

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF
LAKE WORTH DRAINAGE DISTRICT
HELD AT THE DELRAY BEACH OFFICE ON
February 11, 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

Vice President Hill led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Agenda Revisions – Tommy Strowd, Executive Director

Mr. Strowd announced Item #9 will be discussed first on the Discussion Agenda.

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

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

PUBLIC HEARING

7. Final Accounting of Costs and Proposed Assessment for 10519 Pine Tree Terrace, Boynton Beach. Location: L-25 Canal within Pine Tree Country Club Estates (Project #91-1557D.01, 03-1557P.08, CM-20-0260)

Mr. Bedner opened the public hearing.

Ms. Walker stated the purpose of the public hearing, which was to discuss the final project cost and the proposed special assessment associated with the pipe repair project.

She provided a brief overview of the project location adjacent to the Joseph property along the L-25 Canal and reviewed the Board's prior actions related to the project. In May 2024, the Board approved Resolution 2024-01 directing staff to prepare the plans and specifications necessary to repair the failing pipe at that location. In September 2024, the Board adopted Resolution 2024-03 determining the repairs were necessary, approving the estimated project costs, and establishing that the costs would be funded through a special assessment to the benefitted property. The resolution also set the method of payment, including collection through the Palm Beach County Tax Collector over a 20-year period with a 5% interest rate on deferred payments.

Ms. Walker explained that the resolution also directed staff to schedule and advertise a public hearing. A public hearing was advertised and subsequently held on October 16, 2024, during which no sufficient objections were raised to proceed with the project. Following that hearing, the Board adopted Resolution 2024-04 directing staff to move forward with the improvements.

She summarized the project scope, which included removal and disposal of existing aluminum and chain-link fencing within the District's right-of-way; installation of a new chain-link fence along the north property line to restrict access to the adjacent pool in accordance with Palm Beach County building code requirements; removal of trees and vegetation within the right-of-way; installation of a cured-in-place pipe liner to rehabilitate the failing pipe; and final grading and resodding of the area following completion of the repair.

Ms. Walker reported that the work was advertised in March 2025 and a contract was awarded in the amount of \$278,574. The improvements were completed in late summer 2025. She also presented before-and-after images of the project site to illustrate the completed work.

She further advised that the Board had approved the final project cost at the previous month's meeting in the amount of \$289,951.48. The Board also agreed to reduce the assessable amount by \$100,000, resulting in a final assessed cost of \$189,951.48.

Ms. Walker stated that the Board had directed staff to hold a final public hearing regarding the assessment which was being conducted at this meeting.

President Bedner asked if there was any public comment. There was no public comment.

President Bedner closed the Public Hearing.

DISCUSSION

- 8. Resolution 2026-01 certifying the final costs for certain special improvements; declaring the portion of the costs to be paid by the benefited properties; stating the method for payment of the associated assessments, the term of those assessments, and the interest rate to be applied to the assessment; adopting the final assessment roll of benefited properties; declaring such assessments to be lien upon the benefited property; finding no sufficient objection raised at public hearing; and providing an effective date. Location: 10519 Pine Tree Terrace, Boynton Beach; L-25 Canal within Pine Tree Country Club Estates (Project #91-1557D.01, 03-1557P.08, CM-20-0260) – Reagan Walker, Assistant Executive Director**

Ms. Walker stated that, with no public comments received and no objections raised during the public hearing, staff requested that the Board proceed with consideration of Resolution 26-01. She explained that the resolution certifies the final cost of the special improvements, establishes the assessment for the benefited property, and adopts the final assessment roll in accordance with the previously approved terms.

Ms. Walker concluded by stating that staff recommended approval of Resolution 2026-01.

A copy of the resolution is attached hereto as part of the meeting minutes.

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

- 9. Petition by City of Delray Beach for authorization to permit existing Banyan Tree to remain within the west right-of-way of the E-4 Canal adjacent to Delray Beach Municipal Golf Course. Location: E-4 Canal, south side of Atlantic Avenue. (Project No. RW-26-0011) – Nicole Smith, Permit Supervisor & Tommy Strowd, Executive Director**

Ms. Smith provided background on the history of the City of Delray Beach encroachments within the E-4 Canal right-of-way. She reported that the Board initially approved an encroachment agreement in 1994 allowing an employee parking area, golf tee and trees to remain in the right-of-way, subject to removal upon written notice from the District. The agreement was amended several times between 1996 and 2003, ultimately allowing the employee parking area and associated encroachments to remain until the District required their removal.

Ms. Smith stated that in 2025 the City applied for multiple right-of-way permits related to the golf course redesign project including bridge repairs, utilities, irrigation, and drainage improvements along the E-4 Canal. During vegetation

clearing required under the bridge permit, the City requested that an existing Ficus tree located within the canal right-of-way remain. The City later submitted a separate right-of-way permit application requesting approval for the tree to remain.

Ms. Smith presented images of the tree and discussed potential drainage and maintenance concerns associated with its location on the canal bank. She noted that the City provided a Tree Preservation Assessment dated January 27, 2026; however, the report did not evaluate risks related to the tree's location within the canal corridor.

Ms. Smith further stated that the City indicated emergency response would be handled through existing contracts with certified debris removal companies and provided a 24-hour contact for emergency coordination.

Mr. Strowd presented a potential risk assessment regarding the Delray Golf Course Ficus tree located within the E-4 Canal right-of-way. He reviewed historical images of the tree and discussed potential operational and flood-control concerns associated with large trees located near canal systems. Mr. Strowd explained that during major storm events, fallen trees or debris can obstruct canal flows and delay post-storm recovery efforts.

Mr. Strowd also briefly reviewed historical storm impacts in Southeast Palm Beach County and discussed prior events that resulted in debris and vegetation obstructions within the Lake Worth Drainage District (LWDD) canal system. He noted the importance of maintaining canal rights-of-way to ensure proper system function and to maintain eligibility for federal disaster assistance.

Mr. Strowd concluded with an overview of the E-4 (Equalizer Canal) and its role as a primary flood-conveyance corridor within the LWDD Eastern Basin, noting that significant obstructions within the canal could affect system conveyance and surrounding communities. He stated that although the City values the tree for its aesthetic value, the tree was a high threat to public safety due to flooding risks.

Supervisor Whitworth shared that he would not support leaving this tree on the canal bank.

Vice President Hill inquired about the extent to which the tree extends over the canal, noting that based on the images presented, a significant portion of the tree appears to be overhanging the canal. She asked whether trimming or removing the portion extending over the canal would be feasible and how such action might affect the overall condition and stability of the tree.

Counsel Perry inquired about the potential timeline for flooding in the event the tree were to fall into the canal. He asked how quickly flooding conditions could occur should such an obstruction take place.

Mr. Strowd responded that enhanced flooding could occur within hours if the tree were to fall into the canal and obstruct flow. He noted that flooding conditions may already be present during significant storm events, such as a 100-year rainfall event, and that any obstruction could further increase flood levels. Mr. Strowd added that the duration of the impact would depend on canal flow conditions and the ability of

crews to access the site with the necessary equipment, and that clearing the obstruction could potentially take up to a week.

Mr. Tom Markert, City Commissioner, stated that during the renovation of the City's golf course, this large tree was discovered. It was previously thought to be multiple smaller trees, but is a single, significant specimen. He emphasized the tree's aesthetic and community value and expressed a desire to preserve it. Mr. Markert acknowledged potential concerns regarding canal flow and safety but suggested that mitigation measures, including trimming and water management strategies, could be explored in partnership with District. He introduced Ms. Missie Barletto to provide additional technical information and requested that the Board consider options for preserving the tree, if it can be done safely.

Missie Barletto, Public Works Director for the City of Delray Beach, stated that the tree qualifies as a legacy tree under City ordinance and has been present for decades. She noted that the tree has withstood previous hurricane events without issue and that potential hurricane impacts would likely be reduced inland. Ms. Barletto explained that the City maintains contracts with specialized debris removal companies and plans to include provisions to stage equipment at the golf course to ensure timely removal of the tree, if necessary. She emphasized that any emergency removal would be the City's responsibility, not the District's.

Vice President Hill expressed concern regarding the area adjacent to the tree, noting that earlier images indicated the presence of a golf course maintenance building. She observed that, although the building has been removed, remnants such as the foundation remain, and the tree appears to be growing over these structures.

President Bedner added that the tree's roots are likely very shallow and noted that this shallow rooting reduces the tree's overall stability and structural support.

Sr. Vice President Alderman noted that Ficus trees have very shallow root systems compared to native oak or pine trees, citing post-Hurricane Andrew observations in South Miami where Ficus trees were uprooted while oaks and pines largely remained standing. He stated that, if the tree were retained, it would require annual trimming to reduce internal load and allow wind to pass through, in order to minimize the risk of toppling. He further explained that after a storm, certified tree removal crews may be delayed due to downed power lines or flooded streets, which could prolong hazardous conditions. Sr. Vice President Alderman emphasized that a falling tree could impact nearby infrastructure, such as bridges, and potentially cause widespread flooding extending to U.S. Highway 441, making it dangerous to leave the tree in its current location.

Counsel Perry commented that, given the probability of the tree falling into the canal, issuing a permit for the tree to remain presents a conflict. He stated his concerns with structuring a permit that would fully protect the District from potential damages, even with indemnification from the City.

Vice President Hill asked for clarification on whether the City's permit request was specifically for the tree or part of the broader golf course renovation permits.

Ms. Smith responded that the tree permit is a separate application from other City permits to avoid delaying the golf course renovation. She further clarified that, according to historical agreements dating back to 1994, any encroachments, including the tree, were to be removed at the City's expense.

Vice President Hill noted that while the tree had been allowed to remain historically, its current condition suggested that maintenance may not have been consistently performed. Ms. Smith confirmed the timeline of prior removals, indicating that the golf tee was removed around 2003 and the employee parking area around 2013. She reiterated that, per longstanding agreements, the responsibility for removal of the tree remains with the City.

Staff recommended denial of the City's right-of-way permit application requesting approval for the tree to remain within the E-4 Canal right-of-way. Staff further recommended that the tree and any remaining encroachments be removed within 30 days.

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

STAFF REPORTS

10. Executive Director's Report

- Quarterly Investment Update – Chris Johnson, Director of Finance & Sean Gannon, PFM

Mr. Johnson introduced Sean Gannon of PFM Financial Management to provide the Board with an update on the District's investment portfolio for the quarter and fiscal year ended December 31, 2025.

Mr. Gannon presented an update on the District's investment portfolio, including a brief overview of current market conditions and the portfolio's performance for the reporting period. He reviewed the portfolio's allocation, noted that it consists primarily of high-quality fixed-income investments, and stated that the portfolio remains in compliance with the District's investment policy. Mr. Gannon also summarized performance relative to the established benchmark and discussed general considerations related to interest rates and investment strategy.

During the discussion, the Board inquired about the potential to evaluate alternative benchmarks or investment horizons that could provide improved returns while maintaining a conservative risk profile. Mr. Gannon indicated that additional analysis could be prepared outlining available options and associated considerations.

The Board directed staff and Mr. Gannon to review potential investment strategy options and return to the Board with additional information and analysis for further consideration.

Mr. Strowd provided the Board with a brief update on regional water conditions. He reported that the South Florida Water Management District recently issued a water shortage warning for several counties due to ongoing dry conditions and water supply concerns. He noted that the warning encourages voluntary conservation measures and does not currently impose mandatory restrictions.

Mr. Strowd also reported on recent operational activities, including freeze protection measures implemented earlier in the season and ongoing regional dry conditions. He provided a general overview of rainfall levels, drought conditions, and water supply outlooks, including monitoring of Lake Okeechobee levels and regional projections.

Mr. Strowd stated that staff is monitoring conditions closely and may prepare correspondence to the South Florida Water Management District regarding potential operational considerations should water shortage conditions expand to Palm Beach County.

Mr. LasCasas reported on the Maintenance Rehabilitation Projects and stated that excavators are moving to western canals to improve dredging. He described a depth-mapping system that shows shallow areas so crews can dredge efficiently. Data from a survey boat is used to make 3D models of canals, helping plan improvements and guide equipment. He stated the system saves time and prevents unnecessary digging.

11. District Counsel's Report

No additional items to report.

12. Board Reports & Comment

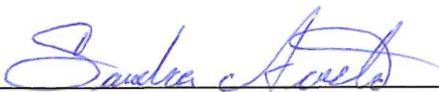
A motion was made by President Bedner to schedule all future Board Workshops and Board Meetings to begin at 9:00 a.m., rather than 8:30 a.m. The motion was seconded by Sr. Vice President Alderman and approved unanimously.

13. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:47 A.M.



President – Stephen Bedner



Recording Secretary – Sandra Acosta

**LAKE WORTH DRAINAGE DISTRICT
RESOLUTION NO. 2026-01**

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE LAKE WORTH DRAINAGE DISTRICT CERTIFYING THE FINAL COSTS FOR CERTAIN SPECIAL IMPROVEMENTS; DECLARING THE PORTION OF THE COSTS TO BE PAID BY THE BENEFITED PROPERTIES; STATING THE METHOD FOR PAYMENT OF THE ASSOCIATED ASSESSMENTS, THE TERM OF THOSE ASSESSMENTS, AND THE INTEREST RATE TO BE APPLIED TO THE ASSESSMENT; ADOPTING THE FINAL ASSESSMENT ROLL OF BENEFITED PROPERTIES; DECLARING SUCH ASSESSMENTS TO BE A LIEN UPON THE BENEFITED PROPERTIES; FINDING NO SUFFICIENT OBJECTIONS RAISED AT PUBLIC HEARING; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Lake Worth Drainage District (LWDD) is a public body and political subdivision of the State of Florida, created pursuant to the General Drainage Laws of 1913 and currently operating under Chapter 2009-258 (the "District Act") and amendments thereto and Chapter 298, Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, on May 15, 2024, the LWDD Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution 2024-01, directing LWDD staff to have the necessary plans, specifications, and costs estimates prepared for a necessary special improvement, to be brought back to the Board at a future date; and

WHEREAS, on September 11, 2024, the LWDD Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution 2024-03, finding a necessity for certain special improvements to a defined benefited property; describing the nature of the necessary special improvements; providing the estimated total cost of the improvements; declaring the portion of the costs to be paid by benefited property; stating the method for payment of the associated assessments, the term of those assessments, and the interest rate to be applied to the assessment, and calling for a public hearing regarding same; and

WHEREAS, on October 11, 2024, the LWDD Board of Supervisors conducted a public hearing and adopted Resolution 2024-04, finding a necessity for certain special improvements to a defined benefited property; describing the nature of the necessary special improvements; providing the estimated total cost of the improvements; declaring the portion of the costs to be paid by benefited property; stating the method for payment of the associated assessments, the term of those assessments, and the interest rate to be applied to the assessment; finding no sufficient objections raised at public hearing; directing staff to proceed with the improvements, and providing for a final accounting of costs post-construction; and

WHEREAS, on January 14, 2026, the District Treasurer provided the LWDD Board of Supervisors with a final cost accounting of the special improvements and the assessment roll of the benefited properties.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors of the Lake Worth Drainage District hereby declares the following:

1. Per the District Act, notice of a public hearing was published in Palm Beach County once

each week for 2 consecutive weeks signed by the Secretary of the Board of Supervisors.

2. A noticed public hearing was held on February 11, 2026 for the purpose of hearing all objections to the proposed final accounting of the cost of the special improvements, attached hereto as Exhibit "A", and the assessment roll of benefited properties attached hereto as Exhibit "B".
3. The LWDD Board of Supervisors, finding no sufficient objections raised, hereby adopts the final accounting of costs to be charged for the construction of the special improvements, attached as Exhibit "A" and the assessment roll attached as Exhibit "B".
4. The costs for the special improvements shall be assessed as a non-ad valorem assessment against the Benefited Property over a term of 20 years, placed upon the tax roll for Palm Beach County, such costs to accrue interest at the rate of 5% per annum.
5. The special benefits of the special improvement accrue solely to the parcel shown on the assessment roll and the assessed costs hereby assessed are not in excess of such benefits.
6. The assessment shall be a lien until paid on the property against which assessed and enforceable in like manner as county taxes.
7. This Resolution shall be effective upon its passage.

This Resolution passed and adopted at the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the Lake Worth Drainage District this 11th day of February, 2026.

ATTESTED:



Recording Secretary

LAKE WORTH DRAINAGE DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Stephen Bedner, President

EXHIBIT "A"

**FINAL COST ACCOUNTING FOR SPECIAL IMPROVEMENTS AUTHORIZED BY
RESOLUTION 2024-04**

**L-25 Pipe Repair/Rehabilitation (Joseph Property)
Final Cost for Tax Roll Purposes**

Project Component	Vendor	Estimated	Final Cost	Diff
Pipe Inspection & Cleaning	Shenandoah	\$ 5,850.00	\$ 5,850.00	\$ -
Engineering & Survey Services	Schorah & Associates	\$ 17,160.00	\$ 19,240.00	\$ (2,080.00)
Pipe Slip Line Project	Hinterland Group	\$ 171,750.00	\$ 255,534.00	\$ (83,784.00)
Preparation Assessment Documentation	LLW	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 8,867.00	\$ (3,867.00)
Publishing	PB Post	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 460.48	\$ 2,039.52
	TOTAL	\$ 202,260.00	\$ 289,951.48	\$ (87,691.48)
LWDD Deduction			(\$100,000.00)	
	TOTAL TO BE ASSESSED		\$ 189,951.48	

EXHIBIT "B"

ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR SPECIAL IMPROVEMENTS

BENEFITED PROPERTY TO BE ASSESSED	AMOUNT OF ASSESSMENT*
00-42-45-25-03-000-0430 10519 Pine Tree Terrace	\$189,951.48

***Assessment to be charged over a 20-year term, with interest to accrue at the rate of 5% per annum**