



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF
LAKE WORTH DRAINAGE DISTRICT
HELD AT THE DELRAY BEACH OFFICE ON
September 7, 2022 AT 8:30 A.M.**

Board Members Present:

John I. Whitworth, III
Harry Raucher

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

Mr. Alderman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Agenda Revisions – Tommy Strowd, Executive Director

There were no revisions.

4. Abstentions by Board Members from Items on the Agenda

There were no abstentions.

5. General Public Comment

There were no public comments.

6. Approval of meeting minutes for the previous month

Ms. Walker stated the financial reports for the previous month (August 2022) will be presented for approval at the next board meeting. Due to the early meeting, the reports were not finalized.

A motion was made by Supervisor Whitworth to approve the minutes, for the previous month, seconded by Vice President Raucher and approved unanimously.

DISCUSSION

7. Approval to renew contracts with Wantman Group, DRMP and Bowman Consulting for Canal Rehabilitation Program Surveying Services for one year (Project #18-9854L.04) – Reagan Walker, Assistant Executive Director

Ms. Walker stated in 2018 the District went out for a Request for Proposals (RFP) to obtain surveying services for mapping, surveying and staking of the District's right-of-way related to the Canal Rehabilitation Program (CRP). The District entered into contracts with three (3) surveying firms; Wantman Group, DRMP, and Bowman Consulting. At the time, the Board approved two-year contracts with the option for two (2) one-year renewals (totaling 4 years). The contracts are due to expire November 2022.

Ms. Walker stated there is approximately 15 miles of CRP projects to be completed in FY23. In addition, staff is continuing work on the right-of-way mapping project to be completed in FY23; approximately 45 miles remain to be mapped. Additional survey services will be needed to provide survey reports and ongoing staking to facilitate encroachment removal projects, particularly in conjunction with low maintenance bank recovery projects.

Staff recommend approval to renew the annual surveying services contracts with Wantman Group, DRMP and Bowman Consulting for one additional year, expiring November 2023.

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

8. Approval of ranking of qualified firms for development of a Stormwater Management Dashboard and authorization to enter into contract negotiations with the top-ranked firm (RFP #22-10355L.01) – Tommy Strowd, Executive Director

Mr. Strowd stated currently LWDD utilizes a suite of individual digital data products to manage the regional water resource system, which requires real time management of dozens of individual online data-streams over which the District has no control. He indicated the use of multiple systems is time consuming and can impose unnecessary delays on water control decision-making. He stated the District solicited an RFP in May 2022 for development of a comprehensive water management dashboard to facilitate efficient operational decision making. Six (6) responsive firms submitted proposals. The evaluation committee reviewed response and short listed three firms for oral presentations based on qualifications & experience, product specifications & capabilities, service factors, and costs. Following oral presentations, the final evaluation committee meeting was held on August 30 and a final ranking was established as follows:

1. SUEZ Smart & Environmental Solutions
2. DeLoach Engineering Science
3. GHD, Inc.

Staff recommended approval of ranked firms for implementation of a water management dashboard and authorization to enter into negotiations with top ranked firm. Staff will present a final negotiated contract for board approval at a future meeting.

A motion was made by Vice President Raucher to approve staff recommendation, seconded by Senior Vice President Alderman and approved unanimously.

9. Approval to surplus and dispose of designated items – Karen Hoyt, Director of Finance & Administration

Ms. Hoyt stated Pursuant to Chapter 274, Florida Statutes, the District has the discretion to surplus property that is obsolete or the continued use of which is uneconomical, unsafe, inefficient, or which serves no useful function. She stated staff has identified items that meet this criteria and requests that they be declared surplus and disposed of through the recommended disposal method.

Ms. Hoyt provided a list of thirty-seven (37) items, a copy of which is attached to this meeting record. Surplus items include, but are not limited to, fuel dispensers, an air conditioning unit, mowers and associated mowing heads, 21 computer workstations and 6 trucks.

Staff recommended approval to declare the listed items surplus and authorization to dispose of the items through the recommended disposal method.

A motion was made by Senior Vice President Alderman to approve staff recommendation, seconded by Supervisor Phipps and approved unanimously.

10. Approval of FY2023 legal services contract with Mark A. Perry, P.A. – Reagan Walker, Assistant Executive Director

Ms. Walker recommended approval of a one-year contract extension for legal services with Mark A. Perry, P.A., as well as an hourly rate increase from \$215.00 to \$225.00.

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

STAFF REPORTS

11. Canal Rehabilitation Program Update – Megan Hoffman, Project Manager

Ms. Hoffman provided an update on the progress of the Canal Rehabilitation Program. Since October 2015, the District has cleared more than 162.3 miles of vegetation on its canal rights-of-way: LWDD – 82.5 miles; contractor – 74.1 miles; developer – 5.8 miles. There are 12.4 miles remaining of 174.7 miles; 10.2 miles have been completed within the past 12 months.

12. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Strowd provided an update on current water conditions and the new regulation schedule for Lake Okeechobee.

Mr. Strowd provided an overview of drought conditions throughout the U.S. and current water levels in Water Conservation Area #1 and Lake Okeechobee levels and stated that similarly southeastern Florida has only received 82% average rainfall within the past year. He stated that if a significant amount of rainfall is not received over the next couple of months, South Florida may be looking at water shortage conditions. During a water shortage, the District would rely on Lake Okeechobee as a backup water source. He stated the new Lake Okeechobee regulation schedule proposed by the Corps would impact Palm Beach County's water supplies in a water shortage.

He stated that the Corps lowered Lake Okeechobee in 2008 through the implementation of LORS08. There were documented impacts to water supply but the Corps committed at the time to return Lake levels of service for water supply to Pre-LORS08 conditions with a new schedule. When LOSOM was initiated, the Corps refused to consider the Pre-LORS08 condition; they committed to 'improving' LOSOM water supply over LORS08. The Corps refused to consider LWDD's request for a CERP 'Savings Clause' analysis that provided assurance of no loss or transfer of regional water.

Based on modeling, the proposed new regulation schedule (LOSOM) reduced water shortages triggered by Lake Okeechobee states (~10%) and increased water supply to LWDD via Water Conservation Area 1. However, the proposed scheduled reduced water availability for pumping under drought conditions (12% decrease in water supply deliveries to WCA-1; required LWDD to increase demand on WCA-1 by 16%; induced wetland impacts on WCA-1; and Lake recovery operations could further impact LWDD and WCA-1.

Mr. Strowd stated that LWDD is cooperating with the City of West Palm Beach in development of an Economic Impact Statement related to LOSOM, and that staff will be submitting a letter to the Corps commenting with its concerns related to the LOSOM EIS.

Mr. LasCasas stated that O&M is close to being fully staffed. He also stated that mobilization will begin on Control Structure 9 refurbishment within the month.

Ms. Hoyt stated that staff along with our investment advisors will be discussing investment opportunities at an upcoming board meeting.

13. District Counsel's Report

No additional comments.

14. Board Reports & Comment

Mr. Raucher announced that he will be retiring from the Board of Supervisors. The October 12, 2022 board meeting will be his last meeting.

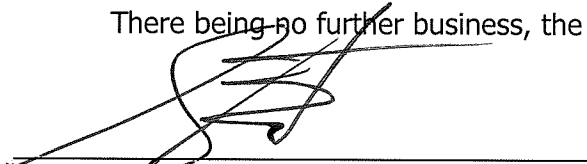
Chairman Bedner inquired about the requirement to fill the vacated seat for Sub-District 4.

Ms. Walker explained an interim supervisor must be appointed 45 days following the retirement of the board member. Therefore, the Board of Supervisors would need to appoint an interim board member no later than the November 2022 meeting. The Sub-District 4 seat will be up for election at the January 2023 landowners meeting for a full three-year term. Ms. Walker stated she would add an item to the October 2022 agenda for the board to discuss appointment of an interim board member.


Sr. Vice President Alderman commented regarding the critical nature of a potential water shortage if we do not receive any rainfall and shared his concerns that regional water managers and the Corps don't understand the full implications of a serious water shortage for our area.

15. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:25 A.M.



President – Stephen Bedner



Recording Secretary – Sandra Acosta