

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

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.

March 11, 2025  
9:00 a.m.

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

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

Agenda Item No 2 – Roll Call

**Governing Board**

| <b>Seat</b>             | <b>Name</b>       | <b>Office</b> | <b>Present</b> | <b>Not Present</b> |
|-------------------------|-------------------|---------------|----------------|--------------------|
| 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     |               |                |                    |
| 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**

| <b>Name</b>      | <b>Firm</b>                               | <b>Present</b> | <b>Not Present</b> |
|------------------|---|----------------|--------------------|
| George T. Reeves | Davis, Schnitker, Reeves & Browning, P.A. | X              |                    |

**Leadership Team**

| <b>Position</b>                      | <b>Name</b>   | <b>Present</b> | <b>Not Present</b> |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|--------------------|
| 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. None

Agenda Item No. 4 – Public Comment:

- Jeff Hill – Legal concerns regarding exclusive use authorizations extension.

Agenda Item No. 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

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

Agenda Item No. 6 - February 11, 2025, Governing Board Meeting, 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. Mr. Thomas thanked IFAS for use of the facilities and providing a tour of the farm.

### **GOVERNING BOARD LEGAL COUNSEL**

Agenda Item No. 8 – Legal Activities Update. Tom Reeves, Board Legal Counsel, updated the Board on two Jeff Hill court cases.

### **BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**

#### *Administration*

Agenda Item No. 9 – Facilities Update. Ben Glass, Chief, Office of Administration, updated the Board on this item.

#### *Finance*

Agenda Item No. 10 – January 2025 Financial Report. Approved on Consent.

#### *Resource Management*

Agenda Item No. 11 – Permitting Summary Report. This report was provided as an informational item in the Board materials.

Agenda Item No. 12 – Florida Department of Transportation Mitigation Plan. Approved on Consent.

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. Approved on Consent.

#### *Environmental Projects*

Agenda Item No. 14 – Environmental and Agriculture Projects Monthly Report. This report was provided as an informational item in the Board materials.

### **OUTREACH AND OPERATIONS**

#### *Communications and Outreach*

Agenda Item No. 15 – Outreach and Communications Activity Summary. This summary was provided as an informational item in the Board materials.

Agenda Item No. 16 – Water Conservation Month Proclamation. Troy Roberts, Chief, Outreach and Operations Division, presented this item to the Board.

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

Agenda Item No. 17 – Springs Protection Proclamation. Mr. Roberts presented this item to the Board.

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

### Land Acquisition

Agenda Item No. 18 – Land Acquisition and Disposition Activity Report. This report was provided as an informational item in the Board materials.

Agenda Item No. 19 – Resolution Number 2025-02, Conveyance of District-Owned Country Club Road Lots to Columbia County. Katelyn Potter, Director, Outreach and Operations Division, presented this item to the Board.

Mr. Reeves provided additional comments to the Board.

MOTION WAS MADE BY KEITH, SECONDED BY SCHWAB TO APPROVE THE ITEM USING THE UPDATED MAP WITH ADDITIONAL PROPERTIES THAT WILL BE PROVIDED WITH THE RESOLUTION PRESENTED AT BOARD MEETING. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item No. 20 – Resolution Number 2025-03, Acquisition of a Perpetual Conservation Easement over Property Owned by John and Melissa Taylor in Gilchrist County. Mrs. Potter presented this item to the Board.

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

### Land Management

Agenda Item No. 21 – Land Management Update Report. This report was provided as an informational item in the Board materials.

## **WATER RESOURCES**

Agenda Item No. 22 – Water Resources Division Updates. Amy Brown, Deputy Executive Director, provided updates to the Board.

## **EXECUTIVE OFFICE**

Agenda Item No. 23 - Announcements. Mr. Thomas updated the Board on District activities.

Agenda Item No. 24 - Governing Board Comments. None

Agenda Item No. 25 - Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 10:07 a.m.

**SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
Workshop/Farm Tour**

March 11, 2025  
Following Meetings

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

IFAS Tour

Bob Hochmuth, NFREC Assistant Center Director, and staff provide a trolley tour of the IFAS Farm. The tour route featured the sod-based rotation project, demonstrating how the variable rate irrigation delivers variable rates (pulsing on and off), paper mulch trials, and a “blue dye don’t lie” demo in drip irrigation.

  
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Chair

ATTEST:

  
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**SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF LANDS COMMITTEE MEETING**  
Open to Public

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March 11, 2025  
Following Board Meeting

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

1. Call to Order / Committee Roll Call. Meeting began at 10:24 a.m.

| <b>Committee Members</b> | <b>Present</b> | <b>Not Present</b> |
|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Richard Schwab - Chair   | X              |                    |
| Charles Keith            | X              |                    |
| Larry Sessions           | X              |                    |
| Harry Smith              | X              |                    |
| Larry Thompson           |                | X                  |
| George Wheeler           | X              |                    |

-Mrs. Johns and Mr. Lloyd also attended the Lands Committee Meeting.

2. Public Comment:

- Dr. Katherine Sayler, Florida Defender of Wildlife - Ellaville Tract - Riverview Exchange concerns.
- Brooks Garland, Lee Peanut Farms - Ellaville Tract – Riverview Exchange support.

**Property Exchange / Surplus**

3. Negotiations for the Ellaville Tract – Riverview Exchange, Madison County. Katelyn Potter, Division Director, Outreach and Operations Division, presented this item to the Committee.

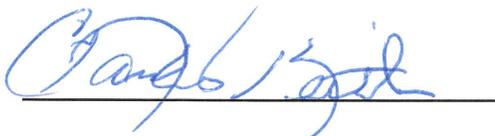
MOTION MADE BY KEITH, SECONDED BY WHEELER TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Announcements: None

5. Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 10:47 a.m.

  
Chair

ATTEST:

  
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