



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE LANDOWNERS OF THE
LAKE WORTH DRAINAGE DISTRICT
HELD ON JANUARY 5, 2022 AT 9:00 A.M.**

Attendees in Person:

James M. Alderman	John I. Whitworth, III	Rosemary Rayman
Reagan Walker	Brian Tilles	Karen Hoyt
Melissa Skora	Sandra Acosta	Ted Winsberg
Larry Portnoy	Carrie Hill	Joseph Spetla
William Lorenzetti	Anthony LasCasas	Anne Perry
Tommy Strowd		

Attendees on Phone:

Jeffrey P. Phipps, Sr. Mark Perry

1. Call to Order

Tommy Strowd called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

John I. Whitworth, III led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Presentation of Advertised Meeting Notice

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

4. Nomination and Election of Meeting Chairman and Secretary

Mr. Strowd opened nominations for Chairman of the meeting. John I. Whitworth, III nominated Delray Dunes resident Carrie Hill. Ted Winsberg seconded the nomination. There being no further nominations, a unanimous vote was cast for Carrie Hill.

Chairman Hill confirmed that Executive Director & District Secretary Tommy Strowd would serve as Secretary of the landowners meeting.

5. Call for Ballots and Proxies for Board of Supervisors Election - Sub-District 1

Chairman Hill stated that two candidates submitted notice of their intent to run for the Sub-District 1 seat on the Board of Supervisors -- Joseph Schmidt and James Alderman. Chairman Hill stated that Mr. Schmidt notified the District prior to the meeting that he was formally rescinding his candidacy for the election. Therefore, according to the published meeting procedures, given there is only one qualified candidate, the election of incumbent James Alderman shall be concluded by a verbal affirmation of the landowners present.

John I. Whitworth, III made a motion to accept the election of James Alderman as Board Supervisor for Sub-District 1. Ted Winsberg seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

6. Approval of Minutes - January 6, 2021 Landowners' Meeting

Landowners were provided time to review the minutes of the 2021 Landowners' Meeting. Chairman Hill asked for comments. With no comments, Chairman Hill called for a motion to approve the 2021 meeting minutes. John I. Whitworth, III made a motion to approve the minutes, Ted Winsberg seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

7. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director, Tommy Strowd presented a report reflecting on the District's annual activities, accomplishments, and progress. A report summary is provided herein. A copy of the presentation is provided as part of the meeting record.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact District operations. Staff continued to provide essential services; however, realized challenges with new staff recruitment, supply chain issues, project delays and subsequent unexpended budgeted funds.

The District did not experience any major storm events in 2021. There was one significant rain event in November 2021 that increased canal levels above control elevation for a short period of time; however, there were no related flooding impacts.

In November 2021, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) selected the "Tentatively Selected Plan" for the Lake Okeechobee operating manual. Mr. Strowd provided an update on the development of the revised Lake Okeechobee operating schedule. As a result, water supply reliability is somewhat improved over the current operating plan (LORS08) but was not returned to the pre-LORS08 levels. The lack of excess flow from Lake Okeechobee will increase the District's reliance on Water Conservation Area 1 to meet supplemental water demands, and changes in regional water sources and the potential deauthorization of CERP storage projects increase uncertainty of water availability to meet current demand in future years.

Aquifer Storage & Recovery (ASR) systems may offer an alternative to the overall reductions in the availability of regional water supplies. The District is currently investigating the possibility of re-activating an existing abandoned South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) ASR well on the Hillsboro Canal. The District

is also in the process of developing an ASR Feasibility Study to determine the applicability of ASR in improving regional water availability to meet current needs.

In May 2021, the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners voted in favor of the District's appeal to sell development rights on its right-of-way located in the Agricultural Reserve. The sale is expected to close in Spring 2022 for approximately \$19 million. In June 2021, the District Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution 21-02 directing all revenues generated from the sale of development rights in the Agricultural Reserve be used for capital projects for the sole purposes of advancing the District's flood control, water supply protection (including ASR) and hazard mitigation mission.

Refurbishment of Control Structure #9 is moving forward. Completed refurbishment activities in 2021 include: engineering design, control panel fabrication, rip-rap stabilization, relief tube refurbishment, generator procurement, and control building fabrication. Remaining improvements are expected to be completed in 2022-23.

The District is moving forward with development of a District-Wide Surface Water Model. Phase I will be completed in 2022. Phase II and III completion dates are estimated to be 2023 and 2024, respectively.

Since the Canal Rehabilitation Program (CRP) began in October 2015, the District has cleared more than 154.6 miles of vegetation on its canal rights-of-way: LWDD – 80.4 miles; contractor – 68.5 miles; developer – 5.8 miles. There were 26.8 miles cleared in 2021. The remaining 26.2 miles are expected to be cleared in 2022. Mr. Strowd presented before and after photos of completed projects in 2021.

Coordination of CRP projects is a District-wide effort requiring participation by all staff. In support of the program, staff completed the following activities in 2021: researched and mapped right-of-way ownership for approximately 90 miles of canal; field staked approximately 17 miles of canal right-of-way; prepared and distributed approximately 1,576 notification letters via hand and mail delivery; captured GoPro 360-degree video segments of all project areas for advance inspection of the canals; addressed approximately 630 project-specific public inquiries; hosted 14 project-specific public outreach meetings with residents and neighborhood associations; and continually updated information and project statuses on the District's website.

Nearly 70% of the low maintenance canal banks cleared as part of CRP projects now require significant rehabilitation to provide maintenance access. Staff have identified 110 individual projects that require moderate/major work to recover its right-of-way to a maintainable condition. These projects will include encroachment removal and canal bank restoration. Staff are currently evaluating and prioritizing the projects.

The District mowed over 3,000 miles of rights-of-way – 1500 total miles of flat mowing and 1600 total miles of slope mowing. The District contracted an additional 120 miles of flat mowing and 140 miles of slope mowing for \$275,000.

The District has treated approximately 4,600 acres of aquatic vegetation – 600 acres of floating vegetation, 1500 acres of submerged vegetation, 2100 acres of

littoral vegetation, 200 acres of littoral/floating combined treatment, and 200 acres under separate contractor services. Contracted aquatic services are now being used for treatment of 60.5 miles of canal north of the C-51 Canal and 19.5 miles in the Boca Basin. To help manage aquatic weeds and trash, 9 additional weed booms and 3 additional tuff booms were installed; staff are maintaining a total of 155 boom sites throughout District canals. Staff continued mechanical removal of aquatic vegetation at boom sites to supplement chemical treatments.

The District installed 20 new access gates at arterial and local roads where warranted. Approximately 27 miles of routine canal dredging was completed to maintain conveyance and remedy shoaling.

District staff continued to perform regular maintenance services on 10 major water control structures; 120 routine preventative maintenance tasks were completed. The pump at Control Structure 17W was pulled for refurbishment and is expected to be completed and re-installed in 2022.

District staff continues to maintain a fleet of 71 vehicles, 24 machines/heavy equipment, 9 tractor mowers, and 7 boats. Equipment usage is tracked and reported quarterly. Utilization averaged 61% for 2021; a slight decrease from 2020 and attributable to COVID-19 related staffing issues.

New GIS mapping tools were created to assist with the tracking and management of field operations for mowing and spraying the canal banks. Staff deployed a "Workforce" GIS application for field ticket tracking/routing.

In 2021, the District processed 371 right-of-way applications and issued 231 permits. Staff tracked 1,712 permit compliance deliverables for 907 individual permits and realized an 86% compliance rate; 20% of the deliverables are reoccurring annual deliverables. Staff also researched and responded to 6,922 Chancery Case 407 review requests, and completed 588 plat and development (DRO) reviews for county and municipality projects, a 20% increase from 2020.

Mapping was completed for an additional 93 miles of canal right-of-way ownership. To date, 405 miles have been mapped. The remaining 87 miles are expected to be completed in 2022.

The District opened 1,380 new compliance cases with a majority of new cases related to legacy encroachments following CRP vegetation removal projects; 432 cases were resolved or closed.

The District's outreach team responded to 150+ public records inquiries and continues to maintain the agency's presence on social media platforms including Facebook, Twitter and Linked In. The District's monthly "Reflections" newsletter is distributed to 3,000+ subscribers.

Staff is continuing to focus on employee safety in the workplace. Safety committee meetings are held to review accidents/incidents and discuss preventative measures. Ongoing safety training for employees included: Level 2 & Level 5 Hazmat Spill Team Certification, Tractor/Mower Operator Safety, online defensive driving training for new employees and fire extinguisher training.

The District adopted a Fiscal Year 2022 budget totaling \$18 million. The non-ad valorem assessment rate remained unchanged at \$49.50 with \$4 designated for accelerated canal rehabilitation and \$3.50 for other capital improvements. District auditors issued an unqualified opinion for FY2020 and confirmed that the financial records and statements were fairly and appropriately stated in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

In FY2021, the District received nearly \$736,000 in revenues for permit fees, \$2,000 in quit claim deeds, \$55,000 in interest earnings, \$84,000 in other right-of-way agreements and tower leases, \$126,000 for sale of equipment and \$715,000 for sale of surplus real estate. The District also entered into a new tower lease agreement with American Tower for \$120,000 annually.

Over the past 10 years, the District has maintained costs for salaries, healthcare, and property/casualty insurance costs. The total number of staff has not increased in more than 12 years; 4 employees retired in 2021 and 29 employees have retired in the past 5 years.

Looking ahead, the District will begin Phase II of the Canal Rehabilitation Program which includes restoration of low maintenance canal banks and management of existing structural encroachments on rights-of-way remaining following the Phase I vegetation removal projects. The District will also continue ongoing capital projects including Control Structure 9 remediation and enhancements, the District-wide hydrologic modeling effort, and an ASR feasibility study.

Mr. Strowd stated that the 2021 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 John I. Whitworth, III to approve the report, seconded by Ted Winsberg and approved unanimously.

8. Financial Report

Copies of the Balance Sheet and Budget Report for Year-End September 30, 2021 were furnished, and Ms. Hoyt stated the year-end audit report is still ongoing. The final audit report will be posted on the District's website once completed. Ms. Hoyt indicated the District is in good financial position.

A motion was made by Ted Winsberg to approve the financial report, seconded by John I. Whitworth, III and approved unanimously.

9. New Business


There was no new business.

10. Election Results for Board of Supervisors

Election results were announced at the beginning of the meeting under Agenda Item #5.

11. Adjourn

There being no further business, a motion was made by Ted Winsberg to adjourn the meeting, seconded by John I. Whitworth, III and approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:45 A.M.



District Secretary – Tommy Strowd