



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE LANDOWNERS OF THE
LAKE WORTH DRAINAGE DISTRICT
HELD ON JANUARY 4, 2017 AT 9:00 A.M.**

Attendees:

Harry Raucher
John I. Whitworth, III
Stephen Bedner
Alice Finst
Megan Hoffman
Tom Thayer
Susan Haynie
Ted Winsberg
Daryl Bush

James M. Alderman
Jeffrey P. Phipps, Sr.
Joann M. Aylor
Karen Hoyt
Patrick A. Martin
Joe Johns
Dan Johns
Peter Waldman

Mark A. Perry
Rosemary Rayman
Ray Karosas
Frank Fernanoot
Robert M. Brown
Reagan Walker
Nicole Smith
Bill Mazzone

1. Call to Order

Mark Perry called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Perry led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Presentation of Notice of Meeting

Mr. Perry confirmed that the legal advertisement for the Landowners' Meeting was published according to noticing requirements.

4. Nomination and Election of Chairman and Secretary

Mr. Perry opened nominations for Chairman of the meeting. John I. Whitworth, III nominated Daryl Bush. Jeffrey P. Phipps, Sr. seconded the nomination. There being no further nominations, a unanimous vote was cast for Daryl Bush.

Chairman Bush opened nominations for Secretary of the meeting. Jeffrey P. Phipps, Sr. nominated William A. Mazzone. John I. Whitworth, III seconded the nomination. There being no further nominations, a unanimous vote was cast for William A. Mazzone.

5. Call for Proxies for Board of Supervisors Election

Mr. Perry called for the election of two members to the Board of Supervisors for Lake Worth Drainage District. There were two qualified candidates: Stephen Bedner in Sub-District 2 and Harry Raucher in Sub-District 4. Mr. Perry asked Ms. Rayman and Ms. Hoyt to tabulate the ballots and proxies.

6. Approval of Minutes - January 6, 2016 Landowners' Meeting

Landowners were provided time to review the Minutes of the 2016 Landowners' Meeting. Chairman Bush asked for comments. With no comments, Chairman Bush called for a motion to approve the 2016 meeting minutes. Jeffrey P. Phipps, Sr. made a motion to approve, Harry Raucher seconded and it passed unanimously.

7. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Robert M. Brown presented a report reflecting on the District's annual activities, accomplishments and progress.

The District did not experience any major storm events; however, a near miss by Hurricane Matthew in October 2016 was a beneficial emergency management exercise. Dry season rainfall totaled 33.31 inches, approximately 144% or 10.16 inches above average. Wet season rainfall totaled 29.35 inches, approximately 80% or 7.11 inches below average. The forecast for 2017 predicts a warmer and drier than normal climate due to a persistent La Nina weather pattern.

The District continues making progress on capital improvements. In 2016, an additional 17 remote water level monitoring sites were installed and the District is now utilizing data from 22 radar-based rainfall sites and one tidal station site. The District began implementation of a telemetry (SCADA) system to automate ten major water control structures. The project definition and detailed design phase was completed. The District also completed design for electrical improvements on the major control structures and a consolidated solicitation for construction of both projects was awarded to Electron Corp. for \$4.25 million. Construction on the project began in December 2016 with an expected completion date of late 2017 or early 2018.

The District also completed replacement of all actuators and hoist assemblies at its major water control structures and completed installation of three radial gates at Control Structure 12 (L-38 Canal). The replacement of three radial gates for Control Structure 11 (L-30 Canal) was initiated with an expected completion date in mid-2017.

Following an inventory of encumbered rights-of-way in 2015, the District cleared 12.69 miles of rights-of-way in 2016. To assist with clearing efforts, the District solicited a Request for Qualifications and pre-qualified vendors for contracted vegetation removal services. Contracted services were utilized to clear 3.37 miles of canal rights-of-way at a cost of \$120,475. The District's field crews cleared 8.80 miles with the help of three mulching attachments that were procured and mobilized. A half-mile stretch of right-of-way was cleared by a developer during construction of a new housing development.

In 2016, the District also developed a comprehensive right-of-way permitting program to consolidate multiple types of right-of-way agreements for future consistency. Permit criteria was revised for docks and gates and the permit fee scheduled was updated for all right-of-way uses. The District received nearly 800 applications and/or requests to utilize District rights-of-way or connect to drainage canals, and issued 296 right-of-way and drainage permits.

Staff researched and responded to more than 2,100 requests to review the District's chancery and right-of-way ownership, and completed more than 800 development reviews for county and municipality projects.

The District mowed approximately 3,400 miles of rights-of-way, treated more than 4,800 acres of aquatic vegetation, and treated more than 388 acres of upland areas in 2016. To improve efficiency with mechanical harvesting and chemical applications, the District installed 45 new 50-foot vegetation booms. The District purchased a new plow-boat and fabricated weed buckets for the excavators to enhance mechanical removal.

The District continued its implementation of technologies to enhance business operations and realize efficiencies. An on-line public mapping portal was created to illustrate information on District boundaries, conveyances, permits, canal rehabilitation projects, mowing activities and neighborhood discharge control structures. More than 5,500 parcels were mapped as part of the ongoing GIS database project. Remote applications were also created to gather information from the field such as encroachments, docks and control structures.

The District also implemented a UAV (drone) program for aerial maintenance inspections of canals, and a GPS fleet monitoring program for increased driver safety and efficiency in daily reporting. Staff also developed workflow processes and criteria for the implementation of Accela for processing permits and right-of-way interest reviews, compliance cases and customer service requests. Training and implementation for the new business management software are planned for Spring 2017.

Campus improvements were completed to improve safety and energy efficiency. LED lighting was installed throughout the campus and in offices. Older air conditioning units were replaced and programmable thermostats were installed. As a result, the District realized a 10% average decrease in electric usage/costs over 2015. The District also continued its participation in FPL's on-call program, realizing more than \$115,000 in savings since 2009.

District auditors issued an unqualified opinion for FY2015 and confirmed that the financial records and statements were fairly and appropriately stated in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

The District adopted the FY2017 budget totaling \$17.5 million with \$3.8 million dedicated for capital projects including SCADA, electrical improvements and canal rehabilitation. The non-ad valorem assessment increased by \$1.50 per acre or portion thereof - \$1.00 dedicated for accelerated canal rehabilitation and vegetation removal, and \$0.50 dedicated for capital improvement projects.

In FY2016, the District received nearly \$500,000 in revenues for permit fees, surplus land sales, quit claim deeds, right-of-way agreements and tower leases. The sale of surplus vehicles and equipment generated more than \$174,000.

The District was licensed as a state CEU (Continuing Education Unit) provider for Community Manager Associates and hosted two community workshops on flood control and lake management for property managers.

The District purchased a 1.43-acre site located in the northern region of the District on the E-3 Canal adjacent to Control Structure 6 for future equipment staging.

The District also continued to participate in meetings and discussions regarding the C-51 Reservoir Project. Operational protocols are under development and the project will be considered for future legislation funding.

The District solicited proposals and contracted with two firms for General Engineering Services for District projects including, but not limited to, facilities design, geotechnical investigation, architectural, water resource and water quality evaluations and survey services.

Looking ahead, the District will continue its efforts to improve water control infrastructure including the relocation of Control Structure 9 and refurbishment of Control Structure 20.

Mr. Brown stated that the 2016 Report to Landowners provides an overview of the District's annual activities, including District activities undertaken in furtherance of the adopted water control plan. He recommended acceptance of the report pursuant to Florida Statutes, Ch. 298.26.

A motion was made by Harry Raucher to approve the report, seconded by William A. Mazzoni and approved unanimously.

8. Financial Report

Copies of the Balance Sheet and Budget Report for Year End September 30, 2016 were furnished and Ms. Hoyt stated the year-end audit report is still on-going. Once the audit is complete, it will be posted on the District's website. Ms. Hoyt indicated the District is in good financial position.

A motion was made by Harry Raucher to approve the financial report, seconded by Ted Winsberg and approved unanimously.

9. New Business

Peter Waldman from Timber Run Homeowners Association presented Mr. Alderman and Board members with a letter regarding the L-3 Canal at the intersection of Drexel Road and Belvedere Road. Mr. Waldman wrote in his letter that the homeowners' association had been maintaining the landscaping and sprinklers in this area for the past 36 years and that it is a considerable expense for the community. Mr. Waldman inquired how the Lake Worth Drainage District will help fund or reimburse for this expense. He also inquired about maintenance for trash collecting in the canal and surrounding areas.

Mr. Perry stated that Mr. Waldman's concerns would be shared with the board members at the next regularly scheduled board meeting so that his concerns can be addressed accordingly.

Mr. Waldman also stated that the L-4 Canal on the south side of their property has trespassers coming through the area on a frequent basis and would like to know if there is a way to block off this property.

Mr. Brown stated the District does not fence its property, but staff does consider these issues on a case by case basis. The District has a gate policy and this may meet the qualifications for a gate installation. He stated that the District will clean up any debris within its right-of-way.

10. Election Results for Board of Supervisors

Mr. Perry called for the tally of the proxies and stated Steve Bedner in Sub-District 2 and Harry Raucher in Sub-District 4 had been re-elected as Supervisors of Lake Worth Drainage District.

11. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:15 A.M.


Secretary - William A. Mazzone


Recording Secretary - Joann M. Aylor

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