.00	\$180,214.00	
	10.	Starke Bypass Project (SR223)	2080014 2080015 2080016	213985-1	58.06	Starke Bypass Mitigation Area (SBMA)	\$2,980,000.00	\$2,931,843.00	
	11.	County Road 231 New River Bridge Replacement	433957	228291-2	1.27	Edwards Bottomland (EBL)	\$1,085,299.00	\$1,036,065.00	
	12.	County Road 200A Alligator Creek Bridge Replacement	435780	212720-3	0.47				
	13.	County Road 18 Hampton Trail and Trailhead	433171-3	240538-1	0.073				
	14.	County Road 18 Trail (SE 36th Avenue to CR325)	433171-4	239071-1	0.87				
	15.	County Road 18 Trail (SR100 to SE 36th Avenue)	433171-5	240605-1	0.355				
	16.	Northwest Bascom Norris Drive	446295	204915-12	0.37				
	Waccasassa	17.	State Road 500 Widening (Chiefland to Bronson)	2117089	206226-1 204584-1 224156-1	23.00	Cedar Key Storm Water Quality Restoration Project	\$1,713,490.00	\$1,713,490.00
							Cow Creek Road Restoration in Goethe State Forest		
Wetland Preservation in Levy County									
18.	State Road 24 Widening (Otter Creek to Rosewood)	210384	210019-1	9.95	Devil's Hammock Hydrological Enhancement and Preservation	\$180,913.00	\$190,694.00		

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Leroy Marshall, Director, Resource Management/Projects Division

THRU: Tim Alexander, Assistant Executive Director, Business and Community Services

DATE: March 3, 2025

RE: Water Well Permitting Interagency Agreement between Suwannee River Water Management District and St. Johns River Water Management District for Bradford County

RECOMMENDATION

Approve an interagency agreement between Suwannee River Water Management District and St. Johns River Water Management District to promote water well permitting consistency throughout Bradford County.

BACKGROUND

The District permits all water well construction, repair, and abandonment within its jurisdictional boundaries, which includes all except six square miles of Bradford County. In this small portion of Bradford County, St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) only permits the construction of wells six inches or greater in diameter and wells used for public supply, which often causes confusion for water well contractors drilling in the area.

In order to promote water well permitting consistency in Bradford County, the Interagency Agreement (agreement) extending the District's water well permitting responsibilities into the portion of Bradford County under SJRWMD's jurisdiction is attached. This agreement only delegates SJRWMD's Part III of Chapter 373, Florida Statutes (F.S.) water well permitting responsibilities to the District and no other permitting responsibilities contained in Chapter 373, F.S. will be delegated.

This agreement has received support from local well drilling companies operating in the area (Bronco Well Drilling and Durrance Well Drilling) as well as the North Central Florida Water Well Association. Additionally, the agreement has received the concurrence of the Bradford County Board of County Commissioners (also attached), as set forth in Section 373.046(6), F.S.

WZ/tm
Attachments



Bradford County Board of County Commissioners

District I
Carolyn Spooner

District II
Kenny Thompson
Vice Chair

District III
Chris Dougherty

District IV
Danny Riddick
Chair

District V
Diane Andrews

February 4, 2025

St Johns Water Management District
P.O. Box 1429
Palatka, FL 32178-1429

Suwannee River Water Management District
9225 CR49
Live Oak, FL 32060

RE: Concurrence of Delegation of SJRWMD Water Well Construction Permitting to SRWMD in Bradford County.

The Bradford County Board of County Commissioners supports the proposed Interagency agreement between the Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) and the St Job River Water Management District (SJRWMD). This partnership will extend the SRWMD water well permitting responsibilities to the area of Bradford County described in the agreement under SJRWMD's well permitting jurisdiction.

We are in concurrence that this agreement between agencies will be in the best interest of the residents of Bradford County and will increase efficiency.

Danny Riddick
Chairman

INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
ST. JOHNS RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
AND
SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

THIS INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT (the “AGREEMENT”) is made and entered into as of its EFFECTIVE DATE (as defined below) by and between the ST. JOHNS RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT, a Florida water management district created and operating under Chapter 373, Florida Statutes, (the “ST. JOHNS DISTRICT”), and the SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT, a Florida water management district created and operating under Chapter 373, Florida Statutes, (the “SUWANNEE DISTRICT”).

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the ST. JOHNS DISTRICT is a Florida water management district created and operating under Chapter 373, Florida Statutes with boundaries as shown in Section 373.069(2)(c), Florida Statutes; and,

WHEREAS, the SUWANNEE DISTRICT is a Florida water management district created and operating under Chapter 373, Florida Statutes with boundaries as shown in Section 373.069(2)(b), Florida Statutes; and,

WHEREAS, BRADFORD COUNTY, a political subdivision of the State of Florida (the “COUNTY”) is a Florida local government with the geographic area as shown in Section 7.04, Florida Statutes; and,

WHEREAS, the geographic area of the COUNTY crosses the boundaries of the ST. JOHNS DISTRICT and the SUWANNEE DISTRICT such that the geographic area of the COUNTY is divided between the ST. JOHNS DISTRICT and the SUWANNEE DISTRICT; and,

WHEREAS, most of the geographic area of the COUNTY lies within the boundaries of the SUWANNEE DISTRICT; and,

WHEREAS, Florida law provides:

When the geographic area of a . . . local government crosses water management district boundaries, the affected districts may designate a single affected district by interagency agreement to implement in that area, under the rules of the designated district, all or part of the applicable regulatory responsibilities under this chapter. Interagency agreements entered into under this subsection which apply to the geographic area of a local government must have the concurrence of the affected local government.

Section 373.046(6), Florida Statutes; and,

WHEREAS, both the ST. JOHNS DISTRICT and the SUWANNEE DISTRICT believe that it will be more efficient and in the best interest of the residents of the COUNTY to have the SUWANNEE DISTRICT implement part of the regulatory responsibilities assigned to water management districts under Chapter 373, Florida Statutes in the entire geographic area of the COUNTY, under the SUWANNEE DISTRICT's rules; and,

WHEREAS, both the ST. JOHNS DISTRICT and the SUWANNEE DISTRICT wish to enter into an interagency agreement as provided in Section 373.046(6), Florida Statutes, for the purposes set out above and wish to formalize such agreement by committing such agreement to writing and thereby create a legally enforceable interagency agreement; and,

WHEREAS, the COUNTY concurs with the ST. JOHNS DISTRICT and the SUWANNEE DISTRICT entering into an interagency agreement as set out above.

NOW, THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the mutual covenants, promises and agreements herein contained, and other good and valuable consideration the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, the ST. JOHNS DISTRICT and the SUWANNEE DISTRICT hereby agree as follows:

1. RECITALS. The foregoing recitals are true and correct and incorporated herein by this reference.
2. AFFECTED AREA. For the purposes of this AGREEMENT, the term "AFFECTED AREA" shall mean that portion of the geographic area of the COUNTY that lies within the boundaries of the ST. JOHNS DISTRICT.
3. APPLICABLE REGULATORY RESPONSIBILITIES. For the purposes of this AGREEMENT, the term "APPLICABLE REGULATORY RESPONSIBILITIES" shall mean those regulatory responsibilities which are to be implemented by water management districts and which are contained in part III of Chapter 373, Florida Statutes, "Regulation of Wells," but shall not include those regulatory responsibilities which are contained in any other part of Chapter 373, Florida Statutes.
4. DESIGNATION OF THE SUWANNEE DISTRICT. The ST. JOHNS DISTRICT and the SUWANNEE DISTRICT hereby designate the SUWANNEE DISTRICT to implement the APPLICABLE REGULATORY RESPONSIBILITIES in the AFFECTED AREA under the rules of the SUWANNEE DISTRICT.
5. TERM OF THIS AGREEMENT. The "EFFECTIVE DATE" of this AGREEMENT shall be the first date that all of the following have occurred (1) approval and execution of this AGREEMENT by the ST. JOHNS DISTRICT, (2) approval and execution of this AGREEMENT by the SUWANNEE DISTRICT, (3) both the ST. JOHNS DISTRICT

APPROVED upon motion, second and majority vote of the governing board of the ST. JOHNS DISTRICT and EXECUTED on this ____ day of _____, 2024.

GOVERNING BOARD OF THE ST. JOHNS RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

By: _____

Its chair

ATTEST: _____

Secretary/Treasurer

Approved as to Form:

General Counsel

APPROVED upon motion, second and majority vote of the governing board of the SUWANNEE DISTRICT and EXECUTED on this ____ day of _____, 2024.

GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

By: _____
Virginia H. Johns
Its chair

ATTEST: _____
Charles Keith
Secretary/Treasurer

Approved as to Form:

George T. Reeves
General Counsel

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board
FROM: Leroy Marshall, Director, Resource Management/Projects Division
THRU: Tim Alexander, Assistant Executive Director, Business and Community Services
DATE: January 31, 2025
RE: Agriculture and Environmental Projects Monthly Report

Attached for your information is the Agriculture and Environmental Projects Monthly Report.

LMII/tm
Attachment

Office of Agriculture and Environmental Projects Monthly Report

Period ending January 31, 2025

ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS PROGRAM		
	Number of Contracts	Amount under contract
Active Contracts	23	\$ 18,764,592
Completed within the last 6 months	77	\$ 7,160,106
Totals	100	\$ 25,924,698

AGRICULTURAL COST-SHARE PROGRAM		
	Number of Contracts	Amount under contract
Active Contracts	129	\$ 9,918,913
Completed within the last 6 months	16	\$ 560,435
Totals	145	\$ 10,479,348

FLOOD RISK OUTREACH AND MAPPING PROGRAM		
	Number of Contracts	Amount under contract
Number of Contracts (TWAs)	21	\$ 11,113,822
Completed within the last 6 months	0	\$ -
Totals	21	\$ 11,113,822
TOTAL CONTRACTS / TWAs	266	\$ 47,517,868

AEP APPLICATIONS	
	Number of Projects
Agriculture Applications under review	55
AWS and Springs	12
Conceptual Projects under review	14
Projects in Queue	3
TOTAL	84

AEP FUNDING SOURCES		
	Number of Grants	Grant amount provided
District	3	\$ 10,461,592
FDEP	36	\$ 58,683,926
Federal through FDEP	5	\$ 14,600,000
Federal (CTP Program)	7	\$ 11,359,417
Cooperator Match	-	\$ 12,666,986
TOTAL	51	\$ 107,771,921

FDEP	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
CTP	Cooperating Technical Partner (FEMA)
AEP	Agriculture and Environmental Projects
TWA	Task Work Order
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board
FROM: Troy Roberts, Office Chief, Communications and Outreach
THRU: Katelyn Potter, Director, Outreach and Operations
DATE: February 10, 2025
RE: Outreach and Communications Activity Summary

The following information summarizes Outreach and Communications activities for the month of January 2025:

Facebook	Twitter	Instagram
Total Posts: 16 Total Views: 57,826 Content Interactions: 668	Total Posts: 24 Total Impressions: 1,520	Total Posts: 10 Total Views: 6,381 Total Engagement: 224

Press Releases
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• January 7 – Governing Board Meeting• January 16 – Hydrologic Conditions Report• January 17 – 2025 District Calendar• January 23 – Coastal Rivers SWIM Plan• January 27 – Prescribed Fire Awareness Week

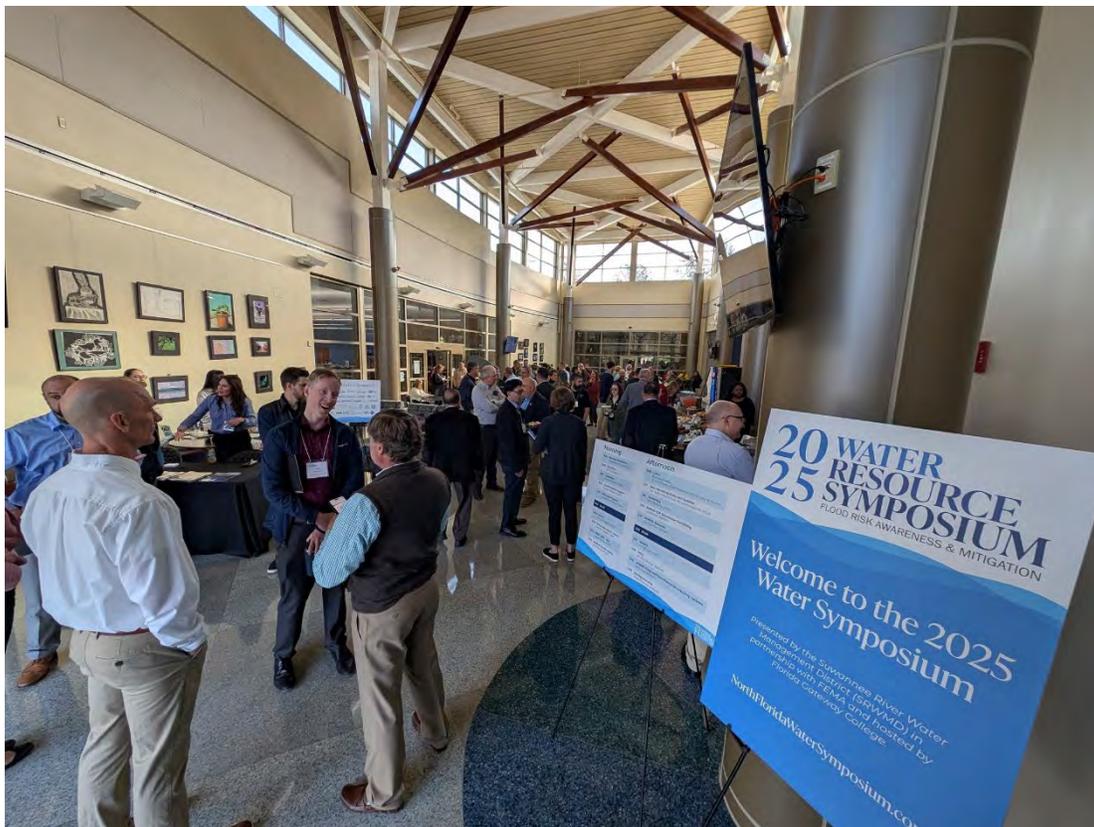
Media Inquiries / Responses
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• January 28 – Troy Roberts conducted an interview with the Lake City Reporter regarding the 2025 North Florida Water Resource Symposium.

Meetings with Vendors / Consultants / Public
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• January 7 – Troy Roberts and staff met with FFMA (Florida Floodplain Managers Association) to discuss the upcoming Water Resource Symposium.• January 7 – Troy Roberts and staff met with BowStern to discuss the upcoming Water Resource Symposium.• January 9 – Troy Roberts met with Strategic Digital Services for a kickoff meeting for upcoming feature story work on District activities.• January 10 – Troy Roberts visited Florida Gateway College for a site visit ahead of the Water Resource Symposium.

- January 14 – Troy Roberts met with TREW Media for a kickoff meeting for work related to a District Lands photography TWA.
- January 14 – Troy Roberts met with Dr. Larry Barrett of Florida Gateway College to discuss the upcoming Water Resource Symposium.
- January 14 – Troy Roberts and staff met with BowStern to discuss the upcoming Water Resource Symposium.
- January 15 – Troy Roberts met with Skye Creative to discuss upcoming Leave No Litter and Permit to Protect projects.
- January 16 – Troy Roberts and Lorna Radcliff met with The Moore Agency to discuss work related to a District Lands signage TWA.
- January 21 – Troy Roberts and staff met with BowStern to discuss the upcoming Water Resource Symposium.
- January 28 – Troy Roberts and staff assisted in the North Florida Water Resource Symposium at Florida Gateway College.
- January 29 – Troy Roberts took part in Literacy Week at Suwannee Pineview Elementary School.
- January 31 – Troy Roberts met with Skye Creative to review preliminary designs for the Permit to Protect refresh.

January Photo Highlight:

The District sponsored the 2025 North Florida Water Resource Symposium on January 28 at Florida Gateway College.



SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board
FROM: Troy Roberts, Chief, Communications and Outreach
THRU: Katelyn Potter, Director, Division of Outreach and Operations
DATE: February 7, 2025
RE: Water Conservation Month Proclamation

RECOMMENDATION

Proclaim April 2025 as Water Conservation Month.

BACKGROUND

Declaring April as Water Conservation Month will mark the 27th year of this important recognition. Many local governments, water management districts, and other entities have demonstrated their support by adopting resolutions or proclamations designating Water Conservation Month in their communities.

The District's strategic focus on community partnerships and water resource project implementation, dedication to improved efficiencies and conservation, and sustainable management of District water resources illustrates its commitment to water conservation and its vitality to the Suwannee River region.

As part of the effort, the District encourages local communities to issue a commitment to water conservation and offers outreach tools for communities to share with their constituents.

This designation provides an opportunity to increase public awareness about the importance of water conservation and of following the District's year-round landscape irrigation conservation measures. It also encourages citizens to develop life-long conservation habits that will help preserve and protect our state and local water resources now and into the future.

Therefore, staff recommends the Governing Board proclaim April 2025 as Water Conservation Month.

TER/ao
Attachment

Proclamation

Suwannee River Water Management District
Live Oak, Florida

WHEREAS, clean, safe and sustainable water resources are vital to Suwannee River Water Management District's (District) residents, visitors, economy and environment; and

WHEREAS, droughts, development and population growth serve as reminders that Florida's ground and surface water resources such as rivers, lakes and springs are finite and fragile; and

WHEREAS, permanent, year-round water conservation measures are in effect throughout the District; and

WHEREAS, water conservation is a District strategic priority; and

WHEREAS, the District encourages and supports water conservation through public awareness efforts; and

WHEREAS, water conservation will continue to play an important role in the future protection and preservation of ground and surface water resources; and

WHEREAS, every business, industry, school, resident and visitor can help by conserving water and thus promote a healthy economy and community; and

WHEREAS, local governments are essential in assisting in promoting water conservation awareness and implementing water conservation measures; and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida traditionally designates April as Water Conservation Month,

NOW THEREFORE, the Governing Board of the Suwannee River Water Management District hereby proclaims April 2025 as Water Conservation Month. Additionally, the District respectfully calls upon each local government, resident, visitor, and business to help protect our precious resource by practicing water conservation measures and becoming more aware of the need to conserve water.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 11th DAY OF MARCH 2025, A.D.

**SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
BY ITS GOVERNING BOARD**

**MEMBERS OF THE BOARD:
VIRGINIA JOHNS, CHAIR
RICHARD SCHWAB, VICE-CHAIR
CHARLES KEITH, SECRETARY/TREASURER
WILLIAM LLOYD
LARRY SESSIONS
HARRY SMITH
LARRY THOMPSON
GEORGE WHEELER**

ATTEST:

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board
FROM: Troy Roberts, Chief, Communications and Outreach
THRU: Katelyn Potter, Director, Outreach and Operations
DATE: February 7, 2025
RE: Springs Protection Awareness Month Proclamation

RECOMMENDATION

Proclaim April 2025 as Springs Protection Awareness Month.

BACKGROUND

In recent years, the Florida Legislature has adopted resolutions recognizing the importance of Florida's springs and natural resources by declaring the month of April as Springs Protection Awareness Month.

The District contains more than 450 documented springs, including the highest concentration of freshwater springs in Florida, and the highest concentration of first-magnitude springs in the United States. The District is defined by world-renowned springs, including 14 of the 30 Outstanding Florida Springs as identified by the Legislature.

Springs provide habitat for wildlife and plant species, as well as natural, recreational, and economic value. Recreational use of springs supports ecotourism in the region providing opportunities for swimming, fishing, diving, kayaking, canoeing, and wildlife viewing. The estimated total economic benefits associated with recreational use (due to direct spending, supply chain activity and income re-spending) supports over 1,000 full and part-time jobs and generates \$9.4 million annually in economic output¹. These internationally treasured resources are a major priority for the District.

Increasing public awareness of the District's ongoing work to protect springs is a key part of accomplishing the District's mission.

TER/ao
Attachment

¹Borisova, Tatiana; Hodges, Alan W.; Stevens, Thomas J. "Economic Contributions and Ecosystem Services of Springs in the Lower Suwannee and Santa Fe River Basins of North-Central Florida." University of Florida, Food and Resource Economics Department. May 29, 2014. pp 3.

Proclamation

Suwannee River Water Management District
Live Oak, Florida

WHEREAS, Florida's springs are essential to the environment, economy, and citizens of, and visitors to, this state, and

WHEREAS, Florida has one of the most productive aquifers in the world, which supports more than 1,000 natural springs, giving this state the world's highest concentration of springs, and

WHEREAS, the Suwannee River Water Management District has the highest concentration of springs in the United States, and

WHEREAS, Florida's springs discharge more than eight billion gallons of water each day, which is essential for sustaining spring runs and associated receiving water bodies, and

WHEREAS, the Suwannee River Water Management District has the highest concentration of first magnitude springs in Florida, and

WHEREAS, Suwannee River Water Management District has 14 Outstanding Florida Springs, and

WHEREAS, groundwater in the Suwannee River Water Management District is the primary source for public, agricultural, business and industrial use and vital to Florida's economy, and

WHEREAS, springs are a natural resource that must be protected, as they reflect groundwater conditions and provide an important habitat for wildlife and listed species, and

WHEREAS, springs provide important recreation resources and opportunities that are enjoyed by citizens and visitors alike.

NOW THEREFORE, the Governing Board of the Suwannee River Water Management District hereby proclaims April 2025 as Springs Protection Awareness Month, and all levels of government are encouraged to support springs protection, restoration, and preservation awareness.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 11th DAY OF MARCH 2025, A.D.

**SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
BY ITS GOVERNING BOARD**

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD:
VIRGINIA JOHNS, CHAIR
RICHARD SCHWAB, VICE-CHAIR
CHARLES KEITH, SECRETARY/TREASURER
WILLIAM LLOYD
LARRY SESSIONS
HARRY SMITH
LARRY THOMPSON
GEORGE WHEELER

ATTEST:

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board
FROM: Katelyn Potter, Director, Outreach and Operations
THRU: Hugh Thomas, Executive Director
DATE: March 3, 2025
RE: Land Acquisition and Disposition Activity Report

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

KP/ao
Attachment

Land Acquisition and Disposition Report

Authorized for Surplus									
Tract	Acres	County	Acquired Date	Funding	Lands Committee Date	Governing Board Date	Price	Appraisal Date	Comments
Falmouth North (8 lots)	6.51	Suwannee	04.24.1998	WMLTF	--	06.08.2010	TBD by appraisal update.	TBD	Available for purchase.
Turtle Spring Surplus Tract	32	Lafayette	05.13.2015	Florida Forever	--	03.10.2015	TBD by appraisal update.	TBD	Available for purchase.
Country Club Road	80.69	Columbia	07.01.2015	N/A	--	07.09.2019	TBD by appraisal update.	TBD	Available for purchase.
Suwannee Run Shores	1.175	Dixie	12.30.1997	Save Our Rivers	07.09.2019	08.13.2019	TBD by appraisal update.	TBD	Available for purchase.
Three Rivers Estates	1	Columbia	12.30.1997	Save Our Rivers	07.09.2019	08.13.2019	TBD by appraisal update.	TBD	Available for purchase.
Forest Woodlands	11	Gilchrist	10.11.1996	Save Our Rivers	10.11.2019	11.12.2019	TBD by appraisal update.	TBD	Available for purchase.
Santa Fe Oasis	1	Gilchrist	04.28.1998	Save Our Rivers	09.21.2020	05.12.2020	TBD by appraisal update.	TBD	Available for purchase.
Newberry Wellfield	58.66	Alachua	01.11.2000	P-2000	03.09.2021	04.14.2021	TBD by appraisal update.	TBD	Pending final review with legal and City of Newberry.
Santa Fe Springs Tract	13	Suwannee	07.01.1998	Save Our Rivers	12.10.2024	01.14.2025	TBD by appraisal update.	TBD	Available for purchase.
Approved for Detailed Assessment									
Project Name	Acres	County	Submittal Date	Asking Price	Acquisition Type	Lands Committee Date	Governing Board Date	Comments	
1. Johnny Taylor	941	Gilchrist	07.2023	TBD based on appraisal	Conservation Easement	09.25.23	10.10.23	Appraisals received, offer made, undergoing negotiations.	
2. Lena Dixon	40	Hamilton	01.2023	TBD based on appraisal	Conservation Easement	05.09.23	06.13.23	Appraisals received, offer made, undergoing negotiations.	
3. Williams Family Investments, LLC.	947	Levy	06.2023	TBD based on appraisal	Conservation Easement	09.25.23	10.10.23	Project pending funding.	
4. Hodges	753	Levy	03.2023	TBD based on appraisal	Conservation Easement	05.09.23	06.13.23	Project pending funding.	
5. Leland Wright	149	Gilchrist	05.2024	Donation	Conservation Easement	07.09.24	08.13.24	Easement terms sent to landowner, pending return. Once complete, will begin due diligence.	

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

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

THRU: Hugh Thomas, Executive Director

DATE: March 03, 2025

RE: Resolution 2025-02, Conveyance of District-Owned Country Club Road Lots to Columbia County

RECOMMENDATION

Approve Resolution 2025-02, conveying portions of the Country Club Road Tract owned by the District to Columbia County.

BACKGROUND

The District holds several residential lots and well as part of its ownership of the Country Club Road Tract in Columbia County. The District has been working with Columbia County (County) to convey the residential lots and well to the County. The well serves a water utility that is currently under receivership with the County. Further, the County has indicated interest in ownership of Buck Glen as a right-of-way donation.

The conveyance consists of ±10.9 acres and includes portions of parcels 03-4S-17-07487-000 and 03-4S-17-07486-001, as indicated on the map.

The County is considering this item at its March 06, 2025, Board of County Commissioners meeting. This memorandum is being prepared prior to such meeting and therefore, the County's decision on this item will be presented at the District's Governing Board meeting on March 11, 2025.

The District received this property as part of an enforcement action, and it has been surplused since July 2019. The property is not needed for conservation and better suited for ownership by the County.

The conveyance is consistent with 373.056, Florida Statutes which authorizes transfers of District land to other public agencies where it is found to be in the public interest. No noticing is required to convey property to other governmental agencies.

A map of the property to be conveyed is attached.

KCP/ao
Attachments

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-02

**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CONVEYANCE OF LAND LOCATED IN
COLUMBIA COUNTY OWNED BY THE SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT
DISTRICT TO COLUMBIA COUNTY**

WHEREAS the Suwannee River Water Management District (District) owns residential lots and other property, located as part of the Country Club Road Tract located in Columbia County, Florida as described in Exhibit "A"; and

WHEREAS the properties were acquired after July 01, 1999 and the Governing Board has not designated the properties as having been acquired for conservation purposes; and

WHEREAS the properties do not provide conservation value and were surplused in July 2019; and

WHEREAS it is mutually beneficial to the District and Columbia County that fee ownership of the properties be conveyed to Columbia County; and

WHEREAS Columbia County considered receipt of the property at a county commission meeting on March 06, 2025; and

WHEREAS final conveyance is subject to approval by the Governing Board and acceptance by Columbia County; and

WHEREAS said conveyance is consistent with sections 373.056, Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS said conveyance is in the public interest and for the public benefit.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Board of the District, that:

1. The above statements are hereby certified and declared to be true and correct, and the conveyance of said lands are hereby further certified to be consistent with Section 373.056, Florida Statutes.
2. The Chair and Secretary of the Governing Board, the Executive Director, the Governing Board attorney and all other officers and employees of the District are hereby authorized and directed to do all things necessary to close and complete the acquisition.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 11th DAY OF MARCH 2025.

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
BY ITS GOVERNING BOARD

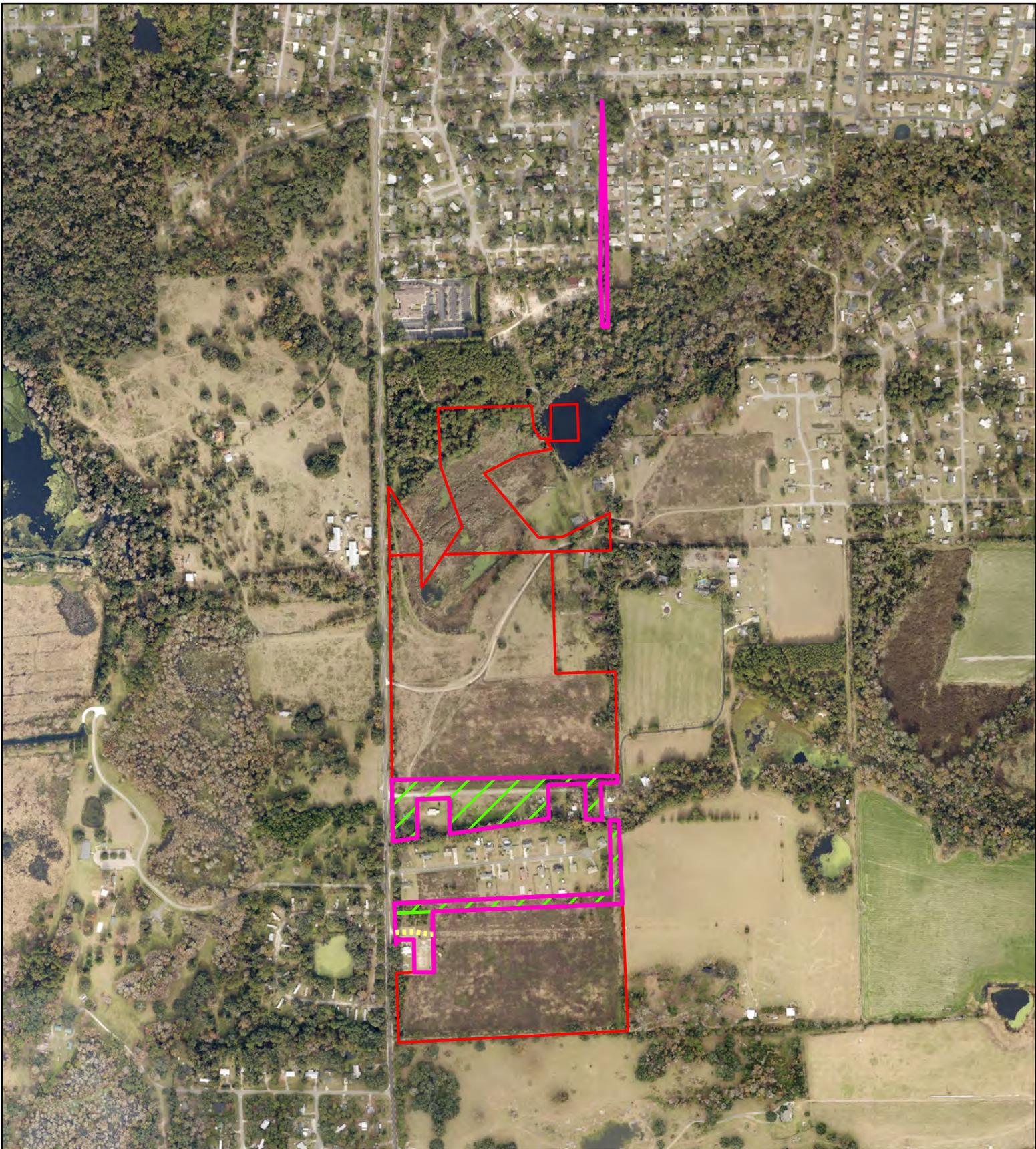
MEMBERS OF THE BOARD:

VIRGINIA H. JOHNS, CHAIR
RICHARD SCHWAB, VICE CHAIR
CHARLES KEITH, SECRETARY/TREASURER
WILLIAM LLOYD
LARRY SESSIONS
HARRY SMITH
LARRY THOMPSON
GEORGE WHEELER

ATTEST:

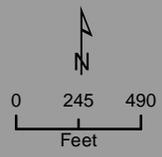
EXHIBIT A
DISTRICT PROPERTY MAP

The land referred to herein below is situated in the County of Columbia, State of Florida, and is described in the attached map. Final conveyance is subject to legal descriptions of conveyed parcels.



Country Club Road Property

- CCR Property Boundary ± 77.92 ac
- Columbia County Offer ± 8.8 ac
- SRWMD Counter Offer ± 10.9 ac
- SRWMD Retained Access Easement



Note: This map was created by the Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) to be used for planning purposes only. SRWMD shall not be held liable for any injury or damage caused by the use of data distributed as a public records request regardless of their use or application. SRWMD does not guarantee the accuracy, or suitability for any use of these data, and no warranty is expressed or implied. For more information please contact the SRWMD at 386-362-1001.
Map Created on 5/28/2019

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

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

THRU: Hugh Thomas, Executive Director

DATE: February 18, 2025

RE: Resolution 2025-03 for the Acquisition of a Conservation Easement
from John and Melissa Taylor in Gilchrist County

RECOMMENDATION

Approve Resolution 2025-03 for the acquisition of a conservation easement from John and Melissa Taylor over 918+/- acres located in Gilchrist County for \$1,838,475, and an additional amount not to exceed of \$30,000 for final due diligence and closing costs.

BACKGROUND

In July 2023, the District received an offer from John and Melissa Taylor (Sellers) to sell a conservation easement on 918 +/- acres of real property located in Gilchrist County. At the October 10, 2023, meeting, the Governing Board authorized staff to enter into negotiations and detailed assessment. Further, due to the number of active property acquisitions, on October 08, 2024, the Governing Board ranked the projects in accordance with established water resource criteria to prioritize negotiations. The Taylor Project ranked highest, and therefore, staff proceeded with negotiations.

The District and the Seller have negotiated and agreed to the terms of the conservation easement. The conservation easement prohibits future development of any kind, including limits on wells, utilities, septic, and other structures. The Sellers are permitted to continue low-intensity cow-calf activities and silviculture in accordance with best management practices. No activities can occur within wetlands. Homes and other farm structures were excluded from the easement footprint. The District maintains its usual rights to enter the property for monitoring, management of diseased trees or invasive species, and as needed.

Once the easement terms were negotiated, two appraisals were ordered to determine the value of the easement. Because the easement value exceeds \$1 million, two appraisals are required pursuant to 373.139(3)c, Florida Statutes. The average of both appraisals equaled \$2,042,750.00, with Appraisal 1 totaling \$2,020,000.00 and Appraisal 2 totaling \$2,065,500.00. An offer of 90% of the average appraised value totaling \$1,838,475.00 or \$2002.70 per acre was made and accepted by the Sellers. The final purchase price will be subject to the surveyed easement area at \$2,002.70 per acre or an amount not to exceed \$1,838,475.00.

Upon approval of the resolution, the Governing Board authorizes the Executive Director to enter into a purchase agreement with the Sellers for the established offer and terms. Further, a baseline documentation report and legal survey sketch will be completed prior to closing. The sale is subject to a clear title. Final due diligence and closing costs are estimated not to exceed \$30,000.

A copy of the resolution, triage maps, and summary parcel map are attached.

KCP/ao
Attachments
File #2023-007

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-03

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ACQUISITION OF A PERPETUAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT OVER PROPERTY OWNED BY JOHN AND MELISSA TAYLOR IN GILCHRIST COUNTY

WHEREAS, the Suwannee River Water Management District has been offered a conservation easement of a parcel of real property located in Gilchrist County, consisting of 918 acres +/- and owned by John and Melissa Taylor; and

WHEREAS, the purchase price of said conservation easement will be \$2002.70 per acre, subject to the final survey acreage, or an amount not to exceed \$1,838,475.00; and

WHEREAS, the easement area encompasses 918 +/- acres of parcels 07-15-0000-0001-0000 and 27-07-15-0000-0001-0000, not to include the excluded areas as identified in the survey sketch or baseline documentation report; and

WHEREAS, the acquisition area is contained within the District's Five-Year Land Acquisition Workplan;

WHEREAS, the acquisition is consistent with conservation purposes in accordance with Florida Statute 373.139 in that the acquisition will provide for protection of surface water, provide springshed protection for the Devil's Ear Springshed, provides surfacewater and will limit development in the floodplain; and

WHEREAS, the parcel is being acquired in less than fee simple for water management purposes; and

WHEREAS, the funds provided for herein shall be used for acquisition and closing costs associated with the transaction; and

WHEREAS, the conservation easement being acquired will help maintain the land in an environmentally acceptable manner and, to the extent practical, ensure restoration and protection of the natural state and condition; and

WHEREAS, the interest being acquired by the District has been appraised by a Department of Environmental Protection certified appraisal; and

WHEREAS, the approval of the acquisition was approved at a duly noticed public hearing; and

WHEREAS, a survey sketch of the excluded areas and baseline documentation report will be conducted prior to closing; and

WHEREAS, an additional \$30,000 be allocated for costs associated with the final due diligence and closing; and

WHEREAS, unspent funds shall be unencumbered from this transaction upon completion.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Board of the District, that:

The above statements are hereby certified and declared to be true and correct, and the acquisition of said lands are hereby further certified to be consistent with this District's plan of acquisition and Section 373.139, Florida Statutes.

The Chair and Secretary of the Governing Board, the Executive Director, the Governing Board attorney and all other officers and employees of the District are hereby authorized and directed to do all things necessary to close and complete the acquisition.

The District hereby approves the use of the PCS Mitigation/Save Our River funds for an amount not to exceed \$1,868,475 to include the acquisition, pre-acquisition and closing costs.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 11th DAY OF MARCH 2025

**SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
BY ITS GOVERNING BOARD**

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD:

**VIRGINIA H. JOHNS, CHAIR
RICHARD SCHWAB, VICE CHAIR
CHARLES KEITH, SECRETARY/TREASURER
WILLIAM LLOYD
LARRY SESSIONS
HARRY SMITH
LARRY THOMPSON
GEORGE WHEELER**

ATTEST:

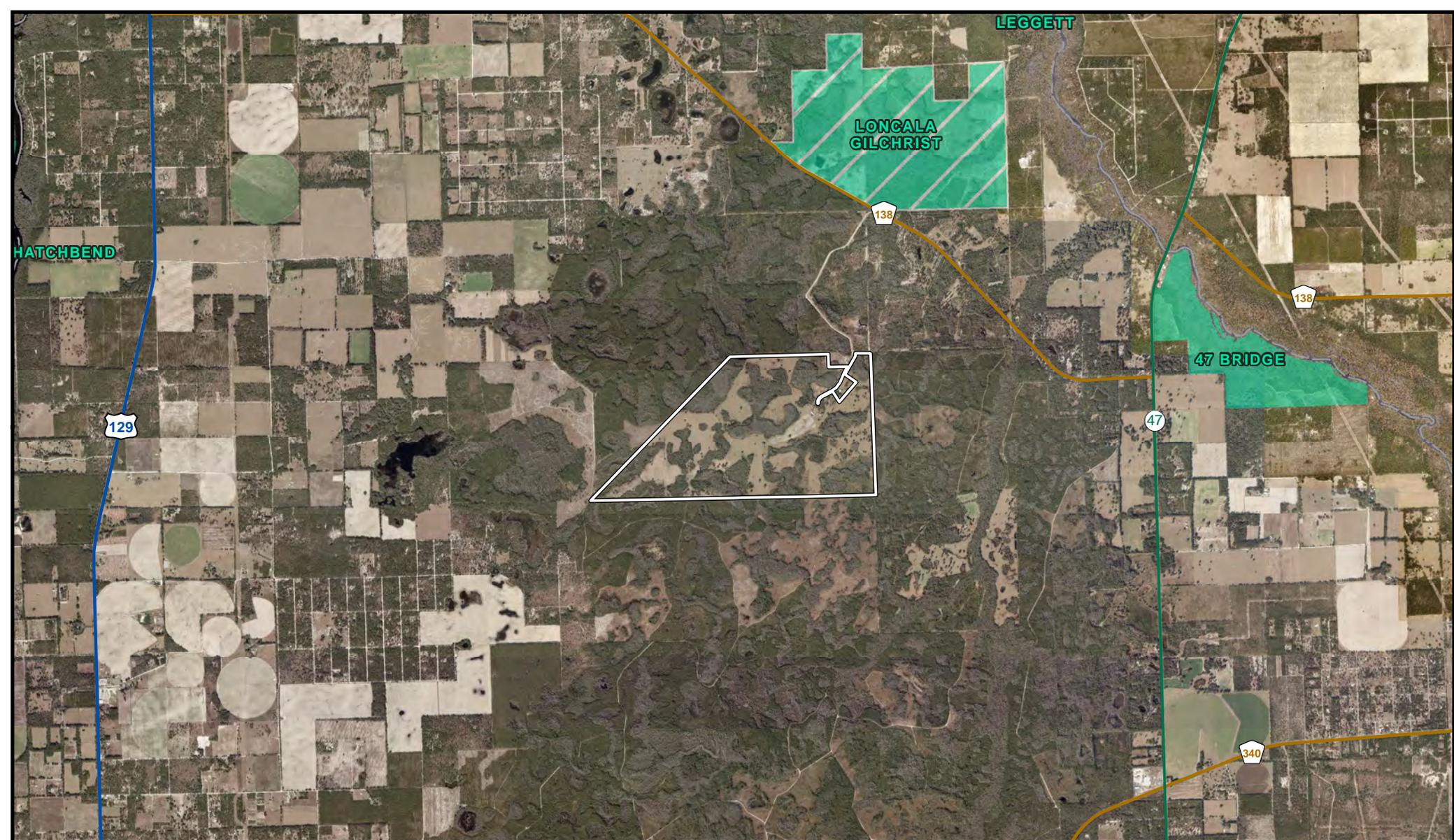


SUWANNEE TRIAGE ANALYSIS RESULTS



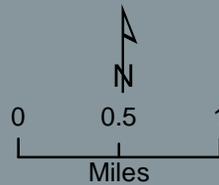
Property Name: Taylor CE	Date: 08/10/23
Acreage: ± 941 ac	County: Gilchrist
Transaction Type: Conservation Easement	SRWMD Florida Forever: No
	Statewide Florida Forever: No

Surface Water Protection	Flood Protection
Major River: (N)	Floodway: (N)
Riverine Surface Waters: (Y) [± 266 ac]	10 Year Floodplain: (N/A)
Critical Wetlands Inventory: (Y)	100 Year Floodplain: (Y) [± 591 ac]
Springs Protection	Miscellaneous
Springshed: (Y) [Devil's Ear Springshed]	PFA: (N)
	WSPA: (Y) [Eastern]
	BMAP: (Y) [Santa Fe]



**Taylor CE
± 941 Ac
Gilchrist County**

-  Property Boundary
-  SRWMD Ownership
-  Conservation Easement
-  Other Public Ownership

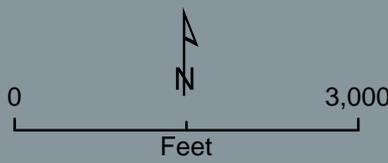
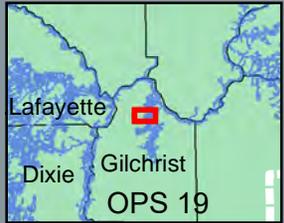


Note: This map was created by the Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) to be used for planning purposes only. SRWMD shall not be held liable for any injury or damage caused by the use of data distributed as a public records request regardless of their use or application. SRWMD does not guarantee the accuracy, or suitability for any use of these data, and no warranty is expressed or implied. For more information please contact the SRWMD at 386-362-1001. Map Created 9/18/2024



Taylor CE Property Offer Surface Water Protection

-  Property Boundary
-  SRWMD Major Rivers
-  Priority 1
-  Priority 2
-  Other
-  Surface Waters (Riverine)



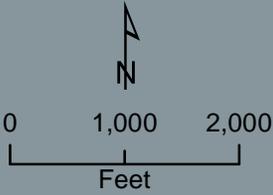
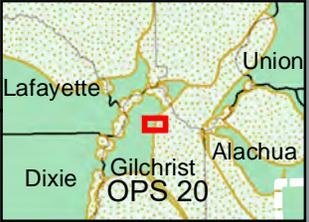
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Devil's Ear Springshed



Taylor CE Property Offer Springs Protection

-  Property Boundary
-  Springs Protection

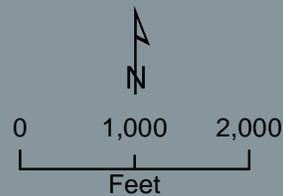
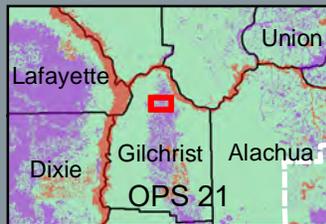


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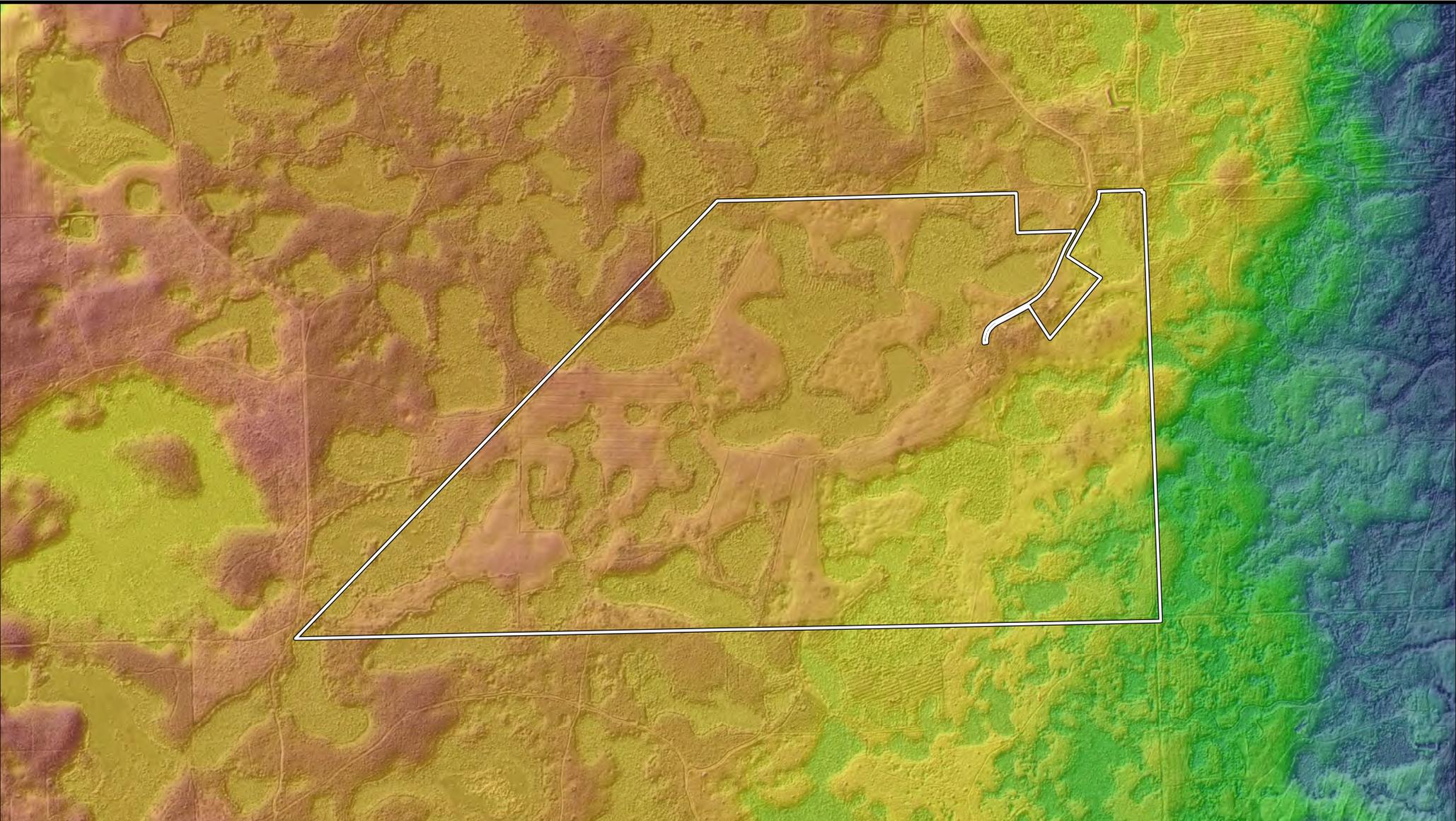


Taylor CE Property Offer Floodplain Protection

-  Property Boundary
-  10 Year Floodplain
-  Floodway
- 100 Year Floodplain**
-  Zone A
-  Zone AE

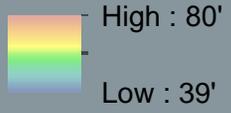


Note: This map was created by the Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) to be used for planning purposes only. SRWMD shall not be held liable for any injury or damage caused by the use of data distributed as a public records request regardless of their use or application. SRWMD does not guarantee the accuracy, or suitability for any use of these data, and no warranty is expressed or implied. For more information please contact the SRWMD at 386-362-1001. Map Created 7/31/2023

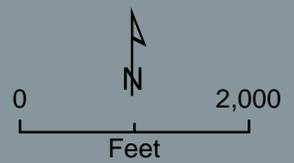


 Property Boundary

Bare Earth Elevation



**Taylor CE
Property Offer
LIDAR**

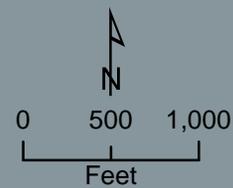


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-  Taylor Conservation Easements
-  Excluded Area
-  Other Protected Area

**Taylor CE
Gilchrist County**



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SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board
 FROM: Lorna Radcliff, Chief, Office of Land Management
 THRU: Katelyn Potter, Director, Outreach and Operations
 DATE: February 23, 2025
 RE: Land Management Update Report

BACKGROUND

The following information summarizes land management activities cumulative as of January 31, 2025.

Natural Communities Management: The following tables represent activities that support overall natural community restoration and management across District lands.

Vegetative Management (acres)	FY 2025 Planned	Reporting Period Completed	Percent Complete
Herbicide Treatments	117	0	0.0%
Mechanical Treatments	3,214	460	14%
Mallory Swamp Mechanical Treatments	894	0	0.0%

Prescribed Fire (acres)	FY 2025 Planned	Reporting Period Completed	Percent Complete
SRWMD	10,650	145	1%
FFS - Twin Rivers State Forest	700	0	0.0%

Invasive Plant Treatment	FY 2025 Planned	Reporting Period Completed	Percent Complete
Edwards Bottomland (acres)	7.11	Start June	0%
Contractors (acres)	145.83	Start June	0%
Starke Bypass (acres)	100	Start June	0%

Ecological Services Monitoring	FY 2025 Planned	Reporting Period Completed	Percent Complete
Rare Plants Monitoring (acres)	2,269	Start April	0%
Wading Bird Rookeries (sites)	13	Start April	0%
Natural Community Mapping (acres)	313	Start April	0%
Gopher Tortoise Surveys (acres)	160	52	32%

Timber Harvests	FY 2025 Planned	Reporting Period Completed	Percent Complete
Acreage Sold	1,764	2,462	139%
Revenue (estimated)	\$1,064,000	\$476,221.56	44%

Current Timber Sales	County	Acreage	Type	Status or Revenue
Sandlin Bay #9	Columbia	374	Thinning	Inactive
Woods Ferry #7	Suwannee	155	Thinning	Inactive
Cuba Bay #4	Madison	51	Thinning	Inactive
Steinhatchee Springs #24	Lafayette	192	Thinning	Inactive
Hurricane Helene Steinhatchee Salvage 1	Lafayette	128	Salvage Clearcut	Inactive
Hurricane Helene Steinhatchee Salvage 2	Lafayette	419	Salvage Clearcut	Inactive
Hurricane Helene Steinhatchee Salvage 3	Lafayette	117	Salvage Clearcut	Inactive
Hurricane Helene Steinhatchee Salvage 5	Dixie	204	Salvage Clearcut	\$55,535.19
Hurricane Helene TRSF Salvage 1	Madison	154	Salvage Clearcut	Active
Hurricane Helene TRSF Salvage 3	Hamilton	194	Salvage Clearcut	\$185,838.87
Hurricane Helene TRSF Selective Salvage Withlacoochee	Hamilton	210	Salvage Damaged Wood Only	Complete
Hurricane Helene TRSF Selective Salvage Ellaville	Madison	592	Salvage Damaged Wood Only	Inactive
Hurricane Helene TRSF Selective Salvage Anderson Springs	Suwannee	219	Salvage Damaged Wood Only	Active

Restoration	FY 2025 Planned	Reporting Period Completed	Percent Complete
Reforestation (acres)	293	37.52	13%

Land Management: The following tables represent tract and land management activities on the District's fee and less-than-fee owned properties.

Conservation Easements	FY 2025 Planned	Reporting Period Completed	Percent Complete
Monitor Current Easements	13	0	0%

Hydrologic & Road Maintenance	FY 2025 Planned	Reporting Period Completed	Percent Complete
Culvert Replacements	9	0	0%
Road maintenance (miles)	144	40.00	28%

Tract Maintenance	FY 2025 Planned	Reporting Period Completed	Percent Complete
Mowing (total miles)	1,710	264	15.43%
Site Maintenance (total visits)	2,736	444	16%
Enhanced Patrols (hours)	800	244	31%
Sign Replacements	51	0	0%
Boundary Line Painting (miles)	115.4	0	0%

Special Projects

The following information provides a status update on special projects within the Office of Land Management.

Mount Gilead Tract: EUTAW, Inc provided an estimate for design to update and fortify the boat ramp. Project is on hold pending hurricane repairs at other sites.

Owen Springs Tract: The project is to improve public accessibility and reduce impacts to the natural system is underway. The heavy daylighting of main roads is completed. Reconfiguration of the parking area to increase parking spaces and improved access to the spring to reduce erosion are both planned.

Rock Bluff: Gray Construction Services, Inc replaced an aged septic system with an enhanced septic system, updated the water system, and upgraded the electrical system. The final walk-thru with Gray Construction was conducted on January 13. The project is complete.

Starke Bypass Mitigation Area: The final version of the annual monitoring report generated by FLDOT contractors was submitted. The report shows a continued overall trend towards success in meeting objectives listed in the wetland restoration plan. The 2025 work plan has also been submitted by the District's contractor and is currently under review.

Steinhatchee Falls: Topographic surveys and geotechnical investigations for the boat ramp reconstruction are complete. Preliminary site plans have been developed. Site design and engineering is 90 percent complete. FDEP and ACOE permits were submitted in August.

Telford Spring: In July, the District opened Telford Spring to the public. EUTAW, Inc has completed a conceptual plan to improve parking and public access. The initial phase to develop the parking lot is planned.

Storm Facility Repairs: Hurricane Debby and Hurricane Helene have damaged public use areas to varying degrees. Eight sites are currently undergoing plans for assessment and construction costs to repair. The sites under assessment are Suwannee Springs, Falmouth Springs, Owen Springs, Steinhatchee Falls, Blue Sink, Atsena Otie Key, and Lukens. FEMA is scheduling a site inspection for each facility damaged. Falmouth Springs remains closed due to damage to the boardwalk.