



**MINUTES OF
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORKSHOP MEETING OF
LAKE WORTH DRAINAGE DISTRICT
HELD AT THE DELRAY BEACH OFFICE ON
April 7, 2026 at 9:00AM**

Board Members Present:

Carrie Hill

Jeffrey Phipps, Sr.

John I. Whitworth, III

Stephen Bedner

James M. Alderman

1. Call to Order – Stephen Bedner, President

President Bedner 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 April 15, 2026 regular board meeting as listed below.

- **Request by the City of Delray Beach for consideration to rescind the Board's previous action taken on February 11, 2026, denying Application #RW-26-0011 to permit an existing tree to remain within the E-4 Canal right-of-way adjacent to the Delray Beach Municipal Golf Course (Project #RW-26-0011) – Tommy Strowd, Executive Director**

Assistant Executive Director Reagan Walker stated that City of Delray Beach representatives will be attending the board meeting to present information to support their request to keep the banyan tree on the canal right-of-way adjacent to the golf course. A copy of the City's presentation and support materials were provided to the board including a geotechnical engineering report, debris removal plan, and arborist assessment, along with proposed mitigation measures such as pruning, root removal, and plans to maintain access and address slope stability.

- **Approval to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for the Atlantic Avenue roadway widening project from the Florida Turnpike to East of Jog Road, and approval of revised L-34 Canal design with additional bulkhead wall installed between E-2E Canal and Legends Way. (Project #RI-19-0123) – David Bends, Right-of-Way Interest Supervisor**

Staff briefed the board regarding its previous action on March 15, 2023 to approve FDOT's conceptual design for the Atlantic Avenue widening project and authorization to sale surplus right-of-way based on the approved alignment. The approval was subject to entering into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with FDOT for construction.

Staff will be presenting for approval the Memorandum of Agreement, and explained that in December 2025, the District was informed that the proposed right-of-way had shifted south and that additional bulkhead wall, approximately 3,400 linear feet in length, is being proposed between the E-2E Canal and Legends Way. Staff presented exhibits comparing the previously approved right-of-way with the revised alignment, as well as maps, sketches, and typical sections illustrating the project limits from the E-2E Canal to east of Jog Road, including various roadway segments and canal crossings. Staff summarized the proposed improvements and conditions for the widening project.

- **Approval to issue a right-of-way permit to property owner, Lie Run He Trust, for existing encroachments within the E-4 Canal right-of-way, subject to conditions including unencumbered access within the right-of-way for LWDD maintenance. Location: E-4 Canal, west right-of-way, south of the L-11 Canal, north of 2nd Avenue North; 2651 2nd Avenue North, Lake Worth (Project #RI-25-0067) – Nicole Smith, Permit Supervisor**

Ms. Smith reviewed the history of use and ownership within the E-4 Canal right-of-way, including a 1940 agreement allowing use of the canal's western bank as a roadway while reserving the District's right to regain possession at any time. She summarized correspondence over several decades between the District and property owners and their representatives concerning encroachments, land rights, and removal requests. Ms. Smith also presented the property's ownership history, related surveys, and the location of existing improvements within the right-of-way. She concluded by recommending approval of a non-transferable Right-of-Way Permit to the Trustees of the Lie Run He Trust to allow the existing cottage to remain subject to multiple conditions, including timely permit application, continued District access, vegetation removal, eventual septic system removal when public utilities become available, removal of the cottage if it falls into disrepair, prohibition of future improvements, removal of remaining structures upon property transfer, and maintenance of liability insurance naming the District as a certificate holder. Representatives of the Trust are expected to attend the board meeting.

- **Approval to issue right-of-way permit to ECS Florida, LLC for the temporary installation of four (4) piezometers and one (1) staff gauge within the E-4 Canal right-of-way. Location: E-4 Canal, west right-of-way, south of the L-11 Canal, north of 2nd Avenue North. (Project #RW-26-0050) – Nicole Smith, Permit Supervisor**

Ms. Smith provided background on a request from ECS Florida, LLC to access the E-4 Canal right-of-way for the installation of four piezometers and one staff gauge. She explained that the piezometers are proposed within the west right-of-way of the canal,

south of 7th Avenue, and the staff gauge would be attached to the NW 2nd Avenue Bridge piling. The purpose of this work is to support groundwater analysis for the parcel located at 2209 7th Avenue North, situated on the east side of the canal.

Ms. Smith noted that the data collection will consist of water level measurements over a monitoring period not to exceed two weeks. Upon completion, the piezometers will be removed, and the right-of-way will be restored to its original condition. She emphasized that the installations will not impede District access or maintenance operations and that the piezometers will be installed using a drill rig to an approximate depth of 10 feet below the surface. All installation, monitoring, and abandonment activities will be conducted at the applicant's expense.

She also presented an aerial exhibit identifying the proposed locations of the piezometers. Ms. Smith concluded with a recommendation to approve issuance of a Right-of-Way Permit to ECS Florida, LLC for the installation of four piezometers and one staff gauge within the E-4 Canal right-of-way, subject to submission of a Certificate of Liability Insurance listing the District as an additional insured, compliance with District operating policies and permit conditions, and confirmation of applicable fees, including a \$5,800 permit fee and associated application and use fees, which have been paid. The board agreed to place the item on the Consent Agenda at the subsequent board meeting.

- **Approval to sell a portion of surplus L-47 Canal right-of-way for the fair market value of \$15.00 per square foot to property owners, Jason and Orli Katz. Location: L-47 Canal; 7097 Via Firenze, Boca Raton, Mediterranean (Project #RI-25-0045) – David Bends, Right-of-Way Interest Supervisor**

Mr. Bends provided background, noting that in September 1999 the Board approved the declaration of a 25-foot strip of L-47 Canal right-of-way adjacent to the Mediterranean plat as surplus and eligible for sale at fair market value. Between March 2000 and November 2019, eight property owners purchased portions of this surplus right-of-way, with values at the time ranging from \$7.66 to \$10.46 per square foot. In July 2025, the owner of 7097 Via Firenze (Lot 22) requested to purchase the segment of surplus right-of-way adjacent to their property. The request involves a 25-foot by 88-foot strip, totaling approximately 2,200 square feet, to be declared surplus and eligible for sale. Based on an appraisal dated March 16, 2026, the fair market value has been established at \$33,000, or \$15.00 per square foot.

Mr. Bends concluded by recommending that the 2,200-square-foot strip of right-of-way adjacent to Lot 22 in Mediterranean be approved for sale at its appraised fair market value of \$33,000. The recommendation is contingent upon submission of a Sketch of Description, certification of title, and compliance with all applicable District operating policies. The board agreed to place the item on the Consent Agenda at the subsequent board meeting.

4. Staff Reports

Mr. Johnson reported that Sean Gannon of PFM will attend the next Board meeting to discuss investment portfolio planning considerations.

Mr. Strowd reported on an update on the Palm Beach County (PBC) Water Resource Project, which was originally presented to the Board in January 2026. He explained that the initiative includes the installation of two pump stations, one at Control Structure No.

6 and another along the E-3 Canal at the boundary between the 13 and 16 Basins. Mr. Strowd noted that, following an invitation from Palm Beach County, he will present the proposal at an upcoming PBC Water Resources Task Force meeting. He further advised that, while the project is a collaborative effort, the District will lead the engineering design and oversee construction contract management. He also addressed the project's cost-sharing structure, referencing the Board's prior discussion regarding financial equity. The Board verbally reaffirmed that the project should proceed under a 50-50 cost-share arrangement.

5. Board Reports & Comments

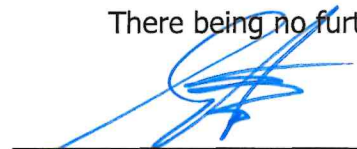
Staff recognized Mark Perry for 40 years of legal counsel to the District. The board and staff thanked Mr. Perry for his service and presented him with a commemorative survey marker and shared a video presentation.

6. General Public Comment

There was no public comment.

7. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:08 AM.



President –Stephen Bedner



Recording Secretary – Sandra Acosta