



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF
LAKE WORTH DRAINAGE DISTRICT
HELD AT THE DELRAY BEACH OFFICE ON
May 13, 2026 AT 9:00 A.M.**

Board Members Present:

Stephen Bedner
John I. Whitworth, III

Carrie P. Hill
Jeffrey Phipps, Sr.

Board Members Absent:

James Alderman

1. Call to Order

President Bedner called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. and confirmed the quorum.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Vice President Hill led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Service Award Recognition

- Nicole Smith, Permit Supervisor –25 Years

Mr. Strowd recognized Nicole Smith for her 25 years of service at the District. The Board thanked Ms. Smith for her dedicated service. She was presented with an engraved survey marker as a token of recognition.

4. Agenda Revisions Tommy Strowd, 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 (limited to 3 minutes)

There was no public comment.

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

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

STAFF REPORTS

8. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Strowd provided a hydrologic update, reporting that water levels in Lake Okeechobee have remained stable in recent weeks due to rainfall in the surrounding areas. He noted that current conditions have reduced concerns about drought impacts for the year.

Mr. Strowd also reported that climate forecasts indicate the potential for wetter-than-normal conditions next year, which could result in higher water levels and increased rainfall throughout the region.

Additionally, Mr. Strowd reported that the previously identified banyan tree concern at a golf course property in Delray Beach had been addressed and no longer poses a risk.

Mr. Tilles provided recognized several employees that have stepped in to assist with workload coverage to ensure deadlines are met during a coworkers extended medical leave. Mr. Tilles specifically recognized Nicole Smith, Margie Illsley, and Sandra Acosta for their support and willingness to assist as needed.

Mr. Johnson reported that representatives from Grau & Associates would attend the next meeting to present the annual audit. He stated that the audit was nearing completion and that, based on current results, the District was expected to receive an unqualified, unmodified opinion with no management letter comments. Mr. Johnson noted that the audit reflected a clean review for Fiscal Year 2025 and advised the Board that the auditors would provide their formal presentation at the next meeting.

Ms. Walker recognized Melissa Skora for coordinating a successful "Bring Your Kids to Work Day" event held on April 23, 2025. She presented a video highlighting the event to the Board and invited Ms. Skora to provide additional remarks regarding the program.

Ms. Skora reported that 19 employees participated and brought a total of 32 children, including children, grandchildren, and extended family members such as nieces and nephews. She expressed appreciation to staff, crews, and management for their support in ensuring the event ran smoothly. Ms. Skora noted that the program provided participants with an overview of the District's work and included opportunities for children to take part in select activities. She further stated that the event was well received and appeared to be enjoyed by all participants.

Ms. Walker provided an update on the current legislative session, noting that the Legislature remains in special session. She reported that no substantive bills impacting special districts have been enacted to date; however, staff are monitoring House Bill 145 and Senate Bill 1366. The proposed legislation would increase sovereign immunity limits for state and local governments from \$200,000 per person

and \$300,000 per incident to \$350,000 per person and \$500,000 per incident, with a projected effective date of October 1, pending gubernatorial action. She noted that if no action is taken by the Governor, the legislation would become law by default.

Ms. Walker advised that staff anticipate the bill may be enacted and are preparing to coordinate with the District's insurance broker and review internal risk management and permitting practices to assess whether adjustments to insurance coverage are necessary. Any resulting changes may have budget implications to be addressed in future financial discussions. She noted that the legislation would apply broadly to Florida local governments.

Ms. Walker reported that staff are finalizing the draft budget, which will be presented at the June Board workshop for initial review and feedback. The preliminary budget is scheduled for presentation in July.

Ms. Walker advised that the 2025 hurricane season begins June 1, and staff are actively engaged in preparedness activities, including Emergency Operations Center (EOC) procedure reviews, updates to emergency contact information, and internal training exercises scheduled prior to month-end.

She further noted ongoing coordination with property managers and homeowners' associations through pre-season outreach and training efforts. A recent session included approximately 35 participants and addressed community responsibilities related to infrastructure maintenance and drainage systems. Staff continue to evaluate opportunities to increase participation in future sessions.

Ms. Walker concluded by announcing the retirement of long-serving employee Lany Altman, effective July 30, after approximately 41 years of service. She noted that staff are planning a recognition event to honor his contributions.

9. Board Reports & Comment

There were no additional board comments or reports.

10. Adjourn

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



Sr. Vice President – James Alderman



Recording Secretary – Sandra Acosta