



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF
LAKE WORTH DRAINAGE DISTRICT
HELD AT THE DELRAY BEACH OFFICE ON
FEBRUARY 17, 2016 AT 8:30 A.M.**

Board Members Present:

Harry Raucher James M. Alderman Steve Bedner
John I. Whitworth, III Jeffrey P. Phipps, Sr.

1. Call to Order

President Alderman called the meeting to order at 8:30 A.M.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Raucher led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Team of the Quarter Presentation - Vegetation Boom Enhancement Team: Jim Schultz, Crew Leader; Michael Trammell, Licensed Applicator; Charles Burn, Licensed Applicator

Committee Member Nicole Smith announced the Vegetation Boom Enhancement Team of the Quarter: Jim Schultz, Michael Trammell and Charles Burn. The team was recognized for recommending the installation of enhanced vegetation booms to better capture and treat aquatic vegetation. As a result, more than 60 enhanced booms were purchased and the District has realized significant savings in the herbicide budget as well as staff time spent on maintaining the booms. The Board thanked the gentlemen for their service to the District.

Michael Trammell provided a briefing on the District's Aquatic Boom Program, illustrating the cost comparisons of applying herbicides by trucks versus boats. Mr. Trammell stated that it is more efficient to maintain the canals with the enhanced vegetation booms and presented before and after photos. He shared that by controlling the vegetation and directing it towards the booms in a contained area, staff have been able to use less herbicides and/or use the mechanical harvester to manage vegetation and trash.

4. Agenda Revisions – Robert M. Brown, Executive Director

There were no agenda revisions.

5. Abstentions by Board Members from items on the Agenda

There were no abstentions.

6. General Public Comment

There was no general public comment.

CONSENT

7. **Board comment or request to pull items from Consent Agenda**
8. **Approval of minutes, check register and financial statement for the previous month**
9. **Approval to extend legislative consulting contract with Coker Consulting, LLC for a one-year term - Reagan Walker, Director of Administrative Services**
10. **Board Vote on Consent Agenda**

A motion was made by Senior Vice President Raucher to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Supervisor Whitworth and approved unanimously.

DISCUSSION

11. **Approval to enter into negotiations with R.A. Bailey Trust for purchase of a 1.43 acre parcel on the E-3 Canal adjacent to Control Structure 6 - Robert M. Brown, Executive Director**

Mr. Brown stated that the 1.43 acre property for sale is located in the northern part of the District adjacent to Control Structure 6, south of the C-51 Canal and Southern Boulevard, and adjacent to the E-3 Canal. Mr. Brown reminded the Board of frequent discussions regarding the staging and distribution of equipment during severe weather events. He shared that the property purchase would be beneficial due to its location, and indicated the property could be fenced for the storage of equipment and vehicles. Staff recommended approval to enter into negotiations with R.A. Bailey Trust for the purchase of the 1.43 acre parcel, returning to the Board to receive approval of a final purchase price.

A motion was made by Supervisor Whitworth to approve the recommendation, seconded by Senior Vice President Raucher and approved unanimously.

WORKSHOP

12. **Right-of-Way Management Program - Tommy Strowd, Director of Operations & Maintenance, and Jim Fandrey, Assistant Director of Right-of-Way**

Mr. Brown stated that the goal of the proposed Right-of-Way Management Program is to simplify the current practice of issuing multiple types of legal agreements and authorizations for the management of the District's right-of-way, and repackage it into one process using a right-of-way permit for various uses/types of activities.

Mr. Strowd briefed the board on the development of a standardized Right-of-Way Management Program.

President Alderman expressed his concern regarding encroachments on the District's rights-of-ways. He stated that he is not in favor of permitting encroachments, authorizing easements or selling District property, realizing that there are exceptions. President Alderman also stated that he wants to ensure staff is continuing its efforts to reclaim District rights-of-way.

Mr. Perry indicated his support of the standardized permitting process.

As a group, the Board members and staff discussed each type of canal encroachment and determined if approvals should remain at the Board or staff level. The Board indicated that permits for bridges, irrigation connections, culvert crossings, perpendicular gates/fences, seawalls, and perpendicular utility installations should continue to be approved by staff. They also indicated that approvals for monitoring wells and temporary access up to six months should be approved by staff. The Board concurred with staff's recommendation to not permit any piping of canals, advertisement signs and structural encroachments on District rights-of-way. However, any requests for variances to these denials must be presented to the Board for approval. The Board also recommended continuing the approval of permits for parallel utility installations and signs in commercial locations.

Staff expressed concern with continuing to issue dock permits. Mr. Brown indicated that staff will discuss docks in more detail at the next meeting.

Mr. Strowd stated that staff will return to the Board with a summary of the discussion and revised policy details.

13. Water Conditions Update – Tommy Strowd, Director of Operations & Maintenance

Mr. Strowd presented an update on water conditions, and stated that the period from November 2, 2015 to February 1, 2016 was the wettest three-month period on record. Mr. Strowd presented illustrations reflecting the rainfall and canal levels during the heavy rain event on January 20. He also provided an explanation on the differences in the District's and Everglades Agricultural Area water management systems, indicating that the District is in a much better position to manage water during these extreme rainfall events.

Mr. Strowd also discussed the unseasonably high water conditions in Lake Okeechobee and the Governor's emergency order for increasing discharges to Everglades National Park. Mr. Strowd stated that the District is assisting the South Florida Water Management District by taking "pass-through" water from Water Conservation Area 1. Mr. Strowd indicated that rainfall projections are above average for the next three months, and any pass-through water would terminate in advance of rain events and will not have any negative impact on the District's water control levels.

STAFF REPORTS

14. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Brown presented to the Board a copy of the Mid-2016 Legislative Session update prepared by Coker Consulting. Mr. Brown stated that SB 552/HB 7005 related to Environmental Resources (Water Bill) passed. Also, Mr. Brown stated that CS/SB 516/HB 745 related to Special Districts has generated much concern due to burdensome reporting requirements. He indicated that the bill is being opposed by a large group of interested parties who are monitoring legislation for any amendments. Mr. Brown also stated that he expects passage of SB 956/HB 479, the Special Districts "Glitch Bill," requiring Special Districts to publish agendas and any available, related materials to their website seven days prior to any public meeting. He informed the Board that he will be traveling to Tallahassee next week for visits with legislators.

Mr. Brown provided an update on pending lawsuits resulting from two separate vehicle accidents involving the District's dump trucks.

Mr. Brown indicated that, with President Alderman's approval, Mr. Raucher will remain as the District's representative on the Water Resource Advisory Commission, and he will also begin representing the District on the Palm Beach County Water Resources Task Force. Mr. Alderman will be the alternate representative for both. President Alderman and Mr. Raucher agreed to the changes.

Director of Operations and Maintenance

Mr. Strowd stated that the SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) project is on schedule. The District has received the plans, specifications and contract from CH2MHill. They are continuing to work on the contract. CH2MHill has expended \$314,000, approximately half of the contracted amount of \$626,000.

Director of Administrative Services

Ms. Walker stated that all Board members received a copy of the revised Employee Handbook for review, and that it will be presented for the Board's approval at the March board meeting.

Director of Stormwater Permitting & Engineering

Mr. Martin stated that the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) approved the grant to Palm Beach County for LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging). The County expects to begin capturing data in April 2016.

Mr. Martin stated he received the final plans from Mock Roos & Associates for the relocation of Control Structure No. 9 which will be presented to the Board at a future meeting.

Director of Finance

Ms. Hoyt stated the District is still awaiting information from the Florida Retirement System so that the annual audit can be completed. She will continue to keep the Board apprised.

District Counsel

Mr. Perry stated that he was told that the Palm Beach County Planning, Zoning and Building Department has drafted a response letter to the District regarding its use of Transfer of Development Rights (TDRs). He will share a copy of the response with the Board upon receipt.

15. Board Comment

Supervisor Whitworth inquired about the status of the District's Canal Rehabilitation Program, and stated he would like to see additional progress on the project. He inquired about approximate staff time to complete a project, compared to hiring a contractor.

Mr. Brown stated that staff is looking at costs for tree removal services in order to provide a comparison. Mr. Strowd replied that he will bring the Canal Rehabilitation Program schedule to the Board next month.

President Alderman stated his support of purchasing additional equipment if needed.

Mr. Raucher read into the record a letter written by Bob Mooney from The Fountains in Lake Worth addressed to Chairman Alderman. Mr. Mooney wanted the Board of Supervisors to know how much he appreciates the staff's response during the January rainfall event. Realizing that all the control structures in the District are manually operated, Mr. Mooney stated the District employees had done an "awesome job."

President Alderman suggested scheduling a workshop one week prior to the Board meeting to provide an opportunity for the Board and staff to discuss pertinent agenda items and policy issues. He indicated if there were no items of significance, the workshops would not be necessary. The Board members agreed with the suggestion.

Mr. Brown indicated his support for scheduling workshops to discuss specific items and mentioned that staff will continue to schedule individual board briefings as requested. He also mentioned that the workshop would require a public notice and separate agenda.

16. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:15 A.M.