



**MINUTES OF
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORKSHOP MEETING OF
LAKE WORTH DRAINAGE DISTRICT
HELD AT THE DELRAY BEACH OFFICE ON
June 6, 2023 at 8:30AM**

Board Members Present:

Steve Bedner (via phone) James M. Alderman
Carrie Hill Jeffrey P. Phipps, Sr.
John I. Whitworth, III

1. Call to Order – James Alderman,

Sr. Vice President called the meeting to order.

2. Agenda Revisions – Tommy Strowd, Executive Director

There were no agenda revisions.

3. Briefing on Future Board Agenda Items

Staff provided briefings on anticipated agenda items for the June 14, 2023 regular board meeting including:

- **Denial of variance request by property owners Jerald and Kimberly Hansen to permit vegetative encroachments within the L-25 Canal right-of-way; approval to issue a right-of-way permit for designated underground facilities within the L-25 Canal right-of-way. Location: 10495 St. Andrews Road; north side of the L-25 Canal, west of St. Andrews Road (Project #RW-23-0195) – Nicole Smith, Permit Supervisor**

Jerald Hansen provided public comment and shared his concerns with impacts to his private underground utility lines between the existing encroaching hedge and the house. He requested a 5ft easement to allow space to plant a new hedge and keep his underground utilities.

- **Approval to issue a right-of-way permit variance to property owner Paul Raffa authorizing designated encroachments within the L-25 Canal right-of-way. Location: 10494 St. Andrews Road, Boynton Beach; north side of the L-25 Canal, east of St. Andrews Road (Project #RW-23-0198) – Nicole Smith, Permit Supervisor**

Paul Raffa provided public comment to the board explaining the property history and his hardship. His roof line is the same as the District's right-of-way boundary. He is required by the Homeowners Association to have a hedge around his A/C pad and pool equipment. Mr. Raffa requested to keep the hedge and other existing encroachments.

The Board directed staff to reduce the associated application and annual fees to \$50 each for the existing encroachments on the Raffa and Hansen property.

- **Denial of variance request by Life Covenant Church, Inc to permit a parallel guardrail installation within the L-3 Canal right-of-way. Location: Southeast corner of Belvedere Road and Jog Road; north side of the L-3 Canal right-of-way (Project #RW-23-0219) – Shawn Mitchell, Permit Coordinator**
- **Approval to issue a Right-of-Way Permit to NEM, LLC authorizing piping of a portion of the S-4 Canal between the south side of the SFWMD C-51 Canal right-of-way and the existing culvert crossing at Acme Road. Location: S-4 Canal; south of Southern Blvd, west of SR-7 (Project #RW-23-0164) – Nicole Smith, Permit Supervisor**
- **Approval for purchase and installation of a parallel chain link fence adjacent to Pine Jog Environmental Center. Location: South side of the L-5 Canal, north of Summit Blvd, east of Jog Road (Project #16-9837P.01) – Anthony LasCasas, Director of Operations & Maintenance**
- **Approval of revised Investment Policy authorizing investment of a portion of available operating funds – Karen Hoyt, Director of Finance & Administrative Services**

A copy of the draft presentations and staff recommendations are attached hereto as part of the meeting record.

4. Fiscal Year 2024 Proposed Budget – Tommy Strowd, Executive Director & Karen Hoyt, Director of Finance & Administration

Ms. Walker stated that staff is presenting a proposed budget for discussion. The preliminary budget will be presented at the July 2023 board meeting for approval to advertise. The final budget will be presented at the August 2023 Board meeting.

Mr. Strowd provided an overview of the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2024 stating that he is presenting a balanced budget totaling \$16.9 million with no change in the

annual assessment recommended. He provided the budget priorities and stated that the budget for operational costs has not increased in ten years, and all assessment increases since 2014 have been dedicated to capital improvements and canal rehabilitation. The FY24 budget priorities include completion of CRP Phase I – vegetation removal; planning for CRP Phase II – low maintenance bank restoration and encroachment management; additional staff and equipment resources for maintenance of cleared canal banks; control structure maintenance; continuation of the comprehensive modeling effort; water supply planning efforts; campus facility improvements; and adjusted salary rates to ensure competitive wages to retain and recruit employees.

Ms. Hoyt distributed copies of the proposed budget and provided an overview of proposed revenues and expenditures. She stated that current budget uncertainties include the final number of assessed parcels, property and casualty insurance, health insurance, fuel, herbicides, and water supply initiative costs. These uncertainties will be reconciled prior to final budget approval at the August Board meeting.

In consideration of the completion of the Control Structure 9 refurbishment and the additional operational costs associated with 180 miles of cleared rights-of-way, staff recommended to reallocate the \$3.50 of the annual assessment dedicated to capital funds to the operating budget. The operational budget has not increased in 10 years.

The Board requested staff provide additional information and justification regarding the request to purchase an off-road end dump. Staff agreed to provide additional information at the regular board meeting.

Sr. Vice President Alderman recommended that staff consider lowering the assessment rate by at least \$1.

President Bedner stated he did not support lowering the assessment rate at this time. Given the uncertainties of the costs associated with inflation, hazard mitigation and future water supply projects, he did not recommend utilizing surplus funds to balance the budget.

A copy of the draft presentations and staff recommendations are attached hereto as part of the meeting record.

5. Staff Reports

There were no additional staff reports.

6. Board Reports & Comments

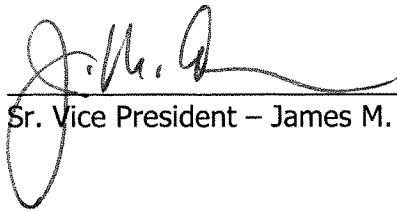
There was no additional board comment.

7. General Public Comment

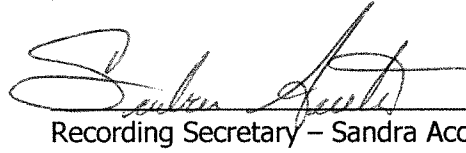
There was no public comment.

8. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at noon.



Sr. Vice President – James M. Alderman



Recording Secretary – Sandra Acosta