



**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.

May 13, 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:

Agenda Item No. 18 and Agenda Item No. 19 were moved following Agenda Item No.8 to accommodate the public that are present at the Board Meeting.

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

Agenda Item No. 4 – Public Comment:

- John Rice, Well Driller – Concerns regarding other well drillers drilling practices in sandy soils.
- A. R. Albritton – Concerns regarding flooding issues on Turner Road in Taylor County
- Kim Morgan – Concerns regarding flooding issues on Turner Road in Taylor County.
- Bobby Hiers - Concerns regarding flooding issues on Turner Road in Taylor County
- Frank Davis, Mayor, City of Live Oak – Thanked the District for the support of the Alternative Water Supply approval on the agenda.

- Rachel Weeks, Council Member, Town of Bronson – Grants applications questions and concerns regarding the Springs grant approval on the agenda.

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

- Agenda Item No. 6 - April 8, 2025 Governing Board Meeting, Audit Committee Meeting, Lands Committee Meeting, and Workshop Minutes
- Agenda Item No. 11 - March 2025 Financial Report
- Agenda Item No. 12 - Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Financial Audit
- Agenda Item No. 13 - Revised Inspector General Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Internal Audit Work Plan
- Agenda Item No. 14 - Payment in Lieu of Taxes
- Agenda Item No. 23 - Declaration of a Surplus Lot Within the Turkey Island Tract, Levy County
- Agenda Item No. 25 - Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Land Management Review Team Report

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

Agenda Item No. 6 - April 8, 2025 Governing Board Meeting, Audit Committee Meeting, Lands Committee Meeting, and Workshop 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 the agencies and organizations that were present for the AWS and Springs Grant Funding approvals. Robin Lamm introduced Ashley Kirby, Business Resource Specialist, to the Board.

GOVERNING BOARD LEGAL COUNSEL

Agenda Item No. 8 – Legal Activities Update. None

Agenda Item No. 18 and Agenda Item No.19 were moved to this section of the agenda to accommodate our guests.

Agenda Item No. 18 – Alternative Water Supply Funding Projects for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. Mary Diaz, Professional Engineer, Resource Management/Projects Division, presented this item to the Board.

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

Agenda Item No. 19 – Springs Funding Projects for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. Ms. Diaz presented this item to the Board.

The following attendees provided comments to the Board.

- Victoria Kingston, Manager Town of Greenville
- Brittany Hart, City of Trenton
- Shane Wellendorf, Tall Timbers Lands Conservancy

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

BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Administration

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

Agenda Item No. 10 – Contract with Gateway Contracting Inc. Mr. Glass presented this item to the Board.

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

Finance

Agenda Item No. 11 – March 2025 Financial Report. Approved on Consent.

Agenda Item No. 12 – Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Financial Audit. Approved on Consent.

Agenda Item No. 13 – Revised Inspector General Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Internal Audit Work Plan. Approved on Consent.

Agenda Item No. 14 – Payment in Lieu of Taxes. Approved on Consent.

Resource Management

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

Environmental Resource Permitting

Agenda Item No. 16 – Environmental Resource Permit Application ERP-001-242142-3, Tara Phoenicia, Alachua County. Sara Ferson, Professional Engineer, Resource Management/Projects Division, presented this item to the Board.

The following attendees provided comments to the Board:

- Brenda Wells, Florida Springs Council
- Steve Hofstetter Alachua County Environmental Protection Department
- Mary Szoka, Alachua County Environmental Protection Department
- Jay Brown, JBPro Civil Engineering
- Brian Buescher, Florida Karst Conservation Task Force
- Sayed Moukhtara, Applicant/Owner
- Ken Hill, GES Engineering & Consulting, Inc.

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

Environmental Projects

Agenda Item No. 17 – Agriculture and Environmental Projects Monthly Report. This report was provided as an informational item in the Board materials.

Agenda Item No. 18 – Alternative Water Supply Funding Projects for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. Moved to below Agenda Item No. 8 to accommodate the public that has attended the Board Meeting

Agenda Item No. 19 – Springs Funding Projects for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. Moved to below Agenda Item No. 8 to accommodate the public that has attended the Board Meeting

OUTREACH AND OPERATIONS

Communications and Outreach

Agenda Item No. 20 – Outreach and Communications Activity Summary. This summary was provided as an informational item in the Board materials.

Agenda Item No. 21 – Communications Update. Troy Roberts, Chief, Outreach and Operations Division, provided this presentation to the Board.

Land Acquisition

Agenda Item No. 22 – Land Acquisition and Disposition Activity Report. This report was provided as an informational item to the Board.

Agenda Item No. 23 – Declaration of a Surplus Lot Within the Turkey Island Tract, Levy County. Approved on Consent.

Land Management

Agenda Item No. 24 – Land Management Update Report. This report was provided as an informational item in the Board materials.

Agenda Item No. 25 – Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Land Management Review Team Report. Approved on Consent.

WATER RESOURCES

Agenda Item No. 26 – Water Resources Division Updates. Amy Brown, Deputy Executive Director, provided updates to the Board.

Water Resources

Agenda Item No. 27 – **Public Hearing** and Approval of the 2025 Coastal Rivers Surface Water Improvement and Management Plan Update. Susie Hetrick, Chief, Water Resources Division, presented this item to the Board.

Chair Johns opened the public comments on the 2025 Coastal Rivers Surface Water Improvement and Management Plan Update.

No public comments were received.

Chair Johns closed public comments.

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

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Agenda Item No. 28 - Announcements. Mr. Thomas updated the Board on District activities.

Agenda Item No. 29 - Governing Board Comments. None

Agenda Item No. 30 - Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 12:24 p.m.



Chair

ATTEST:





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

Workshops began at 1:05 p.m.

Fiscal Year 2026 Tentative Budget Presentation

Kristin Thompson, Manager, Office of Finance, provided a powerpoint presentation on the Fiscal Year 2026 Tentative Budget.

Suwannee Minimum Flows and Minimum Water Levels/Sturgeon Research Discussion

Sean King, Chief, Office of Minimum Flows and Minimum Water Levels, provided a presentation on Suwannee Minimum Flows and Minimum Water Levels/Sturgeon Research. Michael Randall and Melissa Rice, from the USGS Wetlands and Aquatic Research Center, provided comments during the workshop.

Workshop adjourned at 2:24 p.m.