



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF
LAKE WORTH DRAINAGE DISTRICT
HELD AT THE DELRAY BEACH OFFICE ON
November 12, 2025 AT 8:30 A.M.**

Board Members Present:

John I. Whitworth, III
Carrie Hill
James M. Alderman

Jeffrey Phipps, Sr.
Stephen Bedner

1. Call to Order

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Director of Finance Chris Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Services Recognition

- Troy Lee, Equipment Operator IV –30 years

Mr. Strowd recognized Troy Lee for his 30 years of service at the District. The Board thanked Mr. Lee for his dedicated service. He was presented with an engraved survey marker as token of recognition.

4. Agenda Revisions – Tommy Strowd, Executive Director

Mr. Strowd noted that item #9 has been postponed.

5. Abstentions by Board Members from Items on the Agenda

There were no abstentions.

6. General Public Comment (limited to 3 minutes)

There were no general public comments.

7. **Approval of minutes, check register and financial statement for the previous month**

A motion was made by Supervisor Whitworth to approve the minutes, check register and financial statement for the previous month, seconded by Vice President Hill and approved unanimously.

DISCUSSION

8. **Approval to modify the previously-approval 20' encroachment for installation of a bulkhead wall associated with the Turnpike widening within the E-2W Canal right-of-way, to allow FDOT an additional 4 feet at seven (7) locations for signage and maintenance access, subject to an approved Right-of-Way Permit and Memorandum of Agreement defining construction and maintenance responsibilities. Location: E-2W Canal between the L-38 Canal and Glades Road (Project No. RW-25-0217) – Nicole Smith, Permit Supervisor**

Ms. Smith stated that the Florida Turnpike has proposed construction of a bulkhead wall along the east bank of the E-2W Canal from north of Glades Road to north of the L-38 Canal, as well as replacing the bridge over the L-38 Canal. FDOT's roadway design requires an additional 4' of LWDD right-of-way at seven (7) locations for signage and maintenance access points which would reduce LWDD's right-of-way from 75' to 71' at the bump-out locations. Florida Turnpike is requesting 24' of right-of-way from the east bank of LWDD's E-2W Canal at these locations.

Ms. Smith explained that the Board previously approved a maximum encroachment of 20' into the east right-of-way of the E-2W Canal subject to a bulkhead installation, reducing the right-of-way from 95' to 75'. She stated that the Turnpike originally requested more bump-outs but reduced it to seven (7) locations ranging from 58' to 110' in length by combining the signage and maintenance access points.

She presented plans and sketches illustrating the location of the requested 4' bump-out locations. A copy of the presentation is attached hereto as part of the meeting minutes.

Staff recommended approval to amend the conceptual approval granted in May 2019 for their project from Glades Road to the L-38 Canal and allow the reduction of right-of-way from 95' to 71' in the seven (7) requested bump out locations. Approval is subject to final approval of plans, Memorandum of Agreement and permit fees. Conveyance to FDOT of E-2W Canal right-of-way following construction completion of the bulkhead is subject to review and approval of final sketch of description and signed and sealed as-built record drawings.

Supervisor Whitworth expressed his concern with the additional request and indicated that he would not consider additional requests in the future.

Turnpike representative, Alison Stettner was in attendance and noted the board's feedback and concerns.

A motion was made by Senior Vice President Alderman to approve staff recommendation, seconded by Vice President Hill. The motion passed with a vote of 4-1 with a dissenting vote from Supervisor Whitworth.

9. **Approval of sale and fair market value appraisal for surplus portion of L-47 Canal right-of-way to Jason and Orli Katz. Location: L-47 Canal, 7097 Via Firenze, Boca Raton (Project No. RI-25-0045) – David Bends, Right-of-Way Interest Supervisor – ITEM POSTPONED**
10. **Approval to issue Right-of-Way permits for existing encroachments within the L-36W Canal right-of-way in the Tierra del Rey development, subject to the Agreement Providing High Level of Canal Maintenance (ORB2979/BK1524). Location: North bank of the L-36W Canal, within the Tierra del Rey development (Project Nos. CM-22-0381, CM-22-0382, CM-25-0104, CM-25-0105, CM-25-0106, CM-25-0107, CM-25-0108, CM-25-0109, CM-25-0110) – Brian Tilles, Director, Right-of-Way Regulation**

Mr. Tilles explained that staff have identified ~950 legacy right-of-way encroachments that are parked for future review. Staff recently initiated an effort to reduce the backlog of these legacy encroachments. He stated that the L-36W right-of-way adjacent to Tierra Del Ray and Rio Poco neighborhoods was staked in May 2024 by an independent surveyor and the survey report identified nine (9) parcels containing existing encroachments (mostly fences) within LWDD's L-36W Canal right-of-way. Subsequently, the property owners of these parcels received written notifications of the encroachments.

Mr. Tilles presented some exhibits of the right-of-way and existing encroachments. A copy of the full presentation is attached hereto as part of the meeting minutes.

Mr. Tilles explained that on November 16, 1978, LWDD entered into an "Agreement Providing High Level of Canal Maintenance" with the developer Tierra del Rey, Inc. (ORB2979, PG1524). The Agreement requires the Developer, or subsequent property owners, to perform all canal maintenance (including aquatic vegetation management).

After receiving notifications, some property owners contacted LWDD expressing concerns regarding the need to remove or relocate existing encroachments. Considering the existing Agreement, staff recommended extending an offer to permit the existing encroachments to remain (by permit) for those property owners who do not wish to remove or relocate the encroachments outside of LWDD's L-36W right-of-way.

He stated that property owners will be notified and provided 60 days to apply for a permit. If the encroachment is not permitted, a "Notice of Encroachment" will be recorded with Palm Beach County to notify future property owners of the unpermitted encroachment during title search.

Staff recommended authorization to issue a Right-of-Way permit for existing encroachments to remain within the L-36W Canal R/W within the Tierra del Rey/Rio Poco developments subject to: LWDD Operating Policies and permit conditions, proof

of liability insurance listing LWDD as additional interest, \$500 application fee; and waiver of one-time use fee and annual fee.

Supervisor Phipps inquired if the canal was currently being maintained. Mr. Tilles confirmed that the canal is being maintained by the property owners' associations.

Vice President Hill inquired about issuing one permit to the property association. Staff indicated that the encroachments are owned and maintained by individual property owners and should be permitted individually.

Sr. Vice President recommended waiving all fees. Ms. Walker indicated that if the property owners requested a reduction in fees for a hardship, staff would bring the request before the board for consideration.

A motion was made by Supervisor Whitworth to approve staff recommendation, seconded by Supervisor Phipps and approved unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS

11. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Strowd reported that Lake Okeechobee is at 13.64 feet and continuing to decline, with the season's peak just under 14 feet. He noted that evaporation is currently low due to cool, cloudy conditions but is expected to increase significantly by late February and early March, accelerating the lake's decline.

He explained that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is making environmentally beneficial releases to the Caloosahatchee Estuary. If normal rainfall occurs during the dry season, water shortages may be avoided; however, below-average rainfall could lead to shortages in the spring. Mr. Strowd noted that the region did not receive the tropical activity needed over the summer to raise lake levels to a more favorable range for water supply.

He added that while LWDD does not regulate well withdrawals, its responsibility is to maintain canal elevations within permitted levels to support residential and utility demands. Supplemental irrigation needs for agriculture require LWDD to pump water when rainfall is insufficient, but this depends on available supply. The primary concern is that without normal rainfall, there may not be enough water to pump. Sr. Vice President Alderman recommended meeting with SFWMD to convey LWDD concerns.

Mr. LasCasas reported that staff is shifting from wet season and preparing for dry season conditions. He noted two minor utility issues during the period: a potable water service line break encroaching into the District's right-of-way, which was addressed without significant impact, and a City of Boca Raton force main break outside the District's right-of-way that resulted in a spill into the canal. He stated that the City is coordinating the response with DEP and the Health Department.

Ms. Walker announced Stephen Bedner, Sub-District 2, and Carrie Hill, Sub-District 4, have submitted their letters of intent to run for another term on the Board of Supervisors. She announced the deadline for interested parties to submit their letter of intent to run is at the end of the December 17, 2025 board meeting.

Ms. Walker recognized efforts of field inspectors and compliance staff working towards addressing the backlog of compliance issues.

12. Board Reports & Comment

There were no additional reports or comments.

13. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:20 A.M.



President – Stephen Bedner

Recording Secretary – Sandra Acosta