



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF
LAKE WORTH DRAINAGE DISTRICT
HELD AT THE DELRAY BEACH OFFICE ON
January 14, 2026 AT 8:30 A.M.**

Board Members Present:

John I. Whitworth, III
James Alderman

Carrie P. Hill
Stephen Bedner

Jeffrey Phipps, Sr.

1. Call to Order

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisor Phipps led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Agenda Revisions – Tommy Strowd, Executive Director

There were no agenda revisions.

4. Abstentions by Board Members from Items on the Agenda

There were no abstentions.

5. General Public Comment (limited to 3 minutes)

There was no general public comment.

6. Oaths of Elected Board Supervisors - Stephen Bedner, Sub-District 2 & Carrie Parker Hill, Sub-District 4

Mr. Perry issued the oath of office to the elected Board Supervisors – Stephen Bedner (Sub-District 2) and Carrie Parker Hill (Sub-District 4).

Stephen Bedner, having been duly elected to the Board of Supervisors at the Landowners' Meeting held on January 7, 2026, for a period of three years in accordance with the legislative act, Chapter 2009-258, Laws of Florida, took the oath of office in the form and manner required by law, after which he took his seat as the newly elected Supervisor of the Board of Supervisors of the Lake Worth Drainage District from Sub-District 2.

OATH OF STEPHEN BEDNER

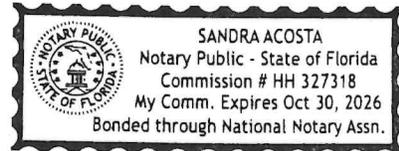
State of Florida
County of Palm Beach

Before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public, personally appeared Stephen Bedner, who being duly sworn, did depose and say: That he will honestly, faithfully and impartially perform the duties devolved upon him in the office of Supervisor of the Lake Worth Drainage District, to which office he has been duly elected, and that he will not neglect any of the duties imposed upon him by the laws of the State of Florida.

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this the 14th day of January 2026, by Stephen Bedner, who is personally known to me and who did take an oath.



Notary Public State of Florida



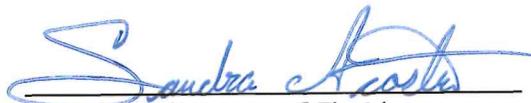
Carrie Parker Hill, having been duly elected to the Board of Supervisors at the Landowners' Meeting held on January 7, 2026, for a period of three years in accordance with the legislative act, Chapter 2009-258, Laws of Florida, took the oath of office in the form and manner required by law, after which she took her seat as the newly elected Supervisor of the Board of Supervisors of the Lake Worth Drainage District from Sub-District 4.

OATH OF CARRIE PARKER HILL

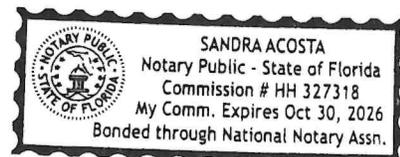
State of Florida
County of Palm Beach

Before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public, personally appeared Carrie Parker Hill, who being duly sworn, did depose and say: That she will honestly, faithfully and impartially perform the duties devolved upon her in the office of Supervisor of the Lake Worth Drainage District, to which office she has been duly elected, and that she will not neglect any of the duties imposed upon her by the laws of the State of Florida.

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this the 14th day of January 2026, by Carrie Parker Hill, who is personally known to me and who did take an oath.



Notary Public State of Florida



7. Election of Board Officers: President, Senior Vice President, and Vice President

A motion was made by Jeffrey Phipps to nominate the same slate of board officers – Steve Bedner, President; James M. Alderman, Sr. Vice President; Carrie Hill, Vice President. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hill and approved unanimously.

8. Appointment of District Officers: Tommy B. Strowd, Secretary & District Engineer; Reagan Walker, Assistant Secretary; Chris Johnson, Treasurer

A motion was made by Vice President Hill to approve the appointment of the District Officers as presented, seconded by Sr. Vice President Alderman and approved unanimously.

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

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

STAFF REPORTS

10. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Strowd reported on the evolving water supply conditions in the state, noting a continued deterioration of dry-season water conditions. He stated that Palm Beach County is now largely classified under moderate drought conditions, with rainfall significantly below normal since the start of the dry season. Current projections indicate that below-average rainfall is likely to persist through at least February, with uncertainty thereafter.

Mr. Strowd explained that lake and water conservation area levels are declining as expected under dry conditions, though they currently remain above formal water shortage thresholds. He emphasized that extended dry conditions could place the system into water shortage management levels, potentially triggering regulatory restrictions affecting water withdrawals and operations. At present, the situation has been characterized by the South Florida Water Management District as a moderate risk to regional water supply, warranting close monitoring.

He further noted that while normal operations can continue in the absence of declared restrictions, prolonged drought would increase operational challenges, particularly with maintaining canal stages, protecting infrastructure, and balancing competing water demands. Agricultural, urban, and environmental considerations were identified as factors influencing system response during dry conditions.

Mr. Strowd advised that no immediate action is required but stated that if drought indicators worsen and projected lake levels approach critical thresholds, staff would

return to the Board to request authorization to pursue regulatory relief or operational variances. He cautioned that such approvals historically involve lengthy interagency review and are not guaranteed.

Mr. Strowd emphasized that although the probability of severe outcomes remains moderate, the potential impacts to regional water supply are significant, and continued vigilance is necessary.

Mr. Strowd reported on a conceptual water resource project proposal regarding the C-51 Canal, noting that Palm Beach County (PBC) is seeking a new cooperating partner to improve Lake Worth Lagoon water quality. This follows the anticipated termination of a 2005 agreement with the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) for a sediment trap that required more frequent dredging than expected. PBC has currently budgeted \$5 million for a multi-objective project and reached out to LWDD to gauge interest in a cooperative effort. The proposed concept involves diverting excess local runoff or Lake Okeechobee discharges which would otherwise negatively impact the lagoon to LWDD during dry periods when flood risks are low.

The project would specifically include the installation of two new 100cfs water supply pump stations at Control Structures #6 and #7 on the E-3 Canal. These stations would divert water from the C-51 Canal into the E-3 Canal basins when there is a beneficial water resource use. Estimated design and construction costs range from \$6 million to \$10 million, with PBC proposing a 50/50 cost-share. Under the current proposal, PBC would fund the project through a grant, LWDD would manage design and construction, and LWDD would remain responsible for ongoing operations and maintenance. Mr. Strowd clarified that PBC is requesting conceptual acceptance to move the project through their annual budget process, noting that formal planning and cooperative agreements would only be considered if the project is successfully accepted into the upcoming PBC budget. The Board expressed interest in pursuing more information on the project and benefits to LWDD.

Mr. Strowd addressed the existing Ficus Tree encroachment issue at the City of Delray Beach golf course, noting recent media coverage regarding the City's request to retain the tree as a featured element of the clubhouse facility. Although the tree is located within the western E-4 right-of-way, staff have engaged in multiple discussions and exchanges concerning the golf course redevelopment over the past month and have requested the tree be removed. Mr. Strowd clarified that a formal permit application for the encroachment has not yet been received; however, an extended discussion on the matter is anticipated for the February meeting.

Mr. Johnson reported on the completion of the special improvements authorized under Resolution 2024-04, including the final project costs and the proposed assessment roll. Providing background, he noted that the Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution 2024-04 on October 16, 2024, which established the necessity of improvements for the property located at 10519 Pine Tree Terrace (Joseph property). That initial resolution provided a cost estimate of \$202,260 and declared that the project would be funded via a non-ad valorem assessment over a 20-year term at an interest rate of 5% per year.

With the improvements now finalized, Mr. Johnson presented a report of the total costs as required by District Act Chapter 2009-258. While the final accounting for

the project totaled \$289,951.48, staff recommended that the District assume \$100,000 of the cost to account for the unanticipated differential from the initial estimate. This adjustment results in a final assessed cost of \$189,951.48 to be applied to the benefited property (PCN: 00-42-45-25-03-000-0430).

In closing, Mr. Johnson requested that the Board accept the Treasurer's Report with the revised final assessed cost and direct staff to proceed with scheduling the required public hearing. Upon approval of the final cost and assessment roll, a final resolution will be advertised and brought back to the Board for adoption.

A motion was made by Supervisor Whitworth to accept the Treasurer's Report regarding the special improvements for 10519 Pine Tree Terrace with a final assessed cost of \$189,951.48, and to authorize staff to proceed with the advertisement and scheduling of the required public hearing, seconded by Sr. Vice President Alderman and approved unanimously.

Counsel Perry reported on the successful closing of the sale of fee-simple interest in the E-3½ -2 Canal to South Florida Regional Transportation Authority. The sale was subject to receiving an exclusive easement over the LWDD property. He noted that the transaction is complete and confirmed that the resulting additional funds have been secured by the District.

11. Board Reports & Comment

No additional reports or comments.

12. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 A.M.



President – Stephen Bedner



Recording Secretary – Sandra Acosta